

Global South-South Development Expo 2018

Session Report

South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Good Practices for Decent Work on ILO Flagship Programmes and Cross-cutting Policy Drivers towards BAPA+40

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

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Summary

For the ILO, South-south and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is an important mean to promote and implement the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 8 on Decent Work and SDG 17 on Partnership. In March 2018, the ILO Governing Body has reviewed the implementation of SSTC strategy adopted in 2012 and agreed on the future SSTC steps, including expand ILO's active role in UN inter-agency processes that involve SSTC such as the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo).

In this regard, The ILO organised the *SSTC Solution Forum: good practices on ILO Flagship Programmes*, to showcase the latest contributions of SSTC in meeting the challenges in the world of works, especially through the Flagship Programmes, as well as to share and discuss the lessons learned from the application of SSTC in real practices and a cross-cutting driver linked to sustainable development. The three selected flagship programmes¹: Building Social Protection Floors for All (SPF), International Programme on the Elimination of Child, Labour and Forced Labour (IPEC+), Jobs for Peace and Resilience (JPR), play a leading role in strengthening the impact and efficiency of the ILO's development cooperation (DC) portfolio. Hence, by integrating SSTC elements, which promotes and facilitates knowledge/good practice sharing and peer-to-peer learning, the flagship programmes will be more likely to increase their impacts, efficiency and coverage.

The ILO Solution Forum followed the format of a panel session. The time of the solution forum was set to be of 1 hour and 30 minutes. The session showcased four following projects:

- (1). “Peer Learning Seminar on a Just Transition and Climate Resilience in Samoa” which contributes to ILO’s cross-cutting policy driver of Just Transition to environmental sustainability.
- (2). “Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour: New South-South trends”, which contributes to ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child, Labour and Forced Labour (IPEC+)
- (3). “Enhancing Sierra Leone women entrepreneurs’ empowerment and resilience in cross border trade within the Mano River Union (MRU) through learning and experience sharing from the East African Community (EAC)” which contributes ILO’s Flagship program on Jobs for Peace and Resilience.

¹ Proposed by the Director-General and endorsed by the Governing Body in 2015, the flagship programmes consolidate and refine existing initiatives that target decent work deficits and related challenges in the world of work

(4). “TRANSFORM -Leadership and Transformation Curriculum on Building and Managing Social Protection Floors in Africa”, which contributes to ILO’s Flagship Programme of Building Social Protection Floors for All (SPF).

The session highlighted how SSTC have contributed to achieve greater development impacts in these above projects. Panellist also gave their perspectives on how to scale up and better integrate SSTC in the development projects toward the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference) in March 2019, and to achieve Decent Work Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Panellists/Participants

The ILO was honoured to introduce this year Solution Forum’s distinguished panel comprised of:

- Mr Lyndon Chu Ling, Chief Executive Officer (Permanent Secretary) of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour of SAMOA
- Mrs. Sasha Deer-Gordon, Director, Child Labour Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, JAMAICA
- Ms. Nyaibor Ngombu, Senior Programme Officer, Mano River Union (MRU)
- Ms. Portia Kekana - Social Protection & Labour Market, Social Policy Expert

Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard, Director, Partnerships and Field Support Department, ILO moderated the session

Session Report

For the introduction, Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard welcomed the panel and all interested audiences to ILO’s Solution Forum 2018 showcasing Good Practices for Decent Work on ILO Flagship Programmes and Cross-cutting Policy Drivers towards BAPA+40.

Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard provided an overview of the ILO Flagship Programmes and the Cross-Cutting Policy Drivers. She then proceeded to introduce the panellists and their respective projects. After the introduction, the moderator proceeded to ask each speaker to share his/her project and its respective SSTC component.

1. Starting with Mr. Chu Ling and his experience on the project: **“Peer Learning Seminar on a Just Transition and Climate Resilience in Samoa”**.

- *Background*

Mr. Chu Ling firstly presented the challenges that Samoa and other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are sharing, including: climate change, employment opportunities in agriculture and food security, skills matching and labour market, green jobs and decent work policy, and funding to achieve Agenda 2030. Against this backdrop, he reiterated the need for a comprehensive, holistic and transformative approach with respect to the means of implementation and building partnerships at community, national, regional, and international level.

- *Project objectives:*

Mr. Chu Ling confirmed that this project aimed at strengthening the capacity of eleven ILO member states in the Pacific on resilience to climate change and disasters by providing tools for disaster preparedness, identifying business opportunities in local

public works to prevent disasters, and promoting green entrepreneurship on areas related to climate resilience.

He underscored the focus of the project was on South-South exchange of good practices and lessons by the Pacific countries together with China, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand on: (1) New knowledge of solutions for resilience and job creation (gained through mutual learning of what works and what doesn't); (2) New processes (resource mobilization targeting donors, including GCF, Korea, Japan and China); (3) New partnerships (new collaborative and trust-building relations, including complementary knowledge partners in the region such as SPREP or the Pacific Forum and organizations and partners working on gender at the local level).

- *Main stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries:*

Mr. Chu Ling confirmed that eleven ILO member states in the Pacific participated in this project, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa Somolon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Besides, development partners were China, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

- *Outcomes, achievements and impact (with quantitative data)*

Mr. Chu Ling presented the outcomes of the event in Apia, Samoa on 7 – 9 November 2018 was a deliberated Action Plan (Regional Level) Dialogue on Just Transition, Decent Work and Climate Resilience, whose focuses were on developing and strengthening a knowledge sharing platform among member countries on the topics related to regional priorities such as green jobs, collecting employment data, and the connection between climate change and the future of work.

- *Which SDGs the project addresses*

Mr. Chu Ling underscored the contribution of this initiative to all the SDGs, especially on SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG13 (Climate Action), among others (i.e. SDG4, SDG7, SDG10, SDG14, SDG17).

2. After Mr. Chu Ling's presentation, Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard gave the floor to Mrs. Deer-Gordon and her presentation and reflection on the project "**Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour: New South-South trends**".

- *Background:*

Ms. Deer-Gordon briefly gave a background of the Latin America and the Caribbean region's experience with a positive transformation in its efforts to end child labour in the last 20 years.

She then explained that the acceleration strategy of the Regional Initiative is based on a combination of two fundamental approaches: child labour prevention with focus on identification and timely interventions for children (born 2010 onwards) at significant risk of or already on a trajectory toward child labour, and protection of children, including the withdrawal of children in situations of child labour whether they are below the legal age for work or in the worst forms of child labour, such as hazardous child labour, slavery, commercial sex work or being used for illicit activities.

Ms. Deer-Gordon emphasised that the Regional Initiative has been successful in systematising and sharing high-quality information based on extensive experience,

knowledge and evidence accumulated by various national actors in the region. She showcased some examples of tools and virtual platforms to facilitate the fight against child labour in the regional were developed, including a specific, interactive capacity map for South-South cooperation: <http://www.oit.org.br/acelerar/>.

- *Project objectives*

Ms. Deer-Gordon reaffirmed the objective of the Regional Initiative is to channel and scale up public and private efforts to accelerate the pace of reduction of child labour and ultimately eliminate it. She underscored that the Regional Initiative is an alliance among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean created to provide joint, innovative and urgent responses to the different ways in which child labour is still present in the Region.

She furthered emphasised that the Regional Initiative is guided by the principles and practices of SSTC, which allow it to operate across a network of focal points consisting of representatives from each of the participating ministries responsible for labour and four (4) delegates from each of the global employers' and workers' organisations.

In this regards, she highlighted the important operational responsibility of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), through its Regional Office for the Americas, to serve as the Initiative's Secretariat.

- *Main stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries*

Ms. Deer-Gordon stated the main stakeholders of the initiatives are governments, workers, private sector and civil society actors of the following countries: the Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago

- *Outcomes, achievements and impact (with quantitative data)*

According to Ms. Deer-Gordon, from 2014 to 2017, the Regional Initiative has contributed significantly in information and knowledge generation and in facilitating targeted exchanges and collaborations among governments, workers, private sector and civil society actors. She believed that the Regional Initiative has been a catalyst to elevate SSTC to become the primary modality for development cooperation among regional stakeholders. Furthermore, the Regional Initiative provided an excellent platform for scaling up Triangular cooperation among member countries and other development partners as well as with the United Nations specialised agencies and relevant regional bodies, for advocacy, resource mobilization and additional technical assistance as required by member countries.

As an example, Ms. Deer-Gordon mentioned the South-South cooperation between Caribbean countries and Brazil in 2016-2018, which results in an open and reciprocal exchanges among countries at the "First Roundtable on South - South Cooperation to accelerate the reduction of child labour" hosted in 2015 by the Government of Brazil within the framework of the Regional Initiative.

- *Which SDGs the project addresses*

Ms. Deer-Gordon emphasised on the contribution of the Regional Initiative to the SDG8, most notably SDG 8.7- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

3. After Ms. Deer-Gordon's reflection, the moderator moved on to introduce Ms. Nyaibor Ngombu's presentation. She presented the project: "***Enhancing Sierra Leone women entrepreneurs' empowerment and resilience in cross border trade within the Mano River Union (MRU) through learning and experience sharing from the East African Community (EAC)***", focusing on the role of SSTC component in realising the development goals of the project.

- *Background*

As an introduction, Ms. Ngombu presented to the panel and audience the current situation of women in Sierra Leone, in particular women entrepreneurs, in which they are facing a number of challenges such as low literacy levels, lack of business and technical skills, limited access to business development and financial services, and limited access to profitable markets, including difficulties in accessing outside markets through cross border trade with neighbouring countries notably Liberia, Guinea and Ivory Coast, which also are fragile states and country members of the Mano River Union (MRU).

She acknowledged that the East African Community (EAC) women cross traders also faced similar challenges but have developed a guide on custom tariffs and immigration procedures to facilitate trade across borders within the member countries, to mitigate challenges.

She stated that the MRU secretariat, with headquarters in Freetown, Sierra Leone, is keen to adapt and replicate the EAC experience in the sub-region, starting with Sierra Leone as a pilot country, in its commercial exchanges with other members, and progressively adding the other economic community member States.

- *Project objectives*

Ms. Ngombu highlighted that the objective of the project is to contribute to women's economic empowerment and resilience in Sierra Leone through the promotion of inter-regional trade and economic cooperation within the MRU, building on evidence-based learning from the EAC.

She highlighted ILO's contribution to the pilot at its different stages, in providing information on the economic, legal and social constraints of cross border trade and advising on how to better formalize it, and in building the capacity of women engaged in cross border traders. She mentioned that the ILO also helped to promote access to a wide range of adapted financial services which opened the path to new and greater technical and financial partnerships with other stakeholders.

Ms. Ngombu also emphasised that the project is intended to foster SSTC between the East African Community and the MRU in collaboration with the ILO and takes three key issues into consideration namely: Migration, Fragile States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

- *Main stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries*

Ms. Ngombu presented the SSTC activity in the context of this project was a study tour for MRU officials and women cross border traders to Arusha, Tanzania, where the secretariat of EAC is located and to the nearby Namangan One Stop Border Post.

She said that, during the study tour, MRU team received advice on how to develop an instrument conducive to cross border trade, especially for women entrepreneurs and to

identify good practices on how to effectively implement the instrument from both regional and country-level perspectives.

She confirmed that, as a result of the study tour, the “Simplified Guide for Micro and Small-Scale Women Cross Border Traders and Service Providers within the East African Community” is being adapted to the MRU context and the pilot experience in Sierra Leone.

- *Which SDGs the project addresses:*

Ms. Ngombu underscored that this project contributed to the SDG 8 on Decent Work for all.

4. After Ms. Ngombu, the moderator proceeded to the presentation of Ms. Portia Kekana and the project ***“TRANSFORM -Leadership and Transformation Curriculum on Building and Managing Social Protection Floors in Africa”***.

- *Background*

Ms. Kekana gave a brief introduction on the situation of social protection in sub-Saharan Africa and the endemic challenges, which includes the lack of technical skills and awareness amongst African civil servants at all levels on the importance and successful pathways towards universal social protection coverage. She stated that capacity is lacking in particular regarding the operational and administrative processes for successful governance and implementation of social protection policies and programmes in Africa. This is also manifested by the discrepancy between the rights-based aspirations often articulated in national legislation, development plans or social protection strategies and the weak performance of social protection systems and schemes in practice. While there is a wealth of experience in Africa, there is no systematic harvesting of these experience and no African curricula or learning opportunities to acquire the technical, practical skills relevant for the African context. Yet social protection is paramount to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, in particular for its potential to deliver on the promise of leaving no-one behind. Social protection is explicitly included in the targets of 5 goals of the results framework of the Agenda 2030 and it cuts across the five dimensions of people, prosperity, peace, planet and partnerships.

- *Project objectives:*

Ms. Kekana confirmed that the prime objective of TRANSFORM is to build critical thinking and capacities of policy makers and practitioners at national and decentralized levels to improve the design, effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems. She said that TRANSFORM aims not only at imparting state-of-the-art knowledge that is appropriate for the challenges faced by countries in the region, but also to encourage learners to take leadership on the change and transformation of nationally defined social protection systems. She underscored that TRANSFORM, and its nature to facilitate through South-South cooperation and peer learning between experts, is an indispensable tool to strengthen the capacity of African governments to improve their social protection systems. This is done through South-South cooperation and peer learning between experts.

- *Main stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries*

Ms. Kekana stated that TRANSFORM learning package is available to social protection practitioners at national and sub-national level and includes a full set of modular materials for trainers and learners to deliver a range of customizable learning events – either face-to-face or online. She said that this generates a South-South network of trainers and experts.

She took example of the first TRANSFORM Training of Trainers conducted in October 2017 in Zambia with the participation of 23 trainers represented government, academia, the private sector and the UN system from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Ghana and Mauritius.

Ms. Kekana further delineated that the project also forges partnership with local academic institutions and capacity building initiatives at national and regional in Africa. Efforts are also underway to adapt and tailor the content of the curriculum to other regions in West, Northern Africa and Asia.

- *Outcomes, achievements and impact (with quantitative data)*

Ms. Kekana presented a number of achievements of TRANSFORM such as more than 250 practitioners from 5 different countries in Southern and Eastern Africa have participated in face-to-face TRANSFORM training workshops between 2017 and 2018. To date, more than 100 participants from 26 countries and 27 countries in first and the second run respectively across the world participated in the course. 29 participants successfully completed the first online version and approximately 30 are set to complete in the second run. She further showed that TRANSFORM initiative has also been instrumental at global levels to improve coordination and coherence in social protection approaches across UN agencies as the package is being integrated with ILO; UNICEF, UNDP, IPC-IG, Irish Aid and EU-SPS capacity development programmes.

- *Which SDGs the project addresses*

Ms Kekana highlighted the contribution of TRANSFORM to a number of SDGs including SDGs 1 (target 1.3); 3 (target 3.8); 5 (target 5.4); 8 (target 8.5), 10 (target 10.4).

After all the presentations from panellists, Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard mentioned the fast approaching Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South cooperation (BAPA+40) in March 2019, hosted by the Republic of Argentina in Buenos Aires. In this spirit, the moderator requested the panellists to share their reflection on the importance of SSTC in the success of their respective projects. She further asked the panellists to share their perspectives on how the development community can scale up and integrate SSTC more efficiently in achieving DWA and Agenda 2030.

The outcome of this discussion was consolidated in the following part (see below)

Session Outcomes/Next Steps (if any)

Through the session, the panellists have delineated and elucidated the importance of SSTC in their respective projects and how this cooperation modality has contributed to the success of the projects and achievement of development results, including those related to Decent Work Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Against this backdrop, the panellists emphasised on the needs to scale up the effective application of SSTC in the next development projects. Some recommendations from the participants include:

- (1). Include more systematically Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation with a gender lens or perspectives into Development Cooperation approaches and BAPA +40 processes, using, as a pilot “model” the project, “Enhancing Sierra Leone women entrepreneurs’ empowerment and resilience in cross border trade within the Mano River Union (MRU)”, which also contributes ILO’s Flagship program on Jobs for Peace and Resilience.
 - (2) Incorporate issues related to climate change and environmental sustainability, with a focus in the Pacific. The project, “Peer Learning Seminar on a Just Transition and Climate Resilience in Samoa” can constitute a good practice for replication and / or adaptation, regarding SIDS-to-SIDS cooperation. This project contributes to ILO’s cross-cutting policy driver of Just Transition to environmental sustainability, and the GSSD expo session was an opportunity to highlight that.
 - (3) Support initiatives combating child labour and forced labour in the Americas, with a focus on SSTC. In this regard the “Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour: New South-South trends” (which contributes to ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child, Labour and Forced Labour - IPEC+) can be a great example of mobilisation of ILO’s stakeholder around a specific cause/ mandate.
- (4)
- i) Utilise BAPA’s various forums to and various platforms to highlight TRANSFROM curriculum successes and its necessity in contributing to SDGs.
 - ii) Urge all member states from the Global South to seriously consider the package for capacity building and knowledge sharing for their respective role players within the Social Protection environment.
 - iii) One of the concrete outcomes will be to use the experience of “TRANSFORM - Leadership and Transformation Curriculum on Building and Managing Social Protection Floors in Africa”, in order to further contribute to ILO’s Flagship Programme of Building Social Protection Floors for All (SPF).
- (5) Include in BAPA +40 sessions and discussions the topics related to ILO’s flagships and cross-cutting drivers, with a focus on Building Social Protection Floors for All (SPF), International Programme on the Elimination of Child, Labour and Forced Labour (IPEC+), Jobs for Peace and Resilience (JPR).

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