



*We are*  
**CABEI** 

Introducing our extraregional  
member country

# Argentina





# CABEI's extra-regional partner since 1995, the Republic of Argentina is CABEI's gateway to Mercosur.

**Getting to know Argentina:** it is a South American country with one of the largest land areas on the planet, ranking eighth in the world, fourth in the Americas and second among Latin American countries. Its vast terrain includes mountains, glacial lakes and grasslands. It is bordered to the north by Bolivia and Paraguay; to the west and south by Chile and to the east by Brazil and Uruguay, as well as bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

Due to its great extension, Argentina has a wide variety of climates among which we can mention the subtropical, the temperate, the mountainous, the oceanic and the arid Andean, among others.

**Natural attractions and cultural beauty:** The country is renowned for its natural attractions such as the Iguazú Falls in Misiones, the Perito Moreno Glacier in Santa Cruz, the Andes and the Aconcagua; as well as for the dance and music of tango. Buenos Aires, its great cosmopolitan capital, is centered on the Plaza de Mayo, surrounded by imposing 19th century buildings,

such as the Casa Rosada, seat of the national government, the Cabildo and the metropolitan Cathedral.

Argentina has an estimated population of more than 45 million inhabitants, with a very low population density of 16 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>, and with the majority living in urban areas. Its culture is the result of an interesting ethnic mix of indigenous, European and Afro-American cultures, which is why it is often defined as a multicultural and multiethnic country.

**One of the largest economies in Latin America:** Argentina is one of the largest economies in Latin America, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately US\$490 billion. With abundant natural resources in energy and agriculture, the nation has significant reserves of gas and lithium, and has enormous potential in renewable energies. The country is also a leader in food production, with large-scale industries in the agriculture and cattle raising sectors.

## CABEI chose Argentina, and Argentina chose CABEI.

Argentina's membership in the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) has strengthened the region's ties with Mercosur through the exchange of knowledge and experiences and, in turn, aligned multilateral cooperation with the country's priorities through financial and technical support for the development of public and private projects related to science and technology, education, health, infrastructure, digital transformation of

MSMEs, rural development, actions to protect against gender-based violence and citizen security.

It currently has nine operations approved to support sectors such as science and technology, agriculture, gender equity, digital transformation of SMEs, among others, totaling US\$394.0 million with expected impacts throughout the country.

### Initiatives being executed

**Care for the Elderly Population**  
CABEI Financing: US\$30 million.

### Expected Benefits

- Will benefit more than 5 million Argentines.
- Improved access to healthcare
- Health information systems modernization.

### Expansion and healthcare coverage

CABEI Financing: US\$32 million.

- It will benefit more than 45 million Argentines.
- Strengthen the Argentine State's health policies.
- Improve and increase vaccine storage space.

### Actions for Protection Against Gender-Based Violence

CABEI Financing: US\$50 million.

- Will benefit more than 1 million families
- Improve assistance and support to people who suffer gender-based violence.
- Will enable the construction of a new headquarters for the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity.

### MSMEs' digital transformation

CABEI Financing: US\$50 million.

- Develop technological infrastructure for MSMEs' digital transformation.
- Will train entrepreneurs and workers for a 4.0 production model.
- Will finance productive transformation processes for a pilot group of companies

### Post-emergency Rural Development and Recovery

CABEI Financing: US\$50 million.

- It will support the reconstruction of agri-food sector sustainability initiatives.
- Promote the comprehensive and accelerated incorporation of technology.
- Generate new initiatives and youth entrepreneurship, promoting gender equity.

### Strengthening Research and Development Capabilities

CABEI Financing: US\$50 million.

- It will strengthen the strategic research and development capacity of the country's National Innovation System.
- It will promote the incorporation of greater knowledge in the generation of new technologies to improve the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs.
- Enable the creation of international cooperation networks with Central American countries through postgraduate scholarships.

### Educational Access and Quality Improvement Program

CABEI Financing: US\$67 million.

- It will improve equity and access to education.
- It will expand pre-school, primary and secondary education coverage.
- Increase student retention at all educational levels.

### Health Infrastructure Strengthening

CABEI Financing: US\$50 million.

- Strengthen the citizen security service, oriented to prevention.
- Improve the infrastructure and equipment of the penitentiary and social readaptation service.

### Citizen Security

CABEI Financing: US\$15 million.

- Strengthen the citizen security service, oriented to prevention.
- Improve the infrastructure and equipment of the penitentiary and social readaptation service.

In 2022, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration will open its office in Argentina to further empower local companies and help them internationalize. Also, through its participation in the country, the Bank plans to strengthen its relationship with the entire Southern Cone area

and specifically with the Mercosur region.

As part of its objectives for 2022, CABEL plans to open its physical office in Argentina, which will allow it to implement more initiatives to improve the quality of life of Argentines.

## Argentina, extra-regional member

The Republic of Argentina is one of CABEL's oldest extra-regional members; it was the third to join after the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Mexico in 1995.

Its shareholding is 4.3% and its capital contributions amount to US\$41.3 million. From 2016 to 2021, the Bank's approvals to the country totaled US\$419.0 million, while disbursements for the same period totaled US\$79.9 million.



Sanitary Isolation Centers (SIC) and Border Sanitary Units (BSU).

## About CABEL

CABEL was created in 1960 as the financial arm of the region's integration and development. Its resources are continually invested in projects with an impact on development to reduce poverty and inequalities, strengthen regional integration and the competitive insertion of partners in the world economy, paying special attention to environmental sustainability. CABEL

is headquartered in Tegucigalpa with offices throughout Central America. CABEL's financial strength as the best credit in Latin America is supported by its high credit rating granted by different international agencies: Standard & Poor's with a rating of AA, Moody's with a rating of Aa3, and Japan Credit Rating with AA.