

IFAD Side-event at the Global South-South Development Expo

Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a crisis response mechanism

13 September 2022, 11.45am – 1.00pm (GMT+7)

Bangkok, Thailand - United Nations Conference Centre - Meeting Room H

[Zoom Registration](#)

Background

Existing and emerging crises are threatening progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As highlighted in the 2022 report on the [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#), the consequences of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by the impact of the war in Ukraine, have led to major setbacks in global food security. Current projections are indicating 670 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030, representing 8 percent of the global population - the same figure as when the SDGs were adopted in 2015.

In response, the global community is increasing its partnership and coordination efforts to address gaps in policy, knowledge, funds and technology to tackle these new and existing threats. Of particular relevance is South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), a partnership approach which has been playing a key role in helping developing countries share and adopt policies, solutions and resources that best suit their needs and contexts. Over the past years, this collaboration modality has evolved and is now supporting joint interventions targeted to post-crisis recovery.

SSTC provides a space for developing countries to highlight challenges they face, to jointly access and identify knowledge and solutions, and to incubate joint business opportunities. With the key characteristic of being country driven and based on mutual benefit, SSTC can leverage the best available and most relevant solutions, expertise, and partnerships arrangements for the effective resolution of the fall-out from new crises.

SSTC can indeed contribute to the recovery and resilience process of local communities and vulnerable households by promoting documented good practices that have proven effective in crisis situations. For example, in 2020, IFAD in response to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 launched the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF). The RPSF provided additional funding for IFAD projects to enable quick actions to mitigate some of the constraints faced by vulnerable communities, such as restricted access to markets. The many solutions piloted through these projects are equally valid interventions for other crises and can be shared through SSTC.

Another concrete illustration of how SSTC help responding to crises can be found in the [China-IFAD SSTC Facility](#). Already funding 13 projects, the Facility dedicated its third call in 2021 to projects aimed at supporting vulnerable populations to boost global post-COVID recovery. Accordingly, projects were selected to pilot the latest agricultural innovations including digital platforms and tools.

However, SSTC formulation and implementation during times of crises can be challenging. Partnership building, usually involving in-person meetings, are often disrupted; the lack of dedicated institutions or communication channels can block the exchange of needs and supplies; new initiatives take time

to take shape and be ready for implementation; quick responses can lose sight of the long-term resilience and sustainability; etc.

To this end, IFAD's side event during the GSSD Expo will explore the opportunities offered by SSTC to respond to new crises and shocks, and discuss the necessity of adopting national/institutional frameworks that can facilitate and accelerate its operationalisation, particularly when there is a need for urgent action to address new global threats. It will also highlight some of the concrete solutions that have been, and are being implemented by IFAD and other development partners as part of the immediate global response and long-term recovery process to the COVID pandemic.

Objectives

- 1) Discuss institutional mechanisms and policy frameworks at the national/corporate level to facilitate SSTC implementation;
- 2) Share and promote SSTC initiatives developed in response to a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic that can be replicated in other contexts;
- 3) Identify good practices that address SSTC operational implementation constraints despite obstacles such as restricted mobility.

Outcomes

- 1) The role of SSTC as a crisis response mechanism is highlighted to development actors, with a focus on building enabling environments that can facilitate SSTC interventions and the adoption of innovative solutions in the Global South;
- 2) Innovative SSTC initiatives implemented for crisis recovery are showcased to development actors, further demonstrating the increasingly important role played by SSTC in global crises response;
- 3) Mitigation measures for effective SSTC implementation during times of crisis are documented and promoted to support the development of new SSTC modalities better adapted to crisis situations.

Agenda

- **Moderator:** Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (IFAD–Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division)
- **Format:** Hybrid - in-person & zoom
- **Duration:** 60 Minutes

10' Opening Remarks

- **Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh**, *Director-General, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)*

20' Panel discussion: Building an enabling environment for SSTC implementation

- **Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf**, *Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)*
- **Mr. Guilherme Dantas Nogueira**, *Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)*

The first discussion panel will cover the added benefit of having a national/corporate framework for SSTC collaboration and how this framework can facilitate the adoption of innovations for crisis response in the Global South. Key policy elements to be showcased and promoted during the discussion include:

- Strengthening the role of SSTC at the national level beyond technical cooperation to include global solidarity among developing countries for crisis response;
- Establishing national institutions with SSTC related mandates and dedicated budget to centralise and coordinate all SSTC activities;
- Creating SSTC ad-hoc committees with local and national representatives, as well as members of CSOs to define national SSTC priorities;
- Adopting a national framework to build local capacities for the implementation of SSTC-related interventions; including in times of crisis.

15' Panel discussion: Solutions and innovations to crisis response promotable through SSTC

- **Ms. Ashley Davidson**, *Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) Coordinator, IFAD*
- **Dr. Jochen Weikert**, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*

The second panel discussion will share initiatives in response to crises that SSTC can leverage further for local recovery and resilience. A particular focus will be on the sustainability of the interventions and the enabling conditions for their replication and uptake to respond to other global challenges such as the on-going food crisis.

10' Voices from the audience

5' Key take-away and closing remarks

- **Dr. Francisco Javier Pichón**, *Country Director, Vietnam, and Hub Head Cambodia, Lao Democratic People's Republic and Thailand, IFAD*

Speakers and panellists

Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf, Senior Technical Cooperation Specialist – IsDB



Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf is a Senior Technical Cooperation Specialist in the Islamic Development Bank's Cooperation and Capacity Development Department, since 2015. He has a long track record of experience in the field of cooperation for development with four institutions, gained throughout managing cooperation for development projects, leveraging partnerships, and spearheading innovative and pragmatic approaches, particularly with IsDB and UNICEF. In his current position, he is leading the strategies and policies development related to South-South cooperation

Ms. Yessouf is also an associative activist and founding member of several NGOs in Morocco, including the Moroccan Evaluation Association (AME). He is also a member of the the Pan-African Scientific Research Council (PASRC). His expertise covers the fields of Governance and Operational Management, Programs and Projects Management, International Development/ South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Partnerships and Alliances.

Dr. Jochen Weikert, Head of the German Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia – GIZ



Jochen is currently the co-head of the GIZ Cluster "China in the World". In the past 17 years at GIZ (and predecessors), he served as country manager for India, as project director for GIZ Bangladesh and held several positions in private sector-related projects. In 2014, he was seconded to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and helped prepare the "Alliance for Sustainable Textiles". In his work and research, Jochen focuses on issues around global governance, private sector cooperation and standards in industrial development, with a regional focus on Asia.

Jochen Weikert studied sociology, economics and modern history at the Technical University of Darmstadt and the Free University of Berlin. He is a fellow of the 39th post-graduate course at the German Development Institute (DIE-GDI) and earned his doctorate at the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) of the University of Duisburg-Essen. In his PhD [thesis](#) (published 2011), Jochen researched on China's role in the global corporate responsibility discussion.

Dr. Francisco Javier Pichón, Country Director, Vietnam, and Hub Head Cambodia, Lao Democratic People's Republic and Thailand – IFAD



Dr. Francisco Pichon has been working with IFAD since 2007, as Country Programme Manager in the Latin America and Caribbean Region, Lead Portfolio Adviser for the East and Southern Africa Region, Country Director for Tanzania and Rwanda and Country Director for Mexico, Cuba and Grenada.

Prior to joining IFAD he worked at the World Bank, focusing on Africa and the Latin America Region (1994-2007). At the World Bank, he designed and supervised a wide range of operations related to land, forestry, rural productivity, territorial development, ecosystem management, and led analytical work and strategy development.

Dr. Pichon held other research and teaching positions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Inter-American Foundation, and the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration since 1990.

Ms. Ashley Davidson, Programme Officer (RPSF), Office of the Associate Vice-President for Programme Management – IFAD



Ms. Ashley Davidson is a Programme Officer in the Office of the Associate Vice-President (AVP) for Programme Management at IFAD, based in Rome. She is serving as an advisor to the AVP and coordinating the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) – IFAD's emergency COVID-19 response facility aimed at improving the food security and resilience of poor rural people. In her earlier capacities at IFAD, she acted as a Programme Analyst in the Asia and Pacific Division and the Operational Policies and Results Division. Prior to joining IFAD, Ms. Davidson worked with ACTED in Jordan, where she oversaw the compliance of the NGO's humanitarian responses in Syrian Refugee camps, spent two years with Davis Polk & Wardwell in their capital markets and securities group, and held various research positions focused on politics and social cohesion in

Africa.

Ms. Ashley Davidson holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins University SAIS where she specialized in economics and conflict management and a bachelor's degrees in International Relations and History from Boston University.

Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer, Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization – IFAD



Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur is a senior partnership officer in the Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division at IFAD. She is responsible for coordinating the implementation of IFAD's corporate agenda and engagement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). Working across IFAD, she supports the identification of SSTC opportunities in existing and upcoming IFAD interventions and the establishment of SSTC partnerships with Member States, development partners and the private sector. Ms. Brandford-Arthur also supports IFAD's partnership and resource mobilization process with specific responsibilities for Brazil and South Africa.

Educated in Ghana and the United Kingdom, Ms. Brandford-Arthur holds a Master's in Human Resource Management and postgraduate certificates in Public and Business Administration.