



## Fast Facts: WFP's approach towards South-South and triangular cooperation

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

Developing countries are increasingly interconnected and have started to work with each other on food security and nutrition in "horizontal" partnerships. Many of the best experts and most innovative "solutions" to challenges in food security and nutrition come from developing countries nowadays.

South-South cooperation (SSC) is a "partnership among equals" which usually involves a learning process or transfer of expertise to develop skills and capabilities. It aims at promoting solidarity, mutual benefit, learning and innovation among countries whose characteristics, challenges and areas of opportunity are similar.

#### Definitions:

The UN defines South-South and triangular cooperation as follows:

- **South-South cooperation:** Two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national objectives through:
  - ◆ exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how; and
  - ◆ regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions.
- **Triangular cooperation:** Collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, and management and technological systems as well as other forms of support.
- In the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, South-South cooperation is highlighted as an important means for implementation and as innovative partnership strategy in [SDG 17](#).

### Forms of South-South cooperation:

South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives can take on different forms:

- study tours and peer learning;
- knowledge-sharing platforms;
- technical cooperation and capacity development;
- mobilization and transfer of in-kind support or cash resources;
- technology transfer;
- policy advocacy;
- regional collective action (e.g. through organizations such as the AU/NEPAD, SADC or ASEAN); and
- research collaboration.

### Why is it relevant for WFP?

WFP's current operations reach approximately 10 percent of the world's hungry and under-nourished people. It will not be possible for countries to put in place the practices required to achieve a world with zero hunger without mobilizing more resources and calling on additional expertise, skills, capacities and innovations – many of which already exist in developing countries.

Facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation is a way to expand WFP's engagement with developing countries to support progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition.

For WFP Country Offices, South-South cooperation can be an important source of support for nationally owned efforts and WFP's evolving role in developing countries, especially in three main areas:

1. **Strengthening country capacities.** By facilitating countries' cooperation with each other, WFP can contribute to strengthen country systems and capacities for achieving zero hunger.

2. **Tapping into additional funding sources.** Funding from South–South Cooperation, triangular arrangements and in-kind or cash contributions through twinning represent a potential funding base for the future.
3. **Inspiring innovation.** South-South cooperation can facilitate the identification of potential prototypes and their testing in real-world conditions.

## WFP's emerging network of Centres of Excellence

To date, WFP is hosting two "Centre of Excellence": one in Brazil and one in China. The centres allow developing countries to tap into the experiences, national models and technical expertise of Brazil and China in the area of food security and nutrition. They make relevant solutions available through policy dialogue, South-South knowledge transfer and expert deployments and help developing countries to adapt them to their own country context.

### The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil:

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger is a unique partnership between WFP and the Government of Brazil. It makes the Brazilian experience in addressing the Zero Hunger Challenge available to developing countries. The Centre advocates for the development of nationally owned, sustainable programmes and policies on school feeding, social protection, food security and nutrition.

For further information, you can contact Peter Rodrigues ([peter.rodrigues@wfp.org](mailto:peter.rodrigues@wfp.org)) or Christiani Buani ([christiani.buani@wfp.org](mailto:christiani.buani@wfp.org)) in the WFP Centre in Brasilia, or visit <http://www.wfp.org/centre-of-excellence-hunger>.

### The WFP China Centre of Excellence:

Established in 2016, the WFP China Centre of Excellence makes China's experience on food security, nutrition improvement and poverty alleviation available to other developing countries through a range of different South-South modalities, which include policy dialogue, technical trainings, expert deployments and projects to foster leadership among smallholder farmers.

The centre is hosted by the WFP China Office in Beijing. Thematic focus areas for South-South cooperation include (1) value chain development and support to smallholder farmers, (2) supply chain processes, (3) climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience, and (4) nutrition.

The centre has adopted a demand-driven approach towards supporting South-South cooperation and is currently "matching" China's solutions in those four focus areas to the demands of WFP's host governments, in order to contribute to achieving progress towards zero hunger.

For questions on the work of the WFP China Centre of Excellence in the area of South-South cooperation, you can contact Yan Jia ([yan.jia@wfp.org](mailto:yan.jia@wfp.org)) in Beijing.

## What are priority activities for WFP in promoting South-South cooperation?

As outlined in [WFP's South-South Cooperation Policy](#), WFP focuses on the following priority activities:

- Facilitate the sharing of country experiences, knowledge, skills, information and innovative practices related to ending hunger and improving food security and nutrition.
- Capture, identify and encourage programme and other innovations.
- Identify lessons on and examples of scaling-up through WFP's analysis of a country's food security and nutrition situation.
- Establish appropriate and customized institutional mechanisms for sharing country-specific knowledge and expertise, and capturing country experience, including through WFP Centres of Excellence.
- Support and partner with regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance cooperation on ending hunger and improving food security and nutrition among developing countries.
- Build the evidence base for Zero Hunger activities through enhanced links to local research institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Integrate and align WFP's work with broader United Nations-wide initiatives, especially with Rome-based Agencies and UNOSSC.



## How many WFP Country Offices are already engaged?

South-South cooperation is a government-driven, external trend. South-South projects are initiated and managed by host governments.

Driven by the rising volume and scale of South-South partnerships, more and more WFP Country Offices are being approached by host governments for support in

- Connecting them to other countries that have relevant solutions in food security and nutrition to share;
- Facilitating the sharing of their own successes and solutions with other countries, building on WFP's global network in over 80 countries;
- Vetting different national models in order to find the "best fit" for a country's specific needs;
- Tapping into WFP's operational systems or advisory support when it comes to setting up and realizing South-South projects.

Due to increasing country demand in this area, approximately 60% of WFP Country Offices are currently engaged in supporting their governments on South-South cooperation, compared to 48% in 2014.

## Tapping into South-South opportunities for Country Strategic Planning

Engaging in South-South and triangular cooperation is an important strategic opportunity for WFP when it comes to supporting host governments in developing **Country Strategic Plans (CSP)**:

- At **CSP formulation** stage, exploring South-South opportunities in the dialogue with the government can help to better align WFP's assistance to the host government's priorities. Strategic engagement opportunities can be identified for the government to tap into other countries' solutions, or to share its own successes and innovations as a "provider".

- When it comes to **CSP implementation**, South-South opportunities can directly feed into country capacity strengthening strategies, advocacy and resource mobilization plans.

WFP's Policy and Programme Division, in collaboration with SSC focal points in WFP Regional Bureaus, has developed a tool to systematically capture, explore and "rank" South-South investment opportunities for Country Strategic Planning. You can explore [here](#) how WFP's "**South-South reviews**" work in practice.

## In what thematic areas is WFP facilitating South-South cooperation?

WFP is facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation in the following thematic areas:

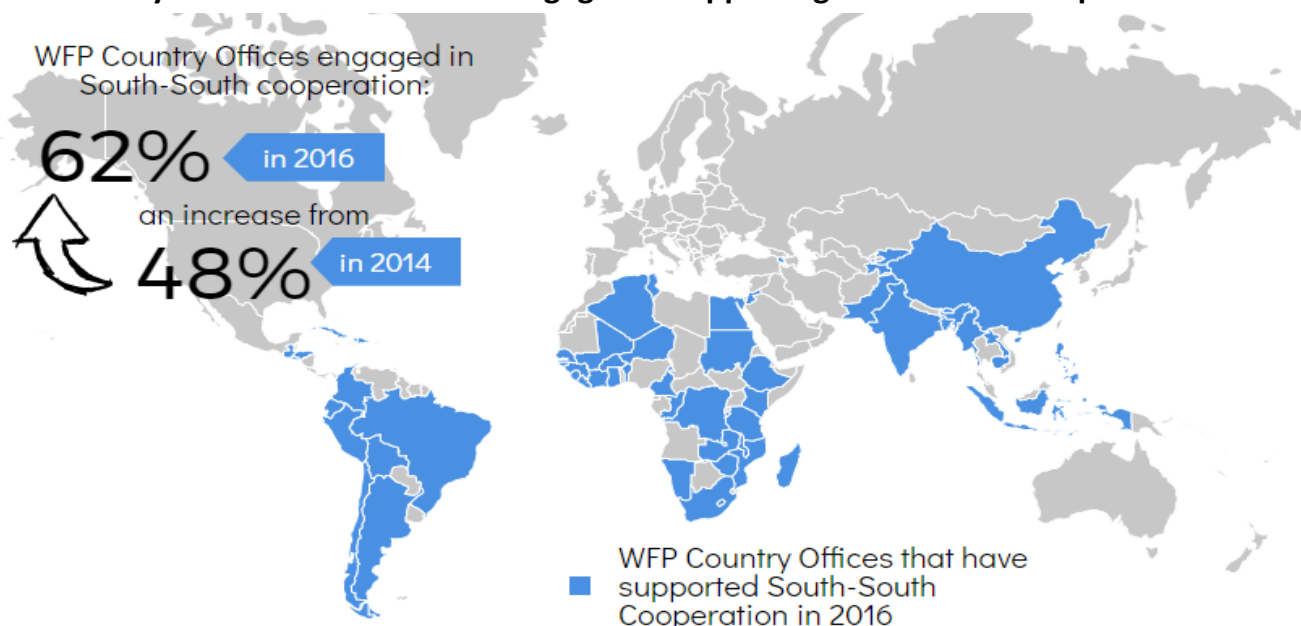
- Social protection and safety nets (including school meals);
- Empowering small-holder farmers and connecting them to markets;
- Nutrition;
- Vulnerability analysis and food security and nutrition monitoring;
- Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction;
- Resilience and climate adaptation;
- Food security analysis.

## Where can I find further information?

For further information on this topic, you can contact WFP's South-South Cooperation team the WFP Policy and Programme Division ([carola.kennigott@wfp.org](mailto:carola.kennigott@wfp.org)).

To stay up to date with WFP's work on South-South cooperation, join the [WFP Community on South-South Cooperation](#).

## WFP Country Offices that have been engaged in supporting South-South cooperation in 2016:



(Source: QCPR Survey 2016).