



International
Labour
Organization

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR FINANCING DECENT WORK

A PEER-LEARNING GUIDE





FOREWORD

Several countries, especially emerging economies and developing countries, share similar socio-economic conditions and face the same type of challenges related to sustainable socioeconomic development. Different countries often face common hazards and similar vulnerabilities. The diversity of development experiences and initiatives allows us to draw lessons, identify successful practices and assess their potential for replication. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is a partnership between equals that involves a process of learning or sharing knowledge from effective development initiatives that have been implemented in countries of the Global South. As reflected in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, SSTC has become a key modality of international development cooperation and an essential instrument for the United Nations Development System. SSTC, by promoting networking, the exchange of successful experiences and technical knowledge among countries, plays a crucial role in achieving the mission of the ILO: decent work for all!

To achieve the SDGs, the financing for the goals must be scaled up. Along the lines set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of 2015, UN agencies are making efforts to increase financing for development, including both domestic and international resources for development and both public and private sources. The AAAA encourages developing countries to step efforts to strengthen SSTC, recognizing its increasing importance for development cooperation.

This learning guide aims to introduce SSTC as a tool for socioeconomic development, to achieve the Agenda 2030, and in particular for Financing Decent Work. It explains in a practical way the definitions, principles, the actors involved, and the process to be followed, including a "Do's and Don'ts" guidance. The ideas in this Learning Guide focus on how SSTC projects have been carried out in the past, illustrating the process of engaging ILO's constituents and partners, and present examples that to show how the themes and concepts can be applied concretely, allowing the reader to:

- Understand what SSTC is and its contribution to the creation of collaboration and solidarity networks for development.
 - Identify the principles, modalities, instruments and actors involved in South-South cooperation. including the differences from traditional forms of cooperation.
 - Contextualize SSTC in the context of Agenda 2030 and its role in achieving the SDGs.
 - Recognize the role of SSTC in the ILO for Financing Decent Work
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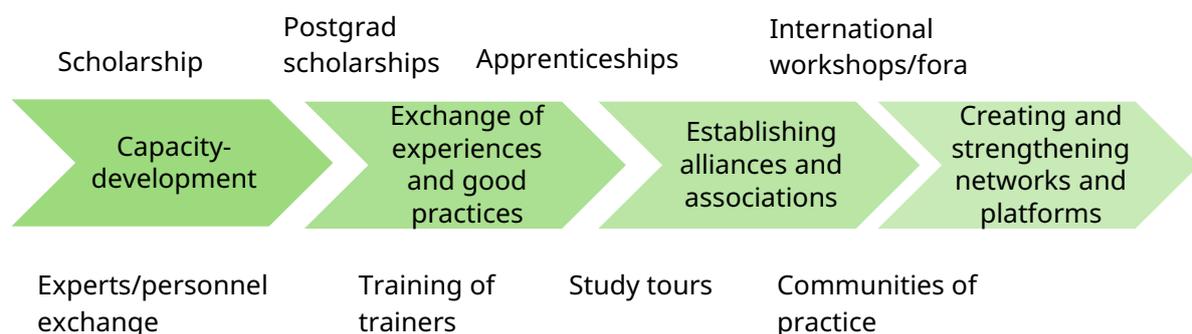
SSTC: AN INTRODUCTION

1. Definitions, mechanisms and principles

Changes in the geopolitical and economic balance of power have brought out the importance of the Global South in the development process and enabled new actors to shape the development agenda. Innovative responses to global challenges are now coming from emerging powers of the South, who are in turn becoming strategic partners for other developing countries. In the spirit of international solidarity, promoting sustainable and decent work for all is central to the ILO's mandate.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is defined as collaboration between peers, guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality, which aims to implement inclusive and distributive development experiences that are demand-driven and managed by the recipients of the collaboration. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) initiatives can be carried out in the form of study visits, development of knowledge-sharing platforms, among others; with the aim of sharing resources and technology or facilitating the transfer of knowledge and experience to develop skills and capacities. This is done between two or more countries of the South and all stakeholders can benefit from the learning process. This cooperation can be implemented at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional levels. With no conditionality, South-South and Triangular Cooperation aims to promote self-sufficiency and strengthen ties among development partners whose characteristics, challenges and areas of opportunity are similar.

Figure 1. Forms and Mechanisms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation



For the ILO, SSTC is based on solidarity among equals and has a multi-stakeholder approach through which everyone learns collectively. The basic principles of South-South and triangular cooperation lead the countries concerned to a higher level of commitment and self-confidence. The fact that cooperation is more aligned with the priorities and needs of development partners is key to ensuring greater sustainability of



projects and programme results. By learning from other countries in the South, countries are more motivated to generate their own solutions, adapt them and replicate them in their own context. In fact, this represents a comparative advantage of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as it facilitates the collection of good practices that can subsequently be adapted and improved for implementation in a different country.

The Principles of South-South and Triangular Cooperation are:

- Solidarity
- National ownership and leadership
- Mutual benefit
- Non-conditionality
- Complementarity
- Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs
- Demand-driven

In short, South-South Cooperation is based on the positive effects of proximity, whether cultural, economic, political or social, between the countries that practice it. Similar levels of development, challenges, and experiences make good practices from one country highly adaptable to another in the South. Sharing and adapting evidence-based good practices is a cost-effective means of addressing development challenges.

2. Modalities and Sub-modalities

There are two development cooperation modalities identified under "South-South and Triangular Cooperation", according to BAPA+40 (2019), namely, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

South-South cooperation (SSC) is a process by which two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through the sharing of knowledge, skills, resources and expertise, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships between governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation.

Triangular Cooperation refers to South-South Cooperation supported by a partner "from the North". Triangular Cooperation can often involve both a financial contribution from a partner in the North and technical expertise provided by a partner in the South, in support of another developing country. The idea is to bring together the resources and expertise of the parties in activities that follow the principles of horizontality that govern South-South Cooperation. It must therefore be driven by the developing countries



involved and in accordance with their national priorities. South-South and Triangular Cooperation include the following sub-modalities:

- **Sub-modality 1: City to City Cooperation (C2C)**

The international community recognizes that cooperation among cities is a sub-modality of South-South Cooperation that enables countries of the South and cities of the South to benefit from experiences developed in similar contexts and therefore better adapted to their realities. Cities and local authorities are essential actors in the SSTC, since they are the ones in direct contact with the needs of the population and the ones who implement the public policies that affect them.

Example: Maputo Road Map

Representatives from the cities of Maputo and other Mozambican municipalities, as well as other authorities from Durban, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre, met in November 2012, facilitated by the global association United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) with the support of ILO, the Norwegian Ministry of Cooperation, the Cities Alliance and the local government associations of Mozambique and Brazil. Focusing on municipal markets, the workshop resulted in the "Maputo road map", which highlighted the strategic support needed by cities and their partners to develop a project for South-South collaboration among counterparts, and to build local capacity for efficient implementation. Subsequent exchanges on policy and market management included vulnerable actors (informal vendors), NGOs and government technicians. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- **Sub-modality 2: Cooperation between Small Island Developing States (SIDS-to-SIDS)**

Small island developing States (SIDS) are recognized as a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. SSTC support for cooperation between LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and SIDS is a unique form of development cooperation.

Example: Pacific Islands Knowledge Sharing Forum on Climate Change (2018)

A knowledge-sharing dialogue on just transition, decent work and climate resilience was held in Samoa in 2018. The event provided a platform for mutual learning among Pacific islands, which are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. An action plan was developed to provide a framework for future collaboration and the establishment of continuous learning. ILO presented this experience at the 2018 Global South-South Development Expo in New York.



- Submodality 3: Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation (F2F)

It is cooperation between two or more countries in fragile or post-conflict situations. The idea of Fragile to Fragile (F2F) cooperation is: sharing good practices and experiences among fragile states to promote peaceful societies; fragile states placing common issues and objectives on international agendas and forums; supporting each other through exchange programmes and resource mobilisation from one fragile country to another fragile country.

ILO supports the socio-economic development of fragile states by developing its contribution to the new "fragile to fragile" (F2F) technical cooperation strategy through inter-agency mechanisms and South-South and Triangular Cooperation. In March 2014, ILO signed a memorandum of understanding with the G7+, the voluntary intergovernmental organization that brings together countries facing active conflict or with recent experience of conflict and fragility.

Example: Empowering cross-border traders of the Mano River Union

In 2019, the Mano River Union (MRU) received advice on how to develop a tool conducive to cross-border trade, focusing on women entrepreneurs, and to identify good practices on how to effectively implement the tool, both from a regional and national perspective. The 'Simplified Guide for Women Traders and Small-Scale Cross-Border Service Providers within the East African Community' was adapted to the context of the UTM and the pilot experience in Sierra Leone, based on the findings of the situation analysis and the lessons generated through the study tour.

- Sub-modality 4: Regional, Sub-regional, Interregional Cooperation

This is the most common type of cooperation between countries of the South and occurs within the framework of regional (e.g. African Union), sub-regional (e.g. MERCOSUR, Andean Community) and interregional groups or platforms (e.g. Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, BRICS, IBSA). It is typically based on exchanges of good practices, joint projects (e.g. on issues concerning more than one country, in border areas, etc.), collection and harmonisation of labour statistics and others.

3. Actors involved

South-South and Triangular Cooperation takes a multi-stakeholder approach. Under the tripartite structure of the ILO, governments and workers' and employers' organizations are formally part of the implementation process. Because of this tripartite nature, the ILO has a comparative advantage in this regard and in this context the social partners are given a key role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.



South-South and Triangular Cooperation can also include the strengths of international and regional organizations, bilateral agencies, academic institutions, national institutions and other networks. ILO constituents and partners have shown their support for South-South and triangular cooperation and have followed the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality, thus promoting cooperation among developing countries. This partnership between equals is fundamental to the integration of the Decent Work Agenda.

The involvement of all of ILO's social partners (Governments, workers' and employers' organizations) is of paramount importance. A South-South and triangular cooperation activity must include them from the earliest stage of the process. Along with strengthening the national response capacity and the coordination mechanism, the commitment of the social partners is crucial to the sustainability of actions and results.

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

Solidarity-based economic enterprises can operate through cooperatives, associations and social enterprises, among other types of enterprises, which in several countries have already proven to be capable of contributing to the generation of wealth and the socio-labour integration of various people, including young people and disadvantaged groups. The experts who received a South-South scholarship from ILO for the Academy of Social and Solidarity Economy (Agadir, Morocco, 8-12 April 2013) noted the complementarity between South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the Social and Solidarity Economy as follows 1) South-South partnerships between SSE actors The holders are inclusive. They involve a multi-stakeholder approach that is fundamental to the mainstreaming of the Decent Work Agenda. 2) South-South and Triangular partnerships can strengthen the impact of the Social and Solidarity Economy on national policies.

4. BAPA+40

In March 2019, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Buenos Aires, with the overall theme "The role of South-South Cooperation and the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities". The first Conference on South-South Cooperation, at which the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) was adopted, took place 40 years earlier. BAPA+40 provided a new international framework for SSTC, recommendations for its practice and clarified its concepts and terminologies. BAPA+40 succeeded in bringing together several international frameworks on South-South and Triangular Cooperation such as G77+China, Nairobi 2009, Nairobi 2016. All concepts and definitions in this guide follow BAPA+40. Click [here](#) to access the BAPA+40 Outcome Document, including the resolutions adopted by the Conference.



5. South-South and Triangular Cooperation step by step

- Needs Matching
 - Articulating developmental needs
 - ILO's matching mechanisms include bilateral and regional/sub-regional meetings aimed at facilitating information exchanges; the ILO has also published two collections of good practices that can help partners learn about initiatives based on Southern solutions that have proven to be effective in promoting decent work.

- Stakeholder consultation
 - Governments, employers' and workers' organizations should be included.
 - The ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes should be consulted to establish the basis of the project and define the specific objectives that the knowledge sharing will address.
 - A partnership/cooperation agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can be signed, especially if the activities will be carried out over several months/years.

- Project design
 - The partners must map out the process to be followed to achieve the objectives of the knowledge transfer/sharing. That is, select the participants; establish the inputs, outputs and expected results; select the instruments and activities; define the teams, roles and responsibilities.
 - Linking the project design to the results of the Decent Work Country Programme is of paramount importance.

- Implementation
 - The partners will be acting primarily as facilitators of the learning process.
 - When an unexpected situation arises such as the possibility of exchanging knowledge in an area that had not been previously identified, all partners must have a clear understanding of the needs in order to adapt the activities.
 - Implementation is the process of running the project and must be documented in detail

- **Monitoring & Evaluation**
 - All stakeholders should be consulted at all stages of the evaluation and kept informed throughout the process.
 - To be useful, the evaluation should respond to the needs and interests of stakeholders and provide information to facilitate decision-making throughout the implementation process.

- **Knowledge and Information Management**
 - It is very important to demonstrate how the objectives were achieved, how the project has contributed to the development objective and why this activity is a good practice for South-South and triangular cooperation.
 - Knowledge dissemination plays a key role in fostering South-South cooperation and international networks.

6. Do's and Don'ts of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Do's	Don'ts
Needs-matching	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting adequate information that would help to understand thoroughly the issues of each partners, and the resources they are bringing to the cooperation. • If the needs match, compatibility between partners should be examined from different perspectives, including culture, language, religion, gender and race. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid over-looking culturally sensitive contexts.
Stakeholder consultations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners, particularly workers' and employers' organizations, should always be involved in any processes since the beginning of the design. • Consultations should be aligned with development partners' priorities and needs (demand-driven) i.e. South-South and triangular cooperation and its agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid calling development partners as "donors": For South-South and triangular cooperation, stakeholders are development partners, neither "donors" nor "recipients". • Do not leave social partners out of any of the steps and process of



<p>must be driven by the needs of the countries of the Global South.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring a gender balance in stakeholder consultations is key to the SSTC project' efforts of achieving gender equality	<p>South-South and Triangular Cooperation.</p>
<p>Project design</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All partners have a voice, ensuring participatory processes, while following ILO rules.• If it is a Triangular Cooperation, partners from the North and South need to be equally included.• Structure Knowledge management based on peer learning.• Allow for revisions in the design process and adjustments based on evaluations.• Indicators for evaluation of the quality of SSTC results must reflect SSTC principles as defined in internationally agreed frameworks.• The design process should be flexible and adaptive to the local contexts and changes that might occur.• Project design must include a structured Knowledge management system that would allow the revision and replication of SSTC results in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid designing projects without consultations with the constituents and other stakeholders of the South-South and triangular cooperation.



SSTC & FINANCING DECENT WORK

1. South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the ILO

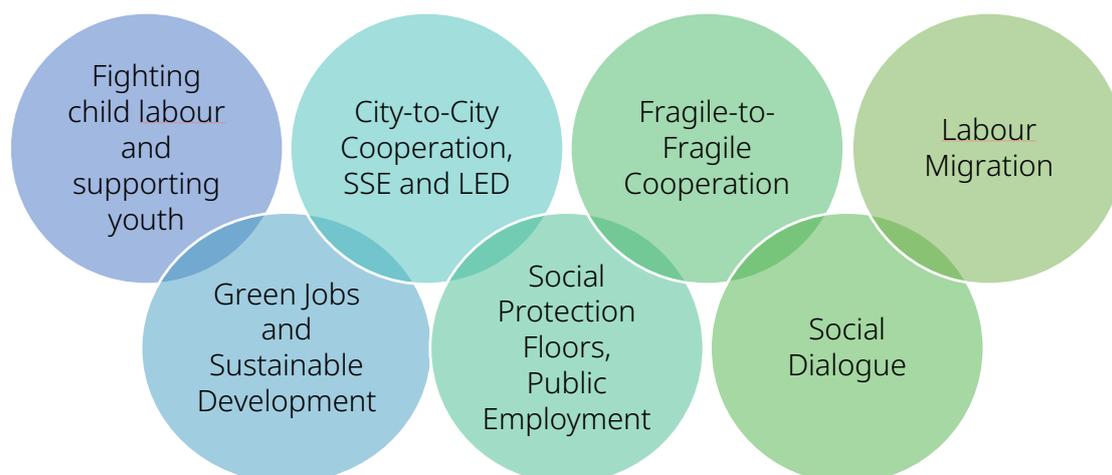
South-South and Triangular Cooperation enables the ILO to leverage its particular advantage, i.e. the experience and knowledge of its tripartite constituents, as an effective means of capacity development, knowledge sharing, experience and best practices, and interregional cooperation, as well as a means of resource mobilization. In this regard, thanks to its tripartite nature and its social partners, the ILO can play a key role in promoting SSTC and its multi-stakeholder approach, as well as provide a useful platform for consensus building and cooperation among developing country actors. Governments, employers and workers of ILO member States constitute the largest network of expertise on the world of work: knowledge that is fundamental to the implementation of its Decent Work Agenda.

SSTC fits well with the ILO's approach. This is why the ILO places special emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of achieving the organization's objectives: to promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work; to create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent income and employment; to enhance the scope and effectiveness of social protection for all; and to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue. The ILO is therefore well aware of the opportunities that this approach offers to development cooperation in the implementation of social justice and the Decent Work Agenda, and of the central position of the SSTC in the achievement of the ILO's mandate and mission.

The ILO's Partnerships and External Programme Support Department (PARDEV), through the Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit (ESPU) has been involved in projects with South-South and triangular cooperation components to address issues such as child labour, social security, employment-intensive investment, as well as issues related to the development of constituents' capacities. To know more about the ILO's SSTC projects for 2020-2021, click [here](#).

The ILO acts as a mediator, knowledge broker, alliance builder and analyst of a given country's South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the Decent Work Agenda. This commitment is implemented through the facilitation of activities to enhance social dialogue; research, identification and dissemination of good practices; development of web platforms that encourage online knowledge-sharing interactions to keep South-South and triangular cooperation actors up to date; mediation of partnership-building processes; and facilitation of knowledge-sharing forums and peer-learning activities, among others.

Figure 2. Key SSTC areas in the ILO



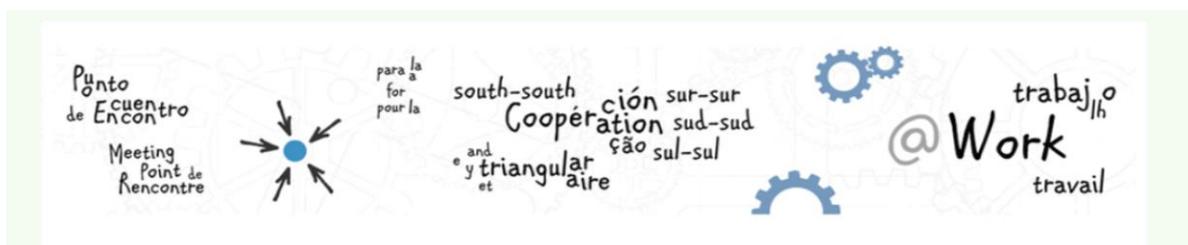
Role of the ILO:

- Systematization and dissemination of good practices
- Facilitating the exchange of initiatives
- Coordination between partners (including tripartite constituents)
- Promote networks and knowledge-sharing platforms
- Provide technical support
- Support in visibility of results
- Support for development and capacity building

The ILO continuously identifies and brings together parties acting as a promoter of dialogue to help partners reach consensus on South-South and triangular cooperation activities. The Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit (ESPU) works actively to maintain contact with South-South and triangular cooperation partners by organizing meetings with tripartite constituents during the International Labour Conference, the ILO Governing Body and other major events. These moments represent an opportunity to initiate discussions for possible agreements and for the creation of networks to promote South-South and triangular cooperation.

The ILO also acts as a knowledge broker and identifies strategic initiatives in the world of work, where South-South and triangular cooperation activities can have an important impact. A very important way to disseminate this information is through different publications of good practices and by organizing knowledge-sharing forums, such as face-to-face and virtual forums open to tripartite partners to share their knowledge and experiences on the links between South-South and triangular cooperation and specific labour issues.

- South-South Meeting Point



The South-South Meeting Point is the online platform of the ILO to share theoretical and practical information on South-South and Triangular and discuss different topics on the world of work with employers' and workers' representatives, governments, academia, civil society and others from the Global South. Click here to access:

[English](#) [Spanish](#) [French](#) [Portuguese](#)

 [@sstc_mp](#)  [South-South Meeting Point](#)  [South-South Meeting Point](#)

2. South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Financing Decent Work

A South-South Cooperation approach to Financing Decent Work must be aligned with the SSTC principles, being based on solidarity, mutual benefit and strengthening self-reliance and self-management.

- SSTC in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The AAAA recognizes SSTC as an important element of international cooperation for development, noting its increased importance, different history and particularities. It stresses that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, being guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

57. We welcome the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We encourage developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation, and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. We also commit to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation.

(Addis Ababa Action Agenda Outcome Document, 2015)



- SSTC and Social and Solidarity Finance (SSF)

Innovative responses to global challenges, including financing SDGs and Decent Work, are emerging from the South. SSTC allows countries of the South to benefit from the solutions developed in contexts similar to their own, better adapted to their realities. Under the framework of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), Social and Solidarity Financial mechanisms aim to

- Democratize access to finance;
- Reinsert values and practices of solidarity and reciprocity into the financial sphere;
- Foster local economic development
- Boost community building.

SSF encompasses social and ethical banking; financial cooperatives including the credit union movement, cooperative banks and building societies, community based saved schemes and saving and credit cooperatives. More recently, new forms of SSF appeared including participatory budgeting, labour solidarity funds, social financial intermediaries, micro-credit, and equity debt instrument, among others.

Consequently, SSF could be defined by the way it differs from conventional finance, as it functions based on the idea of proximity of finances and self-management. It brings as a corollary the integration between the economic and social dimensions, in addition to driving new productive behaviours within the territory, based on partnerships, cooperation, bottom-up actions, community development and generation of social capital;. Local initiatives refer to a set of knowledge, competencies, notions and principles acquired over time, which give a “sense” and “identity” to a number of practices that generate dynamic economic, political and organizational and articulation. Such experiences emerged in different local contexts and are characterized by an enriched repertoire of technical-productive practices and of economic and social organizations.

In this sense, SSTC and SSE/SSF converge in their principles and goals, and can be seen as two sides of the same coin. SSTC can be a driving force in the development of Social and Solidarity Finance, promoting exchanges, peer-learning and supporting countries of the South in exploring innovative community-driven finance mechanisms.

3. Case studies: SSTC and Social and Solidarity Finance¹

- Indonesia: Badan Usaha Milik Desa (village owned enterprise)

Partners: Badan Usaha Milik Desa (Indonesia); Universiti Sam Ratulangi (Indonesia); Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; ASEC Philippines

Badan Usaha Milik Desa (BUMDes) and is a village association with most of the households as its members. BUMDes operates a savings and loan facility which accepts deposits from members and provide loans to their enterprises. It also helps market the products of the enterprises financed. BUMDes conducts skills training for start-up entrepreneurs. It also liaises with the local government to facilitate delivery of public services to villagers. In consideration for the financial and marketing services of BUMDes, member-borrowers share 25% of their net profits to BUMDes. More recently, members have mulled the idea of setting up BUMDes wet and dry market centre where members can rent a stall to sell their products. By making a study of BUMDes and sharing the information through the Asian Solidarity Economy Forum, Universiti Sam Ratulangi (UNSRAT) has connected BUMDes to similar solidarity-based community enterprises from other Asian countries.

- Malaysia: Credit Union Promotion Centre

Partners: Credit Union Promotion Centre (Malaysia); Southeast Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (Philippines), Indian Social Institute

Credit unions were established in Malaysia in the early 1970s. Three large credit union networks merged to form the Credit Union Promotion Club (CUPC), namely the Workers Credit Coops based in Kuala Lumpur, the People's Credit Coops in Selangor, and the Indigenous Peoples Credit Unions in Perak. Pioneers of CUPC saw credit unions as a means for meeting the material needs of poor people as well as a means of overcoming the poor households' attitude of fatalism. Credit unions function in small group, each undertaking savings mobilization, credit provision, and insurance. CUPC assists credit union members in bulk buying, access to low-cost housing, and access to technical assistance from external aid agencies. CUPC undertake training, research and documentation, and inter-group exchanges. CUPC has received research and training support from SEARSOLIN (Philippines), Indian Social Institute, Toady Institute (Canada), the Catholic Church in Malaysia and Miserior (German Bishops Conference).

¹ These and other examples of good practices in SSTC and Social and Solidarity Economy are compiled in the ILO publication *Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia: A South-South and Triangular Cooperation Perspective* (Benjamin R. Quiñones, 2015), accessible [here](#).

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- Kenya: Bahari Widows (Rift Valley Province), and Vakhana Vatecho (Nairobi);

Partners: ROSCAs in Kenya; African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association

The study reviews two Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) in Kenya: the Bahari Widows group in the Rift Valley Province, 15 members, all women; and Vakhana Vatecho group in Nairobi, 18 members related to each other by blood. Bahari mobilizes savings from members who are widows to finance their farming activities and for running a nursery school. Vakhana aims to ensure social interaction among family members and to finance school fees and settling of debts. ROSCAs are popular in Kenya and all over Africa. Among the organizations promoting the development of ROSCAs in Africa is the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) which facilitates information dissemination, experience sharing and peer-to-peer learning among its members in Africa.

- Laos: Village Bank

Partners: Lao Women's Union, FIAM (Thailand), CODI (Thailand), ECCDA (Laos), Homenet Laos, KOICA (Republic of Korea)

The Village Bank was initiated under the Small Rural Development Project in 1997 by Lao Women's Union with help from two NGOs from Thailand – the Foundation for Integrated Agricultural Management, and the Community Organization Development Institute. Training of women bank operators was initially conducted by the NGOs from Thailand. Further training in business and financial management, leadership development, study visits, as well as technical assistance in production and marketing was provided by a local NGO, the Environment Conservations and Community Development Association (ECCDA) and Homenet Laos with funding from the Citizens for Decent Housing and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of Republic of Korea. Other international donor agencies that extended support to village banks were the Asian Development Bank, the BMZ and GTZ, the Savings Bank Foundation for International Cooperation of Germany, and the International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO and the Stone Family Foundation provided technical assistance to 139 village banks in 4 provinces, and seed capital to 80 village banks.

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- Cambodia: Home-based women workers in fair trade

Partners: Artisans Association of Cambodia, World Rehabilitation Fund, Homenet Cambodia, Homenet Southeast Asia, World Fair Trade Organization-Asia

The Artisans Association of Cambodia (AAC) was established to alleviate the challenges faced by home-based women workers and to respond to the demand of fair trade buyers abroad. As a member of WFTO, the association provides home-based women workers technical assistance and access to markets for their handicrafts. Through Homenet Cambodia, a member of Homenet Southeast Asia, AAC participates in exchange visits and peer-to-peer training programmes among home-based women workers in Asia. The association currently works with close to 600 home-based workers organized by HomeNet Cambodia as a membership-based organization in 4 major cities: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, and Poi Pet. The association's access to fair trade buyers in developed countries has ensured home-based women workers access to export market. The association as assembler of local products, Homenet Cambodia as organizer of home-based women workers, and WFTO as a link to fair trade buyers in developed countries, respect each other's autonomous but interrelated functions.

- Indonesia: Margi Rejeki self-help group (2007), and Self-help group-bank linkage programme (2010)

Partners: Bina Swadaya (Indonesia), APRACA (Thailand), Bank Rakyat Indonesia, Bank Indonesia, BMZ AND GTZ (Germany)

Bina Swadaya was established in 1954 as a farmers' association engaged in organizing KSM. In 1967, the farmer association was transformed into Bina Swadaya with 3,000 KSM (comprising 100,000 families) as social base. Bank Indonesia tapped Bina Swadaya to implement nation-wide the SHG-Bank Linkage programme. Government line agencies also tapped Bina Swadaya to help organize KSMs: Ministry of Agriculture (60,000 KSM, 1.2 Million households); National Family Planning Board (650,000 KSM; 13.5M households). With the weekly meeting as a regular activity of KSM, social dialogue plays a major role in the KSM's organization development. The KSM accumulates social capital in the process of interaction and dialogue among members. Inter-personal trust is built up among members as they pool small savings to create a home-grown revolving loan fund. A KSM has 20-30 individual members, each of whom come from marginalized small farm household.



- India: Self-help group-bank linkage programme

Partners: Vasundhara Cooperative (India), DHRUVA, NABARD (India), APRACA (Thailand), BMZ AND GTZ (Germany)

Vasundhara Cooperative contributes to the evolution of solidarity economy in a 'Gandhian way', which favours participatory democracy, and production by the masses rather than mass-production by profit-oriented company. With membership base of 2,290 Vasundhara served 172 tribal villages and helped them convert wastelands into productive lands, thus rehabilitating the economies of 13,663 tribal families. Vasundhara's solidarity-based programme benefited its own members and marginalized groups. Apart from NABARD, other organizations that provided support to Vasundhara includes the BAIF Development Research Foundation which facilitated Vasundhara's formation, and the Dharampur Utthan Vahini (DHRUVA), an NGO linked to BAIF which provided technical & management support to Vasundhara. In turn, DHRUVA obtained technical and funding support from NABARD.

- Malaysia: Malaysian Network for Community Economy (MNCE)

With a Malaysian Indian at its helm, the Malaysian Network for Community Economy since 2011 has extended technical assistance to Common Wealth for People Centred Development (COMMACT) in organizing the learning journey on Social and Solidarity Economy in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The Malaysian Network for Community Economy has also organized side events on Social and Solidarity Economy during the ASEAN Leadership Summit organized annually by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute. In view of these initiatives, the Asian Solidarity Economy Council /RIPESS Asia gave the Malaysian Network for Community Economy the responsibility of liaising with these two regional bodies.



4. Case studies: more SSTC initiatives on Financing Decent Work

- Peer Learning from Zambia and social impact bonds:

A pilot that will expand the Zambian case to Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique through mutual regional cooperation.

UNDP, WHO, FAO and ILO are proposing the world's first tobacco control social impact bond (T-SIB). The objective of this work is to support tobacco farmers to transition to economically viable and environmentally sustainable alternatives to tobacco cultivation using an innovative 'pay-for-success' financing model to leverage capital from the private sector. Beyond providing funding for specific alternative livelihoods programmes in Zambia, the T-SIB financial vehicle will be designed to catalyse additional funding for Article 17 & 18² activities through creation of an Art 17/18 Finance Facility.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) recognizes the need to promote economically viable alternatives to tobacco production as a way to prevent possible adverse social and economic impacts on populations whose livelihoods depend on tobacco production. Moreover, Parties agreed to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture. Article 17 concerns the provision of support for economically viable alternative activities and article 18 the protection of the environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture and the health of persons.

Proposed interventions will build on previously successful models providing farmers with viable alternative livelihoods and capital to support their transitions. The T-SIB initiative will promote 'Farming as a Business' to encourage diversification from tobacco production. This approach encourages farmers to consider all of their resources while planning to maximize these resources through crop production, marketing, and other activities.

In 2019, UNDP and American Cancer Society completed a feasibility study for a T-SIB in Zambia. Following promising results, UNDP, WHO, FAO, ILO, and WFP submitted a

² The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) recognizes the need to promote economically viable alternatives to tobacco production as a way to prevent possible adverse social and economic impacts on populations whose livelihoods depend on tobacco production. Moreover, Parties agreed to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture. Article 17 concerns the provision of support for economically viable alternative activities and article 18 the protection of the environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture and the health of persons.



concept note for the United Nations Joint SDG Fund. The UN agencies work under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator's office, closely collaborating with national and local government counterparts, civil society, national unions and employer's organisations and the private sector. The process will follow due diligence and an approach including social dialogue.

If successful, the pilot of the T-SIB in Zambia will lead to regional scale-up in tobacco growing countries, based on knowledge sharing and peer learning from the experience in Zambia to ensure greater sustainability of programme results and successful expansion. A sustainable, catalytic regional T-SIB investment facility will be set up to replicate T-SIBs regionally and assist the current 1.5 million tobacco farmers in Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique transition from tobacco cultivation. Regional expansion will help prevent the shift of national tobacco production to other areas and will reduce the incentives for entry of new farmers into tobacco production.

- **India trust Fund:**

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund – Commonwealth, established in 2018, is a dedicated sub-window of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund; a facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC), hosted by the United Nations Office for South South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and administered by UNDP. UNFSSC was established on 17 April 1996, following an invitation by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 50/119 of 5 December 1995 to create a voluntary fund to support South-South cooperation. UNFSSC is managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Allocation of resources from this dedicated facility for specific projects is decided by the Board of Directors of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund - Commonwealth.

Projects supported by this facility advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through concrete initiatives in response to cooperation requests made by other developing countries who are members of the Commonwealth. These include countries who are located on different continents and are currently categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)—also stimulating SIDS to SIDS cooperation (a sub-modality of South-South Cooperation). It has as a main goal to support South-South and triangular cooperation and promote financing for the Sustainable Development Goals. Currently the ILO is benefitting for a contribution targeting skills and youth employment in the Caribbean (2019-2020 ongoing).



- **IBSA Fund and the ILO (2015-2017)**

The **IBSA Dialogue Forum** (India, Brazil, South Africa) is an international trilateral grouping for promoting SSTC among these countries. It represents three important poles for galvanizing South-South cooperation and greater understanding between three important continents of the developing world namely, Africa, Asia and South America. The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others.

The IBSA Dialogue Forum plays an increasingly important role in the foreign policies of IBSA and BRICS countries. It has become instrumental for promoting ever closer coordination on global issues between three large multicultural countries of Asia, South America and Africa, and contributed to enhancing trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa cooperation in sectoral areas. Another fund targeting South-South and triangular cooperation is the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Facility.

In 2015 IBSA had approved a two-year 1.5 million \$US project for Haiti to promote the socio-economic integration of vulnerable children and youth through vocational training, job placement, and entrepreneurship and citizenship development through income generation activities. The programme was fully integrated with the first Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) in Haiti, signed in February 2015 and listing vocational training as one of the three top priorities to be addressed. Haiti was one of four pilot countries to implement the G20 Vocational Training Strategy with ILO support. In this framework, the new programme would complement the IBSA programme, focusing on the importance of strengthening the National Institute for Vocational Training, including capacity development on income generation, capacity development skills to work with the private sector, drawing on the experience of Brazil's SENAI and CNI experiences.

- **Bolsa Verde: Brazilian support to Latin America and the Caribbean through Social Financing and Rural Development**

In October 2011, Brazil launched officially the Bolsa Verde (green grant) Programme to promote social inclusion and encourage the conservation of Brazilian's ecosystems. The programme (2011-2020, ongoing) is administered by Brazil's Ministry of Environment together with the "Caixa" (public bank), as part of the country's national poverty alleviation plan.

Under the Bolsa Verde Programme, poor Brazilian families receive R\$ 300 in grant funds every three months in exchange for the commitment to developing activities of environmental conservation, maintenance of the vegetation covering, and sustainable use of natural resources. Up until today, the Bolsa Verde Programme has benefited until



October 2012 more than 30,000 families that live in national forests, extractive reserves, traditional communities and new settlements.

A project implemented with the ILO and financed by the Brazil's Ministry of the Environment aimed at tackling the challenges related to the scaling up of the Bolsa Verde Programme and the promotion of sustainable activities which may generate employment and income to the benefited families.

Main partners include:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Agrarian Development
- Ministry of Foreign Relations
- Ministries of Environment of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Mozambique and South Africa who are in charge of the implementation of similar programmes in their countries

The mapping of best practices and the knowledge sharing with other countries takes place at a very timely moment, where just transition. Climate change and green jobs are reinforced as international priorities. Good practices and experience exchange are being documented and will allow countries in LAC to draw their lessons and further improve already existing social and environmental protection floors. It may further help countries to set up new programmes.

Areas of contribution

- Income-generation
- Social inclusion
- Outreach: The idea of Bolsa Verde is to increase the income of the beneficiaries and thus reduce pressures for woodcutting and the creation of areas for cattle raising.
- Environment: Families receive a quarterly transfer of R\$ 300 in exchange for the commitment to developing activities of environmental conservation, maintenance of the vegetation covering, and sustainable use of natural resources

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- Promoting financial inclusion for strengthening the agency of women in Southern African countries

In April 2020 the ILO launched an initiative targeting Lesotho, South Africa and eSwatini to facilitate knowledge-sharing and peer-learning on good practices on promoting women's economic empowerment through economic and financial inclusion. In addressing the challenges that women entrepreneurs and women-led enterprises face in accessing capital and markets, the initiative seeks to enhance local capacity to apply innovative business models that can uplift women out of poverty.

This ILO initiative will join forces with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) to establish networks and partnerships for peer learning and knowledge-sharing of innovative practices for women's financial inclusion. This project is based on the existence of good practices in other African countries (including Egypt, Kenya and Ethiopia) that have demonstrated positive and sustainable results for women's economic empowerment, as the private sector initiative of a women's bank in Ethiopia and the policy of gender-based affirmative action in public procurement in Kenya.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

2012

South-South and Triangular Cooperation: The way forward. The paper reviews the evolution of the concept of South-South and triangular cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and ILO systems and proposes an ILO strategy to promote SSTC. [Click here to access](#) (available in English, Arabic, Spanish and French).

2015

Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia: A South-South and Triangular Cooperation perspective. A compilation of good practices to support the ILO in developing a strategy of South-South and triangular cooperation in Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia. [Click here to access](#) (available in English).

2016

Academy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: a Decent Work Overview. The document provides an overview of the modules presented at the Academy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation held in Turin from 11 to 15 July 2016. [Click here to access](#) (available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, French, Spanish and Portuguese).

2018

ILO South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Decent Work: Recent Developments and Future Steps. The document reports on the implementation of the ILO Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (adopted in 2012) and proposes future actions. [Click here to access](#) (available in English, French and Spanish).

2019

How-to-Guide to South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Decent Work. This revised version of the 2014 guide integrates recent developments in new SSTC initiatives at the ILO, as well as other international frameworks on SSTC, in particular BAPA+40 (2019). [Click here to access](#) (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese).

2019

Compilation of Decent Work Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: on the Road to BAPA+40 and Beyond. This compilation of good practices presents exemplary cases of South-South and triangular cooperation for Decent Work. [Click here to access](#)

For more resources, access the South-South Meeting Point Library [here](#).