



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Fast Facts

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

WHAT IS SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION?

A process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) can take on many different forms, including but not limited to:



knowledge-sharing activities, including through research partnerships and technical assistance and capacity development activities;



mobilization of in-kind or cash resources (incl. twinning partnerships);



policy advocacy for achieving zero hunger;



support for collective intra- and inter-regional action and regional integration;



study tours and peer learning events, including with the support of demonstration sites.

When donor countries and/or multilateral organizations, such as WFP, enable South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, technical assistance and technological systems as well as other forms of support, we are speaking of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

WHY DOES WFP FACILITATE SSTC?

Over the past decades, countries of the global South have emerged as leading voices in global governance, champions of new platforms and institutions, and agents of development action for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

South-South Cooperation is contributing to the transformation of the norms and principles of international cooperation.

In 2021, an evaluation of WFP's 2015 policy on SSTC recognized the significant growth of WFP's work on SSTC and recommended expanding and improving the effectiveness of the SSTC portfolio.

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The [SSTC Policy Update](#), approved by the Executive Board in June 2023, reinforces WFP's

Global South countries in sharing, adapting and implementing zero hunger solutions to strengthen their national systems.

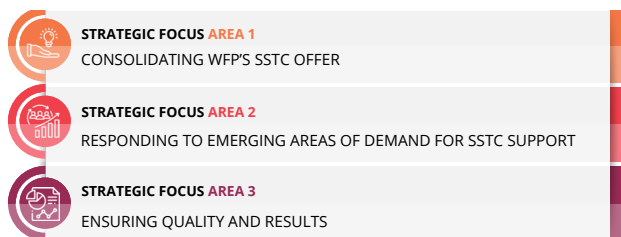
National institutions take a central stage as the main actors in SSTC promoting mutual benefits and peer learning among cooperating countries.

In 2023 alone, almost **150 national institutions** have provided technical and/or financial resources to WFP-facilitated SSTC, largely thanks to **WFP Centers of Excellence** in Brazil, China and Côte d'Ivoire.

This has fostered **national ownership, resource mobilization and sustainable partnerships** while contributing to tangible outcomes towards [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 2](#) and [SDG 17](#).

WHAT ARE THE FOCUS AREAS FOR WFP-FACILITATED SSTC?

Based on lessons learned since the adoption of the SSTC policy, and given the evolving context of SSTC, WFP focuses on the following three strategic areas:



1. Consolidating WFP's offer in the areas where WFP has traditionally prioritized its support for SSTC namely **school feeding, social protection, nutrition, smallholder farmers market support** as well as **value chains and post-harvest loss management**.
2. Responding to emerging areas of demand for SSTC support in the areas of **supply chain management, emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action**.
3. Ensuring **quality and results** through dedicated SSTC-related tools.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITIES

According to the Annual Country Reports (ACRs), in 2023, a total of **20 national policies, strategies, programmes**, and other system components contributing to Zero Hunger and other SDGs were enhanced through WFP-facilitated SSTC in **10 countries**.

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A total of **19 national Southern solutions** contributing to Zero Hunger were captured and packaged for SSTC in **5 countries**.

In 2023, Mozambique benefited from a WFP-facilitated intra-regional SSTC exchange with the Dominican Republic.

As both countries share high exposure to extreme climate hazards, the exchange focused on sharing experiences on shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) and anticipatory action (AA), including policies, system architectures and programme features.

Mozambique recognized the importance of strengthening inter-institutional coordination, data sharing arrangements and system interoperability between social protection and disaster risk management actors.

This can support timely and effective disaster response. They also expressed interest in learning about climate vulnerability indexes used in the Dominican Republic for beneficiary selection in SRSP programmes.

Moving forward, Mozambique plans to develop a joint workplan with key actions, organize a workshop to build on the experience and disseminate a case study.

WFP AS A PARTNER OF CHOICE

More than **80% of Country Strategic Plans (CSPs)** approved in 2021-2023 have included SSTC, positioning WFP as a partner of choice for host governments to access knowledge and expertise from other countries of the Global South.

In 2023, SSTC was reported in 60 out of 85 (i.e. 70%) WFP's Annual Country Reports (ACRs). This represents a significant increase compared with 2021 and 2022 where SSTC were reported in 43 ACRs (i.e. 52%) and 53 ACRs (i.e. 63%) respectively. Thus, demonstrating a **growing recognition of SSTC as a means to strengthen national capacities**.

SSTC in WFP Annual Country Reports:



SSTC FIELD INITIATIVES

With valuable support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MARA), WFP implemented in 2023 6 Country Pilot Projects and 11 Assistance Fund Projects (formerly COVID-19 Opportunity Funds) as a part of the MARA-WFP Global SSTC Initiative.



The initiative facilitated approximately **30 SSTC exchanges, directly impacting 12,599 people** across strategic areas such as **smallholder value chain development, post-harvest loss management, and poverty alleviation.**

In 2022, WFP facilitated a SSTC exchange between the Governments of Nepal and India to expand insights on food security.

The Nepalese officials visited India - a forerunner in the implementation of right-to-food measure- to learn about the implementation of food rights and food security laws, policies and implementation in the country.

A key outcome of the SSTC exchange is that the rights to food (RtF) Act has been recognized as a legal framework for the transformation of Nepal's food systems positively impacting food security and nutrition outcomes and serving as a guiding document in the preparation of the Food Systems Transformation Strategic Plan.

Moreover, the National Planning Commission issued a planning guideline to relevant ministries to prioritize food systems actions for the fiscal year 2023/24 and supported the provincial food systems review and planning process. As a result, most of the provincial governments incorporated food systems actions for the fiscal year 2023/24.

DIVERSE FUNDING SOURCES

Since 2019 WFP Headquarters has tapped into several funding mechanisms including the **South-South Trust Fund** managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, namely, the **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** (\$1 mil – Zimbabwe), the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (**IBSA Fund**) (\$1 mil – **Fast Facts**

Republic of Congo), as well as the **SSTC Trust Fund** administrated by WFP (\$9.75 mil) resourced mainly from China.

Other funding sources include triangular donors and foundations such as **Brazil, the Ford Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.**

IS THERE ANY COLLABORATION ON SSTC AMONG UN AGENCIES?

Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration lies at the heart of WFP's approach to SSTC. WFP is advancing its field-level collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) updated in 2023.

RBA are progressing on a **joint SSTC Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Kenya** and a **Women's Rural Economic Empowerment project in Rwanda.**

RBA engagement with the **Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)** is also underway developing a **joint programme on Home-Grown School Feeding and Family Farming.**

Further, WFP contributes to UN system-wide efforts on SSTC by actively engaging in the Inter-Agency Mechanism led by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

WFP also provides inputs to the yearly report of the [UN Secretary-General on the State of South-South Cooperation](#).

**SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION UNIT
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Photo cover: WFP/ Kabou Boumpouto
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