

# Strengthening Local Coordination in Argentina

## ATLAS SNAPSHOT

Winrock International's Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labor and Criminal Law to Address Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (ATLAS) project worked with governments in Thailand, Liberia, Paraguay, and Argentina to improve their ability to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through strengthened laws, regulations, and policies; improved enforcement of existing laws; and increased coordination between actors.

Winrock's partner Desarrollo y Autogestión (DyA) led implementation of the ATLAS project in Argentina and worked to strengthen responses to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in Buenos Aires province through improved coordination at the local level.

As part of this effort, DyA worked extensively with the Victims Rescue Program (PRV) – an agency of the provincial Ministry of Justice and Human Rights that provides services to victims of human trafficking – to improve attention to survivors in the province.

The PRV has a small team based in La Plata, the provincial capital, that has the mandate of attending to victims in all 135 municipalities of Buenos Aires province. Best practice says that survivors should receive care and attention in the communities where they live. However, geography makes it difficult for the PRV to respond to all issues and cases that arise in the province. As PRV Director Elina Contreras explained, "we do not have decentralized teams in the territories [outside of La Plata]."

Thus, under the ATLAS project, DyA assisted the PRV to develop a Local Implementation Guide. This guide outlines how the program will implement policies on the ground and, crucially, how they will coordinate with municipal actors to expand their reach across



Elina Contreras, Director of the PRV

the province. DyA also invited the PRV to participate alongside other institutions in other project activities such as trainings and workshops so that they could forge institutional relationships with other actors working in this field.

These activities enabled the PRV to strengthen ties with other agencies to improve the services it provides, and the events opened a dialogue between the PRV, municipal authorities, and local organizations to better address assistance to survivors and related issues.

According to Ms. Contreras, "Linkage and participation in the ATLAS project... has helped us to strengthen some ties with other state agencies... to build a very strong anchorage, which was something we did not have."

These activities helped to "build connections in the field to accompany the victims of human trafficking in a closer way," and thanks to the ATLAS project the PRV has made progress in attending to victims and survivors where they live.