

Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: paving the way to Leave No One Behind³.

Triangular Cooperation (TrC) is a common practice among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). A survey conducted by the OECD showed that the LAC region concentrates the majority of the world's TrC projects. Half of the 60 countries and international organizations (IOs) included in the study were involved in TrC projects in the region¹.

TrC enables complementarity, both in terms of expertise and resources, generating a favorable learning environment among different partners. By mainstreaming TrC, LAC countries can implement a much more integrated and sustainable response to one of its most intractable challenges: inequality. Furthermore, as cases below prove, TrC has the potential to contribute to the 2030 Agenda implementation through the adoption of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) approach. LNOB-oriented TrC is a promising way to close development gaps, balancing growth and equity. The LNOB approach goes beyond inequalities among States, combating deprivation and social exclusion in its multiple forms - vertical intersecting inequalities, among individuals, and horizontally inequality, among social groups (i.e., gender, race, disability, age)². By addressing distribution, LNOB challenges conventional trickle-down economics and growth-based development wisdom.

The selected projects, led by Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, in partnership with developed and developing partners, are excellent examples of how the LNOB approach can supplement the guiding principles of South-South Cooperation via TrC. Partners' complementarity allows TrC to be a privileged modality for tackling intersecting inequalities. All three projects (see boxes below) contribute to address gender inequalities and to eradicate poverty and hunger (SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 10).

Furthermore, TrC has the potential to:

- i. foster horizontal connections among many actors and mutually-beneficial partnerships, which enable dialogues among governments, civil society, and the private sector to better understand and respond to the most urgent development challenges on the ground;
- ii. mobilize political leadership and create clusters of LNOB-oriented projects;
- iii. improve policy frameworks and contribute to embedding the LNOB approach into existing SSC guidelines.

The pool of cases proposed and detailed below might help us pave the way for exploring how the LNOB approach can guide TrC activities.



¹ OECD. Dispelling the myths of triangular co-operation - Evidence from the 2015 OECD survey on triangular co-operation. Report prepared by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate. September 2016.

² Stuart, Elizabeth, and Samman, Emma. (2017) Defining "Leaving No One Behind" London: ODI.

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■ Case 1

Pro-Huerta Haiti



Partners: The Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); CIDA; the AECID; the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Argentine (INTA); and the National Food Security Commission on behalf of Haiti.

Objectives: This program seeks to strengthen the social fabric of Haiti and its state capacities, based on a similar experience which was being run for the last 20 years in Argentina. Since 2003, the program has been part of Haiti's National Food Security Plan. It aims to promote self-production of fresh food in organic gardens, complementing the diet of urban and rural populations with unmet basic needs.

Outcomes: Argentina and Haiti have concluded that the consolidation of the social network built in the course of the development program was vital output. This is one of the forms of social organization that was required for refunding Haiti on the basis of equity and citizen's participation. Accordingly, immediately after the earthquake January 12, 2010, the two countries have decided to strengthen the agricultural production by sending more than 40 tons of seeds to meet the needs of displaced people in rural areas. Looking ahead, efforts have begun for triangular partners to reach one million participants by 2019, with an approximate cost of 35 million USD.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international trade and Worship. South-South and Triangular Cooperation of Argentina. Journal nr. 10 - 2010. Special Bicentenary Edition.

■ Case 2

Support for the development of economic sustainability alternatives in priority areas of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (Nicaragua)

Partners: AMEXCID; National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO); Agency of the Pan-American Atlantic Mesoamerican Biological Corridor of the Panama National Environment Authority (ANAM); GIZ.

Objectives: The project seeks to strengthen local producer's capacities in Nicaragua, as well as promote goods and services differentiation, and mechanisms for their production and market access. The project works mainly with beekeeping sustainable production activities and in diagnosing the situation of other sustainable productive alternatives.

Outcomes: The capacities of local actors in Nicaragua were strengthened in biological corridors for the application of biodiversity-friendly practices in productive systems. Women in targeted areas increased their participation in productive processes and their selling, thus contributing to greater gender equity.

Source: Amexid; GIZ. Cooperación Triangular México-Alemania: socios para el desarrollo sustentable en América Latina y el Caribe. 2015.

■ Case 3

Brazilian School Feeding Programme (PNAE)

Partners: World Food Program, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, and DfID.

Objectives: The Center of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil draws on the Brazilian experience to share knowledge and policy innovations. It aims to provide technical assistance to national governments of developing countries to designing, expanding and managing their school feeding programs, linking school meals with local family farming.

Outcomes: Through SSC, more than 20 countries designed national school feeding policies inspired by the successful Brazilian program. Those experiences reach the most vulnerable children and help them have access to nutrition and education.

Source: FAO. Scaling up the Brazilian School Feeding Model: using South-South Cooperation to share Brazil's experience of school feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean. 2014.

