

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION
DIVISION FOR ARAB STATES, EUROPE AND THE CIS
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT



UNOSSC GUIDING FRAMEWORKS



2015 DELIVERABLES

Component 1: Country-level Support	Component 2: Expanding SSC Solutions Portal	Component 3: IFAD-UNOSSC Initiative	Component 4: Regional Studies on Value-added of SSC	Component 5: SSC Advocacy thru Media Presence
National-level stock-taking exercises on SSC completed in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	51 new solutions sourced, documented, and published	Knowledge Exchange and Coordination Meeting on Farmer Organizations held in Turkey	Structure and draft concept papers developed for the two regional studies	Special Session on Arab States and ECIS organized during the High Level Forum on SSC in Macao
National-level umbrella projects on SSC developed for Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, and Sudan	User-friendly landing pages created within the southsouthworld.org	Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology held in Hungary	Consultations completed with 13 Government and Institutional Focal Points on SSC	Media coverage ensured for all the major events (63 articles, 89 tweets with 100K+ followers)
14 new Government Focal Points and one Institutional Focal Point on SSC designated	A concept of the "Single Database" implemented within Solutions Portal	USD 200,000 mobilized from the IDB for Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Tunisia		Four on-demand public presentations/speaking contributions on the value added of SSC
Training Module on UN Catalytic Support to SSC developed with the UN Staff College	Project proposal on renewable energy - "Solar Mamas" - developed			Two on-demand articles published on the value added of SSC

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I. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

SSC rapidly gaining weight in international development cooperation architecture:

South-South Cooperation is the vehicle to accelerate development as it fosters partnerships among the developing countries, with the view of increasing volume and rate of South-South exchanges in development, trade, finance, and technology transfer. In light of the rapid growth in diversity of development actors, particularly from the South, the international development cooperation architecture is changing considerably. The contribution of South-South Cooperation to the achievement of Sustainable Development Agenda globally, as well as more specifically in the Arab States and the Europe/CIS Regions is thus catching more and more attention, especially in the context of the recent transitions that have been taking place in the two regions.

Declining flows in traditional development finance:

Most recent developments in South-South cooperation could be characterized by the alteration in its dynamics, as seen in the rise of new policy frameworks aimed at fostering cooperation among developing countries at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. Cooperation between Southern countries has grown significantly in the last decade, and often it took the forms of private investment, knowledge sharing, or concessions on market access. A number of developing countries have been providing preferential treatment to least developed countries' products. This trend towards South-South cooperation is likely to continue, with the share of traditional DAC ODA declining as a proportion of all flows to developing countries.¹

It is within this overall context that the Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched its support activities initially for the Arab States region since its inception in July, 2012 (in cooperation and coordination with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States) and eventually - following the re-structuring - also for the Europe/CIS region in May, 2014 (in close partnership with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS and its Istanbul Regional Hub).

II. UNOSSC GUIDING FRAMEWORKS

In its work UNOSSC is guided by the **Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2014-2017** that was approved by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services at its Annual session 2014 (DP/CF/SSC/5) and is aimed at achieving three overarching goals:

1. The first overarching goal is the creation of the necessary enabling Policy Environment that enables both legislative and executive leadership of the Member States to make informed decisions, policies and strategies, as well as programme initiatives that give effect to mainstreaming support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, on a global and UN system-wide basis.
2. The second overarching goal is the creation of the Institutional Environment to enable the Member States, the UN system, other partners to effectively initiate, manage, coordinate and implement South-South & Triangular Cooperation initiatives.
3. The third overarching goal is to enable all partners in South-South and Triangular Cooperation to meaningfully engage in, support, and scale up more self-initiated, self-managed, self-funded and self-sustained South-South and Triangular initiatives to help achieve the remaining MDGs and Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

In providing its catalytic services at the regional level, the work of the UNOSSC Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS is also informed by the **UNOSSC Regional Strategic Approach towards Advancing South-South, East-East, and Triangular Cooperation for Development in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS** that comprises three elements:

- A. *Support to National-level Coordination Mechanisms on South-South and Triangular Cooperation*
Experience shows that countries with the existing *policy, coordination mechanism, and resources* - including packaged knowledge and expertise, clearly identified needs, and some funding to support exchange in those with other countries - have proven more successful in South-South Cooperation than countries reverting to South-South Cooperation on an ad hoc basis.
- B. *Facilitation of SSC Online Portal for real time access to South-South-related information*
While national-level coordination is critical to ensuring scaled up South-South Cooperation within and beyond the regions, the approach should provide for seamless and non-bureaucratic horizontal linkages, local leadership and ownership, as well as it should be inclusive and systematic in a sense that support activities should benefit as many of existing and potential South-South exchanges involving various government, civil society, and private sector players as possible.
- C. *Mobilizing Funding Partners for scaled up exchange in South-South solutions, technologies and expertise*
Building on existing institutional arrangements, capacities developed and other resources available (avoiding duplication of arrangements, capacities and resource facilities) while implementing the recommended approach can help to seriously reduce the set up costs, and in itself serve as a driver towards a more harmonized and inclusive approach.

¹ http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/global_partnerships.pdf

III. DELIVERABLES

In the course of 2015, and as an integral part of the joint advisory offering the Division continued to build up a range of tailor-made support services for the UN Country Teams and the Government Focal Points on South-South Cooperation in the two regions. This was done with a view of enabling respective host countries to pursue their national South-South and Triangular Cooperation agendas in addressing their individual and shared development priorities.

More particularly, the following range of deliverables was produced in the reported period:

Component 1: Systematic Country-level Support in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States and Europe/CIS regions

The idea of establishing holistic national coordination systems for advancing of national South-South & Triangular Cooperation agendas of the participating Member States was systematically introduced and promoted. Governments in both regions were invited to assign Government Focal Points on South-South Cooperation through active involvement of the UN Resident Coordinator offices in the respective countries with the participation in the regional studies on the value-added of South-South Cooperation as a convenient entry point.

Deliverables:

- 1.1. **National-level stock-taking exercises on trends and opportunities for South-South Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were completed:** based on the requests conveyed by the UN Resident Coordinator Offices two national-level stock-taking exercises were conducted in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan respectively. The stock-taking reports were produced reflecting the findings and recommendations for improved national-level coordination and the set of the practical tools as well as the commitments expressed by the line ministries to advance South-South and Triangular Cooperation and interest expressed in joining the partnership initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security jointly supported by IFAD and UNOSSC. As part of the stock-taking exercise the following consultations took place:
 - In Kyrgyzstan:
 - 6 consultative meetings with ministries; private business; NGOs; international organizations; UN agencies and Universities;
 - 8 bilateral consultations with: 1) MFA; 2) Ministry of Economy; 3) Chamber of Commerce; 4) FAO; 5) UNDP PEI and DG programmes; 6) Open Society Institute- Kyrgyzstan; 7) Association of Guarantee Funds; 8) UNDP PEI and research team on gender dimensions of biodiversity;
 - In Tajikistan:
 - 7 consultative meetings with Ministries; Private business; NGOs; international organizations; UN agencies; UNDP Programmes and Projects Managers, and Universities;
 - 8 bilateral consultations with: 1) Ministry of Economy; 3) Chamber of Commerce; 4) FAO; 5) UNDP Communities Programme; 6) Open Society Institute - Tajikistan; 7) GIZ; and 8) Ministry of Agriculture.
- 1.2. **National-level umbrella projects in support to national South-South and Triangular Cooperation agendas were drafted for Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, and Sudan:** the national-level umbrella project documents were drafted at the request of the the Government Focal Points on South-South Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, and Sudan in consultation with national stakeholders, respective UN Resident Coordinator Offices' staff and based on the findings and recommendations of the stock-taking exercises conducted earlier (for Palestine and Sudan it was done before 2015). National-level umbrella project documents were accompanied by suggested action plans defining possible UN support to the efforts of Government Focal Points in harmonizing the implementation of the national South-South and Triangular Cooperation agendas.
- 1.3. **Fourteen new Government Focal Points and one Institutional Focal Point on South-South Cooperation were formally designated:** through formal joint requests by UNOSSC, UNDP RBAS and UNDP RBEC leadership (for Arab States and Europe/CIS regions respectively) and with the systematic follow up support from the UN Resident Coordinator offices in the respective countries Focal Points were formally designated:
 - In Europe/CIS: for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine as well as for the Turkic Council;
 - In Arab States: for Jordan, Morocco, Yemen, and Somalia (as well as focal points were re-assigned in Egypt and Sudan).
- 1.4. **Training Module on UN Catalytic Support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation Towards the Achievement of SDGs Developed:** the training module was developed in cooperation with the UN Staff College and the agreement has been reached to launch the pilot course for Arab States and Europe/CIS regions during 2016. The Training Module consists of initial face-to-face workshop, four-month hands-on practicum, and summary knowledge exchange workshop.

Component 2: Expanding SSC Solutions and Mechanisms Mapping Portal & Publication

In order to support UN agencies and national stakeholders in both regions through enhancing their capacities in sharing and sourcing successful replicable solutions, the solutions mapping portal was designed, developed, and operationalized for Arab

States in 2013-2014 and the expanded to Europe/CIS region in the course of 2015. This work was made possible due to the partnership support from and cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank. Development actors from public and private sector as well as civil society institutions in the countries of the Arab States region and the Europe/CIS region were encouraged to contribute to South-South knowledge exchange by sharing their successful home-grown solutions in various sectors of development including rural and agricultural development, ICT, education, women's rights, etc.

Deliverables:

- 2.1. **The total of 51 additional solutions were sourced**, documented, analyzed, and made available through the SSC Solutions Mapping Portal.
- 2.2. **User-friendly landing pages were created** within the SSC Solutions Mapping portal separately for solutions originating from and relevant to the Arab States region (<http://arab.southsouthworld.org>) and for the Europe/CIS region (<http://ecis.southsouthworld.org>), as well as a pilot sectoral landing page (<http://agro.southsouthworld.org>) was created for agricultural solutions sourced in the framework of implementation of the partnership initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS).
- 2.3. **A concept of the "Single Database"** was developed and the new re-structured database was implemented in the course of 2015 enabling for easier cross-fertilization of experiences between the regions and sectors, and search for applicable solutions, as well as to simplify potential replication (upon demand) of the model that has been initially offered by UNOSSC as a pilot for Arab States, Europe and the CIS to other regions services by UNOSSC.
- 2.4. **Project proposal on renewable energy ("Solar Mamas") was developed** on the basis of one of the solutions documented on the SSC Solutions Mapping Portal with a view of matching the demand (in Tajikistan and Egypt) and supply (from Jordan and India) for the transfer of solutions generated by the "Solar Mamas" initiative.

Component 3: Implementation of IFAD-UNOSSC supported partnership Initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS)

The initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security intends to offer a holistic approach to further strengthening the positions from which the potential beneficiary countries, including Algeria, Hungary, Morocco, Turkey, and Uzbekistan address the South-South Cooperation agenda in pursuing their individual and shared development priorities in agricultural development. It is essential that the support in the framework of the proposed initiative is to be provided on a demand-driven basis.

Deliverables:

- 3.1. **Knowledge Exchange and Coordination Meeting on Management in Farmer-based Organizations** was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Turkey in Izmir in July, 2015. A number of follow up activities were agreed upon, including:
 - The agreement was reached on developing country components in the framework of the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative. Country component activities were identified under the leadership of the respective country delegations;
 - The decision was re-confirmed on organizing the follow up training for farmer-based organization practitioners in Izmir in January 2016.
- 3.2. **Knowledge Exchange and Coordination Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology** was organized and conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary in Godollo in October 2015. A number of follow up activities were agreed upon, including:
 - Preliminary agreement was reached with PROCASUR on organizing joint "learning roots" community-based training for pilot communities in the participating countries;
 - Preliminary agreement was reached with CIRAD on jointly supporting up to two research initiatives that would be of common interest for the majority of the countries participating in the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative;
 - Agreement was reached in organizing the Third Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Livestock Development in Algeria in early March 2016.
- 3.3. **USD 200,000 was mobilized from the Islamic Development Bank to support participation of Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Tunisia in the partnership initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS):** Series of consultations were conducted with the Islamic Development Bank - in response to the interest expressed by Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Tunisia in joining the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative jointly supported by IFAD and UNOSSC – that led to the decision by the IDB to allocate USD 200,000 to support the initial (pilot) phase of participation of the four countries in the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative.

Component 4: Regional Studies on the Value-added of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Human Development in the Arab States and in the Europe/CIS

Initiated in cooperation with the UNDP Bureau for Arab States and with the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS the two regional studies aim to unleash the potential and contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation model in attaining Sustainable Development Goals. The process anticipates national leadership and ownership over the findings and

recommendations of the studies. The process envisages the validation of the final versions of the two regional reports that will be produced as a result of the studies through Government Focal Points on South-South Cooperation of participating countries. The final versions of the two regional reports are expected to be produced in the first half of 2016.

Deliverables:

- 4.1. **The structure of the two regional studies and initial reflections in the form of extended draft concept papers were developed** by the UNOSSC regional advisory team in close cooperation with the various stakeholders; extended concept papers represented a solid piece of preliminary analysis that was called to provoke a fruitful discussion and focused on the overview of major processes and participants of South-South Cooperation at the regional level, as well as proposed some preliminary observations on ways to foster SSC processes in the two regions.
- 4.2. **Conference call consultations held with 13 Government and Institutional Focal Points on South-South Cooperation** with the support of the respective UN Resident Coordinator offices where the approach and process with the regional study was explained, relevant feedback and guidance was obtained from the Focal Points and the clarifications on expectations, as well as roles and responsibilities were reached;

Component 5: SSC Advocacy through Media and Public Presence

Since the level of awareness on benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation differ in the countries covered by the division, the advocacy and awareness raising play an important role in facilitating South-South Cooperation efforts both at regional and national levels. In view of this, the division aims to implement advocacy and media activities that contribute to the better awareness of the public of benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation model as well as on the range of services provided by the UNOSSC.

Deliverables:

- 5.1. **Special Session entitled “South-South Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in Arab States and ECIS” organized within the High Level Multi-Stakeholder Strategy Forum, Macao, China in August, 2015:** The Regional Roadmap idea delivered and discussed with the SSC national focal points, government officials on ministerial level, representatives of IDB, IFAD, UNOSSC.
- 5.2. **Wide media coverage was ensured for all the major events supported by UNOSSC for Arab States, Europe and the CIS,** including the knowledge exchange workshops in the framework of SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative in Izmir (July, 2015), Turkey, and Godollo, Hungary (October, 2015), as well as the Special Session during the High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation in Macao (August, 2015). The media coverage work was implemented in close collaboration with the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Communications Team and resulted in the information on the key 2015 events reflected in:
 - **13 print articles** by the third-party agencies;
 - **36 online articles** by the third-party agencies;
 - **14 online articles** at the various portals supported by UNOSSC, UNDP (regional and country-level), and IFAD;
 - **89 original tweets seen by almost 115,000 followers.**
- 5.3. **Four on-demand public presentations/speaking contributions on the value added of South-South and Triangular Cooperation model were delivered** at the invitation of the organizers of respective events (at no additional cost to UNOSSC), including:
 - The World Green Economy Summit 2015 in Dubai, U.A.E. in April, 2015 as an invited speaker (<http://www.wges.ae/wges-2015/speakers/>);
 - The Round Table on Leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Results hosted by IFAD in Rome, Italy in July, 2015 (http://www.ifad.org/south-south/pub/sstc_leveraging.pdf - page 9-11)
 - The UNCTAD 17th Africa OILGASMINE Trade & Finance Conference and Exhibition in Khartoum, Sudan in November, 2015 (as an invited speaker, delivered by the member UNOSSC Regional Advisory Team, Mr. Ahmed Hussein, based in Khartoum)
 - The Regional Central Asian Conference on Effecting Synergies between Inclusive Economic Growth, Environmental Sustainability, Gender Equality and Development for Transformative Change in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in November, 2015 (as an invited speaker, delivered by the member UNOSSC Regional Advisory Team, Ms. Nargis Bozorova via Skype)
- 5.4. **Two on-demand articles were published on the value added of South-South and Triangular Cooperation model** at the invitation of the initiators of respective publications (at no additional cost to UNOSSC), including:
 - Article entitled “South-South Cooperation as a Means of Fostering Innovation in Applying Renewable Energy for Increased Water Security”, State of Green Economy Report 2016, Dubai, pages 184-185 (<http://dcce.ae/state-of-green-economy-report-2016/>)
 - Article entitled “BRICS: The Balance of Power and Challenge of Financing Development in the Global South”, Economic Weekly newspaper, Sudan, June 24, 2015 (by Mr. Ahmed Hussein)