



South-South News Quarterly June 2015

"I encourage countries of the South and all development partners to come together to share, disseminate and scale up successful development solutions and technologies."

*[Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations]
Message for the UN Day of South-South Cooperation*



World Food Programme

Policy and Programme Division, Rome, Italy



What's happening in Rome?

WFP Policy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation has been approved!

WFP's Policy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was approved on 25 May 2015 by WFP's Executive Board. The policy will help WFP to meet the increasing demand for support from developing countries that want to tap into each others' expertise and practices for greater progress on food security and nutrition.

The policy will be accompanied by a guidance document for Country Offices to help operationalize and make use of opportunities for South-South Cooperation. OSZ will be coordinating the implementation of the new policy in collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, WFP Regional Bureaus, and Liaison Offices.

Priority activities suggested by the policy include:

- Facilitate the sharing of country experiences, knowledge, skills, and practices to end hunger and improve food and nutrition security.
- 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.

For further information on the policy, click [here](#).

Rome-based agencies collaboration on South-South Cooperation

Directors and South-South experts from WFP, FAO and IFAD have met on April 9, 2015, to explore opportunities to collaborate on South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives. The meeting took place at WFP HQ and was chaired by Mr. Stanlake Samkange, OSZ Director.

You can access the **Note for Records** [here](#).

Closer collaboration among RBA will be explored in country-level engagement; strengthening operational collaboration (incl. through deployment of experts in the field); exploring shared knowledge management tools;

and joint participation at upcoming events such as the Global South-South Development Expo 2016. A second Rome-based Agency exchange on this topic is taking place on 7 July 2015, hosted by IFAD.

For further information, you can contact carola.kenngott@wfp.org

What's happening in the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil?

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil has a track record of engaging with numerous African countries on the development of effective strategies and approaches towards school feeding, safety nets and zero hunger strategies. The results which were achieved through the Centre's support in Africa at the local level are visible today in various forms.

In Africa, for example, **Senegal** is debating the inclusion of the human right to adequate food in its Constitution, while **Malawi** is preparing for approving its national school health and nutrition policy. **Gambia** held national seminars on social protection and school feeding. **Mozambique** approved its first school feeding programme and is now designing its implementation plan for expansion countrywide. **Rwanda** is discussing a white paper on school feeding and launched pilot projects based on the local purchase of food and **Niger** created a unit for school feeding connected to the Minister's Cabinet. All these initiatives took place with technical support from the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil.

The Centre is a partnership between WFP and the Brazilian government, which consolidated itself as a technical assistance hub through South-South Cooperation and capacity building, due to its experience in school feeding, food security and social protection. The Centre conducts study visits, facilitates the development of action plans, supports the organization of national seminars, and deploys consultants to work with national governments in promoting school feeding, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes. It facilitates the sharing of knowledge and encourages governments to develop their school feeding programmes to include the participation of the family farmers. It contributes to building lasting solutions to break the inter-generational cycle of hunger and poverty and help countries to achieve food and nutrition security. To learn more, you can contact our experts in Brazil: Cynthia Jones, Deputy Director, (cynthia.jones@wfp.org) and Christiani Buani, Programme Officer (christiani.buani@wfp.org).

What's happening in the regions?

Supporting collective action on disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean

WFP is supporting governments in the **Caribbean** to strengthen their emergency **and disaster response mechanisms and capacities**. This includes fostering the cooperation among countries at the regional level, in the area of disaster risk reduction. WFP provides support to this South-South initiative, building on its own expertise in food security linked to natural disasters and climate change.

The sharing of expertise among developing countries and regional collective action through South-South collaboration and Triangular Cooperation has a pivotal role in this area. Key officials from the civil protection systems in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba, together with WFP and other international and sub-regional partners, including United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management (CDEMA), and the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), met in Havana in December 2014 and launched the **Caribbean Quadripartite Disaster Risk Reduction Process**.

This process is focused on **identifying effective modalities in mitigating the impact of natural disasters** at national and regional levels for South-South knowledge sharing and **furthering cooperation between the three Caribbean countries** in disaster risk reduction. Based on the good progress and successful experience, the above mentioned institutions and other partners agreed to meet periodically to discuss the progress and operationalize the action plan they jointly developed. Their last meeting was on 5 May 2015 in Guatemala.

For further information on WFP's work on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, feel free to contact our experts Maria Pino, Programme Officer, (maria.pino@wfp.org) or Carol Montenegro, Programme Officer, (carol.montenegro@wfp.org).

Supporting Risk Insurance among drought-affected countries in Africa through the African Risk Capacity Initiative

WFP supports the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Initiative which was established as a Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) in November 2012. It was set up to help Member States improve their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, thereby protecting the food security of their vulnerable populations. ARC is an innovative initiative for pan-African risk management, offering sovereign level risk insurance against droughts, floods, cyclones and pandemics through its financial affiliate, ARC Ltd, which is capitalized at 200 million USD. 25 African States have signed the ARC Establishment Agreement to form the Conference of the Parties, representing a transformative moment in African ownership to use aid more effectively.

Due to a significant drought in the Sahel, in 2015 Mauritania, Niger and Senegal received \$25 million to affect early responses to affected populations. In the case of Mauritania which received a payout in early 2015 ahead of the UN Appeal, the government utilized funds to purchase locally produced rice from irrigated areas of the country to distribute to drought-affected regions. Senegal was able to purchase livestock fodder from 5 Dakar-based producers for subsidized sales in other regions of the country. To aid in knowledge and skills transfer, ARC also organizes regional meetings where government officials who have already completed the ARC Capacity Building Programme can interact with newer members to share

best practices in early intervention, contingency planning and holistic risk management. ARC is recognized by African Ministers of Finance as being a cost-effective mechanism for African States to channel official development assistance. Insurance payouts to eligible ARC Member States are made through data-driven, objective triggers, combined with pre-approved and peer reviewed final implementation plans to ensure that funds are directed to programmes which assist vulnerable populations. For more information, please see

<http://www.africanriskcapacity.org>.

Signatories of the African Risk Capacity (ARC)



Scaling up Rice Fortification in Asia

Rice is the main staple food for three billion people, the majority of which reside in Asia. Rice fortification is the enrichment of rice with essential vitamins and minerals post-harvesting to increase its nutritional value. Given the widespread micronutrient deficiencies in Asia negatively affecting individual, household and national socio-economic development, rice fortification has the potential to contribute to improve nutrition status in the region. Between 16 and 19 September 2014, the 'Scaling Up Rice Fortification in Asia' Workshop, held in Bangkok Thailand, brought together 200 stakeholders including government decision makers and technical staff, and national, regional and global technical experts from a range of institutions and agencies including UN, NGOs, academia, the private sector and donor representatives. Country delegations attended from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR,

Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. The workshop was the result of a collaborative effort amongst the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), PATH, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP). The workshop facilitated discussions on the status of rice fortification in Asia and at global level; standard settings; national policy and institutional frameworks; fortification technology and methods; components of the rice value chain, post-harvest operations and cost; as well as the sharing of best practices and lessons learned for scaling up and replication. More details will be made available later this year in the Sight & Life rice fortification supplement. For further information, please contact Katrien Ghoois, Sr. Regional Nutrition Advisor, Bangkok (katrien.ghoose@wfp.org).