

# Earth4All: Argentina

Five turnarounds towards wellbeing  
for all within planetary boundaries

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APRIL 2026

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, the result of the national adaptation of the global **Earth4All** initiative, offers a comprehensive diagnosis and a strategic road map for Argentina to achieve prosperous, inclusive and sustainable development within planetary boundaries by 2050. It seeks to inspire collective action based on evidence and cross-sector collaboration, aiming for long-term systemic change.

Earth4All simulates two main scenarios for the future of humanity. The first scenario, **Too Little Too Late**, is a projection of the future if the world continues with unsustainable patterns of consumption and inequality that exacerbate the risks of social and ecological crises. The second scenario, the **Giant Leap**, proves that humanity is still able to change course with the goal of achieving wellbeing for all on a finite planet.

In order to achieve the Giant Leap scenario, Earth4All proposes the simultaneous implementation of five extraordinary turnarounds, or interrelated interventions, that will enable systemic leverage:

- ▶ Eliminate **poverty**.
- ▶ Reduce **inequality**.
- ▶ **Empower** women.
- ▶ Transform the **food** system into one that is healthy for people and ecosystems.
- ▶ Transform the **energy** system towards clean energy sources.

The report for Argentina offers a critical analysis of the country's starting point and **four scenarios** to comprehensively map the spectrum of both action and inaction, allowing us to distinguish between actions that maintain the *status quo* and those that truly generate profound transformation. The four scenarios vary in their degree of policy implementation, from the most ambitious to the most regressive.

- ▶ **Giant Leap:** simulates a comprehensive and coordinated implementation of 57 key policies for systemic change. Only in this scenario are chronic negative trends reversed and a sustained reduction in structural problems is generated.
- ▶ **Transition:** a short-term incremental scenario where only a subset of 12 high-priority policies is implemented. It achieves some positive changes but fails to reverse structural problems.
- ▶ **Too Little Too Late:** in the global model, this is a projection of the future if the world continues with the current trends. In Argentina, it projects a future scenario with low levels of public spending and insufficient policies that do not generate significant structural changes (public spending projection 2003-2023), perpetuating the *status quo*.
- ▶ **Continued Austerity:** a scenario in which negative trends are actively exacerbated through fiscal adjustments and restrictive policies. This scenario was crucial in demonstrating that sustained adjustment policies can have even more damaging effects than the most pessimistic *status quo* scenario.

The Giant Leap is possible in Argentina: the roadmap is laid out by the simultaneous and coordinated implementation of the policies summarised in this section. But this simulation also allows us to see the impact of restrictive policies and the cost of deviating from this agenda. The conclusion is clear: overcoming Argentina's chronic problems requires large-scale, coordinated intervention focused on these five systemic levers.

The participatory process in Argentina has also demonstrated that civil society's capacity for agency is a fundamental driver for initiating change (as projected by the Transition scenario), but it also highlights the need to bring all parties together: governments, policymakers and businesses must get involved early and actively in this process.

Based on the opinions of experts and stakeholders, and with the support of **the Earth4All Argentina model**, this report proposes policy recommendations with the aim of achieving the Giant Leap in Argentina.

The information below provides an overview of the proposals, challenges and recommendations for their implementation. The policies are organised by "levels": Level 1 (base of the pyramid) includes policies considered to be basic changes within the current economic system to start the path of transformation. Level 3 (top of the pyramid) includes policies that will achieve a definitive transformation towards a wellbeing economy in the country.

#### **Methodological note: Data context and reference period**

The analysis presented in this report was conducted between June and September 2025, based on the latest official datasets then available. While the findings and policy recommendations remain structurally valid, specific data should be interpreted within the study's timeframe (mid-2025) and not as a reflection of the data available at the time of publication in April 2026.

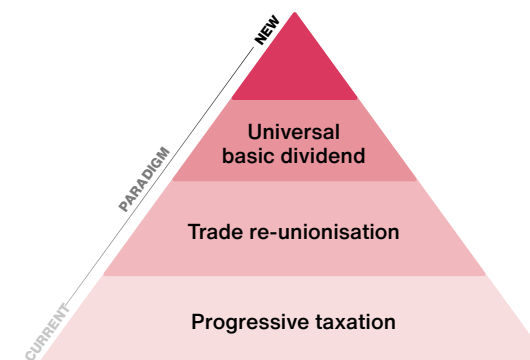
## POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

### Diagnosis

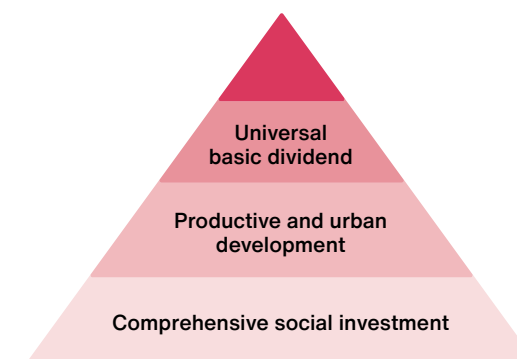
Poverty and inequality are structural and persistent phenomena originating in the country's social and productive structure. By the end of 2024, income poverty affected nearly 40% of the urban population. This situation is particularly serious among children, affecting more than half of those under the age of 17. Income inequality remains high and consistent. This is reflected in the fact that the richest 10% hold nearly a quarter of total income, while the poorest 10% receive only 3%. Job insecurity is a key factor, as only about 40% of the working population had full employment rights in 2024, and almost a third of employed workers lived in low-income households. In addition, women face greater vulnerability, with a wage gap of about 28% and greater informality in the labour market.

Social exclusion manifests itself in serious deficits that go beyond income. In the area of food and health, around 12% of households suffered severe food deprivation throughout 2024. Deficits in housing and basic services are structural and concentrated in certain areas: more than 15% of the population does not have access to running water and more than 40% of households do not have access to sewerage. With regard to educational inclusion, the deficit in secondary school completion rates is around 30% overall, but rises to more than 60% among children from very low socio-economic strata, consolidating the intergenerational cycle of poverty. These deficiencies are most severe in the north-east and north-west regions of the country.

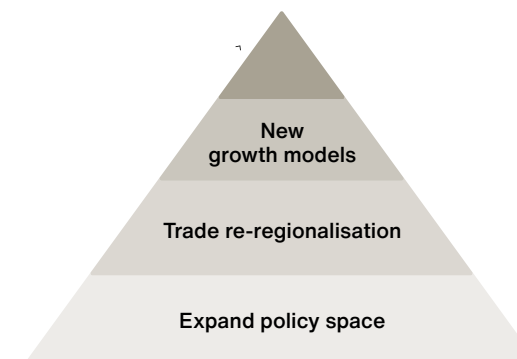
Level	Approach	Proposed policies
<b>Level 1: Comprehensive social investment (short-term)</b>	Seek to stabilise living conditions, address urgent deficits and establish a baseline for wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthen units of the popular economy.</li> <li>▶ Ensure satisfactory housing conditions. (Phase 1: Housing, public services, urban integration.)</li> <li>▶ Invest in education.</li> <li>▶ Improve healthcare and public infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2: Productive and urban development (medium-term)</b>	Aim to consolidate a new pattern of economic and social development through productive diversification and labour improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Generate decent employment through the implementation of a productive development plan.</li> <li>▶ Guarantee satisfactory housing conditions. (Phase 2: Improvements in connectivity and transport.)</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3: Universal citizen floor (long-term)</b>	This constitutes the horizon of full integration, where the emphasis is on guaranteeing universal rights that promote autonomy, citizenship and social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Universal basic dividend.</li> </ul>



### INEQUALITY



### POVERTY AND INEQUALITY ARGENTINA



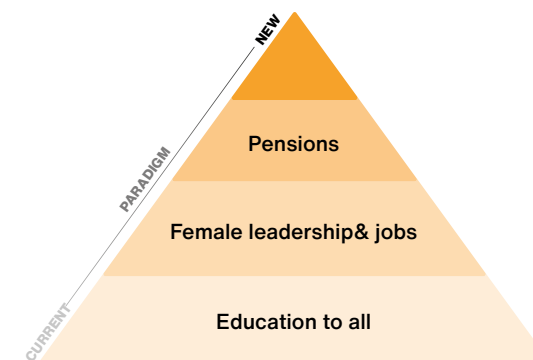
### POVERTY

## EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

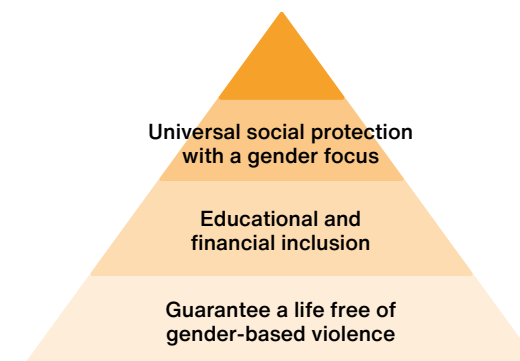
### Diagnosis

Although Argentina has made notable progress in recent decades in terms of legal frameworks and political representation to achieve gender equality, structural challenges remain, such as the wage gap, the feminisation of poverty and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. Women spend twice as much time (6 hours and 31 minutes per day) as men (3 hours and 40 minutes per day) on care tasks. The recent dismantling of public institutions and the discontinuation of key programmes could reverse the goals already achieved and exacerbate inequalities between men and women.

Level	Approach	Proposed policies
<b>Level 1:</b> <b>Guarantee a life free of gender-based violence</b>	An essential starting point for addressing the dimensions of women's autonomy (physical, economic and decision-making).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthen policies for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence (physical autonomy).</li> <li>▶ Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health training and services, with a special focus on girls and adolescents.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2:</b> <b>Educational and financial inclusion</b>	Seek to reduce gaps in access and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ensure investment and financing policies with a gender perspective.</li> <li>▶ Promote the full participation of all genders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the educational and productive levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3:</b> <b>Universal social protection with a gender focus</b>	Implement structural reforms to address economic dependence and the burden of care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Create a social protection system with an intersectional gender perspective, which includes a comprehensive care policy (economic autonomy).</li> <li>▶ Ensure women's participation in decision-making with a special focus on the climate and environmental agenda: disaster warning or prevention systems.</li> </ul>



### EMPOWERMENT



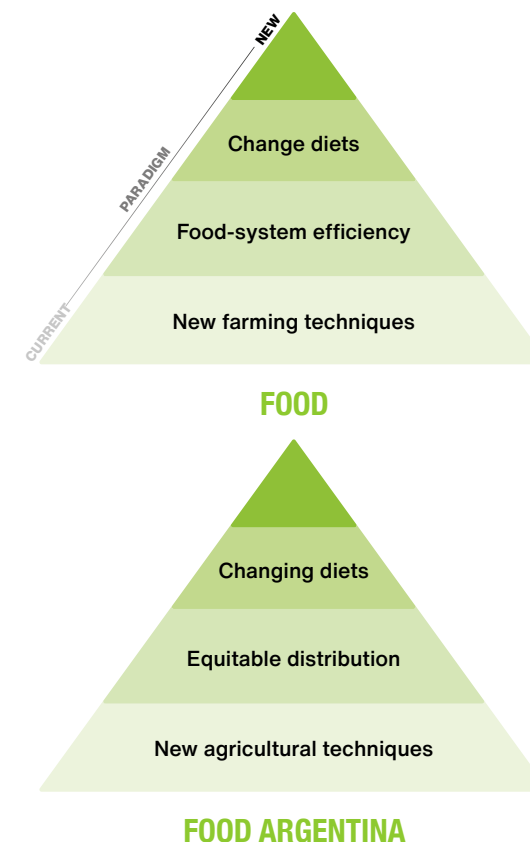
### EMPOWERMENT ARGENTINA

## FOOD SYSTEM

### Diagnosis

In the national context, a profound paradox can be observed: in a food-producing country, malnutrition is on the rise, and undernourishment and obesity coexist. There is evidence of a structural crisis characterised by simultaneous problems in food production, distribution and consumption: 1) the extractive production model has led to pollution and desertification; 2) there is inequality in distribution, with food insecurity affecting 35% of the national population; 3) there is a crisis of commensality in the consumption of food, with the abandonment of the social and symbolic functions of food in favour of unnecessary and induced consumption, which has led to a loss of diversity in human nutrition.

Level	Approach	Proposed policies
<b>Level 1: New agricultural techniques</b>	Transform production methods (from extractive to regenerative) to respect planetary boundaries and promote resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agro-ecological and regenerative transition: transition 50% of land to regenerative and sustainable agriculture, livestock and fisheries by 2030. Limit the expansion of the productive frontier (agriculture, livestock and fisheries) and restore degraded ecosystems (on land and at sea).</li> <li>▶ Tenure and scale reform: implement structural reform of land tenure and use aimed at deconcentrating ownership, protecting public heritage and promoting sustainable production models.</li> <li>▶ Inclusive and technological local agri-food development: establish a territorial and technological development strategy with a gender and intercultural approach for the food system, seeking to strengthen local economies and productive resilience.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2: Equitable distribution</b>	Seek fair and equitable distribution of food, complementing access via employment with a basis for survival for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthen short supply chains and fair trade. Transform the current food distribution and marketing system by prioritising short supply chains and developing local markets, ensuring price transparency and equitable access to fresh and healthy food.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3: Changing diets</b>	Replace conspicuous consumption with diets that restore individual, collective and ecosystem health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote sustainable diets and responsible consumption. Implement a national strategy to promote responsible consumption and transition towards sustainable, nutritious and diverse diets, breaking with the current model of conspicuous consumption and improving public health.</li> <li>▶ Promote transparent food governance and systemic education. Build effective food governance by regulating information and promoting a culture of home-cooked meals, ensuring that political and personal decisions around food are based on robust data and conscious education. Additionally, institutional changes at the national and international levels are needed to sustain these reforms.</li> </ul>

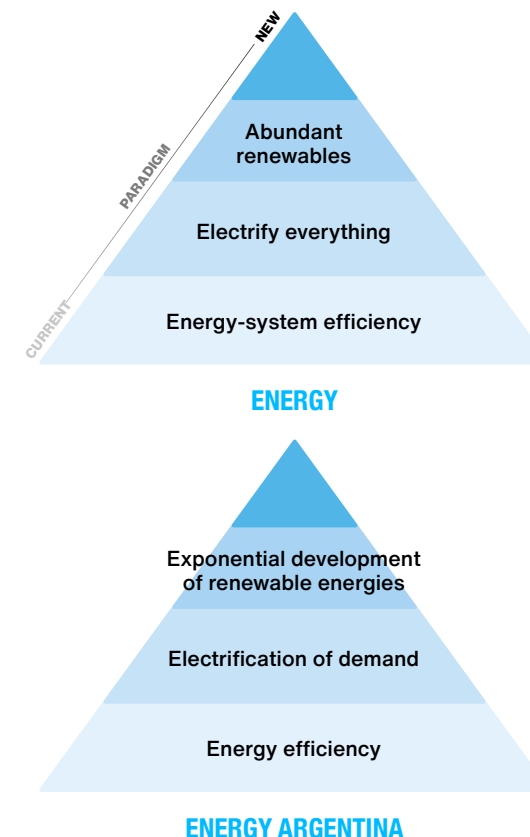


## ENERGY SYSTEM

### Diagnosis

Argentina has enormous potential for renewable energy in the energy transition. However, there are significant barriers to capitalising on this potential, due to macro-economic instability, lack of financing to build the necessary infrastructure and resistance to cultural and political change to minimise the weight of hydrocarbons in the energy matrix. Energy transition in Argentina presents a complex and multidimensional challenge. It is not just a technological change, but a profound socio-economic transformation that must balance climate ambition with macroeconomic stability, social equity and industrial development.

Level	Approach	Proposed policies
<b>Level 1: Energy efficiency</b>	Promote energy efficiency in homes, industry and transport.	<p>Key actions and levers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Homes and buildings (residential, commercial and public): promotion of thermal insulation, labelling of homes and replacement of efficient appliances, electrification of heating and cooking.</li> <li>▶ Transport: promotion of public transport (metro, buses) and active mobility, replacement of freight transport (railways and barges), self-production of biofuels in the agricultural sector.</li> <li>▶ Industry: modernisation, digitisation and automation of processes; replacement of old equipment and electrification of industrial heat demand; implementation of energy management systems through learning networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2: Electrification of demand</b>	Decarbonisation through electrification and low-emission fuels.	<p>Key actions and levers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Homes and buildings: electrification of utilities (heating, hot water and cooking appliances), investments in distributed generation and electricity storage.</li> <li>▶ Transport: promote electric vehicles (cars, public transport, micro-mobility).</li> <li>▶ Industrial: electrification of demands linked to heat treatment such as drying, distillation, compression and cooking processes, and electrification of key industrial processes such as steel, cement, heavy chemical, ceramic or glass production.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3: Exponential development of renewable energies</b>	Conditions for clean electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Expand the deployment of renewable energies (solar photovoltaic, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear, biomass, biogas, biomethane, low-emission hydrogen or some of the associated products, such as ammonia, urea, synthetic fuels).</li> <li>▶ Distributed storage and generation, both in the form of electricity generation and for different end uses.</li> <li>▶ Establish a low-emission, resilient and fair energy transition strategy, focusing on internal costs, system adaptability and development.</li> <li>▶ Leverage fossil and mineral resources to finance the energy transition.</li> <li>▶ Improve energy transport, distribution and storage infrastructure.</li> </ul>



The main conclusions of this report, based on diagnostic work, public policy design and the simulation of future scenarios, highlight the structural and multidimensional nature of the country's challenges and the need for coordinated, systemic transformation to achieve prosperous and sustainable development.

Findings on the levers of systemic change in the Argentine context:

- ▶ **Poverty and inequality as structural, persistent and multidimensional phenomena:** the nature of these problems in Argentina is particularly aggravated by recurrent macro-economic instability. To combat them from a systemic perspective, it is necessary to coordinate a comprehensive medium- and long-term strategy that combines social containment (comprehensive social investment) with structural transformations (productive and urban development). As a final horizon, the comprehensive application of a universal dividend is suggested as a mechanism for structural integration that ensures a common floor of wellbeing for a more equitable society.
- ▶ **Gender inequality driven by the burden of care:** gender inequality is structural, and the main cause of women's economic dependence is the feminisation of care work. Without a comprehensive care policy, women's economic autonomy is unattainable. It is also essential to strengthen and safeguard regulatory frameworks and to generate data with a gender and intersectional perspective for policy design and evaluation.
- ▶ **Urgency in the restructuring of the food system:** addressing the crisis in the food system will require an accelerated restructuring of production towards agro-ecology, changing the scale of production to promote a new rurality, modifying fiscal policy by reducing taxes on fresh food and regulating the industry by prioritising health and sustainability over profitability.
- ▶ **Need for a just energy transition:** the primary objective of Argentina's energy transition should not only be decarbonisation, but also the reduction of inequalities and the expansion of universal access to clean, safe and affordable energy. To achieve the transition (articulated in efficiency, electrification and renewables), it is crucial to proactively manage fossil resources (such as Vaca Muerta), using revenues from hydrocarbon and critical mineral exports to finance the green transition and the modernisation of energy infrastructure.

Findings on the systemic nature and inertia of Argentina's structural problems:

- ▶ **Systemic interdependence of crises:** the current challenges are not isolated phenomena, but manifestations of the same systemic framework that reproduces exclusion, vulnerability and environmental degradation. Macro-economic instability, institutional deterioration, structural inequality and pressure on ecosystems are understood as interconnected expressions of a development model that has exhausted its capacity to sustain human wellbeing.
- ▶ **Inertia of structural problems:** Argentina's chronic problems are highly inertial, especially those of income inequality, gender inequality and the pressure of the food system on ecosystems. The challenges facing the country are extremely difficult to reverse or modify through gradual or partial actions, which are insufficient to alter the negative trajectories that tend to perpetuate themselves over time.

- ▶ **The high cost of austerity:** the Continued Austerity scenario (sustained budget cut policies) projects a significantly more damaging trajectory than the pessimistic Too Little Too Late scenario in three of the four dimensions. Austerity actively exacerbates negative trends, maintaining very high gender inequality, causing an accelerated collapse of healthy ecosystems, and sharply increasing productive concentration.
- ▶ **The Giant Leap is the only path to structural transformation:** overcoming Argentina's chronic problems requires large-scale, coordinated intervention focused on the five systemic levers of Earth4All. The Giant Leap is the only scenario that manages to reverse chronic negative trends and generate a sustained reduction in structural problems by 2050.
- ▶ **Need for comprehensive and coordinated interventions:** simulations show that gradual measures presented in the Transition scenario, while moving in the right direction, consistently fail to reverse structural problems because they are partial interventions. For a profound and lasting transformation (Giant Leap scenario), the five extraordinary turnarounds (eliminating poverty, reducing inequality, empowering women, transforming food systems and transitioning to clean energy) must be addressed simultaneously and in a coordinated manner. The success of the Giant Leap depends on this interdependence and not on isolated solutions.

Earth4All is an international initiative to accelerate the systems changes we need for an equitable future on a finite planet. Combining the best available science with new economic thinking, Earth4All was designed to identify the transformations we need to create prosperity for all. Earth4All was initiated by [The Club of Rome](#), the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#), the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#) and the [Norwegian Business School](#). It builds on the legacies of [The Limits to Growth](#) and the [planetary boundaries frameworks](#).

Earth4All is committed to advancing systems change and the transition to a new climate and economic paradigm through three interconnected pillars. These pillars reflect the overarching framework of our substantive work and core objectives, namely to:

- ▶ Create compelling evidence for systems change through transformative research, system dynamics modelling, scientific evidence building and knowledge networks;
- ▶ Shape public discourse and culture with new narratives and creative tools that promote justice, wellbeing and planetary stewardship; and
- ▶ Bring more people on the journey to influence change by shaping and creating new policy, decision-making alliances that uphold wellbeing and planetary boundaries.

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