



Final Learning Exercise Summary Report

Córdoba (Province), Argentina Action Plan 2021- 2023
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Section I: Open Government in Context

The action plan proposed **tripartite collaboration** between the Province of Córdoba, civil society organizations, and pilot municipalities to advance the territorialization processes of the 2030 Agenda in localities. This would be achieved through a collaborative process involving local stakeholders. Municipalities were selected from different departments of the province, each with diverse sociodemographic, territorial, economic, and environmental characteristics, representing the geographical diversity of the Province. The chosen municipalities were San José de la Dormida in the Tulumba department, Freyre in the San Justo department, Alta Gracia in the Santa María department, and Vicuña Mackenna in the Río Cuarto department.

In general terms, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted all local governments where the plan was implemented, at the provincial, national, and global levels. Additionally, the post-pandemic socio-economic crisis in our country also affected the plan's development. This context had consequences for citizen participation in various workshops prioritizing and territorializing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in some cases.

Furthermore, within the municipal government of Vicuña Mackenna, there was a change in leadership within the institutions responsible for plan implementation. This change led to disruptions and/or pauses in implementation until communication was reestablished with the new individuals in charge.



Section II: Action Plan Co-Creation Process

Review of the co-creation process

Among the **strengths** of the co-creation process, we can highlight the experience of the completed provincial territorialization. This involved a collaborative and participatory process with a working methodology that allowed for the joint prioritization of management strategies and the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Province. Conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), this process was a valuable learning and exchange opportunity. It enabled us to share our lessons, challenges, and successful practices with peers from different regions. This became a strength in co-creating a methodology for collaborative territorialization at the local level for the action plan. It emphasized the good practices and essential actions of the already completed provincial-level process, serving as an inspiration to encourage local governments to undertake similar initiatives.

To support and collaborate in the local processes of each municipality, a **Multi-Stakeholder Forum** was established. In this regard, the challenge was accepted to work together not only with non-governmental actors but also in collaboration between government levels and departments. The forum included the Ministries of Coordination, Government, Women, and the Córdoba Joven Agency from the Province, pilot local governments, the National University of Córdoba as a monitoring entity, and civil society organizations such as Fundeps and Somos Pares.

This Multi-Stakeholder Forum responded to the innovative approach presented by the co-creation process, incorporating the perspectives of youth and gender, which are fundamental for local development. The definition of these cross-cutting axes in the plan was based on the proposals of non-governmental organizations with experience in Open Government (OG), particularly in other OG action plans, and with the agreement of the Province. The track record of NGOs in OG action plans in both Córdoba and at the national level added significant value to the process.

Furthermore, the involvement of the academic sector symbolized trust and transparency in the monitoring role of the plan. The National University of Córdoba's nomination to the Forum was initiated by the participating organizations.

Lastly, the selection of local governments posed a significant **challenge** due to the criteria of diversity in geographical, population, and socioeconomic characteristics. With 427 municipalities and communes in the province, choosing only 4 was a difficult task. However, consensus was reached on cities from different departments, with varying levels of development and diverse political affiliations in their governments. It's worth noting that the geographic distances among the participating local governments presented a challenge for



plan coordination, meetings, and joint work. Nevertheless, it also added richness from the perspective of the geographic and socioeconomic diversity involved in the project through these municipalities.

Co-Creation Process Recommendations

- At the beginning of the co-creation process, it is recommended to establish the **responsibilities** of each actor involved in the project. It is advised to designate a **representative** from each participating organization for the periodic monitoring of the action plan.
- Implementing **agile methodologies** is advisable to facilitate co-creation processes.
- In the co-creation process, it is recommended that the prioritization of objectives and goals emerges from a collaborative instance that considers the **criteria of feasibility, adaptability, and flexibility of the proposed plan**.
- Creating joint documents that compile the proposals of all pilot governments is recommended to leverage synergies obtained from each co-creation process.
- Establishing **regular meetings** that highlight the best practices of co-creation processes, focusing on successful methodologies and multi-actor governance practices that promote the participation and collaboration of local stakeholders, is also recommended.

Section III: Action Plan Commitments

3.1 Review of the implementation of commitments

- Commitment 1: Territorialize the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in four municipalities with a meaningful open government perspective, emphasizing collaboration among stakeholders.
 - One of the fundamental commitments made by the Government of the Province of Córdoba was the collaborative territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals and global challenges adapted to the local context, aiming to achieve sustainability, social inclusion, and citizen participation. The dual challenge involved mainstreaming gender and youth perspectives.
 - The process of territorialization took place in the four selected municipalities of the Province of Córdoba for the implementation of the Action Plan, albeit with varying levels of commitment and depth in addressing them.
 - In addition, efforts to align with the 2030 Agenda's transparency goals were integrated. All policies simultaneously aligning with the achievement of the SDGs and recovery with a focus on sustainability in its three dimensions—social, economic, and environmental—entailed the challenge of having data and information to monitor their indicators.
 - Multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance were fundamental mechanisms in this project. It was necessary to transform participation spaces into real dialogue spaces, creatively institutionalizing them, and recognizing that



engagement with other stakeholders and multi-actor work facilitated the generation of more sustainable public policies. Multilevel governance implies an inclusive decision-making process, coordinated across different levels of government, particularly at the provincial and municipal levels in this project. Likewise, international spaces for coordination and decision-making were included.

- Commitment 2: Support municipalities and participating social organizations in the OGP Local program to incorporate gender perspective and youth focus in the territorialization process of SDGs.
 - For the selected municipalities in the pilot program—Vicuña Mackenna, San José de la Dormida, Freyre, and Alta Gracia—co-creating actions, plans, and initiatives were crucial. This allowed for the creation of development maps, a guide or routes to direct local development, channeling and planning real solutions to local problems, guided by the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as a shared framework.
- Commitment 3: Showcase the actions and processes developed within the framework of the OGP Local Program by local governments and civil society organizations.
 - A space for dissemination and visibility of the work carried out with municipalities and stakeholders involved in the collaborative territorialization of the SDGs was established. This aimed to bring the results of this process to society as a whole. Channels for dissemination and visibility included communication channels and virtual platforms of each actor involved in the action plan—provincial government, civil society organizations, and local governments.
 - The pilot program, therefore, was an opportunity to achieve these goals, and the initiatives undertaken were crucial in devising concrete policies under the Open Government paradigm, in a transformative context that reaches all types of civil society actors.

3.2 Commitment recommendations

- It is recommended that the design of commitments be approached with the utmost responsibility, generating agreements that can be fulfilled. The suggested motto is "Less is more," focusing on the fulfillment of each commitment made.
- Commitments should be designed to provide continuity within the strategic vision of each government. This involves complementing, completing, and enhancing commitments in future action plans.
- Establishing a visibility strategy for commitments is advisable to promote the continuity of actions, allowing for the deepening of each commitment in its participatory and collaborative phases.
- Each assumed commitment is recommended to have an allocated budget to ensure the necessary resources for implementation. Additionally, a transparent accountability process should be in place to guarantee the transparency of each fulfilled commitment.