PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)
FY 2021

GEF - IDB

IMPORTANT: The reporting period is GEF Fiscal Year (July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021)

# of PIR: 4th

PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name:	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Low-income Housing		
Project's GEF ID:	4861	**Project's IDB ID:**	AR-G1002
Project financial information:	Date of First Disbursement	08/15/2018	
	Total disbursements of GEF Grant resources as of end of June 30th, 2021 (cumulative)	US$ 670,387	
Project dates:	Agency Approval Date	07/29/2015	
	Effectiveness (Start) Date	03/15/2017	
	Original Last Disbursement Expiration Date[1] (OED)	09/15/2021	
	Current OED	09/15/2021	
	Estimated Operational Close Date[2] (EOC)	12/14/2021	
	Actual Date of EOC, if applicable	Click here to enter text.	
Project evaluation:	Mid-term Date (Expected)	04/28/2020	
	Terminal evaluation Date (Expected)	12/15/2021	

[1] For the GEF, this is equivalent to the project's "Expected Completion Date".
[2] For the GEF, this is equivalent to the project's "Expected Financial Closure Date".

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE RATING (DO) & ASSESSMENT

Make an overall assessment and provide a rating[3] of "likelihood of achieving project objective" during the period (2020-2021). Describe any significant environmental or other changes attributable to project implementation.

OVERALL (DO) ASSESSMENT	RATING
The implementation progress of the project for the period 2020-2021 was rated as Marginally Satisfactory (MS) due to the following considerations: On the last semester 2020, the IDB and Executing Agencies agreed on an action plan to accelerate the execution of main processes to improve the project's performance but due to the COVID 19 context, it was not possible to complete the activities planned. However, activities related to trainings and workshops were completed using virtual platforms which allowed that other people involved in the project could attend the events. Considering that the construction of housing prototypes is the critical product of this project, it must be noted that during the first semester 2021, the restrictions imposed as consequence of COVID-19 have been more flexible and it has been possible to reschedule the delayed activities so they can be executed during 2021. Thus, the bidding processes which failed in 2019 have been launched in 2021 and they are having great performance, expecting their completion during August-October 2021 and at least began the works on one of the three provinces. In addition, the other 5 provinces have been working in their technical specs and, currently, great progress have been made. They have had the technical advice of an expert hired by the IDB and during the last semester they will launch the bidding processes. Also, the project teams in both Executing Agencies have been re-arranged after the changes that took place from the beginning of 2020 which means that the executing agencies now have qualified personnel focused only on this project. The authorities have expressed their interest in completing the project, so they will request an extension on the current last disbursement date of the project to finishing the products originally planned.	**MS**

[3] See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING (IP) & ASSESSMENT

Make an assessment and provide ratings[4] of overall Implementation Progress, including information on progress, challenges and outcomes on project implementation activities from July 1st 2020 until June 30th, 2021. As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.

OVERALL (IP) ASSESSMENT	RATING
During 2021, the three bidding processes from Tierra del Fuego, Chubut and Neuquén have been launched and the contracts are expected to be awarded before the end of the year. The other Provincial Housing Institutes are working on the technical specs and are expected to send the technical documents to the IDB by July 2021 so that other Institutes can send the bidding processes documents to be approved and launched. The project's implementation progress during fiscal year 2021 was rated as moderately satisfactory (MS). Considering that the construction of the Prototypes represents the main product of the Project and that there are some delays, it must be highlighted that the activities around them and the activities related to components 3, 4 and 5 are still being carried out and they are advancing satisfactorily. In the case of component 2, its execution is closely linked to the construction of the Prototypes, so its current development is low. Progress per component includes: Component 1. The objectives of this component were accomplished in terms of properly designing sustainable housing prototypes for the different climatic regions of the country. As mentioned above, the three public tenders have been called for the construction of 48 new homes and the processes are progressing satisfactorily. During the call for tenders, it was necessary to issue again the technical and financial certification of the projects presented as well as the preparation of three new specs for these processes and the necessity of giving extensions due to the COVID 19 context. On the second semester of 2021, it is expected that in the three bidding processes the contracts will be awarded, and the works can begin. The other five bidding processes will be launched. Furthermore, the IDB has hired a consultant to give support and advice regarding the technical specs of the projects for each province and, thus it has been allowed the discussion to adapt the projects and hold open debates where the INTI was involved in which conclusions were made regarding the final objectives of the project, reflections about the changes made over the last twelve years and their correlation with the proposals submitted by each of the participating provinces. Regarding the celebration of the new agreement with Formosa, the Co-executing Agency Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat sent a draft to the IDB which is still under review. In addition, as local counterpart the Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat (MDTyH) has sent the IDB the documents to report its local contribution. By June 2021, the total amount of the local counterpart reported to the IDB have been U$S 38,478,570.39, from which U$S 24,301,933.86 were approved, and the remaining amount is still under review. Component 2. This component designed and prepared the methodology and technical guidance for the monitoring and evaluation of the social housing prototypes. The implementation of the monitoring guidelines will be performed after the construction of the sustainable housing.	**MS**

[4] See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

Among the relevant activities within this component, the formation and implementation of the Project Committee as well as the call for specialists in solar thermal energy within the framework of this Committee to work on specific projects of the IPVs must be highlighted. As for the relationship between the Committee and the IPVs, multiple meetings were held to work together, which have had an impact on the scope of the meetings that currently go beyond the GEF project, replicating on some of the Bioclimatic Design (DB), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energies (RE) strategies in specific projects of each province.

Regarding the strengthening of the teams, a *Cycle of Sustainability Strategies* is being carried out having the GEF Project as a reference. The five courses have been in progress since April 14 and will be completed on July 15, 2021.

Finally, work is being done on the preparation of the specifications to carry out processes to call for tenders to purchase the necessary equipment for the monitoring of energy performances that will be carried out by the INTI. In this regard, the Executing Agencies maintain communications to finalize the details of the procurement process.

Component 3. The standards of greater energy efficiency in Argentina were updated, through Resolution MIOPyV 59/2019. This regulatory update was incorporated into the GEF prototypes, promoting the further raising of the project's research objectives to build housing with levels above the current regulatory standards for the entire country.

CATEGORIAS AR - G 1002 versión 2019						
MEDIDAS ADOPTADAS		REF	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
Nivel de aislación de muros y techos según Norma IRAM 11.605	*EE*	NIVEL C	NIVEL B	NIVEL B	NIVEL (A+B)/2	NIVEL (A+B)/3
Diseño basado en pautas y estrategias de diseño bioclimático	*DB*	NO	NO	NO	SI	SI
Sistemas Solares Pasivos para acondicionamiento térmico	*ER**	NO	NO	NO	SI	SI
Sistema Solar Térmico para agua caliente sanitaria y/o calefacción	*ER*	NO	NO	NO	SI	SI
Generadores Fovoltaicos para la provisión de energía	*ER*	NO	NO	NO	NO	SI

**Table of the analysis dimensions of Bioclimatic Design (BD), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energies (RE) in 2018.*

Thus, other dimensions of analysis were incorporated into the existing variables to investigate innovative efficiency strategies, without distorting the main objective of the program.

CATEGORIAS AR - G 1002 versión 2020						
MEDIDAS ADOPTADAS		REF	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4
Nivel de aislación de muros y techos según Norma IRAM 11.605	*EE*	NIVEL C	NIVEL B	NIVEL B	NIVEL (A+B)/2	NIVEL (A+B)/2
*Eficiencia energética en carpinterías según Norma IRAM 11.507-5 (clasificación energética en período de calefacción)**	*EE*	NO	NIVEL C	NIVEL B	NIVEL B	NIVEL A
*Eficiencia energética en carpinterías según Norma IRAM 11.507-5 (clasificación energética en período de refrigeración)**	*EE*	NO	NIVEL C	NIVEL C	NIVEL B	NIVEL A
Diseño basado en pautas y estrategias de diseño bioclimático	*DB*	NO	SI	SI	SI	SI
Sistema Solar Térmico para agua caliente sanitaria y/o calefacción	*ER*	NO	SI	SI	SI	SI
Sistemas Pasivos para acondicionamiento térmico	*ER/DB*	NO	NO	SI	SI	SI
Se entrega con electrodomésticos eficientes instalados	*EE*	NO	NO	NO	SI	SI
Uso Eficiente del Agua Potable con impacto en el consumo energético	*EE*	NO	NO	NO	SI	SI
Generadores Fovoltaicos para la provisión de energía	*ER*	NO	NO	NO	NO	SI

** Table of the analysis dimensions of Bioclimatic Design (BD), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energies (RE) in 2020*

As a conclusion, the monitoring of these dimensions of BD, EE and RE and their new variables will be carried out from the completion of the constructions of the new homes. This component may begin to be reported from June 2022.

Component 4. Regarding this component, it is important to highlight that the Ministry of Environment worked on structuring the technical team and the reestablishment of new circuits to streamline the execution and management of the program in accordance with the creation of new substantive areas. In this way, priorities and points of synergy have been created with new projects in progress, relating to resources and energy in buildings, as well as a new planning according to new needs.

To strengthen the market that supports construction and promote sustainable production, the following actions were carried out:

- A survey and market diagnosis studies were developed at national level on manufacturers and suppliers of goods and services of RE Technologies, materials and equipment that provide EE, and on technologies that favor the rational and efficient use of water as well as the associated energy consumption.
- The strategic trends of existing and developing materials and technologies at the national and international levels were analyzed, jointly with the economic, legal, and administrative possibilities and barriers for their development in the local market, to promote and maximize sustainability in the building sector.
- Innovations that incorporate concepts of circular economy (reduction, recycling and reuse) as well as new uses of traditional resources were studied and linked to bioenvironmental regions and developments of EE and RE with potential at the local level.
- The needs and vacancies in the professional sector that provide services in the planning, design and construction of housing were surveyed, and new training programs were planned on the use of tools that provide sustainability in these processes.
- A publicly accessible database has been developed, with a georeferencing tool to give visibility and simplify access to technologies that provide solutions and bring sustainability to the building sector.
- Through various actions oriented to the EE and ER market, the development of new instruments has been enabled and the consolidation of platforms that give visibility to the sector and initiate processes that strengthen the construction value chain with EE and RE to maximize sustainability in the housing sector. The objective is to promote innovation in the construction industry, give greater visibility to the sector and encourage the creation of new mechanisms and incentives for the local market linked to EE and RR, in addition to favoring the generation of instruments to compose a regulatory framework

Component 5. The course "Emerging Habitats"(https://www.argentina.gob.ar/concurso-nacional-habitats-emergentes) was held in jointly with the Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat and with the participation of the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation of the MINC&T and also the National Interuniversity Council.

Within the framework of the COVID-19 emergency and the effects on productive activity generated by the imposition of "social, preventive and mandatory isolation", a call was made to encourage teachers, researchers, students and professionals to apply their knowledge in the design of

innovative proposals for environmentally efficient housing, that can be used in emergency situations.	

RISK RATING & ASSESSMENT

Make any adjustments necessary to the assessment ratings[5] of overall Project Risk[6] that you provided in the last PIR (2019-2020). Please include details and remedial measures for High and Substantial Risks, specifying who will be responsible for these measures.

OVERALL RATING FOR PROJECT RISK	RATING
Risks identified during the period 2020-2021 led to an overall risk rating of Modest (M). Please see details as follows: Too many stakeholders in the decision-making process: The complexity of the institutional arrangements, including many actors involved at the national and provincial levels, is a risk that will continue during all the project's life cycle due to it affects the articulation to making decisions. To mitigate the risk, the IDB team and the Executing Agencies are holding meetings periodically to discuss and resolve execution issues. The rating is **Modest**. Failure to disburse by the counterparts: Regarding the disbursement of financial resources, these have been lower than planned. The planned disbursements for the 2020-2021 period were U$S 3,488,079 but only U$S 99.228 have been disbursed. Nonetheless, the disbursements are expected to rapidly increase once the bidding processes successfully assign construction companies to initiate works. The MINT&His making progress with the tender processes launched by the IPVs and it is expected to request U$S 3,735,824 by the end of the year. This rating is **Substantial**. Problems in the coordination and difficulties in the national, provincial, and municipal policy levels: Even though progress have been made since the last period, the IDB team is still leading periodical meetings with the main actors from the Executing Agencies to support them in case they are having coordination issues and/or in the processes carried out between them. In such meetings led by the IDB, the team monitors the pending actions and proposes scenarios that allow unlocking problems that may arise. In this way, the impact that the problems in the coordination may have on the execution of the project can be mitigated. The rating is **Modest**. Underperformance of the pilots due to the technology type or the improper use and maintenance by the users: This will be evaluated once the new technology is tested. However, the teams are confident this should not be a problem and the project team is currently assessing strategies to react in case is needed. This rating is **Low**. Insufficient participation of the users: This will be evaluated once the new technology is tested. The government technical teams believe that proper capacity building and follow up can mitigate this risk. The IDB is coordinating a study for identifying better practices in user engagement with new technologies and apply them to the project. This rating is **Low**.	**M**

[5] See Annex 1: Definition of Ratings.

[6] These should include risks identified at CEO Endorsement AND any new risks identified during implementation.

Lack of enough skilled human resources to develop the project: Personnel involved in the project are not yet skilled enough. This is because the lack to find experts to be hired with the budget available which also is caused by the constantly turnover of personnel. The rating is **substantial**. Weak implementation of the new legislative framework: There is no information about the impacts that the new norms and regulations recently implemented on sustainable housing will have on the project's achievement of outputs and outcomes. The rating is **Modest**. Implementation delays caused by the government financial constraints due to COVID-19 and foreign debt obligations: Some inconveniences presented that directly impacted in the normal executing of the activities. The most importanto highlights are those related to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, as the closure of national/local office,s which slow the exchange of documents and information between offices when finishing the technical profiles of the prototypes. Also, the impossibility of traveling to the field to supervise where the works are expected to be done, should be considered as an issue to progress in the developing of projects. Regarding the workshops and seminars, there has been an increase in the attendance of the main actors. Regarding the financial constraints, no inconveniences have been reported by the Co Executing Agencies during this period. The rating is **Modest.**	

GENDER

Please add information on any progress, challenges and outcomes with regards to any and all gender-responsive measures that were undertaken in the project's activities during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. Also: Were indicators on gender equality and women's empowerment incorporated in the project's results framework? (Yes/No). If applicable, include the indicator with its baseline, target and current value (2020-2021).

No. The project did not consider gender indicators in its results framework.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Please add information on any progress, challenges and outcomes with regards to stakeholder engagement, based on the project's activities during its implementation through the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.

National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI): The relationship with INTI is fluid and it allows to confirm the changes proposed by other stakeholders in the analysis variables and the spirit of the project are in accordance with the project's objective. Frequent consultations have been made to ensure that the facilities and plans allow for the proper installation of monitoring equipment.

Provincial Housing Institutes (IPVs): The prototypes were adapted to the objectives of Bioclimatic Design (BD), Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energies (RE) as well as to the policies of the procurement processes. It is expected that communications amongst the members of the Project Committee will take place to resolve doubts about the correct acquisition and installation of renewable energy equipment with which IPVs are not yet familiar.

National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA): The Department of Photovoltaic Energies of the National Atomic Energy Commission was involved for being the entity with the most stability and trajectory in the country in the research and development of this field. Multiple instances of exchanges were made with the IPVs of the project to resolve inquiries. A training on the subject was also given to all IPVs in the country.

Ministry of Productive Development: This Ministry was involved for being the one that carries out the Program for the Development of the Solar Thermal Industry, and for having professionals specialized in the subject. In addition, multiple instances of exchanges were carried out with the IPVs of the project to resolve existing doubts.

National Weather Service (SMN): We worked with the SMN to obtain information regarding the climatic conditions of both the reference houses and the sites where the new homes were built. Likewise, communication is maintained with the IPVs and the INTI so that the meteorological stations to be installed can also report to the national network of the SMN.

Even though the COVID-19 restrictions were an obstacle to held meetings between the stakeholders, it was possible to carry then out via virtually and given the special circumstances, also other ways of communication were allowed. Nowadays, some public agencies are returning to the office so some of the meetings can be arranged in person. However, most of them are still virtual, which facilitates communication amongst stakeholders.

In addition, the IDB team has been holding regular meetings with the main actors from the Executing Agencies to support them when they are having coordination issues and/or in the processes that are carried out between them. The objective is to monitor the pending actions and debate the possible scenarios to solve existing problems and avoid or mitigate the new ones. The virtual mode has been helpful for holding meetings that otherwise would create delays. Those meetings are key to push the execution of the project and to avoid unnecessary delays which affect the project's performance and to achieve its goals.

When the monitoring stage begins, it is contemplated to establish contact with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MINC&T), as well as with the Energy Secretariat. The main challenge in this regard is to identify the designated focal points of the agencies that would coordinate and collaborate with the project. It is also important that within these bodies there are links of interest between their own agendas and the project. Informal communications were established with the MINC&T articulated between the MDT&H and the MA&DS to inform the steps to be taken to reactivate the Program. As for the Ministry of Energy, there were some changes in the authorities that have delayed the overall project's communications.

KNOWLEDGE

Please add information on knowledge activities and products developed in relation to the project (with GEF or non-GEF resources), with special emphasis on activities carried out during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year. As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.

In December 2020, the publication "Ecological Design: Strategies for the Vulnerable City: Adapting the Precarious Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean to Climate Change" was carried out, where the impacts of the climate crisis on the most vulnerable areas of our cities – the informal city –are dimensioned, while reflecting on how to protect those who are most strongly affected by the consequences of climate change. In addition, it provides new perspectives to analyze risk and design nature-based solutions in precarious, informal, popular, vulnerable urban settlements, to make the informal city a more resilient city in the face of the climatic pressures that will come in the coming decades.

The publication is available online at the IDB web site: https://publications.iadb.org/publications/spanish/document/Dise%C3%B1o-ecologico-Estrategias-para-la-ciudad-vulnerable-adaptando-las-areas-precarias-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-al-cambio-climatico.pdf (in Spanish only).

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

Please report any significant modifications made to the project design since July 1st, 2020. *(The basis for comparison is the Project Results Framework Matrix included in the original Request for CEO Endorsement Document.)* ***This should be based on the Project Results Framework Matrix included in the original Request for CEO Endorsement Document.***

CHANGE MADE TO	YES/NO	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE AND EXPLANATION
Objective	No	
Outcome	No	
Output/Activities	No	
Other	No	

Has the project been granted any extension or other modification covered by the OA-420 from July 1st, 2020 until June 30th, 2021? If yes, please explain below. As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.

No.

However, during August 2021 the national authorities will be requesting an extension on the last disbursement date. The main reason to requested it is to complete the works and other products which are being processing or ongoing. Once the contracts from the bidding processes are awarded the project's performance will improve and the linked activities to them will be possible to plan.

LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICES

If the project generated any lessons learned or best practices during the 2020-2021 GEF Fiscal Year, please provide a short description. ***As applicable, please include information on issues and solutions related to COVID-19.***

TOPIC/THEME	LESSONS
The increase of attendees in workshops and trainings during the COVID 19 context	Due to COVID 19 restrictions workshops and trainings had to be taught virtually, which gave more people an opportunity to attend. In this sense, more people had access to the courses as there was more flexibility offered.
The complexity of execution scheme	The execution of the Project is carried out with greater delays than usual mainly because it involves 2 executors at the national level, 8 sub executors (Provincial Housing Institutes) and a technical committee that includes the Energy Secretariat and INTI. However, during 2020-2021 an improvement in the coordination of activities and decision making has been noticed. Currently, the communication between all stakeholders is working satisfactorily.
The hiring of a technical expert to advice to the IPVs in the preparation of the technical specs	The support and advice given by the expert hired by the IDB has been key in the progress of the IPVs. Important progress has been made and nowadays most of the IPVs are finishing the technical specs of their projects. During July 2021, it is expected that the remaining 5 projects corresponding to Buenos Aires, Formosa, Mendoza, Salta and Tucumán will be sent to the IDB

ANNEX 1. DEFINITION OF RATINGS

Development Objective Ratings

1. **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as "good practice".
2. **Satisfactory (S):** Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
3. **Marginally Satisfactory (MS):** Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.
4. **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU):** Project is expected to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives.
5. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
6. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Implementation Progress Ratings

1. **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of **all** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as "good practice".
2. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of **most** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action.
3. **Marginally Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of **some** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **some** components requiring remedial action.
4. **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of **some** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **most** components requiring remedial action.
5. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of **most** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
6. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of **none** of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk ratings

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks of projects should be rated on the following scale:

1. **High Risk (H):** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
2. **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
3. **Modest Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.
4. **Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.