



Photo: WFP/Giulio d'Adamo

## South-South Quarterly Newsletter

### May 2019

*“South-South cooperation has evolved significantly over the last decades – but multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, have not kept up.*

*South-South cooperation is a global exercise of all countries of the South to benefit everyone, including the Least Developed Countries. Every country, every partner has something to share or teach, whatever their circumstances.”*

[António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General]

# What's happening in Rome?

## Key messages from the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation



On 20-22 March 2019, more than 4000 delegates from 160 countries and 15 UN Agencies (including WFP) came together in Argentina for the [Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation](#). Over three days, priority areas for South-South cooperation as means for implementing the SDGs, and the role of the UN were discussed in Buenos Aires.

The conference marked forty years since the adoption of the [1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries](#) (in short "BAPA+40" Conference). Since then, South-South cooperation has become a major part of international development efforts. Assistance between developing countries has **grown to over USD 26 billion** (figure: UN DESA).



The UN Secretary-General opened the conference with a [speech](#) that called for more investment in South-South cooperation. He urged to address the rising inequality within developing countries, and mobilize collective action against climate change.

WFP co-organized five side events, together with FAO, IFAD, Argentina and China. The events highlighted the need for resilience building, the role of farmer-to-farmer cooperation, and for monitoring and evaluating South-South exchanges.

Key messages from the UN Secretary-General and the G77+China include: **1)** UN agencies should incorporate **South-South cooperation as a priority** within all their work and organizational structures; **2)** need to ensure that the rapid expansion of South-South cooperation does not lead to inequality among developing countries; and; **3)** need to embrace the **private sector as a partner** for South-South cooperation. At the end of the conference, member states adopted the [BAPA+40 outcome document](#).

Follow-up activities for WFP include:

- Organizing regional follow-up dialogues on South-South opportunities in resilience building with governments and WFP Country Offices.
- Strengthening the partnership with Argentina and China in the area of resilience building.
- Providing Country Offices with access to an effective knowledge sharing platform that allows them to match country demands with Southern solutions.
- Strengthening internal capacities for brokering SSTC and institutionalizing WFP's global support function as "helpdesk" to WFP RBx and COs in this area.

For further information, you can contact [carola.kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:carola.kenngott@wfp.org), South-South cooperation team WFP Policy and Programme Division.

## Argentina, WFP and FAO call for more investment of Southern and triangular partners in resilience building

WFP, together with the Government of Argentina and FAO, co-organized a side event at the "BAPA+40" Conference on South-South cooperation in the context of resilience building.

The event was opened by Miguel Barreto, WFP Regional Director (RBP), and H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Daneri, President of Argentina's White Helmets Initiative.

Representatives from the **Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Bolivia** shared their challenges in view of recurrent natural disasters. They called for more technical assistance in resilience building from Southern and triangular partners.

**Argentina** showcased its experience as a provider of

South-South humanitarian cooperation through its ["White Helmet's Initiative"](#).

**WFP, FAO and IFAD** contributed to the discussion with concrete examples from their work. WFP's efforts to facilitate a regional peer learning initiative with Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic for disaster risk reduction, is just one out of various examples that were discussed.

The call for more investment in South-South cooperation for resilience building was strong. At the end of the conference, resilience building was taken up as a priority area in the [BAPA+40 outcome document](#). The outcome document which will guide the efforts of UN agencies, donors and developing countries for the next years to come.



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# WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

## WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil

### Togo assesses its community-based school feeding model with support from the WFP CoE in Brazil

In March 2019, the WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil assisted Togo in the assessment of its school feeding programme. The objective of the assessment was to review Togo's community-based approach to school feeding and to explore the option of expanding the programme to more schools.

The mission team visited a school in Blitta, a rural area of Togo. At this school, the students receive hot meals three times a week. The menu considers local food habits and locally available crops. The meals are prepared by ten mothers that take turns to cook for the children. The families, which are mainly smallholder farmers, donate part of their production to the school for the school feeding programme.

The assessment concluded that consultation and engagement of local communities contribute to the programme's success. The programme works through existing structures (e.g. parents' committees) to deliver meals to the children. This way, parents can contrib-

ute to the school meals by providing their local produce, instead of cash. At the same time, local value chains are strengthened.

For more information on this South-South initiative [click here](#) or contact [bruno.magalhaes@wfp.org](mailto:bruno.magalhaes@wfp.org) at the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil.



### The "Beyond Cotton" Initiative: Project planning in Benin, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania



In February 2019, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil went on a mission to support Kenya and Tanzania on the set-up of a new initiative called "Beyond Cotton".

This initiative aims to generate income for smallholder farmers and increase food and nutrition security in rural areas. By connecting **smallholder cotton producers with public institutions**, they can receive better access to reliable markets for their cotton by-products (e.g.: oil and cake) and associated crops (e.g. corn, sorghum and

beans). Those markets include school feeding programmes.

Four countries recently completed the planning phase for their participation in the initiative: **Benin, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania**. In Kenya and Tanzania, a team of experts presented the initiative's strategy and validated it with local stakeholders. Benin and Mozambique underwent a similar process in December 2018. As a next step, the "Beyond Cotton" team will guide the implementation of the initiative, led by each country's priorities. For more information [click here](#).



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# What is happening in the regions?

## WFP Centres of Excellence

### Opening of the Abidjan Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition

On March 24, WFP and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire launched a partnership to establish a **WFP Centre of Excellence in Côte d'Ivoire**.

As the first initiative of this kind on the African Continent, the Abidjan Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) will help to consolidate and share good practices in fighting hunger and malnutrition from Cote d'Ivoire and other countries in the region.

The centre will promote exchanges of knowledge and experiences; provide technical assistance and facilitate experts deployment; and support the implementation of programmes to tackle hunger and malnutrition.

Key areas of work for the centre include **smallholder farming, post-harvest management, nutrition interventions, resilience building and social protection**.

For more information about the centre, please contact [issa.sanogo@wfp.org](mailto:issa.sanogo@wfp.org) and [christiani.buani@wfp.org](mailto:christiani.buani@wfp.org), Abidjan Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition, WFP.



Photo: WFP/Boris Bah Denimond

### African Day of School Feeding: durable solutions for people affected by forced displacements in Africa



Photo: WFP/Giulio d'Adamo

On March 1, African leaders celebrated the Fourth African Day of School Feeding in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

This year, the theme was "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa".

On this occasion, countries renewed their commitment to **advance home-grown school feeding** in Africa. The [Communiqué](#) from the event emphasized the crucial role of home-grown school feeding to empower communities and ensure that all children, especially girls, can get access to education.

The communiqué also recognized the contribution of home-grown school feeding to equip countries to improve food security and nutrition in the context of the **humanitarian-peace-development nexus**.

For more information about this event [click here](#).



Photo: WFP/Bruno Magalhães



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# WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

## WFP China Centre of Excellence

Celebrating the strong partnership between WFP and China for zero hunger at the "BAPA+40" Conference in Buenos Aires



On March 22, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China held a side event at the "BAPA+40" Conference in Argentina. The event highlighted the value of the **strategic partnership** between China and WFP, which found expression in the establishment of the **WFP China Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in 2016.

The event showcased China's support and contribution to South-South cooperation in the area of **rural resilience for smallholder farmers and WFP's work** to fostering smallholder **farmers' leadership** through South-South initiatives.

The event brought together stakeholders from Chinese **government** institutions (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Ministry of Commerce of China), **international organizations** (WFP, UN ESCAP, and the World Bank) and the **private sector** (Alibaba Group).

Concrete examples from **Bolivia, Peru and Zimbabwe** showcased the range of opportunities to support poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers in the field through **WFP-China facilitated South-South initiatives**.

Key messages from this discussion include:

- 1) **Helping smallholder farmers to strengthen their resilience** is at the core of addressing hunger and malnutrition. Facilitating South-South cooperation in this area deserves more attention.
- 2) South-South cooperation can help to **address the root causes of vulnerability** and increase the knowledge and capacities of farmers.
- 3) **China's experience in empowering smallholder farmers, promoting post-harvest loss management and rural transformation** is relevant for a wide range of countries. Bolivia, Peru and Zimbabwe are examples of those. WFP can help them to adapt China's expertise to their individual country context.
- 4) WFP China's upcoming "**Demonstrations in Africa/Asia/Latin America by Africans/Asians/Latin Americans**" Programme is an example of a concrete programme that facilitates the sharing of China's expertise with other developing countries.
- 5) There is a need to adopt a **multi-sectorial approach** and to include **more stakeholders in South-South initiatives**. These can include the Rome-based Agencies, financial institutions, and private partners.

For more information on this side event, please contact [yan.jia@wfp.org](mailto:yan.jia@wfp.org) at the WFP China Office.



# What is happening in the regions?

## South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

### El Salvador and Peru work together on social protection

In 2018, WFP, the Governments of El Salvador and Peru adopted a **work plan to foster peer learning in social protection**. El Salvador wanted to learn from the Peruvian experience in **implementing social protection programmes**. The exchange aimed at **strengthening the social protection system in El Salvador**.

This initiative started with **videoconferences** between the two countries supported by the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama. Following that, an inter-institutional delegation from El Salvador went on a mission to Peru.

The field mission included **policy dialogues** with national authorities from the Ministry of Development and Social Protection (MIDIS) and **meetings with representatives of social programmes** at the regional level. It also included a **field visit** to Piura— a coastal region in north-western Peru—for participants to see the implementation of social programmes on the ground.

The delegation learned about key components of social protection programmes including community engagement. During this mission, a network has been established between the two countries to continue the learning exchanges. A second phase for this initiative is planned for this year.



Photo: WFP/Carol Montenegro

### South-South networks for the response to “El Niño” in the Dry Corridor of Central America



Photo: WFP/Deyra Caballero

From 2016 to 2018, WFP supported over 32,200 vulnerable people affected by the El Niño in the Dry Corridor

of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. WFP facilitated a peer learning project that strengthened people’s livelihoods in those countries through **assets creation and income generating activities for smallholders**.

This project, known as **“PROACT”**, established a platform for **exchanges of knowledge and experiences** among communities, municipalities and central governments. For example, it helped to set up a social network at the municipal level for information exchange, mutual support, and problem solving. This project was funded by the European Union. For more information, contact [maria.pino@wfp.org](mailto:maria.pino@wfp.org) in RBP.

### Platform for exchanges in early warning and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean region

In the Caribbean, **Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and the Caribbean Disaster Management Administration** were brought together to share their experiences in early warning systems and disaster risk reduction. A regional exchange took place from March 26 and 27 in Santo Domingo which was funded by Germany, as part of WFP’s **Forecast-based Financing** (FbF) initiative.

A set of **principles and actions for resilience building** were adopted for the coming 12 months. They are highlighted in the **“The Santo Domingo Consensus”**.

For further information, contact [william.vigil@wfp.org](mailto:william.vigil@wfp.org), WFP Country Director, Dominican Republic.



Photo: WFP/Karolyn Ureña



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# What is happening in the regions?

## South-South Cooperation in Asia

### Lessons from India and Sri Lanka: Setting standards for food fortification



WFP has been supporting the Sri Lankan government to implement a **national roadmap on rice fortification** over the past few years. Efforts have included a **landscape analysis** of the rice market, an **acceptability trial** for fortified rice (run by WFP and the University of Peradeniya), and a strategic **work plan for national food fortification**. A learning mission to India was conducted in September 2017.

In August 2018, a government memorandum was

submitted to the Sri Lankan Cabinet of Ministers. It aimed at approving the use of **fortified rice in national social safety net programmes** (i.e.: school meal programmes). It also aimed at establishing **standards for commercially available fortified rice**.

The Ministry of Health has been asked to establish **standards in food fortification, as well as a regulatory mechanism to protect consumers**.

To support the Government of Sri Lanka, WFP facilitated a **visit of a Sri Lankan technical team to India** in February 2019. The delegation learned about India's standards in food fortification, and its regulatory mechanism at the policy and ground levels. The delegation also had the opportunity to **visit a fortified kernel production factory** to observe operations on the ground.

The visit was highly appreciated by Sri Lanka. It has enabled the country to move forward on the process of implementing rice fortification.

For more information about this exchange contact [saman.kalupahana@wfp.org](mailto:saman.kalupahana@wfp.org) at the WFP Country Office in Sri Lanka.

### Progress in 2018: South-South cooperation is on the rise in WFP, with 73% of WFP COs being engaged

WFP has rapidly increased its engagement in South-South cooperation in recent years.



In 2018, **73% of WFP Country Offices** reported engagement in South-South cooperation. and **94% of WFP Country Strategic Plans** featured South-South cooperation as a means for programme implementation.

WFP has published its achievements in this area in a [2018 South-South Cooperation Progress Report](#). The report showcases practical examples of **South-South**

**initiatives** pursued by WFP Centres of Excellence, Regional Bureaux, Country Offices and HQ technical divisions. It provides an overview of SSC initiatives across the areas of **empowerment of smallholder farmers, nutrition, social protection and safety nets, resilience building, and emergency preparedness**.

Beyond that, a new 2018 [annual report](#) from the **WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil** highlights the ongoing efforts of the Centre to provide **technical assistance to 30 countries in school feeding**. It showcases innovative initiatives to strengthen the resilience of



**Coming up:** Snapshots from WFP's new SSC seed funding initiative with pilot projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America: New steps in the partnership with China and the Rome-Based Agencies on South-South collaboration!

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