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Trends and Opportunities in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan





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**United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in the Kyrgyz Republic
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
DFID	Department for International Development
EBRD	European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
EDB	Eurasian Development Bank
EFCD	Eurasian Fund for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSSD	National Strategy on Sustainable Development for the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2017
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SFK	Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TC	Triangular Cooperation
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WBG	World Bank Group

INTRODUCTION

Background

Kyrgyz Republic/Kyrgyzstan has a long history of cooperation with developing countries, starting in the 1930s through its membership in the former Soviet Union. Under the guidance of the central authorities, the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic was engaged in cooperation for development with countries in the ex-socialist bloc, including all 14 Soviet Republics and Eastern Europe. Since gaining independence in 1991, Kyrgyzstan took a proactive cooperation approach by building relationships with new partners and strengthening old partnerships at both the global and regional levels with developed and developing countries.

In the Nairobi Outcome document, it is emphasized that developing countries tend to share common views on national development strategies and priorities when facing similar development challenges. The proximity of experience is therefore a key catalyst for promoting capacity development in developing countries and, in this regard, accentuates the principles of South-South cooperation. It is important to enhance South-South cooperation in order to achieve its full development potential.

According to the United Nations, South-South cooperation is defined as “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and through collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for their individual and/or mutual benefit.” Most South-South interactions occur within regional neighbourhoods owing to common history, language, culture, ethnicity and geographical proximity. Regional neighbourhoods are also well suited to South-South collaboration to address such cross-border issues as infrastructure development, customs procedures, migration laws and climate change.

Complementing South-South cooperation initiatives is Triangular Cooperation, which is defined as “collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems, as well as other form of support.”

Further clarifying Kyrgyzstan’s priorities and strategic preferences vis-à-vis the potential benefits that South-South cooperation (which are referred to as “East-East” in the region of Europe and CIS) can bring about, as well as the country’s level of preparedness to pursue such priorities and preferences, is an important step towards unleashing the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Kyrgyzstan, the ECIS region and beyond. Therefore, a participatory stocktaking exercise and an initial policy dialogue on South-South (East-East) cooperation in Kyrgyzstan have been conducted.

Objectives of Stocktaking

Stocktaking pursues the following objectives:

- Identify relevant South-South (East-East) cooperation frameworks, objectives, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of national coordination authority, individual line ministries, relevant civil society and private sector institutions, as well as UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Kyrgyzstan and other triangular cooperation players.
- Analyze shared and individual strengths and challenges of various players vis-à-vis effective promotion of South-South (East-East) cooperation and identify possible synergies.

Stocktaking Process and Methodology

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the exercise involved the following tasks:

- Conducted a desk review of the current national institutional and policy frameworks for SS&TC in Kyrgyzstan;
- A three-page survey was distributed to key SS&TC stakeholders in order to collect qualitative and quantitative data and analyze trends and opportunities;
- Six consultative meetings with relevant national stakeholders from government institutions, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, international development agencies and the UN Country Team (UNCT) were held in order to determine the scope and types of SS&TC activities occurring and identify possible areas for future cooperation;
- Additionally, individual interviews with international and local organizations with the most active agenda on SS&TC and the government institutions with decision-making power in SS&TC were conducted.

The findings of the tasks are based on documentary sources collected, analysis of the survey responses, individual interviews conducted with public and private sector stakeholders and feedback received during the consultative meetings.

I. KEY NATIONAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) for the Kyrgyz Republic shapes the priorities of Kyrgyzstan for the period of 2013-2017. As emphasized in the strategy, the country's priority vectors in foreign policy are a deep re-setting of relations with neighbors - Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - as well as evolving to a new level of strategic cooperation with the Russian Federation.

Kyrgyzstan's principles of partnerships with neighbouring countries are based on mutual understanding and mutual benefit, while cooperation with external partners should be based on principles of equality, respect of mutual interests and strict adherence to the international law. At the same time, Kyrgyzstan's partners should comply with their own respective undertakings, as consonant with the principles of South-South cooperation.

In terms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the country aims:

- To create favourable conditions for the free movement of goods, services and labor between Kyrgyzstan and Russia, within Central Asia and with Turkey;
- To support the country's integration into the economy of the EurAsEC countries through Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Custom Union; simplification of border and customs formalities;
- To search for new forms of effective economic and political cooperation with the United States, the European Union, South-East Asia and the Arab region; to develop mutually beneficial international economic relations, to improve economic diplomacy.

As emphasized in the NSSD, Kyrgyzstan's interests will be actively promoted using the country's membership in various international organizations and gradually establish itself as a reliable international partner that plays an important role in regional and global development. The above position matches the SSC principle of reciprocity, where a country expands its role in development cooperation from being not only a recipient of technical expertise and other forms of support to also becoming a provider of knowledge and expertise, thus further increasing its bargaining capacity.

The main institutions in charge of coordination of the external aid and cooperation with the development agencies are the Ministry of Economy and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These government institutions should provide overall coordination and interaction of state bodies with foreign states and international organizations through their diplomatic missions; however, there is room for improvement from the point of view of a national level coordination mechanism on SS&TC, in case the latter is identified as a useful model.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Kyrgyzstan for 2012-2017 is a national level response by the United Nations to the country's needs, guided by the priorities identified in NSSD. Three interrelated areas of cooperation have emerged as particularly critical for United Nations support to the people and government of Kyrgyzstan during this five-year period: (1) peace and cohesion, effective democratic governance and human rights, including deepening state-building, security and justice for all; (2) social inclusion and equity, encompassing issues of social protection, food security, education and health; and (3) inclusive and sustainable job-rich growth for poverty reduction, with particular attention to women and youth, as well as to vulnerable groups and disaster-prone communities.

The current UNDAF points out that the UNCT offers comparative advantages with regard to achieving further tangible progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, drawing on its values, successful global knowledge base, best practices and lessons learned, and defines that the capacity development paradigm representing the heart of UN work. Nevertheless, NSSD does not employ SSC approaches and services in full.

Therefore, although the national policy and institutional framework for SS&TC has not yet been developed, all prerequisites for institutionalizing SSC at the country level exist, namely:

- A strong and clear message delivered in the national strategic documents that the country is keen to develop and maintain partnership and cooperation with the neighbouring countries and beyond, based on the principles that are in complete compliance with the principles of SS&TC.
- Experienced government officials with clear visions and stances on strengthening partnership with developed and developing countries for the mutual benefit.

II. THE ROLE AND OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS IN SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Approximately 90 questionnaires were distributed, resulting in 23 respondents, or a response rate of 25.5 percent, with the highest rate of 83.3 percent from the government institutions.

While the survey does not claim to be representative based on the survey results, 64.1 percent of respondents indicated that their organization had engaged in activities that could be classified as SSC, while 83.3 percent indicated that they had engaged in Triangular Cooperation. As such, it is clear that many organizations have been engaged in SS&TC activities in Kyrgyzstan.

Among the respondents, the most commonly identified areas of benefit from of SS&TC activities include knowledge exchange and technical assistance (41.9%), institutional relations (31%), financial (21.43%), and other (4.7%). Responses for the “other” category included organic technologies and seed supply. Within the region, the most commonly identified partners were the CIS countries, China and Turkey.

A) NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Government

Currently, Kyrgyzstan is a member of 77 international organizations, including the prominent global and regional organizations and international alliances, like the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Kyrgyzstan keeps strategic cooperation with conventional development partners, as well as with new emerging economies such as China, India, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Since independence, Kyrgyzstan has become a strong advocate of closer, more effective regional cooperation and dialogue; inter alia, through its participation and membership in different international organizations and cooperation mechanisms, which can be grouped depending on their origin and mandate as follows:

1. Central Asian organizations and agreements in Central Asia: the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea;
2. Post-Soviet organizations: the Commonwealth of Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU or EEU), the Eurasian Customs Union (CU), the Eurasian Development Bank;
3. Subregional organizations: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Istanbul process, the Turkic Council;
4. European and transatlantic organizations and programs: the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and the Program of International Cooperation on Oil and Gas Transportation to Europe (INOGATE);
5. Organization of West and South Asia: the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).
6. United Nations: main UN agencies are present in the country and a special program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) is being implemented.
7. International financial institutions: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group. Kyrgyzstan is a member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank.
8. Other international organizations: Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

In early August 2015, Kyrgyzstan became the fifth member of the Eurasian Economic Union, joining Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Armenia, and it has opened its customs borders with other EU member states.

At the government level, all ministries that have been surveyed, apart from the Ministry of Justice, reported involvement in the cooperation under the SS&TC framework.

The most active ministries in SS&TC are the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Labor, Youth and Migration, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Trends and opportunities on SS&TC, including best practices shared at the consultative meeting and individual meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and derived from the survey are reported in Chapter III, under the sections relevant to the ministry.

Civil Society

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan witnessed the growth of the civil society sector, which was reflected in expanded activities of NGOs for the development of the country. Using a rough estimation by independent experts, in cooperation of local NGOs with foreign counterparts, about 40 percent of NGO funding goes to human rights themes, about 25 percent to health and 20 percent to education. The rest of the funding (15%) is allocated to gender equality, environmental protection and sociology research.

At the consultative meeting, the representatives of NGOs expressed concern regarding a new draft “Foreign Agents” law that would require local nongovernmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan that receive foreign funding and engage in vaguely worded “political activities” to register as “foreign agents.” They consider doing so as a potential challenge for engaging in SSC and TC.

Civil society actors have accumulated a large amount of knowledge and experience in promoting access to justice, anti-corruption, transparency and accountability, which can be marketed or shared with other Southern countries.

Best practices

In 2011, Kyrgyzstan created Public Councils (PCs) to improve interaction between the public administration and civil society by empowering the mainly civil society composed councils (working on a voluntary basis) to ask for information from public bodies and make recommendations to them. PCs (now institutionalized under the Law on Public Councils of the state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic) have proven to be successful in addressing corruption in ministries/agencies. These councils represent a unique form of civil society in Kyrgyzstan in monitoring state agencies, comprising civil society, academia, business and other nongovernmental stakeholders.

Since their existence, PCs improved the transparency of ministries, encouraged automation and increased the availability of information on budget and civil cases. As a result of the PC work of the Ministry of Finance, citizens now have access to the website of e-government [www.okmot.kg], which offers detailed information on the national budget, foreign aid and procurement. The PC of the Ministry of Interior persuaded the ministry to provide members of the PC with 24-hour access to places of detention in the country, the kind of transparency that can serve as a deterrent to violence with detainees.

Some PCs investigated specific cases of corruption, which led to changes in ministerial staff and policy. The conflict between the Ministry of Transport and its PC on corruption charges led to the dismissal of the Minister of Transport. The Advisory Board of the Ministry of Energy helped to reveal cases of corruption, such as ill-advised decommissioned receivables at value of more than 73 million Kyrgyz Soms, committed by the heads of subordinate enterprises of JSC Sever in 2010.

Private Sector

Private-sector stakeholders are cooperating with foreign companies on a bilateral or triangular basis with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic. The latter, by its mandate guided by interests of its members -- the companies, the organizations, entrepreneurs and also their associations, considers mutual interest of mutually beneficial cooperation in development of business connections, aiming to make the contribution to strengthen trade and economic relations between the companies and the organizations, promote their participation in exhibitions and fairs and other events for acquaintance of the business community with economic and export opportunities.

The most active Southern business partners of the country are Russia, Kazakhstan, China and Turkey. According to participants in the consultative meeting, the integration with neighbouring countries and CIS countries is more promising because of compatibility of technologies, similar business cultures and lack of language barriers.

B) INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Regional Groupings

In 2013, the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) approved the financing of two investment projects in Kyrgyzstan for \$US60 million to reconstruct a section of the Bishkek-Osh road corridor; and \$20 million to purchase agricultural equipment. In addition, blueprints for three other projects in Kyrgyzstan were approved: reconstruction of the Toktogul HPP in Kyrgyzstan (\$75 million), including the replacement of Units 2 and 4; commissioning of Unit 2 at the Kambarata 2 HPP in Kyrgyzstan (\$80 million); construction of distribution network infrastructure to export agricultural produce from Kyrgyzstan to the Customs Union member states (\$25 million).

Best practices

The University of Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established by the SCO in 2009 to operate as a network of existing universities in the member states of SCO: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and observer countries, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan. Six universities from Kyrgyzstan take part in this network. Education at USCO is based on academic exchange, while each student of a joint cooperation program must spend at least one semester in a partner university from another country. Preparation of highly qualified personnel within the SCO University's bachelor-plus master-program carried out on priority areas of cooperation among member states of the organization: regional studies, ecology, energy, IT-technology and nanotechnology.

UN agencies

The UNCT has yet to institutionalize SSC by assigning focal points, except for UNDP, and has not made SSC and TC part of its strategic frameworks yet. Nevertheless, there is evidence of growing interest in SSC at the country level and applying South-South approaches to national programming among UN agencies.

China and FAO have recently signed a \$50 million agreement to support developing countries in building sustainable food systems and inclusive agricultural value chains, recognizing the growing importance of collaboration between Southern countries in fighting extreme hunger and poverty. China's new contribution to the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Trust Fund will support the exchange of Chinese agricultural experts with countries in the global South, particularly in low-income food-deficit areas of Asia over a period of five years. Of the total contribution, \$700,000 will be allocated for SSC in Kyrgyzstan. Under the guidance and support of FAO's South-South Cooperation Team at Headquarters, the FAO Country Office launched its activities on SSC in Kyrgyzstan and it is expected that a tripartite agreement among FAO, China and the Ministry of Agriculture of Kyrgyzstan will be signed in the coming months. Under this agreement, Chinese experts will be deployed to Kyrgyzstan for two to three years to train local farmers in using adaptable and affordable technologies for aquaculture and fisheries and build strong day-to-day relationships with the local farmer communities they serve. Until now, it is the first explicit evidence of SSC agreement in Kyrgyzstan.

FAO is working on the development of a holistic approach to SSC in Kyrgyzstan, linking all SSC initiatives to the priorities set in the Country Programming Framework (CPF). The development of a national SSC strategy for food security and agriculture is being discussed with the government. This will lead to the introduction of SSC as an outcome in the next CPF agreed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan and FAO.

Recently, UNDP Kyrgyzstan and UNDP Croatia, in joint cooperation with UNIDO, proposed to establish a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Education and Technology Centre in Bishkek to follow the model of the Solar Centre of Excellence in the Zadar County (Croatia), in close collaboration with the national governmental authority.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation of South-South impact, UNDP has shown an example of integrating South-South cooperation reporting process through the country office self-assessment in the Results Oriented Annual Report (ROAR).

The experience of FAO, UNDP and UNIDO must be shared within the UNCT and regional UN programmes for peer-learning and possible scaling up in the country.

Best practices

In 2013, UNDP developed a unique methodology on analysis of laws and policies taking into consideration their conflict prone potential in order to prevent possible conflicts in the society before adopting any policies/laws. Previously, UNDP developed five types of expertise of laws in terms of observation of human rights, gender equality, environment and anti-corruption standards. The conflict-sensitive expertise was developed by UNDP to complement those mentioned above and was tested through drafting/adopting 14 laws. It turned out to be quite useful and had reduced significantly the conflict risks that laws might pose. It was presented to the Parliament and was recognized as a tool to contribute to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The methodology of this expertise was honed after testing and can now be used in other countries. A pool of experts is now being established in Kyrgyzstan to sustain this expertise. It shall then be introduced into a list of mandatory types of expertise of laws in Parliament.

International Development Organizations and Foundations

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) has a strong SSC component in its projects in global and support of regional economic cooperation in Central Asia, across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. South-South cooperation is being particularly encouraged as a way of meeting technical requirements. One GIZ-funded project provides advisory service to the ministries in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on trade issues through promotion of regional exchanges. GIZ supported the formation of interministerial working groups to identify key trade obstacles and assess customs procedures for conversion from the old GOST structure (Gossudarstwenny Standart, government standard for Russia and the CIS countries) to a high-quality infrastructure based on modern, international standards (ISO, International Organization for Standardization).

The Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan supports collaboration among nongovernmental and civil society organizations, including from Southern countries, in a range of ways. Particularly, until 2013 through a special network programme called East East Beyond Borders, devoted to promotion of international cooperation in the context of post-socialist transition for Central and Eastern Europe, SFK provided support to civil society initiatives within themes encompassing good governance and public policy, rights protection and social inclusion, and global perspectives and international dialogue in the country.

C) KYRGYZSTAN'S ROLE IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AS A RECIPIENT AND AS A PROVIDER

A. Knowledge/expertise recipient

Overall, between 1992 and 2013, 282 loans and grant agreements were signed between Kyrgyzstan, international funding institutions and donor countries. During this period, the total amount of aid from these contributors was estimated at \$5.96 billion, of which \$4.79 billion were loans and \$1.17 billion were grants. These funds were spent on projects in such sectors as education, health, transport and infrastructure, agriculture, energy and budget support. The largest multilateral contributors to the development of Kyrgyzstan are: ADB, WB, IDB, EBRD and bilateral donor countries such as Japan, Germany, China and others.

Sectoral allocation of external resources

According to the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the transport sector has the highest share in spending external financial resources (26.3%), while the energy sector ranks right after the transport (22.9%). Significant assistance has been provided to the development of the agriculture sector and irrigation, which amounted to 13.8 percent of total funding. The public sector accounts for 7.1 percent of total funding. A significant portion of financial assistance is focused on supporting the balance of payments, budget deficit financing, development of the banking system and financing of critical imports, which accounted for 23.6 percent of the total funding since 1992 to now.

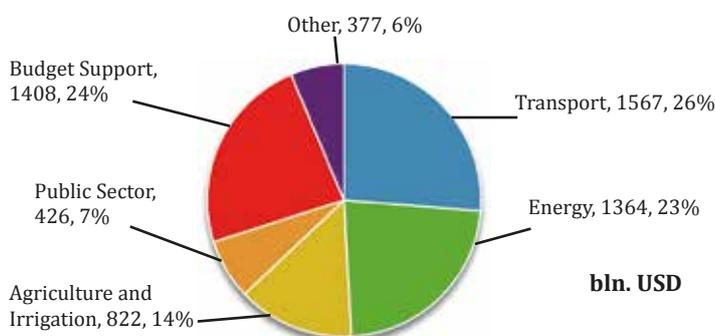


Chart 1. Structure of external resource allocation by sectors for 1992-2013

The chart below illustrates grant and credit spending tendencies from 2006-2013. In recent years, there has been a decline in grant funds and an increase in credit facilities. The increase illustrates needs of the country's investment projects. The recent change in WB income classification in 2014 for Kyrgyzstan by reclassifying the country from the low-income to lower-middle-income group also reflects this tendency.

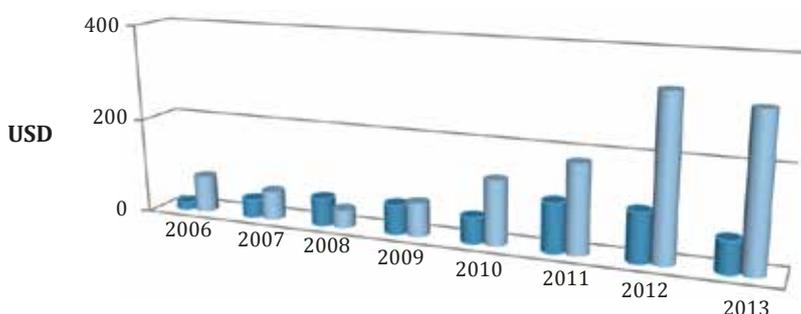


Chart 2: Grant and Credit spending in Kyrgyzstan for 2006-2013

Best practices

According to the rule applied under grant agreements for construction of social facilities, foreign contracting companies are responsible for preparing terms of reference (TOR) on the account of the grant amount. In order to ensure the proper spending of funds and save financial resources of grants released to projects for spending, the Ministry of Economy and Industry devised an innovative solution called “localization method,” using local resources in developing TOR under the grants provided by China and implemented by Chinese construction companies. This initiative resulted in minimizing the time spent for bringing TOR into compliance with local and Chinese construction standards for grant-funded projects. The localization method enables the reduction of operational costs by 10-20% from the grant amount and avoids the bureaucratic matching of the construction standards. The Ministry is planning to scale up this solution with other grant agreements that require TOR development.

B. Knowledge/expertise provider

From the time of the Soviet era, Kyrgyzstan has attracted foreign students, and is now becoming a leader in Central Asia in education export due to an increased number of both private and public institutions in the country, availability of programmes with English, Russian, Turkey and Uzbek language instruction, relatively low tuition and cost of living, and soft university entry requirements. Around 11,000 foreign students studied at universities in Kyrgyzstan as of 2014, with around 33 percent of them from Kazakhstan and the rest from China, US, South Korea, Syria, Jordan, India, Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries. The Government considers education export as one of its foundation stones for leadership and competitiveness in the regional and global markets. That foundation is confirmed in the Education Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2020.

Kyrgyzstan also engages in SSC in the emergency sector by providing humanitarian aid to countries in emergency needs, such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and includes support to ethnic Kyrgyz living in Afghanistan in emergency situations.

As an aid provider, Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Istanbul Process, established in 2011 to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political and economic cooperation in the “Heart of Asia” by placing Afghanistan at its center and engaging the “Heart of Asia” countries in result-oriented cooperation for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, as well as a secure and prosperous region.

III. TRENDS AND PRACTICES IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Under Chart 3, 16 sectors were identified as points of SS&TC cooperation in Kyrgyzstan. The most active sectors of cooperation, according to the survey respondents, are education (18%), environment (14%) and natural resources (12%). Food security (8%), governance (8%) and infrastructure (6%) are among the second-cited sectors. Responses for the "other" category include mostly agriculture.

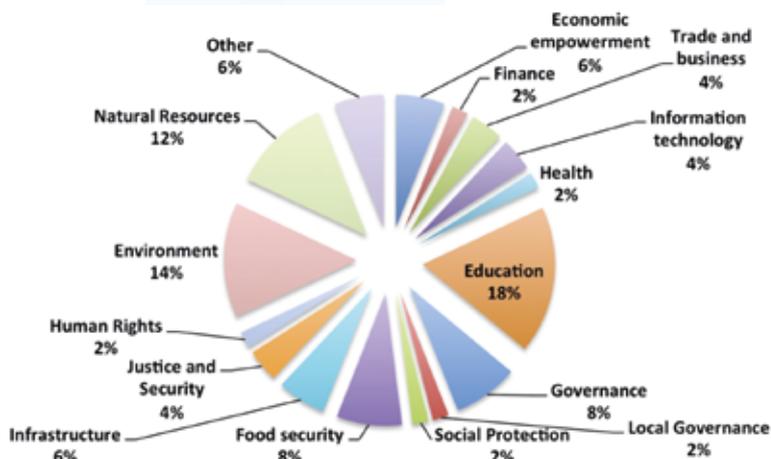


Chart 3. Sectors of SS and TC in Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, far from all four oceans and with no direct access to powerful international transport communications. This determines priority sectors for the country's development and cooperation with the aim of transforming it to a land-linked engine of economic growth.

Roads and Transport

Improving road infrastructure is considered a top priority of the country to access the global and regional markets. This priority is also important because the roads carry more than 90 percent of passenger traffic and 60 percent of freight.

Within the framework of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), which provides coordinated regional activity for passenger and freight transport, and under the joint plan to remove barriers to trade and transportation, Kyrgyzstan will initiate regulatory reforms while maintaining and improving sections of the regional road infrastructure.

The continuation of the CAREC Transport Corridor, financed by ADB, represents the next stage of a continuing upgrade road rehabilitation program, "Bishkek-Torugart" (phases 1 and 2). Phase 3 was launched by China with funds supported by ADB and the ACS and considered top priorities for road sector development.



Most of the funding for projects in this sector accounted for Naryn and Batken oblasts. In particular, the Naryn region is associated with the CAREC transport corridors project, while the Batken region is associated with the project "Rehabilitation of two road sections in the Kyrgyz Republic," with assistance from China.

Under the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), infrastructure projects of regional significance are being pursued under the aegis of ECO, including construction of railway with standard gauge from China to Europe through Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI). It is planning to complete the feasibility studies and begin construction of the Sino-Kyrgyz-Uzbek Trunk Railroad and a railway branch connecting the North and the South of the country.

Energy

According to EBRD, by absolute indices of potential hydro resources and by concentration of potential hydro resources in the territory, Kyrgyzstan is ranked third among the CIS countries, after Russia and Tajikistan.

Indeed, Kyrgyzstan's involvement in SS&TC in the energy sector is based on bilateral and multilateral agreements. Among them are agreements with Russia on construction and operation of Kambarata-1 and cooperation in transportation, distribution and sale of natural gas in the territory of Kyrgyzstan; and with China on cooperation in the construction and operation of the gas pipeline "Kyrgyzstan-China" of 215-225 km.

Since 2011, Kyrgyzstan has been involved in the Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program (CAEWDP), which focuses on strengthening energy and water security through national projects and regional activities. Kyrgyzstan is also a member of the agreement on cooperation between CIS member states in the operation of interstate transmission lines of national electricity systems.

There is an ambitious CASA-1000 project, an interregional venture to facilitate the electricity trade of 1,300 megawatts (MW) of existing summertime hydropower surplus between two regions, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Central Asia and Afghanistan and Pakistan in South Asia. The project is expected to consist of constructing and operating transmission infrastructure in all four countries, associated technical cooperation during implementation and mechanisms to share benefits with communities along the transmission corridor. The project is of strategic importance for both regions as it would help alleviate power-supply shortages in Pakistan and Afghanistan and enhance revenues and economic prospects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. ADB and WBG are contributing to the implementation of the project and the Government has articulated a need for additional funding.

Agriculture and Irrigation

Kyrgyzstan has signed numerous bilateral agreements of cooperation in agriculture within CIS and beyond: with Kazakhstan in the field of agriculture and processing industry; with Georgia on importing seeds of numerous crops and exporting sugar beet seeds, perennial grasses and most sought-after varieties of crops; with Mongolia on the import of its cashmere goats and export of the Kyrgyz breed of Merino sheep; with India on mutual deliveries of agricultural products, such as meat, dairy, fruits and vegetables, and investments in construction of greenhouses in Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz-Indian joint venture on potato production in Talas region.

With the financial support of the Japanese government, locust management along the borders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is being enhanced; with support of FAO, management of livestock diseases across boundaries is being promoted.

At the regional level, Kyrgyzstan has been involved in the FAO Regional Initiative on Empowering Small Holders and Family Farms through Sustainable Development of Rural Areas. Special attention is given to rural women and youth to upgrade their technical and entrepreneurial skills through training programmes and Farmers Field Schools to promote modern crop management techniques.

Land and water management in Central Asian countries are closely interconnected, and taking into account the increasing competition for transboundary water resources, collective actions must be undertaken at the regional

level. Cross-boundary water management remains a high priority for the country and particular attention must be given to prevention of conflicts on water distribution between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Batken region.

Kyrgyzstan's favorable climate conditions for agricultural production of fruits and vegetables makes it necessary to improve its system of horticultural practices as well as technical skills in processing fruits and vegetable to ensure the products can compete in the international market. As the participants in the consultative meeting with private business said, the experience of Tajikistan in these areas can help Kyrgyzstan.



Local farmers in a potato field.

Currently, the social sector projects are focused on establishing national emergency medicine, maternal and child health, health care and social protection, prevention of HIV, tuberculosis, Central Asian networking for health information systems (CARINFONET) and development of vocational education with support of the German government, WBG, ADB and others.

Health care

In cooperation with the Southern countries in the area of human health, Kyrgyzstan uses modern telecommunication and information technologies in addition to conventional tools. In 2014, cardiologists from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan attended for the first time a regional conference alongside their colleagues at the National Center of Cardiology and Internal Medicine in Kyrgyzstan, meeting remotely from their hospital offices through high-quality video links that became available through Central Asia Research and Education Network (CAREN), co-funded by European Union. With support of CAREN, which provides high-performance broadband Internet for research and education, facilitating communication, information exchange and collaboration between universities, teaching hospitals and research centers in Central Asia and in cooperation with India, telemedicine is becoming increasingly in demand for use in clinical health care in remote locations.

CARINFONET is a unique network, established with WHO technical cooperation in 2014 preliminarily for five Central Asian republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), with possibility to scale up national capacities on health data collection, analysis and research. The network will provide health workers and decision-makers with timely health information and be managed by the Steering Committee. That will consist of representatives from all five countries, who will meet regularly to agree on the main directions of the network initiatives CARINFONET stands for: unity, development, advocacy, education and training.

In 2012, Kyrgyzstan launched a saliva-testing program at community centers with support of the Global Fund HIV grant and became the first country in the region offering such services. It is now being provided by 18 NGOs, and more than 4,000 people get tested annually. Within the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Program, UNDP Kyrgyzstan is currently sharing knowledge and expertise to launch a pilot project supported by UNDP and UNAIDS to roll out HIV saliva-based testing for men having sex with men and transgender people in Sri Lanka.

Education

The main areas of SSC in the education sector are the academic exchange programs with Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Turkey, as well as adaptation of books (Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), multilingual education (all Central Asian countries), teacher trainings (Russian) and human rights education.

The country supports national culture compatriots living in foreign countries and allocates a budget for 75 seats for ethnic Kyrgyz from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Kazakhstan and China to study in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan was actively involved in the Education for Central Asia and Republic of Kazakhstan (CARK) programme that began in 2009. This institutional mechanism was founded in 2000 to help five Central Asian states to fulfill commitments to achieve the Millennium Declaration "Education for All," adopted by all countries at the World Education Forum and served as a forum for debate. Since that time, this mechanism was abandoned while the countries could benefit from that exchange and discussion platform as was articulated at the consultative meeting.



Social Protection

By various estimates, of six million people, most of the country's labor migrants (from 500,000 to 800,000 people) work in the countries of the Customs Union; that is, Russia (92%) and Kazakhstan (8%). With an anticipated increase of migrant flow due to opening the door to CU member-countries, the issue of social protection of labor migrants and other problems associated with this evolving phenomena is expected to become a main challenge for regional cooperation and the country's development.

Environment

Kazakhstan's "Green Bridge" initiative, calling for a partnership between Europe and Asia-Pacific regions in order to bring together developed and developing countries to share knowledge and technology to transition to green economies, is an excellent opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to meet its priorities addressed in NSSD. Among the priorities are the protection and prevention of further degradation of mountain forests and ecosystem generating water resources. Kyrgyzstan intends to develop the concept of "green growth" principles, including the introduction of environmental friendly technologies and mechanisms of payment for ecosystem services in nature use.

The Green Bridge initiative can also benefit from the experience of Kyrgyzstan by sharing the country's experience in the expected launch of the implementation of environmental-economic accounting system. Expo-17 on Future Energy in Astana, Kazakhstan, could be an opportunity to market the country's assets in environmental protection.

Disaster risk management

The country is prone to natural disasters risks. The most serious threat to people's lives, production capacities, settlements and life support facilities are posed by earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches and other natural phenomena that often have a cross-boundary character.

There is close cooperation of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan with counterparts in Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan thanks to Russian, a common intercommunication language, and similar emergency management systems.

Three out of four regional ministerial conferences in Central Asia and the South Caucasus region were conducted by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES) with support of a UNDP project funded by the Government of Japan, in line with the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue. As a result, of series of expert- and ministerial-level conferences, a High-Level Dialogue of Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asian countries has been created in the region, to be held on a rotational basis by each country-member chairing the "dialogue." Ministerial conferences led to adoption of the Framework of Cooperation aimed at strengthening regional collaboration in disaster risk management (DRM).

The UNDP project funded by the Government of Japan contributed significantly to establishment of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Almaty (CDRRR).

Through UNDP facilitation, a memorandum of understanding was signed among MES, Academy of Science, CENTRAL Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences and CERAM-Shanghai. This initiative is further being discussed to establish collaboration mechanisms with the Integrated Risk Governance Project of the International Human Dimension Programme on Global Environmental Change.

Currently, UNDP China in collaboration with the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE) and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of Chinese Academy of Sciences (XIEG) are discussing the launch of a regional project in Central Asia on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction under the Chinese "One Belt One Road" concept, including Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan's national DRM policy is guided by Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) with consistent strategies such as: a) Sectorial Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy 2020; b) National Strategy on Sustainable Development (2013-2017); and c) Programme on Transition to Sustainable Development (2013-2017). These documents provide a foundation for further reform processes in Kyrgyzstan in DRR, focusing on and ensuring greater integration among social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and putting DRR at the center of development processes as an important factor in building resilience.

UNDP continues supporting the Government to adapt the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (the successor of HFA) within the next phase of the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 2018-2023 and the Development Concept until 2030.

Best Practices

Under the UNDP project, funded by the Government of Japan, the Unified Information Management System for Disaster and Crises Setting (UIMS) was established and operationalized in Kyrgyzstan. UIMS consists of Crises Management Centers, a National Early Warning System (NEWS) and Call-Center 112 and creates the Unified Information Space in the country for disaster and crises management with appropriate architecture and logistical infrastructure. The Unified Information Space led to the following impacts: i) both national and subnational levels of the National Disaster Risk Management System integrated institutionally and operationally in early warning, response, crises management and decision-making; ii) citizens and the government are bridged in disaster prevention and response; iii) a solid base created for further linking up Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems; and iv) Business Continuity capacities heightened and interface capabilities with Information Management Systems of other countries raised.

Subnational level disaster response capacities through re-profiling existing firefighting units into Fire-Rescuing Services is an innovative and cost-effective approach, allowing existing capacities, human and financial resources to be utilized for fire-fighting and rescuing purposes.

Industry

In the world market, Kyrgyzstan supplies electricity, gold, cotton cloth, woolen products, wood, tobacco, antimony, mercury and other goods. The country imports energy resources, oil, fossil fuels, coal, fertilizers and other chemical products, machinery and equipment, transport tools and spare parts, household appliances and more.

In order to strengthen the country's export position, Kyrgyzstan intends to take full advantage of its status as a World Trade Organization (WTO) member state. As expected, growth in exports will be supported by the development of transport infrastructure, marketing and information support for domestic export-oriented enterprises and implementation of the "one-stop-shop" principle for processing of customs and other clearance procedures to facilitate transit trade and encourage a reduction in barriers. Therefore, it is particularly important that the country produce an export development strategy that improves the competitiveness of domestic products on external markets and promotes exports of services.

Extractive Industry. According to the States Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources in the Government, the extractive industry generates more than 48 percent of all industrial products manufactured in the country and constitutes 10 percent of GDP with essential contribution coming from existing gold mines like Kumtor Tereksai and Solton-Sary. Kyrgyzstan, having significant potential for the development of the extractive industry, the launch of new businesses and creation of new jobs, is looking for local and foreign investments to realize such opportunities.

Light Industry. Kyrgyzstan has a comparative advantage in light industry, which constitutes 30 percent of its GDP and in 2012-2014 showed a growth of 101.3 percent. The Government is implementing the investment project "Technopolis" to develop textile and clothing production. Nevertheless, in recent years there has been a problem of a qualified workforce that requires urgent attention. The country needs to invest in building human capacity to create a strong potential for the industry. While light-industry vocational colleges run at full capacity, fresh graduates prefer to seek job opportunities in other countries, like Russia and Kazakhstan, with more favorable social and economic conditions. With the door opened for free movement of labour, the tendency for migration of a light-industry workforce will redouble. Attracting and retaining youth is an ongoing challenge for Kyrgyzstan as it addresses and prevents the brain-drain migration.

Tourism

Currently, tourism is one of the priorities of the economic recovery in Kyrgyzstan and plays an important role in addressing social problems by creating new jobs and improving the well-being of the population, particularly in rural areas. In 2014, more than four million tourists visited the country, with the share of tourism in the GDP reaching around 4.8 percent.

The country has a high tourism and recreation potential, as it has a wide range of unique natural and recreational resources and objects of national, cultural and historical heritage. However, the country's tourism potential is far from fully exploited. One of the main problems hindering development is the low level of tourism infrastructure, shortage of road infrastructure quality (the case for almost all highways in the country), insufficient quality service and reliance on seasonal tourism (tourist facilities are idle except for summer). All these problems can lead to further reduction of competitiveness of domestic tourism products in the global and domestic tourism markets. Taking into account the potential of the country, the Government has formulated a primary goal to become a modern regional center for tourism in Central Asia.

In order to achieve the objectives identified, the following measures will be implemented: (i) create tourism clusters, which suggests a concentration in a limited area of enterprises and organizations engaged in the development process, manufacture, promotion and sale of the tourist products; (ii) capacity development for professional, executive and service staff; (iii) create an international forum center to conduct political and economic events on the shore of Lake Issyk Kul; (iv) implement a large-scale pilot project to establish roadside hotels, motels, parking for passengers and cargo transport and related infrastructure on key highways.



IV. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

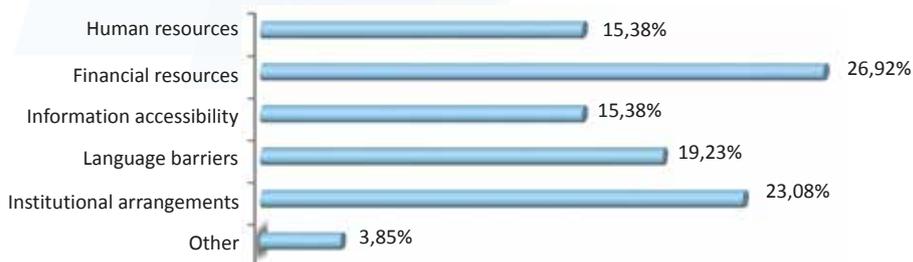


Chart 4. Challenges in promoting SS and TC in Kyrgyzstan

As a result of the survey and the consultative meeting, the following challenges were identified:

- There is no general awareness among stakeholders about the SSC concept and SS&TC opportunities and benefits. According to the stakeholders, this was attributed to limited access to relevant information, including knowledge about regional/subregional SSC information platforms and resources;
- There are no policy frameworks, coordination, structures and mechanisms for SS&TC in the country to provide support to stakeholders wishing to engage in SS&TC activities. This challenge affects efficiency and the overall sustainability of these activities;
- The issue of financing was clearly articulated as a challenge among all respondents and confirmed at the consultative meetings;
- Commitment of the Government in terms of financial or in-kind contributions as a precondition for engagement in SS&TC;
- Language barrier works for both sides: for Kyrgyz experts lacking English to go beyond CIS with Russian as its lingua franca, and for foreign experts to contribute effectively on the ground in Kyrgyzstan;
- A shift from the grant component of the budget to the credit component imposes greater level of responsibility and accountability for Government counterparts;
- The challenges associated with the implementation of development projects: delays in starting projects, and issues of responsibility of implementing agencies' projects and their sustainability;
- Political turbulence and potential for conflict in the south of the country, namely Osh, remain a big challenge;
- The potential risk of legislative changes that can lead to restriction of engagement of civil society actors in SS&TC;
- The proximity to Afghanistan with its political instability and merging threat of religious extremism and terrorism in the region and beyond can affect the development plan of the country.

OPPORTUNITIES

The future development of the country will be defined by its ability to capitalize on its geographical position, connection to new emerging markets and new opportunities coming from the growing regional integration and accession of such regional groupings as the Eurasian Economic Union and SCO.

With many countries expressing interest in setting up a free trade zone with the EU, such as Viet Nam, India, Thailand and Syria, it is expected that the accession of Kyrgyzstan to the Union will boost its economic relations with those members and new partners.

With the recent agreement signed between UNDP and Russia for setting up the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development and initial funding of \$25 million from Russia over the next four years, new funding opportunities for Triangular Cooperation are emerging. The activities supported by the Trust Fund will focus on poverty alleviation; disaster risk reduction and early preparedness for emergencies; and energy and environment. It will support initiatives implemented by UNDP in Central Asia and elsewhere.

Apart from regional funding opportunities there are numerous potential funding sources, like IBSA Fund and Perez Guerrero Trust Fund, as well as development banks, including NDB BRICS and Eurasian Bank.

The [IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation](#) (IBSA Fund) established by India, Brazil and South Africa, supports other developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) countries around the world in partnership with the UN by identifying replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as an example of best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger.

[The Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund](#) was established to support activities in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) of critical importance to developing countries members of the Group of 77, in order to achieve national or collective self-reliance, according to the priorities set by them.

The New Development Bank BRICS (NDB BRICS), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). It was set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.

Out of 10 major bilateral SSC contributors (Brazil, China, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela), Kyrgyzstan traditionally benefits from cooperation with China, India, Republic of Korea and Turkey, while there is room for expanding collaboration with the Arab Funds like the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

The IsDB provides financial assistance to member countries for economic and social development. Considering SSC as one of main priorities, IsDB is particularly interested in supporting capacity development for management of SSC and scaling up the joint IFAD and UNOSSC initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) across Central Asia.

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDINGS

Although the country features decades of cooperation with other developing countries, the notion of South-South cooperation is new for Kyrgyzstan and the region in general, and there is a need to introduce policy frameworks and national level coordination mechanisms on SSC, which may prevent the country from effectively promoting and taking the full advantage of SS&TC.

There is a vast potential for South-South dialogue through international and regional cooperation platforms, both existing and evolving ones. Transboundary issues, such as energy and water management, transport, especially roads and railways, custom services, human and animal health, climate change and environment, will remain high priorities for regional cooperation.

The country has certain advantages in education and emergency systems that could be marketed where social, legal, economic conditions are comparable and can contribute to the post-2015 agenda. A comparative advantage of Kyrgyzstan is its civil society in matters related to the development of democratic institutions, access to justice and transparency and accountability of public institutions by exchange of experience and know-how, provision of technical expertise or technology to other Southern developing countries. This can contribute towards achieving SDG 16, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Despite the extensive collection of local successful practices and good experiences in above-mentioned sectors, their sustainability, inter alia, documenting and marketing or sharing with Southern partners to scale up or replicate, is not being properly addressed.

There is a common perception of Kyrgyzstan as being an aid-seeker and the common use of North-South approach to cooperation development, notwithstanding the Government's will to position the country as an important regional and global player in South-South (East-East) Cooperation in the region and beyond. The current NSSD can serve as an entry point for policy coordination and support the integration of South-South initiatives into national policy, planning and budgeting.

Increasing regional integration will greatly affect modalities for cooperation, resource and partners mobilization both for the Government and international development agencies. There is a potential for mobilizing partners and resources from specialized trust funds and new emerging aid development partners.

Global, regional and country-level experience of organizations more advanced in mainstreaming SSC in the development planning and programming, like FAO and GIZ, should be a subject of sharing and learning among other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Country recommendations:

- i. Leverage commitment of the Government to SS initiatives through the development and adoption of a strategy on SSC&TC and institutionalizing the country policies (in a new National Sustainable Development Strategy) and establish a national-level coordination mechanism based on existing institutional arrangements and allocation resources for SSC, including funding to support exchange with other Southern countries. The latter two elements are particularly important for sustainable and strategy-based efforts to build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with Southern partners;
- ii. Support implementation and further expansion of provisions on cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and other countries envisaged in NSSD for advancing the role of Kyrgyzstan as an important regional player through setting up the national coordination mechanism: national coordination unit and assigning focal points in ministries/agencies;
- iii. Develop institutional and human capacities at the level of the Government, civil society, private sector and academia in South-South and Triangular Cooperation;

- iv. SSC components shall be integrated in new government agreements with neighbouring countries, other developing countries and regional groupings;
- v. Advocate to ensure that SS&TC are adequately featured in discussions with international organizations and regional groupings;
- vi. Market or share best practices and home-grown solutions in building democratic institutions, ensuring access to justice and development of the emergency system with the Southern countries;
- vii. Strengthen partnerships and exchange expert and transfer knowledge within the CIS region where possible, without the challenges of language and context;
- viii. Consider opportunities to join to existing regional and cross-regional SSC partnerships, such as the joint UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia;
- ix. Capitalize on the funding opportunities arising from the new emerging donors and partnerships in the region and beyond, like IBSA Fund, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, FAO-China Trust Fund, UNDP-Russian Federation Trust Fund and other and national development aid agencies from Russia (Rossotrudnichestvo), Azerbaijan (AIDA) and Kazakhstan (KazAid).
- x. Collaborate and cooperate with other landlocked countries beyond the region regarding sharing of knowledge and experience, technology transfer, capacity development, peer-to-peer learning within the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDC.

II. Recommendations to UN CT:

To increase the role of the UN Country Team in supporting Kyrgyzstan's South-South Cooperation agenda through the UNDAF:

- i. Support a policy dialogue initiated by UNRCO and UNOSSC on mainstreaming SS&TC in the development processes;
- ii. Promote information-sharing and monitoring of South-South and triangular cooperation activities, and raise awareness of the benefits of SS&TC;
- iii. Provide support to the Government for its efforts to build a national-level coordination mechanism responsible for the coordination of SS&TC, based on existing institutional arrangements through awareness-raising and capacity-building;
- iv. Provide assistance to the Government for identifying priorities for SSC aligned to the priorities specified in the current NSSD and new strategic documents;
- v. Provide assistance to the Government in ensuring that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework identifies opportunities for accessing Southern development assistance, technology transfer and capacity development;
- vi. Provide assistance to Government to gain access to [the Web Information for Development \(WIDE\)](#) and other development-oriented information networks and platforms;
- vii. Provide dedicated training on South-South cooperation to COs staff and national partners in coordination and cooperation with the Regional Division of UNOSSC for the Arab States, Europe and CIS;
- viii. Provide advice to the Government on existing South-South exchange platforms such as WIDE Expert Roster and facilitate the engagement of national practitioners in such exchanges by developing a roster of experts to be shared;
- ix. Assist the Government in strengthening partnership and exchange of experts in theology and Arabic studies with the Arab States in coordination and cooperation with the Regional Division of UNOSSC for the Arab States, Europe and CIS;
- x. Familiarize UNCT with the main South-South cooperation funding mechanisms, such as South-South Cooperation Fund and South-South Grants Facility, and render assistance to Governments of Kyrgyzstan to gain access to these sources;

- xi. Establish a multi-agency trust fund to channel and leverage resources in an effective and coordinated way to support SSC;
- xii. Promote awareness of the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation on the Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, celebrated on 12 September;
- xiii. Provide support to national partners in sharing local expertise and knowledge on innovative SS&TC projects by documenting Southern development solutions on the Regional SSC Online Mapping Portal for Europe and CIS;
- xiv. Provide support to the country in marketing or sharing the solutions developed in environment protection in Astana Expo-17.

Recommendations on mainstreaming South-South Cooperation in the country office programming:

- xv. Ensure that the UNCT is aware of the content of mandates requesting provision of United Nations system support for South-South and triangular cooperation;
- xvi. Provide support for the establishment of institutional arrangements essential to the management of SSC activities by assigning focal points in UN agencies responsible for coordination of SSC;
- xvii. Screen programmes and projects for inclusion of SS&TC and integrate opportunities for promoting SSC that might be low cost but efficient and effective;
- xviii. Share experiences and learn from and build upon knowledge of FAO, UNDP and UNIDO in mainstreaming SSC in programming;
- xix. Utilize new funding opportunities like IBSA Fund, IsDB and others to launch SSC initiatives particularly for the joint UNDP-UNIDO project on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Education and Technology Centre in Bishkek;
- xx. Regularly identify and document Southern development solutions on the Regional SSC Online Mapping Portal for Europe and CIS;
- xxi. Provide dedicated training on South-South cooperation to COs staff and national partners in coordination and cooperation with the Regional Division of UNOSSC for the Arab States, Europe and CIS;
- xxii. Develop and integrate indicators on SSC performance into programming like a number of cross-country initiatives, joint Southern projects, number of documented Southern development solutions;
- xxiii. Seek sectorial and interagency coordination and strengthen cooperation among United Nations agencies by sharing best practices of SSC in programming and by development of joint projects on addressing the proposed SDG through SSC.