

SECTION 6. SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION MONITORING

6.1 Monitoring, reporting and evaluation at country-level

At the global level, UNOSSC, through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, oversees the implementation of the UN system-wide strategy. At the country level, in line with the management and accountability framework,¹²⁴ **oversight of the implementation of the M&E framework for South-South and triangular cooperation is undertaken by the UNCT under Resident Coordinator leadership.** Monitoring and reporting fall under normal UNSDCF reporting channels to avoid duplication of effort and oversight responsibilities.

UNCTs are encouraged to refer to the **M&E framework for the UN system-wide strategy** as they develop South-South and triangular cooperation results at the country level. The M&E framework and action plan of the Strategy includes five main outcomes and related country-level outputs. The UNCT can use these country-level South-South and triangular cooperation outputs as they appear in the UN system-wide strategy or they can adjust them to better fit the country context. Likewise, **UN entities may contextualize these South-South and triangular cooperation country-level outputs** for their individual country-programme results frameworks.

The five South-South and triangular cooperation expected outcomes of the action plan include a set of **specific deliverables, indicative activities and recommended indicators.** The action plan allows for the collection and analysis of relevant information that will inform the monitoring and reporting by each UN development system entity on South-South and triangular cooperation-related work in the UNSDCF.

Implementation of the action plan at the country level is governed by each UN entity individually based on its mandate(s) and programme of work.

At the country level, as stated earlier, the M&E framework may be part of the **UNSDCF review process,** and reporting will complement ongoing UNSDCF and inter-agency reporting work¹²⁵ and be aligned, as appropriate, with existing M&E frameworks of the entities of the UN development system. **Country-level results of South-South and triangular cooperation will be reported through these same mechanisms to avoid duplication and additional work.**

The following **country-level indicators** from the action plan for implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development¹²⁶ offer UNCTs a barometer for determining the kinds of targets that support of the UN development system to South-South and triangular cooperation aim to meet within the

¹²⁴ Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System, UNSDG, September 2021 <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/MAF%20-%20Final%20-%2015%20September%202021.pdf> UN, Sustainable Development Group, Management and accountability framework of the UN development and resident coordinator system, September 2021. Available at <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/MAF%20-%20Final%20-%2015%20September%202021.pdf>.

¹²⁵ This includes: (a) UNCT results reports; (b) UNSDCF reports; (c) quadrennial comprehensive policy review reports by DESA; (d) resident coordinator reports; and (e) integrated management system reports by DCO.

¹²⁶ <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/United-Nations-system-wide-strategy-on-South-South-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-2020%E2%80%932024.pdf>.

UNSDCF context. These indicators, together with the set of deliverables and indicative activities, are aligned with the five outcomes of the UN system-wide strategy. Progress against these indicators is tracked globally. They can guide recommended actions at the country level to ensure implementation of the Strategy. They can also facilitate the collection and analysis of information and data to inform monitoring and reporting by the UNCT and UN entities at the country level. UNCTs and UN entities can modify these output-level indicators as necessary to fit the country context in line with the UNSDCF results that use South-South cooperation and/or triangular cooperation as the most suitable modality. These indicators will help UNCTs with their UNSDCF reporting responsibilities.

UNOSSC, in close collaboration with UN entities, DCO and DESA, has ensured that existing data collection systems and tools of UN entities are used to monitor the progress of the implementation of the UN system-wide strategy and its action plan. The relevant indicators, which require country-level data, were integrated into the quadrennial review surveys. UNOSSC also launched the **South-South and triangular cooperation survey** to receive inputs of UN entities (through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation) for the Secretary-General's annual report on the state of South-South cooperation and implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy.

A **mid-term review and a final independent evaluation** will be conducted to assess the implementation of the UN system-wide strategy and action plan at the global, regional and country levels. It is expected that the evidence-based monitoring and evaluation will help the Member States and UN entities to make informed decisions to advance the implementation of the strategy and action plan and better leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving SDGs.

- **The full set of deliverables, indicative activities and recommended indicators from the action plan for implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation is available in annex III.**

Data are gathered for 16 indicators that have been identified as “prioritized” indicators by the Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the global level to keep the process pragmatic, practical and manageable for UN entities, as available in

- **annex IV.**

Detailed responsibilities for data collection and reporting for each recommended indicator, building on existing systems, are also included in

- **annex III.**

Table 5: Indicators from the action plan for the UN system-wide strategy South-South and triangular cooperation and recommended action at country level	
UN System-wide strategy South-South and triangular cooperation output-level indicators ¹²⁷	Recommended South-South and triangular cooperation-related initiatives and actions to implement UN system-wide strategy at the country level
<i>Outcome 1 – Output-level indicators</i>	Recommended actions
Number of newly developed CCAs, UNSDCFs and appropriate country programmes that follow the system-wide guidance on South-South cooperation and/or include South-South and triangular cooperation-related indicators/activities. Prioritized ¹²⁸	During formulation of newly developed CCA, UNSDCF and appropriate country programmes, RCs/ UNCTs to consider use of the system-wide guidance on South-South cooperation and inclusion of South-South and triangular cooperation-related indicators/activities, where relevant.
Number of UNCTs with an inter-agency working/thematic group on South-South and triangular cooperation. Prioritized	RC/ UNCT could consider setting up an inter-agency working/thematic group on South-South and triangular cooperation.
Number of UNCTs trained and number of countries in which an analysis of South-South cooperation gaps and assets was performed.	UNOSSC to offer training package to UNCT on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation modalities into the CCA and the UNSDCF. UNOSSC to support UNCT, if requested, to perform an analysis of South-South cooperation gaps and assets.

¹²⁷ Outcome 4 of the action plan is not included here because it deals with global and regional South-South and triangular cooperation deliverables, activities and indicators

¹²⁸ These are among the 16 prioritized indicators from the UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. Progress against these indicators is tracked globally through the QCPR Surveys (to Government, UN and RCs) and a UNOSSC Survey.

Number of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives/programmes developed jointly by UNCTs or a specific agency in response to Member States requests; of those, number of joint programmes related to the COVID-19 crisis	UNCT could consider developing joint South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and programmes in response to the Government's request, or a specific agency may develop such initiatives.
Number of UNCTs reporting on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and results, in annual UNCT reports, where applicable.	UNCT could consider reporting on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and results, including through the UNCT results report.
Prioritized	
<i>Outcome 2 – Output-level indicators</i>	Recommended actions
Number of Member States and national institutions receiving capacity development support in the context of developing national development strategies and relevant action plans.	UNCT may consider providing capacity development support to Government and national institutions in the context of developing national development strategies and relevant action plans.
Prioritized	
Number of countries in which relevant institutions/entities were supported.	UNCT may provide support to relevant country-level institutions and entities.
<i>–Outcome 3 - Output-level indicators</i>	Recommended actions
Number of knowledge-exchange platforms promoted and used by UNCTs.	UNCT may consider promoting and/or using knowledge-exchange platforms.

<p>Number of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation good practices identified, documented and published by UNCTs, including those submitted to South-South Galaxy.</p> <p>Prioritized</p>	<p>UNCT may consider identification, documentation and publishing of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation good practices, including through submission to South-South Galaxy.</p>
<p>–Outcome 5 - Output-level indicators</p>	
<p>Number of new South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation partnerships established at the country level, number of countries concerned, and volume of financial and non-financial resources mobilized.</p>	<p>UNCT may consider establishing new South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation partnerships at the country level.</p> <p>UNCT may consider mobilising financial and non-financial resources.</p>
<p>Number of national funding mechanisms established (including through innovative instruments/new partners) related to the COVID-19 crisis) and the volume of resources mobilized.</p>	<p>UNCT may consider establishing national funding mechanisms (including through innovative instruments/new partners) related to the COVID-19 crisis).</p>

<p>Joint annual performance review undertaken</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Updating data in UN-Info at year end. ➤ Completing annual performance review. ➤ Forging new messaging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate South-South and triangular cooperation progress on results, challenges, opportunities, and key South-South and triangular cooperation
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stakeholders and learning into the annual performance review.

UN country results report prepared ➤ Focusing on a high-quality country results report that captures the full footprint of UN development results in support of the 2030 Agenda.

☐ Integrate progress on South-South and triangular cooperation results, challenges, opportunities and learning into the annual UN country results report.

6.1.1 Final country-level evaluations of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives

The UN system-wide strategy recommends that, wherever possible and according to available resources, the UNCT may conduct final evaluations of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives under the strategy to assess key results as part of the UNSDCF M&E process. Doing so will help to create a shared, open repository that can be used for secondary analysis across countries and complement research in different thematic areas taken forward by Southern and Northern research institutions and think tanks.

How to approach country-level evaluations of South-South and triangular cooperation

As in other parts of the CCA and UNSDCF processes, the UNCT may follow the 2019 UNSDCF internal guidance on how to undertake and organize M&E activities for tracking and reporting on the results of common country programming when seeking to undertake a country-level evaluation of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes. In addition, the following publications offer more specific examples of and approaches to M&E with a South-South and triangular cooperation focus. South-South Galaxy and South-South Global Thinkers knowledge hubs (discussed in section 3) are online spaces in which to further explore South-South and triangular cooperation evaluations.

Box 21. Methodologies and approaches for evaluating South-South and triangular cooperation			
“Monitoring and evaluation	<i>Evaluating South-South Cooperation in</i>	“Filling the knowledge gap in	“Developing an evaluation framework

<p>mechanisms for South-South and triangular development cooperation: Lessons from Brazil for the 2030 Agenda”¹²⁹</p> <p>Reviews M&E practices from different institutions involved in South-South and triangular cooperation in Brazil, with lessons, opportunities and challenges.</p>	<p><i>Six Latin American and Caribbean Countries: Shared Challenges for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i>¹³⁰</p> <p>Offers methodologies for measuring and evaluating South-South cooperation that build on experiences and take into account the specificities and different forms of South-South cooperation.</p>	<p>South-South cooperation: An evaluation framework and its application in China-Tanzania cooperation”¹³¹</p> <p>Offers an evaluation approach, methods and M&E framework for South-South cooperation.</p>	<p>for South-South cooperation”¹³²</p> <p>This presentation offers an overview of the South-South cooperation evaluation process and the questions that evaluators should ask at the outset of the evaluation.</p>
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6.2 Monitoring and reporting at regional level

How will regional South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives be monitored?

¹²⁹ UNDP, “Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms...”, October 2016. Available at <https://www.undp.org/publications/monitoring-and-evaluation-mechanisms-south-south-cooperation>.

¹³⁰ ECLAC, *Evaluating South-South Cooperation...*, November 2021. Available at <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47446-evaluating-south-south-cooperation-six-latin-american-and-caribbean-countries>.

¹³¹ China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSA)/College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD), China Agricultural University, “Filling the knowledge gap...”, CISSA/COHD Research Report, No. 2, September, 2018. Available at <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2018/09/14/filling-the-knowledge-gap-in-south-south-cooperation-an-evaluation-framework-and-its-application-in-china-tanzania-cooperation-2018>.

¹³² Lu, Jixia, “Developing an evaluation framework...”, China Agricultural University, China International Development Research Network, 2018. Available at https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/1-3_Lu_rev.pdf.

The *action plan for implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation* includes a **list of recommended indicators** that offer regional UN entities a **barometer for determining the kinds of targets that UN** support through South-South and triangular cooperation should aim to meet at the regional level. These indicators, together with the set of deliverables and indicative activities, are aligned with the five outcomes of the *system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation*. They can facilitate the collection and analysis of information and data to inform monitoring and reporting by the DCO regional offices and UN entities at the regional level. These indicators may be modified as necessary to fit the regional context. The full set of deliverables, indicative activities and recommended indicators from the *action plan for implementation of the UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation* is presented in annex I, while key indicators are presented in Annex III.

The joint RCP secretariats will be a key interlocutor for discussions on how the monitoring of the implementation of the South-South and triangular cooperation strategy could be incorporated into existing RCP planning and reporting processes. In line with the UN System-Wide Strategy, the RCPs will coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the strategy in collaboration with South-South and triangular cooperation focal points in the wider United Nations system at the regional level. UNOSSC regional Offices will support these efforts in line with the framework of the Action Plan and the corresponding monitoring and evaluation framework.

How will regional South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives be reported on by the UN system?

UNOSSC, through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, is responsible for consolidating inputs and documenting and reporting on progress in the contribution of the UN to delivering on the 2030 Agenda through South-South and triangular cooperation. At the regional level, and to avoid the creation of additional mechanisms, reporting on the progress in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation will be undertaken within already-existing reporting mechanisms, such as the preparation of the annual regional *Results Report of the UN System*. It is now expected that future reports will focus more **on presenting the results of** South-South and triangular cooperation **initiatives jointly facilitated by the UN system at the regional level**, in line with the provisions of the [United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development](#) endorsed by the Secretary-General's Executive Committee.

The results of regional South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives can also be shared through existing UN knowledge exchange platforms.