PROJECT SUMMARY

CÓRDOBA GOVTECH: DEVELOPING THE GOVTECH ECOSYSTEM
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF CITIZEN SERVICES
(AR-T1263 AND AR-G1007)

The municipality of Córdoba has established as pillars of its management the modernization of government and the development of a smart city to improve the quality of life of its citizens. As part of this effort, the municipality's Department of Planning, Modernization, and International Relations is implementing a strategy to accelerate public innovation processes by incorporating high-impact solutions developed by technology-based startups (TBSUs) that will have a social, environmental, and economic impact on the city. In this context, the local government has created an investment fund called the Fondo Córdoba Ciudad Inteligente (Córdoba Smart City Fund). Its goal is to invest in TBSUs that develop innovative solutions to help modernize municipal government, with positive impacts on citizens' quality of life.

However, the city is facing a significant coordination gap in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem that hinders government innovation and the process of developing a smart city.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the development of the govtech innovation ecosystem in Córdoba by promoting innovative collaboration between TBSUs, innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), institutions supporting entrepreneurship, and the public sector, which will facilitate the city's transformation into a smart city.

This project will be a very significant catalyst for the govtech ecosystem[1] because it combines the stimulation of public demand through training, pilots, and the creation of safe spaces for experimenting with innovations and technologies, and the strengthening of supply, including financing mechanisms that are unprecedented in this sector.

This project is aligned with Vision 2025, which, in addition to identifying the digital economy and support for SMEs as opportunities for recovery, recognizes the adoption of more digital solutions as a means to enhance public sector performance, enable savings, and make room for spending on inclusive growth.

This project with the municipality of Córdoba contributes knowledge to the IDB Lab portfolio on how to further develop the local ecosystem to improve citizen services, in coordination with the Housing and Urban Development Division and the Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation Division of the IDB Group. It is an example of how IDB Lab can contribute to the IDB Group through innovative projects that address the region's challenges by leveraging the use of technology.

The beneficiaries of this project will be: (i) the approximately 1.5 million citizens (460,000 households) of the city of Córdoba's metropolitan area whose quality of life will improve due to enhanced service delivery; and (ii) 100 TBSUs that will benefit from nonfinancial support activities and financing for their solutions. These numbers will continue to grow after the project ends, as the financing instruments for TBSUs and new municipal capacity will remain in place to continue to increase the adoption of technology in service delivery.

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[1] The govtech ecosystem is one in which governments, innovation startups, and their disruptive technologies work together to transform the public sector. This collaborative work seeks to accelerate the digital transformation of governments into agile, smart entities.