



South-South News Quarterly January 2018

“We must step up capacities to support and leverage South-South cooperation, as a complement to traditional development assistance. This form of cooperation among developing countries is a unique asset for knowledge-exchange, transfer of appropriate technologies, and tested development solutions – as valuable to developing countries as financial resources.”

[António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations]



**World Food
Programme**

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What's happening in Rome?

2017 Global South-South Development Expo in Turkey broadens the scope of South-South co-operation to include trade and foreign direct investments

Traditionally focused largely on technical cooperation, capacity-building and knowledge exchange, recent developments in South-South cooperation have included **South-South trade**, South-South flows of **foreign direct investment**, movements towards **regional integration** and **technology transfers**. Under this theme, the **2017 Global South-South Development Expo** took place in Antalya, Turkey, from 27-30 November 2017. The UN **Rome-Based Agencies (RBA)** organized a joint session at the expo to address the need for country-led progress towards SDG 2 through South-South initiatives.

The **RBA** presented a [joint roadmap on South-South cooperation initiatives](#) in 2018/19 which aims to strengthen the collaboration amongst the three Agencies in facilitating South-South Cooperation. The RBA already share a common vision and overall framework for collaboration for an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The RBA roadmap builds on this effort and provides a basis for **joint brokering of South-South**



Thematic Forum on Country-Led Progress to Zero Hunger through Joint RBA Efforts. Photo: WFP/Jia Yan.

initiatives at global, regional and field level. It focuses on opportunities at the project and country level to collaborate operationally, joint knowledge management initiatives, trainings, seminars, events as well as joint research and assessments.

Take a look at the roadmap [here](#) and **contact Carola.Kennigott@wfp.org** if you see opportunities in your working context to implement joint South-South activities with FAO and IFAD in 2018/19.

New guidance for WFP Country Offices: Kick-start the conversation on South-South cooperation with your government counterpart!

WFP has issued a new guidance for WFP Country Offices on how to integrate South-South cooperation in the Country Strategic Planning (CSP) process.

What is new? If you are working in a WFP Country Office, you can use our [set of guiding questions](#) to kick-start the conversation on South-South opportunities with your government.

When would be the best moment to start this conversation in your CSP process? Take a look at the [guidance note](#) here. It helps you to identify entry points for engagement in South-South cooperation



Click [here](#) to take a look at the new guidance for WFP Country Offices on how to kick-start the conversation on South-South cooperation with the government.

Here you can access a [set of guiding questions](#) that you may find useful.



for the design and implementation of your Country Strategic Plan. You can request support from your WFP Regional Bureau CSP focal point or the SSC team in WFP's Policy and Programme Division (Carola.Kennigott@wfp.org).

GET ENGAGED! Showcase your solution on WFP's and UNDP's joint "SSMart for SDGs" Platform!

In 2017, WFP and UNDP launched a joint ["SDG2 window"](#) on a new **South-South knowledge platform** called ["SSMart for SDGs"](#) which brokers South-South initiatives across all SDGs by matching country demands with country solutions.

We are now calling for a new round of solutions to be showcased! Contact Ragini.Malik@wfp.org from OSZ's South-South cooperation team if you have identified a good solution for South-South knowledge exchange in your working context. We can help you shape it up.



WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil celebrates six years of South-South cooperation



It has provided **technical assistance** to **around 30 countries** to help them design and implement sustainable school meals programmes.

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil has contributed to changing the understanding of governments in those 30 countries about the **potential of school meals for achieving zero hunger**. In addition to providing food to children in schools, school meal programmes are often embedded in inter-sectoral food and nutrition security policies. Through school meals the students can directly benefit from better **education, nutrition, and health**. When school meals are linked to local agriculture they can also contribute to strengthening smallholder agriculture and local economies.

For more information, contact Peter.Rodrigues@wfp.org or Christiani.Buani@wfp.org in the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.

The **WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil**, WFP's pioneer in facilitating South-South cooperation, celebrated its **sixth anniversary** on 7 November 2017.

The Centre has engaged in South-South cooperation initiatives with **over 50 countries**, in areas such as food security, nutrition, and social protection. The main topic of the Centre's cooperation efforts is school meals.

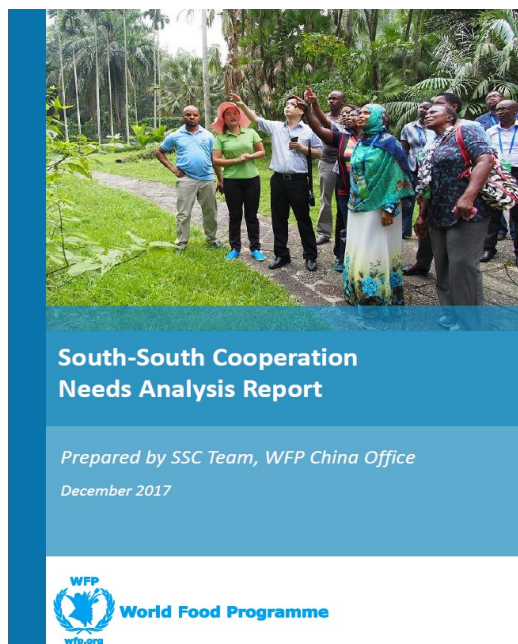
WFP Centre of Excellence in China

South-South Cooperation Needs Analysis Report released by the WFP China Centre of Excellence

The WFP China Centre of Excellence in Beijing has released a **South-South Cooperation Needs Analysis Report**. The report aims to 1) set a **demand-driven roadmap** for the Centre's work for the coming five years, in line with WFP China's Strategic Plan; 2) present a **programming framework** for collaboration with the host government, line ministries, and Chinese South-South cooperation partners and providers; and 3) identify **Chinese solutions** and approaches for engagement with the WFP China Centre of Excellence and counterparts in China. It also explores concrete **South-South project pipeline proposals**, brokered through the WFP Country Offices and the WFP China Centre of Excellence, building on the ideas of WFP Country Offices from all regions which were collected during WFP China's South-South Cooperation Symposium in May 2017.

The project proposals are in line with the Strategic Objective Areas of WFP China's Country Strategic Plan. **The proposed project ideas will be implemented through a variety of South-South cooperation modalities in 2018.**

[Take a look at the report](#) to explore more. For questions, please contact Qiang.Li@wfp.org or Yan.Jia@wfp.org in the WFP China Centre of Excellence.



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In the spotlight: Boosting resilience to climate change through South-South cooperation

Chile and Honduras work together to boost resilience to climate change in Honduras' dry corridor

In late 2014, the Government of Chile and WFP developed a South-South cooperation project with Honduras. The project aimed to support Honduran smallholder farmers and strengthen their access to social protection programmes. [INDAP](#), the Chilean technical partner, through the Chilean Development Agency (AGCI) supported the implementation of this project through financial support.

The Government of Chile helped the Government of Honduras to promote the use of bio fortified grains. The grains help to strengthen the capacity of low-income small-scale farmers to improve their productivity, increase surpluses, strengthen markets, improve nutrition and reinforce the resilience of their families. The project, which was also promoted by Honduras' Directorate of Agricultural Science and Technology of the Ministry of Agriculture (DICTA / SAG), in coordination with other Government institutions such as the National Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), the Secretary of Health (SESAL), academia and local NGOs, was implemented in different municipalities of Honduras' dry corridor. 112 families from the municipality of Namasigüe, Choluteca, organized themselves into 6 rural credit cooperatives, and participated in the project for a duration of 18 months.

The project was very successful and might serve as an inspiration for other countries that are facing similar challenges. All of the families that participated in the project learned about bio fortification processes and all the participating rural credit cooperatives and partners were connected to local markets. 97% of the producing families reported an improvement in the score of food consumption and diversity of their diets. The project also had an important gender component: 60% of the leadership positions in the Rural Credit Cooperatives were held by women.

For further information contact Maria.Pino@wfp.org or Carol Montenegro Carol.Montenegro@wfp.org in RBP.



In-field demonstration in Honduras. Photo: Photo: Debora Bonel/WFP Honduras.

Making developing countries' voices on action towards climate change heard at COP 23

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues today. Developing countries are much more impacted by the adverse effects of climate change than developed countries. **South-South cooperation can make a contribution for developing countries to take effective climate action** by strengthening their institutional capacities and mobilizing additional resources to adapt to climate change.

Practical South-South approaches to building smallholders' resilience to the adverse effects of climate change were being discussed at the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany. During a side event organized by **ESCAP, WFP, FAO and IFAD** with support of the **Chinese Government**, main challenges of developing countries as well as successful strategies, technical solutions and best

practices from China for building smallholder resilience were being discussed.

As a key outcome, a [Communique on Joint Action for building smallholders' resilience](#) to climate change through South-South Cooperation was released. [Click here](#) to read more.



COP 23. Photo: www.europeanbusinessreview.eu

What is happening in the regions?

Asia and the Pacific: South Asia School Meals Meeting in New Delhi

The WFP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBB) and WFP India in partnership with the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development) hosted a regional meeting in New Delhi, India, on school meals in South Asia. Country delegates and their WFP counterparts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka spent three days exchanging strengths, challenges, and lessons from their national school meals programmes. Participants from WFP Headquarters, WFP Regional Bureau, USDA, and GCNF joined the event as technical and resource partners.



The 2nd South Asia School Feeding Meeting in New Delhi. Photo: WFP/Jennifer Shin.



Delegates visiting central kitchens. Photo: WFP/Jennifer Shin.

The meeting was opened on 27 November 2017 by Mr. Anil Swarup, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development of India, who stressed the importance of partnerships between government and civil society organizations in creating an impact on the health of school children through school meals programmes. Participants visited central kitchens and schools in New Delhi and the State of Haryana. They observed how meals are prepared and visited schools to eat the meals with the school children. India's Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is the largest school meal program in the world, targeting all children enrolled in government primary and upper primary schools. The programme is delivered through strong non-governmental organizational partners. To learn more, please contact Jennifer.Shin@wfp.org in RBB.

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Strengthening smallholder post-harvest and storage management capacities in Asia and Africa

WFP is promoting **peer learning** among countries in Asia and Africa on **smallholder post-harvest treatment and storage management** with support from the Chinese Government.

On 19-28 October 2017, 15 participants from Cameroon, Niger, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Zimbabwe joined a workshop in China organized by the WFP China Office jointly with China State Administration of Grain. Through technical discussions in Beijing and a field trip to Jiangsu, Sichuan and Hubei provinces, the participants were able to explore good practices and efficient mechanization techniques for reducing post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers in China. Study visits to food processing facilities, equipment manufacturing, grain storage and management facilities at both provincial and community level

enabled direct exchange among the participants and Chinese providers of solutions for post-harvest treatment and storage management. The workshop provided a starting point for the participants to strengthen institutional capacities in these areas and to develop a "**peer network**" with experts from other developing countries that are facing similar issues. To learn more, please contact, Qiang.Li@wfp.org, WFP China Centre of Excellence.



Visit at a rice processing line. Photo: WFP China.

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North Africa: WFP's support to Egypt on engagement with NEPAD and on the set-up of a collaboration hub in Luxor

The WFP Egypt Office is strengthening its ties with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) through engagement in South-South and trilateral cooperation.

NEPAD selected Egypt to be a pilot country for one of their flagship programmes which is a **regional cooperation initiative on transformative rural development** among neighboring African countries and beyond. As a partner for triangular cooperation, WFP Egypt is engaged in bilateral agreements among the Egyptian, German and Italian governments supporting Egypt on **debt swaps for development**. The debt swaps are being used to support WFP's support to the Egyptian government on school meals, child and maternal nutrition interventions.

The WFP Egypt Office has also integrated **South-South Cooperation as a pillar for implementing its five-year Country Strategic Plan**. The plan is directly aligned with the Egyptian Government's development priorities. To support Egypt on South-South cooperation, the WFP

Country Office is supporting Egypt on the **establishment of a collaboration hub in Luxor**. The hub aims to facilitate collaboration among different Egyptian government and civil society institutions, partners for academia and research, as well as the local community. As a flagship initiative for the achievement of Egypt's development goals, it helps to showcase successful development approaches to the rest of rural Upper Egypt. For more information, contact Ithar.Khalil@wfp.org in the WFP Egypt Office.



Project experience that may form the basis for showcasing at the Luxor Collaboration Hub. Photo: WFP Egypt Office.

Turkey: a reference example for countries that wish to establish an emergency social safety net

Turkey's **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)** is known around the world as an example for a strong social safety net in the context of emergencies and support to refugees.

The safety net builds on national partnerships and existing national systems to provide vital basic needs assistance to more than a million refugees in Turkey. It targets vulnerable refugees and capitalises on an existing, proven financial platform and local expertise to maximise its reach. By delivering assistance through a "Multi-Purpose Cash" modality, it expands from a food-focused approach to address a broader range of needs that are common to refugees – paying for food, rent, transport, utilities, medicines and other requirements.

The programme includes a specific learning component which enables other governments, as well as organizations like WFP, to draw important and informative lessons not only within but also outside of Turkey when seeking effective solutions to crises and issues.

For example, the Government of Jordan, with the support of the World Bank, visited Turkey in 2017 to learn about the Turkish social assistance programmes, including the ESSN, to explore its relevance to the Jordanian context. Jordan may consider replicating the ESSN as an assistance modality after lifting all subsidies on refugees in February 2018. Lebanon as well as the Government of Ukraine have also shown interest in how the ESSN functions.

In order to facilitate South-South learning at greater scale, Turkey's Emergency Social Safety Net was showcased at the Global South-South Development Expo in Antalya in November 2017. Both WFP and the Government of Turkey see this as a major opportunity to inform other Southern partners about their options in times of crises and to improve crisis response globally.

For more information on this example and on WFP Turkey's support to South-South cooperation, you can contact Afaf.Shashaa@wfp.org in the WFP Country Office in Turkey.



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