



COMMUNITY CARE WORK

TIME USE SURVEY IN WORKING-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS 2025

Final results



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope and methodology

- ➔ Sample: The survey reached 1,096 households and 1,262 individuals who perform Community Care Work (CCW). A total of 1,187 individuals completed the time-use module (activity diary).
- ➔ Geographic scope: The survey covered 71 working-class neighborhoods distributed across 14 provinces of the country.
- ➔ Fieldwork: Conducted during October 2025, with 86% of the interviews taking place on typical CCW days.

Demographic profile and feminization

- ➔ 81.9% of the respondents are women, which is explained by the fact that CCW is a feminized activity.
- ➔ Household composition: 62.8% of the households include children and/or adolescents.
- ➔ Feminization of poverty: 75% of the households are female-headed. A quarter of these are also single-mother households, a much higher proportion than in male-headed households, where single-parent households do not reach 2%.



81,9%
Women



62,8%
Houses with children
and teenagers

Time use and the triple workday

- ➔ Out of 10 people have a triple workday: work in the job market, domestic work, and community work.
- ➔ We work more: those who perform this triple workday work an average of 12 hours and 21 minutes each day.
- ➔ We get paid less: 64% of those working hours are unpaid. The time spent on unpaid work by the universe of this survey is an average of 08:41 hours per day, far exceeding the 05:18 hours of the national average (ENUT, 2022).

 Dedication to CCW: 04:27 hours per day are dedicated specifically to community activities.

Community work and food security

 Hunger is urgent: 74.4% work in community kitchens and snack centers to guarantee access to food.


 In a context of scarcity, intensity does not drop: 2 out of 3 people maintained or increased their CCW hours.


 Simultaneity: Direct childcare and neighborhood management tasks are the ones that require the greatest multitasking effort.




Increased or maintained hours

Poverty and income crisis


 Poverty and Extreme Poverty: Poverty reaches 81.2% of the people and extreme poverty 41.8%, surpassing official records of Buenos Aires' villas from previous years.

 Minimum income: the average income for the main occupation is \$339,957, placing it very close to the Minimum, Vital and Mobile Wage of the time (\$322,000), and well below the \$516,563 reported by INDEC for the same period.

 Informality and precarity: Only 8% of the employed have access to all labor rights (holidays, annual bonus, pension contributions, health insurance).

Remuneration for CCW

 Without recognition: 22.6% of community care workers do not receive any type of remuneration, while 20.3% only receive a food ration/meal. 34% of the workers were dismissed from the VAT (Vuelta al Trabajo) program, but continue to sustain the CCW.

 Devaluation: The 54% who receive the Volver al Trabajo program (formerly Potenciar) suffered a 72.9% loss of their purchasing power due to the freezing of the amount at \$78,000.

INTRODUCTION

From the Observatorio Villero of La Poderosa, we present the final results of the Survey on Time Use for Community Care Work. As we anticipated in the preliminary results report published in November 2025, this is a survey carried out during the months of September and October 2025, in 71 working-class neighborhoods across 14 provinces of the country. We are talking about an unprecedented survey in Argentina, which allowed us to collect valuable information about those people, mainly women, who sustain the soup kitchens, community kitchens and snack centers, as well as other community spaces that have been operating in our working-class neighborhoods for decades. How many hours do they work? Do they receive remuneration for all those hours? Do they have other jobs? How do they distribute their time to fulfill all their responsibilities? And finally, how does this impact their income? These questions and more can be answered based on the results we will present here.

The objective of this research is to accurately characterize, as well as to measure the scale of the volume of Community Care Work (CCW) that is carried out daily to sustain and care for life in working-class neighborhoods, in order to collaborate in this way both with the construction of theoretical definitions about this activity, and with the design of public policies that promote its recognition. Even though the Argentine State is aware of and relies on the assistance provided in community spaces, for example, when it sends them food, it relies on the fact that it will be transformed into a plate of food on families' tables, to this day there is no salary recognition for those who work there.

Community care work in a nutshell

Community care work is the collective and organized work that is carried out mostly in working-class neighborhoods to sustain life. It is non-governmental and territorial, and is mainly driven by women. It is organized in soup kitchens, community snack centers, school support centers, health posts, support for victims of gender-based violence, among others, to guarantee rights and basic needs such as food or effective access to Justice, often covering the role of a State that does not fulfill its obligations or reaching places that it could never reach.

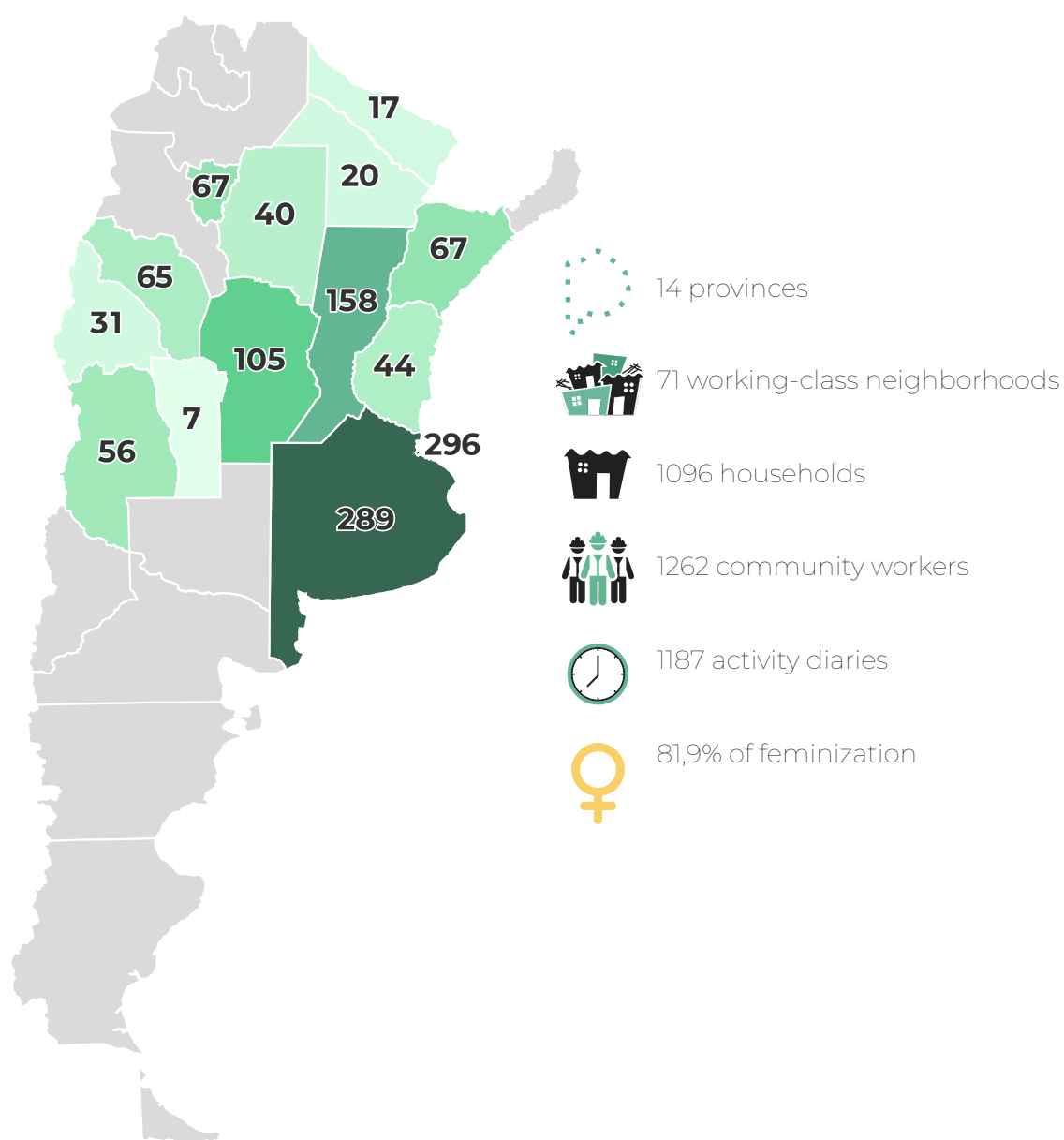
Organized in the community. There is a process of collectivization of common needs, taking them out of the private sphere of each home to turn them into a public matter.

Basic needs. The workers who carry out this work often share the same unmet needs as the recipients. It arises from a need and becomes a political response. For this reason, it can never be voluntary, since one cannot volunteer for one's own needs.

Care work. The type of work performed belongs to the sphere of reproductive and care work. As with domestic care work, there is a denial of community work as work because it is unpaid.

What do exist, although they are currently being phased out, are socio-labor programs, such as Salario Social Complementario and Potenciar Trabajo, which allow for some form of CCW to be performed as a counterpart. However, these programs were designed to address issues such as informality and unemployment, and from their design, they are proposed as a supplement to another income from some productive activity. Or rather, from some profitable activity. Because it is certainly productive to feed people, accompany them to the hospital, or help those most in need with their homework! And yet, none of these indispensable tasks generate income on their own, and this is why the State must take responsibility for providing it.

Figure 1: Sample totals and community workers by province



Source: Survey on the Use of Time in Community Care Work. Preliminary Results. Slum Observatory (2025)

What progress have we made with the bill to recognize community work?

During 2023, a bill presented by La Poderosa and written by women and sexual dissidents from different working-class neighborhoods was brought before the National Chamber of Deputies. The bill for the salary recognition of workers in community kitchens and snack centers denounced the irregularities that the State had with the workers in order to be formalized:

- ➡ Although there was state recognition by providing food and goods, not all the hours of work necessary to transform the food into a meal and deliver it to a home were recognized.
- ➡ There is no salary for this work. Work programs like Potenciar Trabajo were designed to supplement income from a productive project such as a cooperative. Community workers are unable to supplement their earnings and remain subject to the discretionary allocation of resources by the Executive Branch. 5
- ➡ There are also no enforceable labor rights: holidays, pension contributions, annual bonus, medical coverage, among others.

Although we know that we are in a context of regression regarding labor rights, following the Labor Reform enacted by the government of Javier Milei and allies in February 2026, we will not stop demanding and organizing so that the Community Care Work, which thousands of workers sacrifice time and money to care for and reproduce life in working-class neighborhoods, is recognized.



ECONOMY OF CARE AND COMMUNITY WORK

When we talk about care and the reproduction of life, we are referring to all those activities and practices that are necessary for people to be able to live, work, and interact, according to the society in which they live. On the one hand, we speak of direct care towards another person, such as curing a wound, cleaning, changing diapers or clothes, breastfeeding or feeding, providing emotional support, accompanying them to the doctor, or helping with homework. But we also take into account indirect care, which includes tasks such as cooking, cleaning and fixing the house, or washing clothes, as well as considering the set of activities that make it possible: grocery shopping, coordinating schedules, doing paperwork, among others.

This entire set of tasks that are carried out day after day are feminized: they are sustained in a greater proportion by women and femininities. Why? Because in our patriarchal society there is a sexual division of labor, in which it is understood that women are in charge of reproduction, and therefore they must guarantee the tasks we listed above. But the assignment of a caregiver role was not accompanied by a corresponding recognition, and so they are tasks that do not appear in the national accounts on work and economy, just as they are mostly carried out unpaid. This is the reason why many households seek to delegate all or part of these responsibilities, either to the State (through the public provision of care) or to the market (paying for this service). But how is it done in contexts where the State does not reach and economic incomes are not enough?

This is where the importance of Community Care Work appears, which collectively guarantees the reproduction of life in places and populations in vulnerable conditions. For at least four decades in our country, there have been groups of neighbors, and above all, female neighbors, in working-class neighborhoods who organize themselves to guarantee the care needed by their family and the one next door. We are talking about the soup kitchens that emerged in the heat of economic crises, which later became food spaces and also school support, health posts, or cultural and sports activities. We are talking about cooking, cleaning, providing support, and doing paperwork, but this time carried out from the community for the community, that is, from the neighborhood for the neighborhood.

In CCW, the people who provide care and the people who receive care share similar living conditions. They form a fabric composed of social movements, neighborhood leaders, churches, and spaces of local community organization, who in addition to guaranteeing care in working-class neighborhoods, have historically taken on the task of putting words to it and fighting for its recognition. But in addition to the neighbors and social organizations, there is another actor with a fundamental role in CCW: the State. It is the State that regulates the conditions under which this care is provided, either by what it does, or by what it does not do. Throughout our history, the State has known, to a greater or lesser extent, how to dialogue with organizations, distribute supplies, or even consider that CCW could be the way to access programs aimed at those who do not have formal work.

However, this is not enough: it is necessary to advance in a comprehensive recognition of CCW, which includes its regulation, its protection, and fundamentally, its remuneration.



WHY MEASURE TIME USE?

Time Use Surveys (TUS) are used to obtain data on the different activities carried out by the population in a given period and the time they dedicate to them. This is achieved through an activity diary in which the surveyed people record all the tasks they performed on the reference day. With this tool, it is possible to measure the amount of time dedicated to work in the market, but also to unpaid work, as well as to other non-productive activities, such as leisure and rest.

Official time use statistics are a recent development in our country. Although there were some previous, smaller-scale or less exhaustive experiences, it was not until 2021 that the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) carried out the first National Time Use Survey (ENUT) independently of another survey. With its results, it was possible to statistically demonstrate the existence of wide gaps and inequalities in paid and unpaid work, marked by gender factors, but also regional and class factors.

So, what place does Community Care Work have in the ENUT? Virtually none. The ENUT was designed based on the Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), which only contemplates the category "Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households". Although there is no lack of willingness and solidarity in working-class neighborhoods, the activities that sustain life are not only voluntary: they are motivated by unmet basic needs. That is why we do not speak of voluntary work, and although in our Survey on Time Use for Community Care Work (EUT-CCW) we took the CAUTAL classification as a basis, we incorporated 12 new activities into the classifier to be able to measure it more accurately.

Table 1: New grouping of activities used in EUT-CCW

Productive activities			Non-productive activities
Paid work for the market	Domestic and care work for one's own household	Community Care Work	Personal activities

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Table 2: New community care work activities included in the activity classifier

Code	New activity	Group according to CAUTAL	Group according to EUT-TCC
TC11	Preparing and serving food in community spaces	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC21	School support, popular education and skills training in community spaces	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC22	Community cultural, recreational, sports or artistic workshops and activities	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC31	Community care for people between 0 to 17 years old	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC41	Support and assistance in situations of gender-based violence. Promotion of gender rights and equality	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC42	Institutional support, assistance with paperwork and in situations of rights violations, situations of problematic consumption. General support.	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC51	Organization, logistics and neighborhood management	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC52	Self-managed economic activities for community spaces	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC53	Cleaning and maintenance of community spaces	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC61	Community health and health promotion	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC71	Transport to or from community spaces or guidance	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work
TC91	Community production not intended for the market	Unpaid voluntary work and work for other households (B5)	Community care work

The information collected with the activity diary is complemented and related to other data surveyed, such as household composition, income, or employment status. These data make it possible to capture which characteristics condition or cause variations in participation and/or the time dedicated to one activity or another. At the same time, by surveying the totality of the work carried out by the interviewed people, we will be able to capture data on the triple workday, sustained by those who simultaneously work in the market in exchange for remuneration, work caring for their family and maintaining their home, and work in their neighborhoods for their neighbors and for themselves. What is this triple workday like and how many people do it? How much time do community care workers dedicate to these unpaid activities? And to the paid ones? What relationship exists between the work carried out day by day and the money obtained in return? These and other questions can be answered based on these results.

Willingness yes, volunteering no.

The Triple Workday is a concept that highlights the total workload faced mainly by women from working-class sectors. It denounces how three types of workloads overlap:

1. Work for the market (formal or informal employment through which they seek to obtain an income).¹⁰
2. Domestic and care work within the home (unpaid tasks of cleaning, cooking, raising and sustaining one's own family).
3. The third shift: community care work. This is participation in collective spaces (soup kitchens, health posts), also unpaid, which extends those same care tasks to the neighborhood. The amount of hours dedicated to community work competes directly with the amount of hours that can be dedicated to generating income for the household, deepening the feminization of poverty and structural inequality in working-class neighborhoods.



MAIN RESULTS

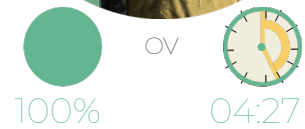
Distribution of time in daily activities



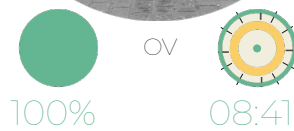
Unpaid work within the home



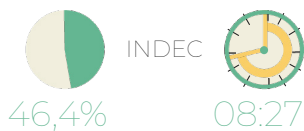
Community care work



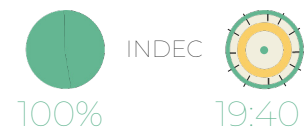
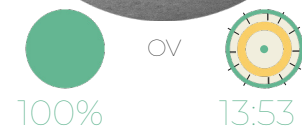
Total unpaid work



Paid work



Personal activities



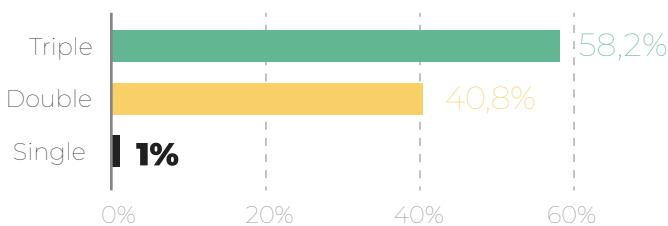
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*OV: Observatorio Villero of La Poderosa

**INDEC: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses

Using the classification of activities used by the ENUT, the people surveyed in our survey, people who performed CCW for at least one hour in the reference week, dedicate an average of 8 hours and 41 minutes per day to unpaid work, much more than the 5 hours and 18 minutes recorded by INDEC. At the same time, we see that the daily time dedicated to paid work and personal activities decreases in relation to what happens with the population reached by the ENUT, at the national level. Finally, and now using our own classification graphed in Table 2, we can know that of the average volume of unpaid work, there are 4 hours and 27 minutes daily that are dedicated to community care work.

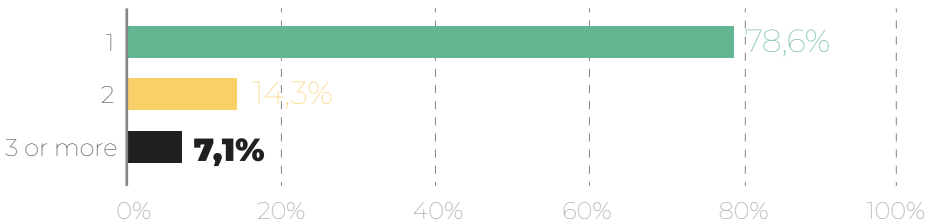
Figure 2: Number of overlapping workdays



Far from being “dependents” or “lazy” as they are accused, those who perform CCW work many hours, which are distributed in two, or mainly, three workdays. From these results, we can know that 6 out of 10 people have a triple workday. That is to say, in addition to the burden of CCW, they have a job in the market and another caregiving burden within the home. This triple burden is equivalent on average to 12 hours and 21 minutes of work per day, of which 64% are performed without remuneration in return: a true de facto labor reform. Where does all that value we produced and are not paid for go? Below, we will put the magnifying glass on each of these three workdays, starting from back to front.

THIRD WORKDAY: COMMUNITY CARE WORK

Figure 3: Types of overlapping community work



¹This calculation is not made on the total sample, but considering the surveyed people who perform the three workdays during the reference day of the interview: 58.1% of the total activity diaries.

Table 3: Amount of dedication in weekly hours to different types of community work

Activity	Participation percentage	Weekly hours
Cooking, helping, managing in a community community kitchens and snack centers or soup kitchen	74,4%	12:20
Teaching, training, literacy in popular education spaces	16,4%	06:37
Caregiving in community childcare spaces	6,6%	06:49
Linked to health promotion and prevention, health posts, etc.	6,8%	07:52
Linked to gender and support	6,3%	07:30
Other community work activities not listed above	21,8%	09:08
Average weekly hours of community work	-	13:34

To begin with the characterization of this work, we can say first that, although we saw that there are different types of CCW, it is rare to dedicate oneself to more than one of them: over 78% of the surveyed people perform only one type of community work, well above those who perform two (14.3%) or three types (7.1%). In turn, the most preponderant is the work carried out in food spaces, community kitchens and snack centers. And we say most preponderant because it has the highest participation rate, with over 74%, as well as taking the most time: an average of 12 hours and 20 minutes per week are dedicated to it. In Argentina, a third of children suffer from food insecurity, meaning they lack the quantity and quality of food they consume due to economic problems. In households in working-class sectors, this proportion rises to one in two (ODSA-UCA, 2025). Community care work in community kitchens and snack centers is organized around the needs of working-class neighborhoods, fulfilling a vital role.

Continuing with the types of CCW, the second with the most participation is that carried out in popular education spaces, reaching 16.4% of the surveyed people, while the second most intensive activity is linked to health promotion and prevention, which takes an average of 7 hours and 52 minutes per week. By looking in detail at the multiple activities included in CCW, with the new classifier, it is possible to distinguish between those that require doing many things at the same time and those that require dedicating oneself to only one. How do we see it? By observing the gaps by activity between the measurement of time with and without overlap: the larger the gap, the greater the simultaneity of activities in the same time interval.

Table 4: Participation percentage and average daily time in CCW activities with and without overlap per participant

Activity	Participation	Average time including overlapping tasks	Average hours
Preparing and serving food in community spaces	70,4%	03:27	03:10
School support, popular education and skills training in community spaces	11,6%	02:31	02:13
Community cultural, recreational, sports or artistic workshops and activities	9,3%	02:32	02:12
Community care for people aged 0 to 17	9,7%	01:48	01:04
Support and assistance in situations of gender-based violence. Promotion of gender rights and equality	4%	02:24	02:07
Institutional support, assistance with paperwork and in situations of rights violations and problematic consumption	1,8%	02:00	01:30
Organization, logistics and neighborhood management	21,4%	02:05	01:28
Self-managed economic activities for community spaces	8,3%	01:22	01:06
Cleaning and maintenance of community spaces	51%	01:15	00:57
Community health and health promotion	4%	02:29	02:18
Transport to or from community spaces or guidance	38,8%	01:01	00:49
Community production not intended for the market	5%	01:28	01:09

In this way, we see that health promotion and prevention tasks, along with transfers and guidance, are the ones with the lowest overlap of tasks. Conversely, the care of children and adolescents is the one that most requires performing several tasks at the same time, followed by logistics and management tasks. Finally, we observe again that work in the canteen is the one with the most participation (70.4%), while cleaning and maintenance tasks occupy second place on that scale (51%).

Figure 4: Compared to 2023, did you reduce or increase the amount of hours you dedicate to community work?

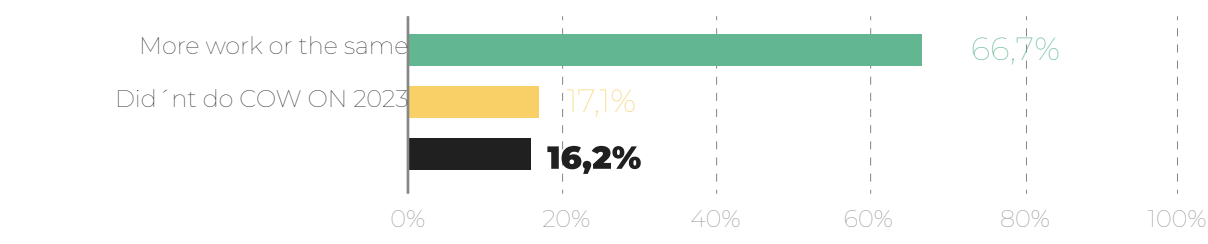
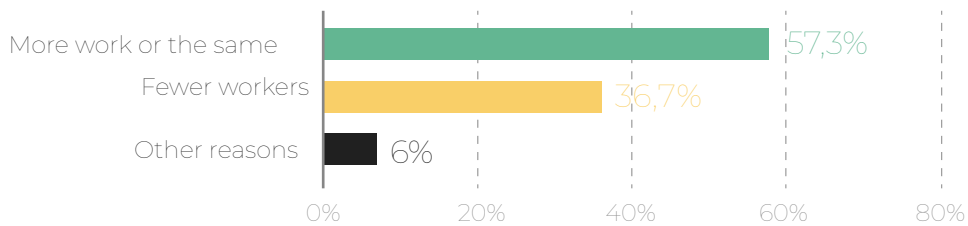


Figure 5: What is the reason for the increase in community work hours compared to 2023?



Despite all the cuts by Javier Milei's government in the resources allocated to community spaces, from the cutoff of food supplies to the reduction in the number of beneficiaries and the freezing of stipends for the former "Potenciar Trabajo" program, the intensity of community care work did not drop: it was maintained, or even increased. Two out of three surveyed people maintained or increased the number of hours dedicated to CCW compared to 2023. Among their reasons, we find that it is mainly due to an increase in demand in community spaces (57%), and having fewer workers in the spaces (37%).

72,9%

The purchasing power of Volver al Trabajo dropped.



34% were dismissed and still sustain the work.

Figure 6: Are you or were you a beneficiary of Volver al Trabajo or Acompañamiento Social (Formerly Potenciar Trabajo/Salario Social Complementario)?

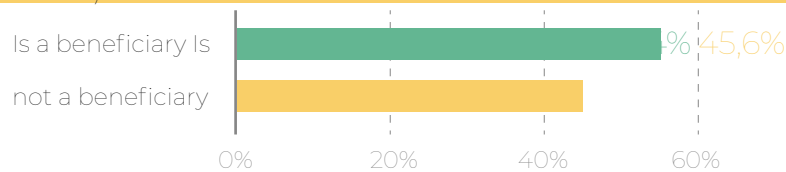
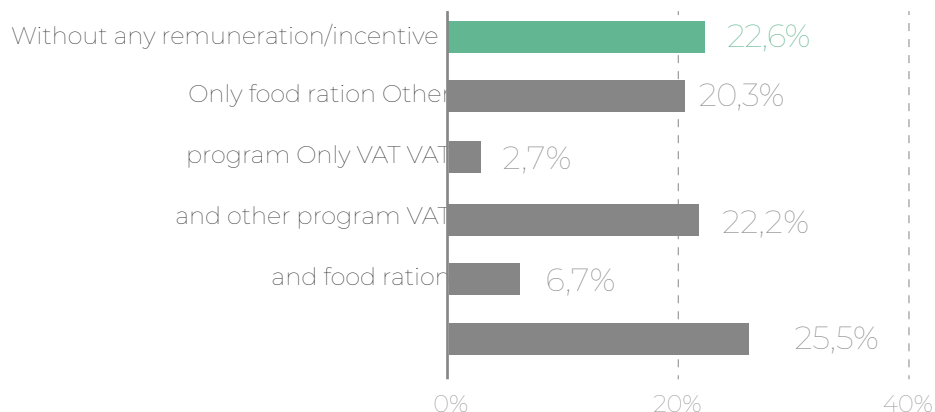


Figure 7: Type of remuneration received out of the total community workers



To tear down the myth about the "planeras" (welfare queens), "dependents" or "lazy" people, let's talk about remunerations now. Almost half (45.6%) of the people who perform community care work are not and never were beneficiaries of the former "Potenciar Trabajo", now divided into "Volver al Trabajo" and "Acompañamiento Social". It is also worth remembering that the program amount was frozen at \$78,000, so its purchasing power collapsed by 71%. So what do they receive in exchange for their work? 22.6% of surveyed people receive no remuneration for the work they do, while 20.3% receive only their plate of food.

But let's remember: it is not voluntary; it is unpaid work. Far from the stigma that "they do it because they want to, nobody forces them", these results show us that nobody volunteers for their own hunger. Even when resources are scarce, CCW is sustained with much commitment and sacrifice, and above all, as a strategy in the face of their own need and that of the community. It is not only about solidarity; it is a political response.

SECOND WORKDAY: UNPAID WORK WITHIN THE HOME

After cooking in the canteen, accompanying my neighbor to the hospital, or helping my fellow worker's daughter with her homework, I go back home... to rest? No, to continue working. Let's see now what happens with the care provided within the households, but let's start by looking at how they are composed. A first important piece of data is the gender status of the household headship. But let's take it step by step: who is the head of the household? Currently, official statistics are governed by the principle of self-determination. That is, the very people answering the survey select the household member they consider to be the head. It does not necessarily have to do with the monetary contribution they make to the household, nor with the ownership of the home, and within the survey, it is used as a reference person from which the kinship of the rest of the household members is established: spouse, children, siblings, nephews/nieces, among others.

In Argentina, households with female headship have been increasing over the last two decades, going from 25% of all households in 2003 to representing 40% in 2020 (Paz and Arévalo, 2020). This implies that the number of people residing in households headed by women increased. But if we look at households living below the poverty line, the values are higher: female heads of household are more present in poor households than in non-poor households. At the same time, also in recent decades, it is observed that the growth of poverty is greater in female-headed households than in male-headed ones. The combination of these processes is called the feminization of poverty, and the overload of care responsibilities and unpaid work holds a central place in its explanation. Once this is known, let's look at it in our results.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of household types according to the gender of the headship

Activity (Household Type)	Female	Male
Complete nuclear family household	26,4%	15,2%
Incomplete nuclear family household	25,4%	0,5%
Composite family household	0,4%	0,2%
Extended family household	11,1%	3,6%
Single-person household	9,4%	5,3%
Non-family multi-person household	0,2%	0,1%
Incomplete data	2,3%	0,2%
Total	75,1%	24,9%

75% of surveyed households have a female headship. It is a value significantly higher than the national average, which is related to the population reached in this survey: community care workers inhabiting working-class neighborhoods throughout Argentina. But, how are these households formed? First, they live with at least one partner, either with or without children, thus forming the most frequent type of household: complete nuclear family household with female headship (26.4% of total households). But very close, with 25.3% of households, we find single-mother households: women living without a spouse or any other relative other than their children. Only in third place of frequency (15.2%) do we find complete nuclear family households with male headship.

Table 6: Distribution of total households according to family typology and gender of the headship

Activity (Household Type)	Female	Male
Complete nuclear family household	35,1%	60,8%
Incomplete nuclear family household	33,9%	1,8%
Composite family household	0,5%	0,7%
Extended family household	14,8%	14,3%
Single-person household	12,5%	21,3%
Non-family multi-person household	0,2%	0,4%
Single-person household	3%	0,7%
Total	100%	100%

See Annex 2: Description of household types

But given that the proportion of men and women among the surveyed people is quite unequal in favor of the latter, it is more interesting to look inside each type of headship. Thus we can see that, while within households with female headship the number of single-mother households reaches a third, in the case of households with male headship, single-parent households are less than 2%. When the head of household is male, the vast majority lives with at least one spouse (60.4%), followed by those living alone (21.2%).

These data tell us both about the gender of the household headship, and about the existence or not of spouses and/or other relatives with whom domestic responsibilities can be shared. Now, the type and intensity of the responsibilities we are talking about, that is, the demand for care inside the home, is partly related to the presence of children and adolescents. In this sense, we can also know that 62.8% of total households have at least one child or adolescent in their composition.

Table 7: Participation and average daily workload with and without overlap according to type of domestic care

Care	Participation	Average time including overlapping tasks	Average time without overlapping tasks
Indirect	93,3%	03:29	02:58
Direct	42,9%	03:43	02:21

Arriving now at the data on domestic care work, we must recover the differentiation we made above between direct care and indirect care. Thus we can see that almost all surveyed people (93.3%) perform tasks such as cleaning, ironing, cooking, repairing, or grocery shopping inside the home, dedicating an average of three and a half hours a day. In the case of direct care, the average workload is similar: 3:43 hours. But what is remarkable is the difference in participation: less than half of the total people (42.8%) sustain direct care in the domestic space. This tells us that it is a more concentrated responsibility, which at the same time demands, like no other task so far, the performance of activities simultaneously. If we look at the distance between the time with and without overlapping tasks, the difference between direct and indirect care inside the home is noticeable, showing that the former requires attending to many more tasks at the same time.

FIRST WORKDAY: PAID WORK

In this last section, we will describe the workday oriented towards the market, the only one remunerated and socially recognized as work. The third and second workdays are labor burdens that remain invisible.

First, the employment rate is 54.6%; compared to that obtained by INDEC for the 3rd quarter of 2025 (EPH-INDEC, 2025), it is 9.2% higher. The unemployment rate, for its part, is 5.8% against 6.6% in INDEC. Here, the definition of "occupation" must be taken into account, that is, people who in the reference week have worked at least one hour, taking into account community care work. Of the total employed, 27% have CCW as their main occupation and have no other paid occupations. So, if we exclude this group from the "employed" category, the employment rate actually drops to 39.9%, below the official national statistics.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of the employed population according to occupational category (main occupation)

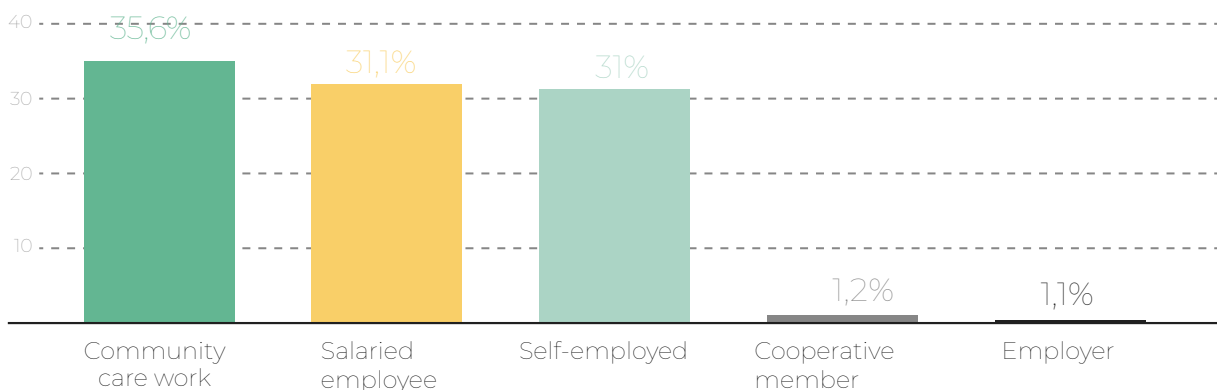
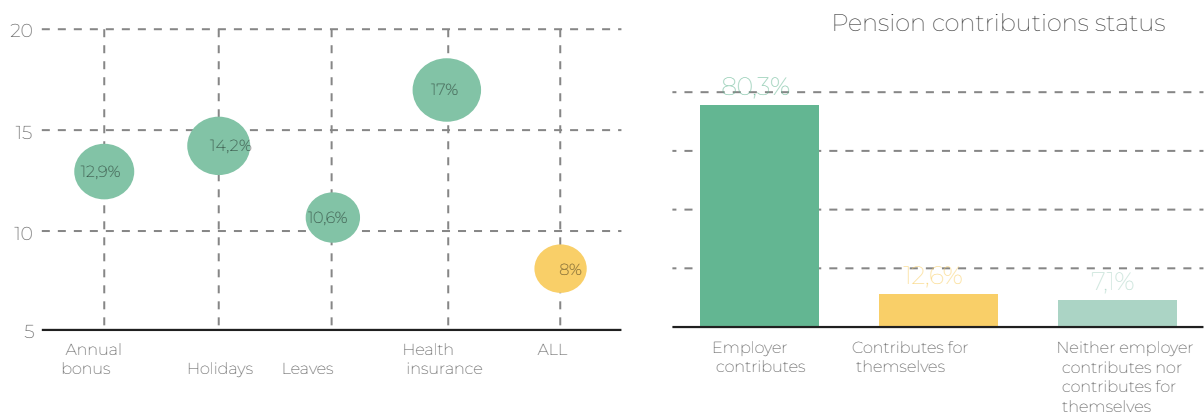


Figure 9: Percentage distribution of employed people by pension contributions, health insurance, holidays, annual bonus, and leaves

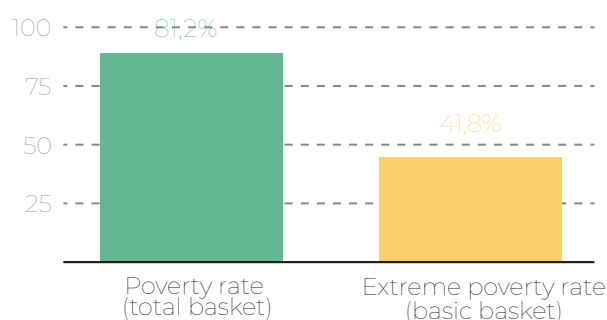


A second piece of data to highlight from this workday is informality and precarity as its main characteristics: out of the total employed people, only 8% have access to all the labor rights of a formal salaried employee. That is, in addition to the work we are not paid for, we also do not access the possibility of taking a leave, asking for holidays, collecting an annual bonus, or having health insurance in the job for which we do receive some remuneration.

And how does this workday relate to community care work? Within the universe of people who perform community work, more than half (57.4%) have another occupation besides CCW. In turn, the gap in weekly hours dedicated to the main occupation between those who do CCW and those who do not is 11 hours and 42 minutes (21 hours and 6 minutes in the first case, compared to 32 hours and 48 minutes in the second). This means that those who do not do CCW can dedicate on average 55% more hours to paid work oriented towards the market. That is, they have more possibilities of obtaining income.

Precisely, regarding income levels, the average labor income of people who perform CCW is \$344,012, compared to \$374,554 for those who do not perform CCW: an 8.9% gap. The gap increases to 16.6% if we evaluate only the income from the main occupation: \$315,370 for community workers versus \$367,685 for the rest, which indicates that the missing income is partly compensated with other paid occupations; time poverty is accompanied by higher levels of precarization. In any case, labor income levels in working-class neighborhoods, taking into account the level of informality surveyed, are located very close to the level of the minimum, vital and mobile wage, corresponding to \$322,000 for the month of October 2025. These are truly low income levels, taking as a reference the national average income of those whose main occupation is formal salaried employee or informal self-employed, which for the 3rd quarter of 2025 stood at \$516,563 (EPH-INDEC, 2026).

Figure 10: Poverty and extreme poverty rates. Total people



If we stop looking at people and start looking at households, the average income per household was \$706,044. In turn, the composition of household income indicates that almost a third (27.6%) comes from non-labor income (AUH, Tarjeta Alimentar, Pensions, etc.), representing an average of \$194,875 monthly per household. In contrast, 72.4% of the household income comes from labor income, representing \$511,168 on average. With these levels of income and informality, the poverty rate scales to 81.2% of people and the extreme poverty rate to 41.8%. These figures are higher than the official poverty statistics surveyed in villas by the Annual Household Survey 2024, which indicate 71.1% poverty and 36.8% extreme poverty respectively (Institute of Statistics and Censuses of the City of Buenos Aires, 2025).

WE WORK A LOT, BUT IT IS NEVER ENOUGH

Throughout this report we aimed to deepen the information we had obtained in the preliminary results of the EUT-CCW published in November 2025, characterizing in greater detail each of the workdays that make up the triple workload that currently sustains the reproduction of life in the working-class neighborhoods of the country. At the same time, we put this data in dialogue with other official national-scale statistics, in order to find the characteristics that distinguish our target population: community care workers.

Thus, in contrast to the ENUT which surveys the general urban population, our results on time use show an increase of more than three hours in unpaid work, while the average time dedicated to paid work is reduced by four hours, and dedication to personal activities by almost six hours. Making this comparison allows us to think that those people who perform CCW can dedicate less time than the average person to activities that provide income and personal well-being activities because they are dedicating more time to unpaid work. We could find this same relationship when analyzing the gaps in time dedicated to the main occupation between those who perform and do not perform CCW, as well as in the income analysis. There we could observe the gaps between the average income of the people reached by this survey and those reached by the INDEC measurements.

Here is the central argument: the amount of hours worked that are not recognized or remunerated are the ones that in turn condition the possibilities of obtaining income in paid jobs. As we saw earlier, CCW is sustained mostly by women and femininities, which ultimately leads to more women than men being in the lower-income sectors, and that we are seeing a deepening of the feminization of poverty and gender gaps. In this way, it is evident that any policy that aims to address poverty in our country must have a gender perspective, as well as consider those who make up the frontline of care for needs: community care workers.

The State and Argentine society recognize that canteens and community spaces have been operating in our territory for more than 40 years because the primary distribution of resources is unequal, and not all families have full access to health, education, justice, support, or decent work. Despite having this assistance, the political agenda never seems to consider a fundamental piece: recognizing those who sustain them, in order to guarantee their quality. In a regressive context regarding rights and resources, we maintain our commitment to the demand for what is ours. On this occasion it was with data and graphs, but tomorrow it will continue in the streets and assemblies.

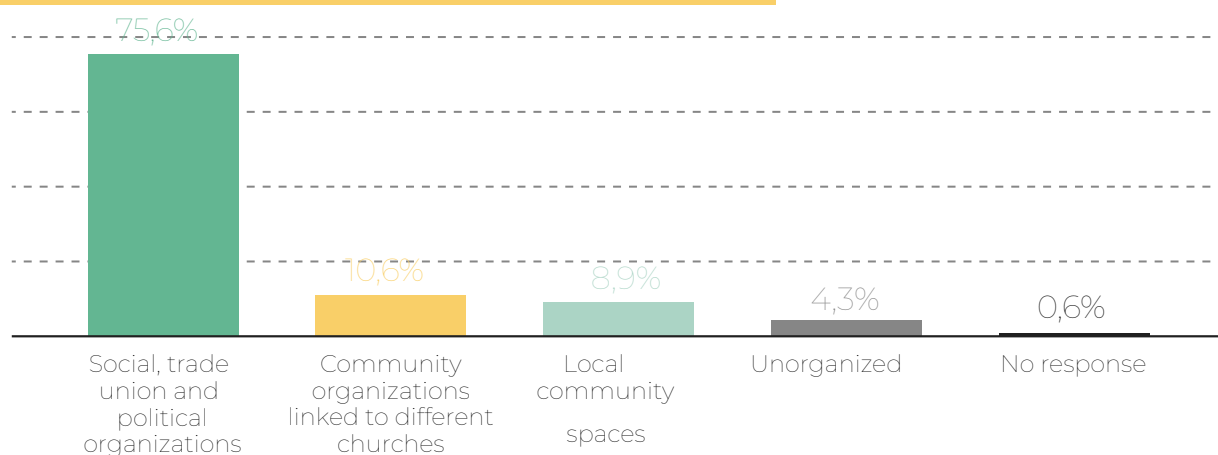
Finally, this report and its database provide key inputs for the design of public policies adapted to the dynamics of working-class neighborhoods, which require a necessary economic valorization. Although CCW is complex, its typification is viable; generally, only one modality of CCW is performed, mainly focused, though not exclusively, on community kitchens and snack centers. This grouping capacity simplifies its technical implementation in a segmented way.



METHODOLOGICAL SECTION

The EUT-CCW represents a first-hand quantitative data production work on a national scale. The case selection criterion started first with a census sweep of all the localities where the social organization La Poderosa has territorial work, comprising 14 provinces, to then select 71 working-class neighborhoods, 52 of them RENABAP polygons, based on accessibility. Finally, the selection of 1,096 households was carried out fulfilling the criterion of containing at least one member who currently performs community care work, accessing them under an opportunistic or snowball sampling method. This means they were selected based on the possibility of making contact with the surveyed people.

Figure 11: Which organization do you belong to?



Although it is a survey designed, implemented, and coordinated by the social organization La Poderosa, the results are not limited only to it: the people who answered the survey are part of 23 social and political organizations (including La Poderosa), 5 religious institutions, and other local territorial spaces, such as cultural centers, secondary schools, among others. We thus managed to interview a total of 1,262 community care workers, of which 83% are women, and almost 70% are between 25 and 49 years old.

Regarding information collection decisions, visible in the design of the questionnaire used, we implemented a structured form of sociodemographic and socioeconomic questions, along with an activity diary. Although both components were built based on the National Time Use Survey (INDEC, 2022), specific questions were incorporated, as well as twelve new categories referring to community work in the activity classifier, allowing the collected information to be more complex and detailed. The fieldwork lasted for seven weeks and had a team composed of 5 regional coordinators and 34 interviewers from the same surveyed working-class neighborhoods, who were necessary to sustain this deployment throughout the territory. 86.4% of the activity diaries were completed on typical CCW days.

Lastly, the data obtained were analyzed through a descriptive statistical method of the sample obtained. Other sources and quantitative data on a national scale, obtained from the bibliography and public reports of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, were also incorporated into the analysis. The objective of incorporating external data in the development consists of framing, contextualizing, and putting the information obtained in this survey into dialogue, in order to understand it better.

Table 8: Sample distribution and totals

Province	Surveyed working-class neighborhoods	Surveyed households	Surveyed community workers	Surveyed community workers
TOTAL	71	1096	1241	1187
Buenos Aires	20	261	295	292
C.A.B.A.	7	254	289	276
Santa Fe	10	131	157	142
Córdoba	5	101	104	104
Corrientes	3	62	67	66
Mendoza	2	56	67	56
Tucumán	3	50	56	54
La Rioja	1	45	48	47
Sgo del Estero	3	40	44	40
Entre Ríos	1	34	40	39
San Juan	1	22	31	30
Chaco	10	19	19	19
Formosa	4	15	17	16
San Luis	1	6	7	6

TO KNOW IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM: **THE OBSERVATORIO VILLERO**

The Observatorio Villero is an information production initiative coordinated by neighbors of working-class neighborhoods who are members of the social organization La Poderosa. Our work consists of generating community statistical data about life in the villas, informal settlements, and working-class neighborhoods of our country, in order to show their particularity and their differences with the official statistics provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC). This data production process ranges from the design of the survey or collection instrument, the coordination of its implementation in the neighborhoods by their own neighbors, to the statistical analysis and writing of reports with the main results as final steps. Throughout this process, spaces for review, discussion, and exchange with the assemblies of La Poderosa are constantly maintained, which guarantees the close link between the Observatorio and the rest of the organization's political activity.

In other words, the production of information carried out by the Observatorio is part of the political action of La Poderosa, as it constitutes a tool to intervene in the public agenda, communicating and making visible the realities of our territories with concrete data. But we don't just want to show that reality: we want to transform it. That is why we also seek to influence the design and evaluation of public policies that improve living conditions in working-class neighborhoods, for which we consider that there is a first essential condition: the incorporation of our perspective, that of the community of neighbors of these neighborhoods. For this reason, we want to stop being solely an object of study to become subjects who produce knowledge. Active subjects and protagonists in the interpretation of their own reality.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: SURVEYED WORKING-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS

Province	Locality / City	Neighborhood	Surveyed Households	Surveyed community workers
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Belgrano	1	1
Buenos Aires	Necochea	Campana	7	10
Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata	El Martillo	1	1
Buenos Aires	Los Hornos	El Triunfo	43	45
Buenos Aires	Necochea	Fonavi	7	8
Buenos Aires	Dock Sud	Isla Maciel	10	10
Buenos Aires	Altos de San Lorenzo	La Cantera	10	10
Buenos Aires	Tandil	La Movediza I	1	1
Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata	Las Dalias	23	29
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Las Tunitas	7	8
Buenos Aires	Virrey del Pino	Los Álamos II	40	42
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Villa Cordobita	1	1
Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata	Monte Calvario	1	1

Province	Locality / City	Neighborhood	Surveyed Households	Surveyed community workers
Buenos Aires	Ingeniero Budge	Diecisiete de Noviembre	43	51
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Villa Aguirre	1	1
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Villa Cordobita	12	15
Buenos Aires	Tandil	Villa Gaucho	4	4
CABA	Villa Soldati	Fátima	56	65
CABA	Puerto Madero	Rodrigo Bueno	15	15
CABA	Flores	Padre Rodolfo Ricciardelli	25	26
CABA	Villa Lugano	Villa 20	11	16
CABA	Barracas	Villa 21-24	73	75
CABA	Retiro	Padre Mugica (Ex 31 y 31 bis)	56	79
CABA	Barracas	Zavaleta	18	20
Chaco	Resistencia	Veintinueve de Agosto	1	1
Chaco	Resistencia	Dos de Septiembre	2	3
Buenos Aires	Necochea	Murga	7	9
Buenos Aires	Mar del Plata	Parque Peña	1	1
Buenos Aires	Bahía Blanca	Tierras Argentinas	41	41

Province	Locality / City	Neighborhood	Surveyed Households	Surveyed community workers
Chaco	Resistencia	Hermanos Che	1	1
Chaco	Resistencia	Segundo David Peralta	5	5
Chaco	Fontana	Nuevo Provincia Prolongación	3	3
Chaco	Resistencia	Dos de Septiembre	1	1
Chaco	Resistencia	San José Obrero	1	1
Córdoba	Córdoba Capital	Cortaderos Norte	10	10
Córdoba	Córdoba Capital	Nueva Esperanza	34	35
Córdoba	Córdoba Capital	Villa Rivadavia Anexo A	19	20
Córdoba	Córdoba Capital	Villa Serrana	3	4
Córdoba	Córdoba Capital	Bajo Yapeyú	35	36
Corrientes	Corrientes	La Tosquera	20	20
Corrientes	Corrientes	Mendoza al Sur	22	26
Corrientes	Corrientes	Río Paraná	20	21
Chaco	Resistencia	Carlos Jardí	1	1
Chaco	Resistencia	Don Bosco	1	1
Chaco	Resistencia	Ex Campo de Tiro Chacra 214	3	3

Province	Locality / City	Neighborhood	Surveyed Households	Surveyed community workers
Formosa	Formosa	San Juan Bautista	9	9
Formosa	Formosa	Vila del Rosario	2	3
La Rioja	La Rioja	Virgen Desatanudos	45	65
Mendoza	San Rafael	Constitución	14	14
Mendoza	El Sauce	Los Hornos	42	42
San Juan	Chimbas	Malvinas II	22	31
San Luis	San Luis	República	6	7
Santa Fe	Rosario	Bella Vista	1	1
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	Chalet	16	17
Santa Fe	Rosario	Empalme Graneros	19	26
Santa Fe	Rosario	La Cariñosa	19	22
Santa Fe	Rosario	Los Pumitas	45	61
Santa Fe	San Lorenzo	Moreno	7	7
Entre Ríos	Paraná	San Martín	34	44
Formosa	Formosa	Anterior Gauna	2	3
Formosa	Formosa	Lote 11	2	2

Province	Locality / City	Neighborhood	Surveyed Households	Surveyed community workers
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	San Lorenzo	12	12
Santa Fe	Rosario	Triángulo	6	6
Santa Fe	Rosario	Triángulo Mamburullo	4	4
Santa Fe	Santa Fe	Varadero Sarsotti	2	2
Santiago del Estero	Santiago del Estero	Belen	8	8
Santiago del Estero	Santiago del Estero	Bosco II	30	30
Santiago del Estero	Santiago del Estero	General Paz	2	2
Tucumán	Yerba Buena	Sapito	20	25
Tucumán	Yerba Buena	Tanque Higuera	29	41
Tucumán	Yerba Buena	Via Diagonal Norte	1	1

ANNEX 2: HOUSEHOLD TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Household type	Description	Related
Single-person household	Consisting of a single person. Head of household.	Boss
Hogar Familiar Nuclear	Made up of spouses with at least one child; spouses without children or a father or mother with at least one child. - Completo: Cónyuges (con/sin hijos). - Incompleto: Padre/madre con hijo/a.	Boss, Spouse, Children, Step children,.
Extended family household	A nuclear household plus other family members. Also included are households without a nuclear family that are made up of two or more related people.	Boss, Spouse, Children, Stepchild, Step children, Grandchild, Parents, Parent-in-law, Brother/Sister, Brother/Sister-in-law, Cousins, Grandparent, other.
Composite family household	Any family household (nuclear, extended or non-nuclear) that includes at least one non-family person.	Boss, Spouse, Children, Step children, other
Non-family multi-person household	Composed of 2 or more people who are not related to each other.	Boss, Other non-family member,.