

# The Province of Córdoba, Argentina: THE SDGS AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION

## Key highlights

- The current proactive role of the Province of Cordoba on localising the SDGs aims to give continuity to the social inclusion agenda and work on well-being.
- The Province is using the SDGs to develop its Strategic Guidelines 2030, through a participatory multi-stakeholder process engaging the private sector, civil society and youth.
- The province has co-produced, together with local stakeholders, a Matrix to identify drivers of social inclusion and to measure links between the environmental/economic SDGs and the social SDGs.

### The province of Cordoba is using the 2030 Agenda for improving the effectiveness of its governmental actions.

The *Memoria de Gestión Gubernamental* (2017) already aligned the three axes of governmental action with the SDGs (Figure 1), which have been further strengthened in the third Memoria de Gestión Gubernamental. The provincial government stresses in these reports that sustainability is a key principle guiding the actions of the government, which aim to build a "Sustainable State" enabling all the inhabitants of the province to enjoy a better quality of life.

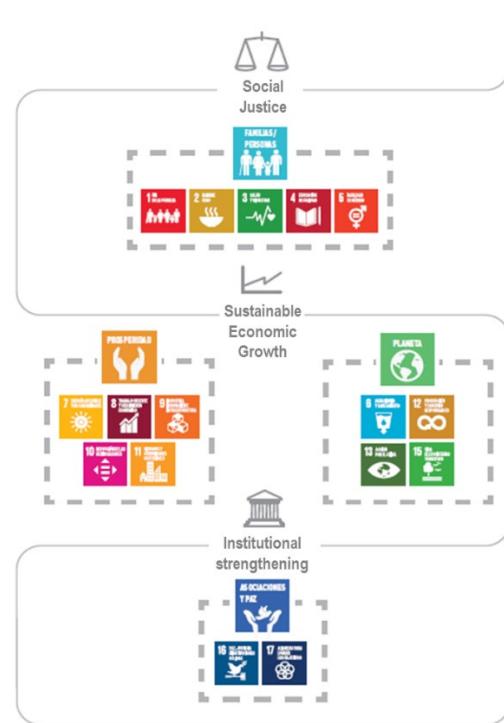
**The province sees in the 2030 Agenda an opportunity to advance and strengthen its management model.** This is because: i) it promotes evidence-based policies and the monitoring of people's well-being and living conditions, ii) it is based on globally agreed long-terms goals and targets; iii) it promotes the cooperation with and the engagement of territorial stakeholders; iv) it is a tool that allows to coordinate with the national level.

**The provincial government has a strong focus on social inclusion and well-being policies.** Because of Argentina's federal structure, the province of Córdoba is responsible for many of the policies that have a very direct impact on people's lives. In view of the volume of resources devoted to fulfilling its well-being responsibilities and the growing demand for information, the provincial government was prompted to initiate the development of a framework of well-being indicators. Consequently, the province started a collaboration with the OECD on "How's life in the province of Córdoba, Argentina?", which has produced over 30 statistical indicators that help analyse the performance of the province in 12 well-being dimensions in comparison with 391 regions of 36 OECD countries and 98 regions of Latin America.

**The current proactive role and activities of the province of Córdoba on SDGs aims at giving continuity to the social inclusion agenda and to the work on well-being.** For this reason, the Province of Cordoba focuses on the social SDGs, in particular on the SDGs from 1 to 5. At the same time, to make the most of the inter-connected and holistic framework of the 2030 Agenda, the province has

co-produced a Matrix (Figure 2) together with territorial stakeholders to identify and measure the synergies and the trade-offs among the social and the other SDGs.

**Figure 1. Three Axes of Governmental Action in the Province of Córdoba**



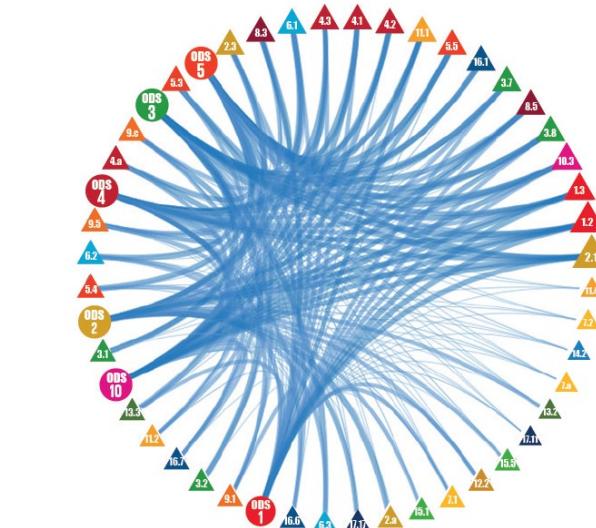
Source: Memoria de Gestión Gubernamental (2017).

**To promote vertical coordination in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the province has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales - CNCPS).** The CNCPS provides guidelines and methodological suggestions for the incorporation of the SDGs as a management and planning tool at the sub-national level, while the province will participate in the "Provinces Report", which describes the progress on the adoption of the SDGs.

The Province of Córdoba has taken several steps to involve citizens in the work of the 2030 Agenda. First, it launched the **Open Government Roundtable** (Mesa de Gobierno Abierto) composed by civil society organizations, including representatives of some universities, responding to the Open Government ambition in the province. The province is further working on the **Open Government Portal**, which provides "data with sense" on Governmental actions on the SDGs to the public. This portal, as well as the intensive work carried out by the province on well-being data and SDGs indicator respond to one of the key challenges identified in OECD's Territorial Review of Córdoba (2016), namely the lack of availability of, and access to, reliable data and statistics as well as governance issues around transparency and accountability.

**The private sector and the civil society are active on the SDGs, but their actions are quite isolated.** The lack of a common platform to coordinate the ongoing efforts of the territorial stakeholders, in particular private sector and civil society, is a challenge and a possible area of improvement for the future. In addition, the **institutionalisation of the process towards 2030** emerged as another challenge in the province

**Figure 2: Matrix to identify “key drivers” of social inclusion**



**Source:** Secretaría General de la Gobernación (2019), Córdoba hacia el 2030 - Tercer taller, Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en el contexto local

## FORWARD LOOKING POLICY RESPONSES

Córdoba has identified three strategic lines of action to support the implementation of the SDGs:

### 1. Strategic and multilevel governance of the Agenda 2030

**Continue to use the SDGs to develop the Strategic Guidelines 2030 for the Province of Cordoba.** The 2030 Agenda and its horizon can provide an appropriate framework to gather the territorial stakeholders and jointly define the guidelines for the province of Cordoba, potentially leading to a development strategy. To this extent, **use the Matrix to account for the drivers of social inclusion and manage trade-offs between the environmental/economic SDGs and the social SDGs.** The matrix should allow for identifying and prioritising key sectors that can drive the social inclusion, while promoting synergies across these sectors.

**Institutionalise the process towards 2030 by developing Strategic Guidelines 2030.** The 2030 Agenda offers the opportunity to develop a joined and multi-stakeholder process with clear goals and targets. The institutionalisation of the process and the definition of the Strategic Guidelines towards 2030, can allow for going beyond political cycles in the SDGs implementation.

### 2. Broaden the collaboration with all type of actors

**Provide platforms for coordinating and sharing knowledge on the actions of the private sector and civil society,** possibly in the framework of the Strategic Guidelines 2030 for Cordoba, where all the actions by

public and private sectors, as well as civil society, can contribute to shared and common goals.

**Support the private sector on the SDGs through public procurement,** for example public procurement can include a percentage related to the criteria of ISO certification, making sustainability a key principle.

**Collect and share good practices on the role of the private sector and civil society for the SDGs.** As a first step, the province could collect the good practices related to SDGs and upload them on the open data portal, so they will also appear in the Memoria de Gestión. As stressed by the association of industries, there is a survey and database on business competitiveness that can be made available and linked to the SDGs.

### 3. Measuring and sharing

**Build on the work on well-being indicators to localise the UN indicator framework for SDGs to define the set of targets and indicators that are the most relevant for Córdoba.** The SDGs could also be used to define concrete values that the province would like to achieve.

**Continue the efforts to increase the availability and the dissemination of data to citizens and civil society.** This will contribute to bridge the information gap that is hindering the engagement of the civil society in the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the collaboration with the media could contribute to better dissemination of information on the provincial government's actions on SDGs and raise awareness on the 2030 Agenda in the province.