



International  
Labour  
Organization

Photo: © UN/I. Billy

## SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION AND DECENT WORK: FOCUS ON TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Since the 1970s there has been a dramatic shift in development cooperation, and, over the past decade in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) has gained more and more prominence and visibility. The 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action – aimed at promoting and implementing technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) – led to new approaches to development cooperation being adopted. The UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi in 2009, placed SSTC high on the political agenda and established the framework for cooperation among developing countries. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also outlines the role that SSTC can play in the fight to eradicate poverty, promote social inclusion, protect the environment and guarantee gender equality and decent work for all.

### What is South-South and triangular cooperation?

South-South and triangular cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among the countries and peoples of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals...

South-South and triangular cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance, but as a partnership among equals based on solidarity, and it is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

Triangular cooperation is the support given by Northern countries (mostly OECD-DAC) to South-South cooperation exchanges.

It is defined as "South-South-North Cooperation", with a focus on the empowerment of the Global South.

*South-South and triangular cooperation:  
The way forward,  
ILO Governing Body at its 313th Session  
(GB.313/POL/7)*

### TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK

#### THE CHILD LABOUR-FREE STATE OF BAHIA AND THE CARAVANA CATA-VENTO

The ILO project "Support to national efforts towards a child labour-free state, Bahia-Brazil", also known as the "Bahia" or "Cata-vento" project was implemented from 2010 to 2013 with funding from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

The *Caravana Cata-vento*, which started a civil society campaign in Brazil – on both local and regional levels – aimed at mobilizing the political will needed to tackle child labour. Different aspects of the methodology of the Bahia project were replicated; a new project was launched in 2011 in countries including Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) cooperated with governments and social partners in the Lusophone countries to support the "Caravan Africa Free of Child Labour".

In Bahia, alone, and by virtue of this project, nearly 16,500 girls, boys and their families have benefited from public policies on the eradication of child labour.

"The Caravan" has thus proved to be an effective tool for mobilizing social partners and a good starting point for a more encompassing strategy to combat child labour. This advocacy-based tripartite approach has served as the basis for many triangular cooperation projects on combating child labour – also in its worst forms.

#### COMBATING FORCED LABOUR IN BRAZIL AND PERU

The project "Consolidating and Disseminating Efforts to Combat Forced Labour in Brazil and Peru" aims to step up efforts to combat forced labour in Brazil and to disseminate and share Brazilian good practices and lessons learned – through South-South cooperation – with Peru. With funding from USDOL, the ILO provides technical assistance and administrative oversight. This project, which was launched in 2012, will end in December 2016.

This project is a good triangular cooperation practice as all the differing stakeholders have taken part in the project since its inception. The inclusive consultation process (which took place from 2012 to 2013) in Brasília, Mato Grosso, São Paulo and Peru, allowed all parties involved to better identify and express their needs and demands, which – when aligned with the normative framework and priorities – can be seen as essential to ensure the success of the project.

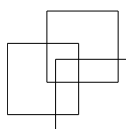




Photo: © UN/Cape Verde



Photo: © UNDP/C. Faro/São Tomé

In Bahia, alone, and by virtue of the project “Support to national efforts towards a child labour-free state, Bahia-Brazil”, nearly **16,500 girls, boys and their families** have benefited from public policies on the eradication of child labour.

## MEETING THE 2015 TARGETS TO COMBAT THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN LUSOPHONE AFRICA

The project “Supporting actions to meet the 2015 targets to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Lusophone countries in Africa through knowledge, awareness raising and South-South Cooperation” is a two-year endeavor that aims to accelerate the pace of child labour eradication in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe, by supporting the development, revision and strengthening of National Action Plans in Portuguese-speaking Africa.

So far, the project has fostered an exchange of practices in combating child labour between Brazil and Portuguese-speaking African countries. The project is financed by the US Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and aims to: A. develop National Action Plans on the elimination of child labour, B. establish tripartite committees for the prevention of child labour, and C. draft a list of dangerous activities for girls and boys. This is done by bringing together ministries of labour, USDOL, ABC – with the ILO, as a facilitator. The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) also plays a key role in this work.

## TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR JOB CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT

### TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Peruvian Centre for Environmental Technologies (CTA) was created to train professionals in clean production and environmental conservation and to offer environmental technology companies market-oriented training and professional development. The CTA is the result of a triangular cooperation partnership between the National Service for Industrial Apprenticeship of Brazil (SENAI), the Vocational Training Institute of Peru (SENATI) and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

The participation of several institutions in this partnership has been a key factor for the successful creation of the CTA. So far, some results achieved include the recruitment of national experts, the development of training courses in socio-environmental communications, energy efficiency, waste disposal of residual materials, environmental impact management and evaluation tools.





Photo: © ILO/B. Kadillari

“I encourage countries of the South and all development partners to come together to share, disseminate and scale up successful development solutions and technologies.”

UN Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon, 2014 United  
Nations Day of South-  
South Cooperation



Photo: © UNDP Haiti

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO DECENT WORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The project “Knowledge management on quality and equity in vocational training and its contribution to Decent Work in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which took place from 2008 to 2012, aimed to strengthen vocational training institutions in the region by integrating tried and tested methodologies and strategies. It was a triangular cooperation project which fostered exchanges between Latin American countries and was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Education (ILO-CINTERFOR) implemented the project.

### THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

The thematic window on youth, employment and migration (YEM) of the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) is an excellent example of South-South and triangular cooperation. Since 2010, the ILO has been assisting knowledge sharing and development within the framework of the Knowledge Management Facility. The YEM thematic window consisted of 15 Joint programmes in countries in Africa, South-East Europe and Latin America. In Ecuador and Paraguay, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms were set up to increase policy coherence and minimize the duplication of efforts. The Knowledge Management Facility was showcased during the Regional Expo in Qatar, held in February 2014.

In Albania and Tunisia, public-private partnerships (PPPs) pooled resources to increase employment and self-employment opportunities for young women and men.

Peru and Ecuador have also, as a result of this work, started working together in the area of youth migration.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND THE PREVENTION OF DISASTERS

Brazil and the ILO have come together to analyze new ways of providing humanitarian assistance to people in countries at risk and to encourage prevention, rehabilitation and recovery by strengthening institutions.

At the 2010 Global South-South Development Expo, the ILO Director-General and the Brazilian Minister of External Relations signed an agreement to step up work on humanitarian assistance and South-South Cooperation.

This programme supported nine countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Mozambique, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, occupied Palestinian territory and Timor-Leste) in training technicians on the definition and establishment of policies and measures aimed at reducing the level of vulnerability of local populations and communities. The CPLP contribution to the project was to extend its geographical reach in the period after 2013. Several CPLP activities took place in 2014 and 2015 on topics such as combating child labour, training of judges, non-discrimination, Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation and the Social and Solidarity Economy. Moreover, the connection to CPLP allowed for a closer integration with the Fragile-to-Fragile Network, via the CPLP countries that are part of it.

The Fragile-to-Fragile approach was reaffirmed through the ILO and g7+ agreement signed in 2014 and the series of think pieces (ILO and g7+) produced in 2015, and through SSTC stakeholder consultations (Brussels, March 2015).



Photo: © UNDP Timor-Leste/S. Magno



Photo: © Global Labour University

“There is a lot of room for scaling up South-South cooperation and for strengthening interregional cooperation in the global South. Workers and employers along with governments all have a role to play in encouraging this expansion.”

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder,  
2015 United Nations Day of  
South-South Cooperation

#### Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV)

International Labour Organization  
4, Route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva-22 – Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 799 7309  
Fax: +41 22 799 6668  
E-mail: [pardev@ilo.org](mailto:pardev@ilo.org)

[www.ilo.org/pardev/partnerships/south-south](http://www.ilo.org/pardev/partnerships/south-south)

### TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

#### SHARING INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCES: SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR EXPERIENCES

The 2011 publication “Sharing Innovative Experiences Successful: Social Protection Floor Experiences (vol.18)” was produced by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the ILO – with a view to promote knowledge-sharing in the South on Social Protection Floors.

In 2013, the publication was translated into French by virtue of the project “Support to the Global initiative for a “Universal Social Protection Floor”, financed by the former French Ministry of Labour, Employment and Health. This project was aimed at ensuring that the well-being and the standard of living of all women and men are protected and strengthened by Social Protection Floors that are accessible to everyone and that guarantees access to the most basic social services.

The ILO and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) have come together on a South-South and triangular cooperation project on the expansion and promotion of Social Protection Floors covering three continents. This project started in 2010 and is due to end in the last quarter of 2015.

### TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DIALOGUE

#### THE GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY (GLU)

The Global Labour University is a global network that provides a new framework for research and policy development by bringing together several actors interested in global labour issues, such as international labour standards, economic policy, global institutions and sustainable development. It is a triangular arrangement as it creates the space to foster North-South cooperation and it also promotes horizontal cooperation.

It is primarily based on university campuses in Brazil, South Africa, India, and Germany and is the only network worldwide that offers a global cooperation between trade unions and academic institutions with a strong focus on South-South cooperation. The governance structure of the Global Labour University network is based on a partnership between the ILO, the national and international trade union movement and partner universities.