



## South-South Quarterly Newsletter September 2020

*“More than ever before, we need solidarity, hope and the political will and cooperation to see through this [COVID-19] crisis together.”*

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity:  
Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, 2020



# What's happening in Rome?

## Beyond the Annual Performance Report 2019 Series: Special Thematic Report on WFP's Work on South-South Cooperation

WFP has released a special thematic report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), "[Leveraging progress against hunger through South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#)", as part of the "Beyond the Annual Performance Report 2019 Series".

Take a quick glance at WFP's [Digital Story on South-South cooperation](#) with key highlights from the report.

The report reflects how WFP's **engagement in SSTC has been rising over the past years**, and what, brokering **South-South cooperation in the face of the COVID-19** pandemic means.

Here, some key highlights:

- ⇒ **85%** of WFP Country Offices have been engaged in South-South Cooperation in 2019 – an increase from **48%** since 2014.
- ⇒ All of WFP's Country Strategic Plans approved in 2019 featured SSTC engagement with host governments.

The report highlights concrete examples of WFP's work:

- ⇒ Country examples from **Ecuador, Mozambique and India** on concrete actions taken on the ground to reach the most vulnerable populations through WFP-brokered South-South cooperation;
- ⇒ Key initiatives of **WFP's Centres of Excellence**

- ⇒ Examples of how South-South Cooperation can be **brokered virtually**, in view of **COVID-19** social distancing measures and travel restrictions
- ⇒ Achievements of WFP Regional Bureaux in brokering intra-regional SSTC.

To learn more and access the report, click [here](#), or contact [carola.kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:carola.kenngott@wfp.org) or [gabriela.dutra@wfp.org](mailto:gabriela.dutra@wfp.org) (PRO-T, SSTC team).



## RBA celebration of the 2020 UN Day for South-South Cooperation on September 16th



The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented disruptions in supply chain, food security and food systems.

As a result of COVID-19, the number of people in need of food assistance could increase by **80% from 149 million pre-COVID-19, to 270 million people** by the end of 2020.

Now more than ever, it is imperative for the RBA to work jointly towards mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on food systems in the developing world, in response to the rising country demand in this area.

In order to shed light on this important issue, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) are celebrating the **2020 United**

**Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on September 16<sup>th</sup>, from 16:00–17:30 CEST**, with a focus on the topic: *"The role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in the transformation of Food Systems in view of COVID-19."*

See here the draft [concept note](#). The event will be held virtually due to the pandemic. Click [here to watch it live](#).

The event will raise awareness on how South-South cooperation can support the transformation of food systems for the benefit of rural poor smallholder farmers. It will explore how to address COVID-19 related vulnerabilities to reach those already at risk of being left behind.

Voices from the People's Republic of China, Guatemala, Morocco, the Republic of the Congo and the Deputy to the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit will be heard in the event.

From WFP's side, **Valerie Guarnieri**, Assistant Executive Director, Programme & Policy Development Department, will provide opening remarks in the event, together with senior management from FAO and IFAD.

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## What's happening in Rome?

### WFP Innovation Accelerator and PRO facilitate event to explore options for WFP's future vision for South-South knowledge brokerage in the face of COVID-19 and digitization

WFP's **Innovation and Knowledge Management Division (INK/ Munich Innovation Accelerator)** and **PRO** are jointly facilitating a discussion with WFP senior management, South-South focal points in CoEx, RBx and COs and external partners on **24 September**, in order to explore options for WFP's **future vision** for South-South knowledge-brokerage.

The event will feature an **interactive dialogue** among **WFP's senior management** and **external partners** from Alibaba, UNICEF, UNOSSC and research institutions in India and Brazil, who are championing innovative initiatives on South-South knowledge brokerage, using **technology and digitalization as an enabler**.

A WFP internal reflection with colleagues from all regions will follow which will help to explore the pillars of a "roadmap" to help implement that new vision.

For more information, please contact: [Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org) (PRO-T, SSTC team) and [Katharina.Weltecke@wfp.org](mailto:Katharina.Weltecke@wfp.org) (INK).



### United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in New York is featuring WFP as "partner of the month"



Given the rising importance of the agenda, around **40 UN agencies** are promoting South-South and triangular cooperation to date.

In August 2020, the **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**, which is led by the Secretary-General's Envoy on South-South cooperation and serves as the UN-system wide coordinating agency on SSTC, **has been featuring WFP as "partner of the month"**.

See [here](#) the **feature article on WFP** on UNOSSC's **"South-South Galaxy"** Knowledge platform.

In 2020, WFP and UNOSSC have launched various new initiatives together in the context of COVID-19.

Examples on joint advocacy initiatives include:

- ⇒ WFP collaborated with UNOSSC on [mapping national adaptations and innovations on school-based programmes](#) in the face of COVID-19.
- ⇒ WFP and UNOSSC [hosted a webinar in July 2020 with the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth \(UNDP IPC-IG\)](#) focused on the topic of *"Managing Continuity & Preparedness of School-feeding Programmes under COVID-19 & the Role of SSC."* The webinar helped to make country voices heard and explore national coping mechanisms while adapting delivery models to the "new normal" situation.
- ⇒ UNOSSC released the [Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development - Vol. 3 \(2020\)](#), this version show-cases 195 good practices in SSTC including example brokered by Country Offices in [Ecuador](#), [India](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Sri Lanka](#), and the WFP Centres of Excellence in Brazil, China and Cote d'Ivoire.

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WFP: South-South Cooperation Partner of the Month

#### WFP and South-South & Triangular Cooperation

Today, an estimated 690 million people still live with hunger. The number of people facing acute hunger might reach 270 million by the end of this year due to the challenges posed by COVID-19. As the world's leader in the provision of food assistance, the World Food Programme (WFP) facilitates South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as an integral part - and an effective means - of achieving SDG 2 and reaching the remaining people living in hunger.



#### PRO-T, Programme -Humanitarian and Development- Division

[Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org) **September 2020**  
[newgo.wfp.org/topics/south-south-cooperation](http://newgo.wfp.org/topics/south-south-cooperation)  
For more programme-related newsletters, click [here](#).



# WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

## WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

WFP Brazil facilitates virtual exchanges on school feeding and social protection as part of remote assistance to host governments in view of COVID-19



The publications produced by WFP CoE Brazil now form a **knowledge repository** which provides information on the value of the Brazilian experience in school feeding and social protection.

The publications are divided into **four categories**:

**Brazil Policy Briefs** – Documents which target specific elements of school feeding in Brazil, such as programme design and financing.

**Best Practices Series** – Collections of successful experiences from countries that work with the WFP CoE Brazil in different areas of school feeding.

**Country Cases Series** – Each of these publications feature the case of a country that has successfully advanced in their school feeding programme, with support from WFP.

**Brazilian Experience** – A series with several documents and manuals from the Brazilian government, which have been translated and adapted to meet the demands of partner countries.

To access the repository [click here](#). For more information please contact: [sharon.freitas@wfp.org](mailto:sharon.freitas@wfp.org) or [bruno.magalhaes@wfp.org](mailto:bruno.magalhaes@wfp.org) (WFP CoE Brazil).

While COVID-19 continues to restrict on-site support to host governments from the WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Brazil, it is facilitating [Virtual Exchanges](#) to continue supporting countries remotely.

The WFP CoE Brazil offers three products and services of remote assistance: [publications](#), [videos and courses](#), and [technical support from experts](#).

These products and services, combined with on-site technical support, can help WFP CoE Brazil **reach more countries** and **enhance the results of the work** on sustainable school feeding around the world.



# WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

## WFP China Centre of Excellence

### WFP China Centre of Excellence promotes series of webinars on e-commerce for rural value chain development



Module 1: Policy on rural e-commerce development enhancement and digital countryside strategy

Module 2: E-commerce for value chain development in rural China

Module 3: Rural Taobao-Village and poverty reduction

Module 4: E-commerce cases and online business fostering

Every Monday Evening from 29 June to 20 July, 20:00-21:30 Beijing time

Chinese-English simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Organized by WFP China Centre of Excellence,  
Technically Supported by CATIS.

Please join us on a lively discussion on how e-commerce contributes to agriculture and rural transformation, to eradication of hunger and inequality.

**Value Chain Development** in order to provide other countries in the Global South with access to China's experience in this area.

The series provided an opportunity for exchange on how e-commerce contributes to agriculture and rural transformation, fostering rural entrepreneurship and the overarching goal of eradicating hunger and inequality.

It also shed light on the possibility of promoting poverty reduction in the context of rapid technology development.

The webinar series, rolled out between 29 June and 20 July, was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) in China and with technical support from China Association of Trade in Services.

**Four episodes** were featured which brought attention to (1) China's Policy on Rural E-commerce Development Enhancement and Digital Countryside Strategy, (2) E-commerce for Value Chain Development in Rural China, (3) The example of China's Rural Taobao-Village and Poverty Reduction Experience, and (4) Cases of E-Commerce and Online Business Development.

For further information [click here](#).

WFP China CoE will continue to **organize online events** as platforms for dialogue and exchange in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In August, a new webinar series on **Post Harvest Loss Management** was jointly launched by WFP China CoE and the WFP Regional Centre against Hunger and Malnutrition in Cote d'Ivoire.

For more information, please contact: [Yan.Jia@wfp.org](mailto:Yan.Jia@wfp.org) and [Mengqi.Jie@wfp.org](mailto:Mengqi.Jie@wfp.org) (WFP China CoE).

E-commerce is considered a promising option to revitalize the rural economy, and create more job opportunities. It is also becoming an interesting opportunity in view of supply chain interruptions, and COVID-19 related restrictions.

The WFP China Centre of Excellence rolled out a series of webinars on the topic of **E-commerce for Rural**

## Webinar Series on Post-Harvest Loss Management

### Good Strategy for Food Security—Good Practice for Storage Management

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#### Module 3: Grain Trade, Food Market and Financial Supporting Strategies to Secure Food Security and Food Supply Chain against COVID-19



**Dr. Issa Sanogo**  
Moderator  
Director,  
Regional Centre of Excellence  
against Hunger and Malnutrition

Date and Time: Wednesday 19 August 2020,  
12:00 GMT

Interpretation in Chinese, English and French



**Ms. Luo Wenjuan**  
Speaker  
Deputy Director,  
National Grain Trade Center,  
National Food and Strategic  
Reserves Administration, the  
People's Republic of China



**Dr. Mohamed Abdellahi Ebbe**  
Speaker  
Director General,  
the Sahel Institute



**Dr. Damian Ihedioha**  
Speaker  
Acting Manager  
Agribusiness Division,  
African Development Bank,  
Abidjan



**Dr. Zhao Bing**  
Closing remarks  
Director,  
Food Systems and  
Smallholder Support,  
World Food Programme





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# WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

## WFP Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

### WFP in Côte d'Ivoire, Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire (BACI) and CERFAM partner on the fight against food insecurity and food waste



On August 21, 2020, WFP in Côte d'Ivoire, the Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to promote food security and reduce food waste in Côte d'Ivoire.

The MoU will **improve access to food** for vulnerable families while documenting and disseminating related lessons learned and good practices in the West and Central regions and beyond.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM, Mrs. Adeyinka BADEJO, Representative and Country Director of the WFP CO in Côte d'Ivoire and Mr. Kignaman Soro, President of the Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire.

As stated by Issa Sanogo, the formalization of the collaboration will allow the three partners, "resolutely engaged in the fight against food waste and hunger, to coordinate and harmonize their efforts and optimize the impacts of their interventions in favour of the most disadvantaged households and people."

This partnership will seek to **leverage ongoing investments** aimed at mitigating the negative socio-economic consequences on food security and nutrition resulting from the pandemic and contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to achieve SDG 2, "Zero Hunger", and the continental goals of the African Union.

The three entities have **agreed to develop joint action and monitoring plans** to guide the implementation of activities related to four areas of collaboration: (i) capacity building in logistics and management of warehouses and foodstuffs; (ii) promotion of school feeding in collaboration with smallholder farmers; (iii) early warning systems for food security and monitoring of food prices; (iv) generation of best practices and lessons learned for knowledge transfers.

The role of CERFAM will be, among others, to manage the **identification and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned** and to facilitate access and exchanges of knowledge and experience between the Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire and other countries with similar experiences in Africa.

For more information, please contact: [Issa.Sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:Issa.Sanogo@wfp.org) (Director of CERFAM) or [Christiani.Buani@wfp.org](mailto:Christiani.Buani@wfp.org) (CERFAM).





# What is Happening in the Regions?

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Digital South-South delivery models in Peru help to adapt to COVID-19

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, a South-South cooperation initiative between the **Governments of Peru and Colombia** was carried out which aimed to share information about Peru's School Feeding Programmes (SFP).

With the support of the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama, a virtual session was facilitated between the WFP Country Office in Colombia and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) of Peru to exchange experiences and best practices of the **National Qali Warma School Feeding Programme** in Peru.

The Qali Warma programme is considered a successful example of a national school feeding programme in the Latin American region (LAC), and one which may inspire other countries to prioritize and invest in school feeding as well.

WFP Colombia is now working to share knowledge of implementation plans and evaluations of school feeding policies and programs with **multiple additional**

**countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region**, including through the use of virtual South-South cooperation modalities.

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### Strengthening the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador's capacity to support smallholder farmers in Ecuador



In Ecuador, WFP continues to promote South-South knowledge exchange and technical assistance from **China to Ecuador**. The aim of the project is to strengthen central and local government capacities in support of gender-transformative public policies to increase productivity and access to markets for smallholder farmers.

One of the focus areas of the project is on **strengthening Ecuador's capacities** to apply integrated **rice-duck farming**, which is one of the main Chinese traditional agriculture practices.

This **rice growing technique** helps to increase rice productivity, improve paddy biodiversity and soil health, while diversifying rice crops, which result in enhanced food security for smallholder farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador

(MAG), jointly with the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP), are coordinating actions in the field, including demonstration plots and workshops, to provide first-hand insights and technical assistance for producers on how to apply the **Chinese rice-duck model** in their farms.

This South-South exchange is contributing to the **strengthening of national capacities**, improving **the quality of rice production, income generation** and **market alternatives for smallholders**.

In addition, the exchange will increase the **inclusion of protein in the diet of smallholder farmers and their families** in several provinces of the country.

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# What is Happening in the Regions?

## Africa

### In Kenya, WFP, FAO and county governments partner on knowledge sharing and technology development

The WFP Country Office in Kenya is promoting South-South cooperation between Kenya and the People's Republic of China, supported by WFP's Global SSTC Field Pilot Initiative with seed funding from MARA, China.

The collaboration aims to address challenges in **transforming the food system in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands** by leveraging China's expertise. It promotes the sharing of knowledge on food safety and storage, post-harvest management and technology development in that context.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the P.R. of China, and implemented in close collaboration with WFP CoE China, PRO-T, the WFP CO, FAO and host government.

Highlights of the project and first results include:

- ⇒ WFP Kenya partnered with FAO to **film five educational videos** on the reduction of post-harvest losses for the agricultural TV show "Shamba Shape Up" in Kenya.
- ⇒ Two videos have been **broadcast** and aim to reach an estimated **9 million viewers** in East Africa. The videos promote learning on food safety and quality, effective storage of cereals and pulses, post-harvest management practices and cost-efficient solutions to preserve e-fresh produce. The films feature experts from WFP, FAO, the University of Nairobi and private sector vendors of hermetic storage technologies.

- ⇒ Kenya's Etic **Women's milling group from Turkana County was connected to the electric grid** to access power for their roller mill.
- ⇒ **A learning event on milling and fortification will be organized** later in 2020. Experts from the China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA) will share expertise with local industries in the manufacturing of affordable milling equipment such as roller mills and mixers.
- ⇒ An **e-learning course** is currently under preparation by NAFRA experts, in close collaboration with WFP Kenya and WFP CoE China, to enhance the knowledge of smallholder farmers and county government officials on cost-efficient and innovative solutions for post-harvest management and food processing.

For more information, please contact [Olive.Wahome@wfp.org](mailto:Olive.Wahome@wfp.org) (WFP Kenya) or [Anna.Graziano@wfp.org](mailto:Anna.Graziano@wfp.org) (PRO-T, SSTC team).



### WFP's new COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund provides seed funding to realize eight pilot projects and South-South activities to mitigate COVID-19 in the field

In May, WFP PRO launched a small **COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund**, which facilitates the roll-out of **8 COVID-19 SSC pilot projects and activities in 5 regions**.

The fund was established thanks to seed funding from MARA, People's Republic of China, blended with WFP internal funding.

The focus of the projects, which address **COVID-related needs on the ground** is on strengthening country-led efforts in the areas of food systems, social protection, school feeding, emergency preparedness & response and nutrition.

The initial start-up volume of the fund was **250,000 USD**. Due to the high interest from WFP COs to tap into the fund, resource mobilization efforts are underway to replenish the fund.

Examples of some of the new projects:

- ⇒ In **Ethiopia**, WFP will be facilitating SSTC with a focus on mitigating adverse COVID-19 nutrition effects on the refugee population and school-age children by testing the feasibility of an innovative fortified noodles' value chain model in partner-

ship with China;

- ⇒ In **Jordan**, WFP will roll out a pilot initiative to strengthen capacities of the Jordanian National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) to develop a risk monitoring platform in view of COVID-19;
- ⇒ In **Zimbabwe**, WFP will broker SSTC to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in local markets by enhancing smallholder farmers access through online marketing platforms and training with support from China.

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# What is Happening in the Regions?

## Asia

### How WFP's SSTC Field Pilot Projects, supported by MARA, China, have adapted to changing conditions on the ground in view COVID-19



In view of COVID-19, WFP China CoE has collaborated with COs in Ecuador, Kenya, the Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka and Peru to **adapt the SSTC Field Pilot Projects to COVID-19 impacts**.

This includes exploring the sharing of **digital solutions** and **innovative delivery modalities** through WFP-brokered SSTC. For example, webinars and video lessons have proved useful to overcome travel restrictions and other COVID-related measures.

As an example, **in Sri Lanka** the CO is collaborating with WFP China CoE and the Jiangsu Academy of Agriculture

Sciences (JAAS) in China to design an online training programme in **5 modules** on rice and maize post-harvest management practices for local government officials and representatives of smallholder farmers association of two districts.

The course will include a combination of **pre-recorded video lectures** delivered by JAAS professors tailored to the context-specific challenges and needs of smallholder farming in Sri Lanka with live Q&A sessions after each course module.

**In Kenya**, a key deliverable includes the videos which have been filmed in collaboration with **FAO** and local research institutions for knowledge sharing on post-harvest loss management and leveraging technology to reach the most vulnerable.

In the face of the pandemic, all of the SSTC field pilot projects have **continued to create value for vulnerable populations** in the field and are continuously striving for innovative solutions to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on **smallholder farmers and food systems**.

To learn more, please contact:

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