

## Fast Facts: WFP's Policy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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

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

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

#### Definitions:

The UN defines South-South cooperation and Triangular cooperation as:

- **South-South cooperation:** Two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national objectives through:
  - exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how; and
  - regional and interregional collective actions,

including partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions.

- **Triangular cooperation:** Collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, and management and technological systems as well as other forms of support.

#### Forms of South-South cooperation:

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

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

## Why is it relevant for WFP?

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

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

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

1. **Strengthening country capacities.** By facilitating countries' cooperation with each other, WFP can contribute to strengthen country systems and capacities for improving food security and nutrition.
2. **Tapping into additional funding sources.** Funding from South-South Cooperation, triangular arrangements and in-kind or cash contributions through twinning represent a potential funding base for the future.
3. **Inspiring innovation.** South-South cooperation can facilitate the identification of potential prototypes and their testing in real-world conditions.

## In what areas is WFP supporting South-South cooperation already?

Developing countries, with WFP's support, are already cooperating with each other in areas such as school meals, nutrition improvement, connecting smallholder farmers to markets through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, procurement, sustainable agriculture, social protection and



safety nets, access to adequate food through markets, climate change services for resilience-building, and development of Zero Hunger strategies.

## The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger is a unique partnership between WFP and the Government of Brazil. It makes the Brazilian experience in addressing the Zero Hunger Challenge available to developing countries. The Centre advocates for the development of nationally owned, sustainable programmes and policies on school feeding, social protection, food security and nutrition. For further information, please contact [brazil.centreofexcellence@wfp.org](mailto:brazil.centreofexcellence@wfp.org) or visit <http://www.wfp.org/centre-of-excellence-hunger>.

## What are priority activities for WFP in this area?

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

**Further Information:** For questions, you can contact [carola.kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:carola.kenngott@wfp.org), WFP Policy and Programme Division.