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UNFPA CORPORATE STRATEGY



# SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION



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**UNFPA South-South and Triangular Cooperation**  
**March 2017**

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# SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION



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# 1. OBJECTIVES, SOURCES AND PRINCIPLES

## 1.1. Objectives of the document

- To principles, concepts and definitions of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) for UNFPA.
- To present evidence-based opportunities in the fulfillment of the ICPD Beyond 2014 that can be addressed through the implementation of SSTC.
- To provide a strategic approach and operational basis for scaling-up UNFPA corporate engagement and global initiatives in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

## 1.2. Sources

UNFPA proposed corporate response builds on UN documents on South-South and Triangular Cooperation; the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,<sup>1</sup> the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>2</sup> GA Resolutions,<sup>3</sup> Reports and Decisions of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation,<sup>4</sup> Reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South Cooperation,<sup>5</sup> JIU Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation,<sup>6</sup> specific provisions of the ICPD PoA, the ICPD Review<sup>7</sup> and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>8</sup> It also considers UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017, previous UNFPA work on SSTC and data from various sources on the status of implementation of the ICPD.

## 1.3. Principles and definitions of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- SSTC in operational terms takes into consideration country specific contexts and needs. In operationalizing SSTC the approach should be implemented in accordance with national priorities, aspirations and specificities and UNFPA's scope in particular regions and countries.
- SSTC is a demand-driven, reciprocal and ownership-oriented model for designing and implementing collaborative initiatives among developing countries.
- SSTC fosters cooperation between national institutions, mainly governmental, but also broad-alliances involving non-governmental institutions with potential comparative advantages in the Global South.

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<sup>1</sup> [Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing \(TCDC\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on SSC](#) endorsed by GA resolution 64/222

<sup>3</sup> [Resolutions of the General Assembly](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Reports and Decisions of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South Cooperation](#)

<sup>6</sup> [JIU Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#)

<sup>7</sup> [International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

- SSTC is a field-based strategy based on the premise that (i) some countries have similar environments, face common problems and seek to achieve common goals, and (ii) countries that are further advanced in their demographic transition and development have important experiences to share with other developing countries in the formulation of policies, programmes and projects to provide support and accelerate development.
- SSTC is cost-effective in terms of its high-quality methodology and its adaptability of successful experiences to other similar realities.

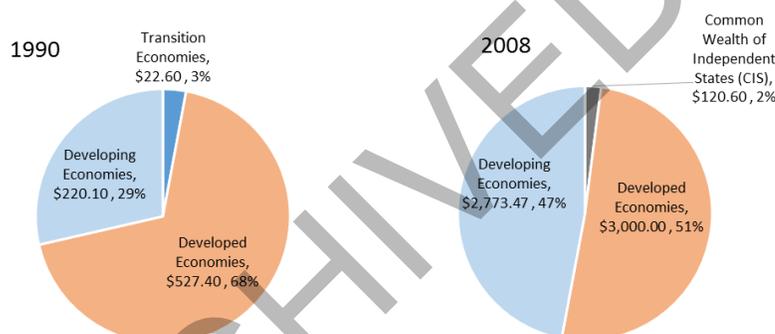


## 2. BACKGROUND

The Global South has experienced increasing economic growth in the last decade resulting in significant advances in development. From 2000 to 2014, GDP grew in East Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean on average of 8.55, 4.65, and 3.12 percent, respectively. Poverty decreased by 66 percent in Eastern and Central Asia, by 75 percent in East Asia and the Pacific, and by 25 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>9</sup> Gains were also seen in education; primary education enrollment increased by 75 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, 24 percent in South and West Asia and 22 percent in the Arab States from 2000 to 2015.<sup>10</sup>

Moreover, countries of the Global South have become key players in global trade with the rapid and consistent growth of exports from developing countries compared to those from developed countries, as did the share of developing countries' exports in the value of total world exports. South-South trade has also seen a marked increase, with the share of developed economies' exports to developing countries increasing from 29 percent in 1990 to 47 percent in 2008.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 1: Exports of Developing Economies by Destination: 1990 and 2008 (billion dollars and percentage)**



Source: WTO Secretariat estimates, 2009

The increase in south-south trade shows that businesses among developing countries are increasing, as well as agreements, connections among institutions, and the sharing of knowledge and capital. However, despite economic growth and achievements in development, not all countries from the Global South have experienced equal gains in areas related to the ICPD agenda. Disparities exist not only across regions, but also within countries. This rapid expansion of economic relations and trade among the Global South countries motivates them to address common challenges and share potential solutions.

In this context, there is an opportunity for using the already-established southern networks to address the institutional and capacity gaps among countries related to the unfinished ICPD agenda. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) can be used to tackle the most critical global disparities among developing countries.

<sup>9</sup> [World Development Indicators. The World Bank](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Education for all 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges](#). UNESCO, 2015, p.18.

<sup>11</sup> [Millennium Development Goals: Trade and Development](#). WTO, 2015.

**Maternal health:** Recent data on maternal mortality shows that developing countries account for 99 percent of all maternal deaths. The highest levels are seen in Sub-Saharan Africa, where some countries experienced 550-999 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010. In contrast, the rate in countries in South America, Central Asia and Northern Africa was 20-99 deaths per 1,000 live births for the same year.<sup>12</sup> Gaps in maternal health among developing countries further exist in fertility rates. Rates of 3.5 children per woman are now confined to 49 poor countries, mostly in Africa and South Asia.<sup>13</sup> In contrast, some low and middle-income countries are experiencing declines in fertility rates, including Brazil, Vietnam, Iran and Thailand with a below replacement fertility in 2005-2010.<sup>14</sup>

**Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM):** The problem affects the lives of approximately 125 million women and girls worldwide. It is practiced widely in more than 29 countries, predominantly in Africa and in some Arab States.<sup>15</sup> However, rates vary across regions and countries from as high as 91 percent in Egypt to 8 percent in Iraq and 1 percent in Cameroon (Figure 2).



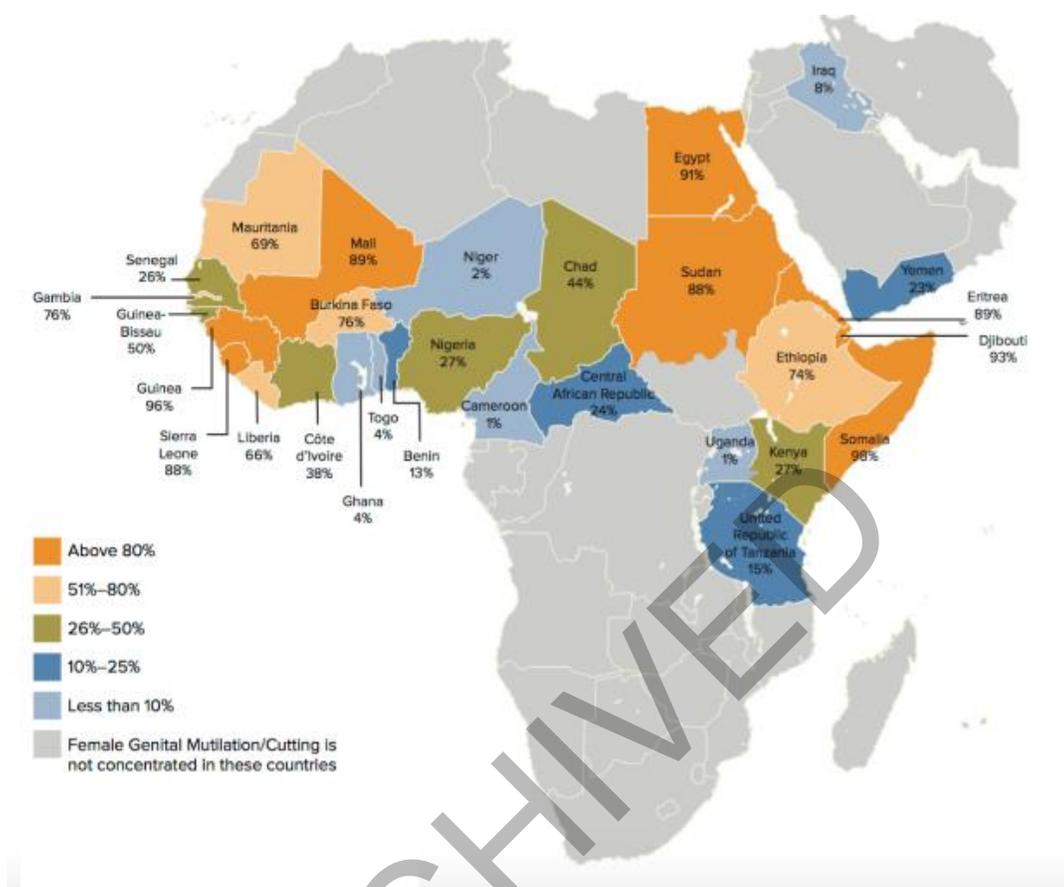
<sup>12</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 104.

<sup>13</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 2

<sup>14</sup> [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/Files/WPP2012\\_HIGHLIGHTS.pdf](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/Files/WPP2012_HIGHLIGHTS.pdf), 2013, p. xix

<sup>15</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#) A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 32

**Figure 2: Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting by country.**



Source: [Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014](#).

**Adolescent Mortality (all causes):** Mortality in young adolescents has varied from a high of around 22 percent in Southeast Asia and Africa to a low of 13 percent in Eastern Europe in 2004. Low-income and middle-income countries in the western Pacific region had the lowest regional mortality and an overall pattern similar to that of high-income countries.<sup>16</sup>

**Use of contraceptives:** The highest proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (PDS) in the Global South is in Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean, both with a PDS of 87 percent. In contrast, the lowest PDS is in West and Central Africa, with a PDS of 42 percent.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> G.C. Patton and others, “Global patterns of mortality in young people: a systematic analysis of population health data”, *The Lancet*, vol. 374, No 9693 (12 September 2009), p. 885

<sup>17</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 89

**Figure 3: Trends in percentage of total demand for family planning satisfied (PDS) among women aged 15-49, married or in a union, by region, 2015**

REGION	PDS AMONG WOMEN AGED 15-49, MARRIED OR IN A UNION (PERCENTAGE)				INCREASE IN PDS (PERCENTAGE)			ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE IN PDS (PERCENTAGE)		
	1990	2000	2010	2015	1990-2015	1990-2000	2000-2015	1990-2015	1990-2000	2000-2015
Asia and the Pacific	80.0	85.4	86.9	87.4	9.3	6.8	2.4	0.4	0.7	0.2
Arab States	57.8	70.4	74.6	75.6	30.9	21.9	7.4	1.1	2.0	0.5
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	80.5	83.7	85.4	85.8	6.7	4	2.6	0.3	0.4	0.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	78.0	84.5	87.3	87.2	11.8	8.4	3.1	0.4	0.8	0.2
East and Southern Africa	35.3	45.8	56.3	62.0	75.9	30	35.3	2.3	2.6	2.0
West and Central Africa	26.0	36.4	39.0	42.0	61.5	40	15.4	1.9	3.4	1.0
<b>World</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Source: [Universal Access to Reproductive Health: Progress and Challenges](#). UNFPA, 2015

**Child marriage:** Estimated rates for the period 2000-2011 for women 20-24 years old who were married or in union by age 18 were 46 percent in South Asia, 41 percent in West and Central Africa, and only 11 percent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (figure 4).

**Figure 4: Percentage of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union by age 18, by region, 2000-2010**



Source: [Marrying too Young: End Child Marriage](#). UNFPA, 2012

Other ICPD challenges that could also be addressed through SSTC include:

- **Rapid urbanization:** Between 1990 and 2010, 90 percent of urban population growth occurred in developing countries, where the urban-dwelling population increased from 35 percent to 46 percent. During this period, the size of the urban population in the least developed countries more than doubled, from 107 million to 234 million.<sup>18</sup>
- **Health:** The imbalance in the distribution of health workers across countries affects those with greatest needs. Among the 49 countries with the lowest *per capita* income, only 5 meet the minimum WHO threshold of 23 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population.<sup>19</sup> More than 275,000 women die of cervical cancer each year, the great majority (242,000) in developing regions, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>20</sup>
- **CRVs (Civil Registration and Vital Statistics):** Currently, of 193 UN Member States, only 109 (56 percent) have complete coverage of birth registration and 99 (51 percent) have complete coverage of death registration.<sup>21</sup> There are several countries that are more advanced in the establishment of vital civil registration systems than others, which create opportunities for SSTC.
- **Realizing the demographic dividend:** Given that today most developed and advanced developing countries will see the window of opportunity to realize a demographic dividend close within the next few years, while a considerable number of less developed countries will have this window open or remain open for the next few years, there are many opportunities for SSTC. Considering the different stages in the demographic transition, there is a great scope for countries that are more advanced to share their experiences with the countries that are less advanced and to help the latter realize economic gains that come with the transition, while addressing challenges that this transition brings, as well, such as population aging.
- **Addressing low fertility and population aging:** As developed countries and even some developing countries have the highest share of older persons, while other developing countries see the most rapid rates of population aging, there is considerable scope for countries to share their experiences with respect to policies and programmes that address low fertility and population ageing.
- **Knowledge in population data:** Several countries have in-depth knowledge in the collection, analysis and use of population data through censuses than others, and are able to support the efforts of other countries in these areas.

As evidence shows, some developing countries have experienced significant development progress in terms of adoption of laws, policies and programmes, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services empowering young girls and youth. However, **imbalances are evident and a systematic field-based approach to SSTC is necessary to reinforce national institutional capacity and commitment with the ICPD, and to achieve the agenda, leaving no one behind.**

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<sup>18</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 150.

<sup>19</sup> WHO, The World Health Report 2005: Make Every Mother and Child Count, in UNFPA, The State of the World's Midwifery 2011: Delivering Health, Saving Lives

<sup>20</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 106.

<sup>21</sup> [Framework of Actions for the follow-up of the ICPD Beyond 2014](#), A/69/62, 12 February 2014, p. 180.

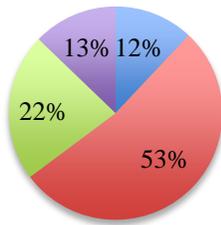
### 3. CORPORATE SHIFT

#### 3.1. Current scenario of SSTC in UNFPA

A comprehensive assessment with data gathered from the Strategic Information System (SIS) shows that in 2014 around 100 SSTC activities supported by different UNFPA units have enabled countries to share their experience to address common ICPD related challenges.

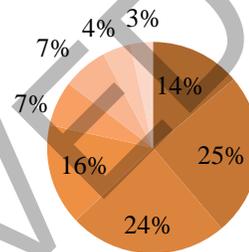
**Figure 5. SSTC by Type**

- Policy dialogue
- Technical Cooperation
- Programme
- Institutional Collaboration



**Figure 6. SSTC by ICPD issues**

- ICPD
- SRH
- PD
- Gender
- Youth
- RHCS
- Work with FBOs
- HIV prevention

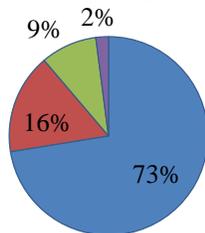


Source: Assessment of SSTC initiatives supported and promoted by UNFPA (2014-2015)

Data shows that most of the existing SSTC initiatives supported by UNFPA are good practices with potential, but are often *ad hoc actions*, not necessarily based on long-term goals with more organic linkages with country programmes.

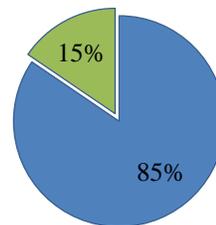
**Figure 7. SSTC by format**

- Bilateral
- Regional
- Global
- Triangular



**Figure 8. Nature of the Bilateral Cooperation**

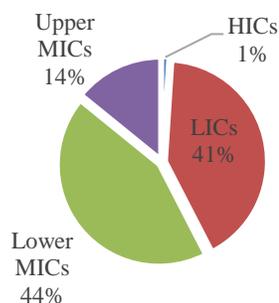
- Provider-Recipient
- SS Horizontal Cooperation



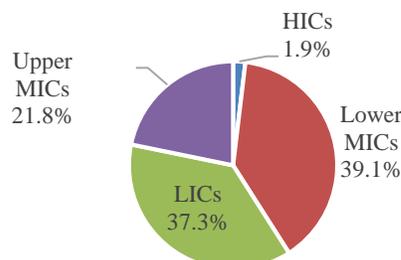
Source: Assessment of SSTC initiatives supported and promoted by UNFPA (2014-2015)

The assessment also demonstrates that SSTC initiatives are in general bilateral – 73 percent (figure 7), but even this traditional modality implemented by country offices has been scarcely utilized depending on circumstantial opportunities, rather than being part of a strategic and continuous engagement.

**Figure 9. Expenditures by country categories (2014)**



**Figure 10. Budget-based disbursements (2015)**



Source: UNFPA Financial Data, 2014

UNFPA supports countries on the execution of the ICPD PoA through advocacy and policy design and implementation; knowledge management and technical assistance; funding and supply; and capacity building. UNFPA budget allocations (figs. 9 and 10) show that almost 60 percent of programme funds goes to Middle Income Countries (MICs), which is an opportunity to rally longstanding partners supported by UNFPA that have accumulated know-hows and experiences to engage in cooperation efforts with other countries. For instance, some MICs have experienced particular progress in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), thus accumulated significant expertise and positioned themselves as potential SSTC champions.<sup>22</sup>

### 3.2. Corporate Shift

Despite the potential, data clearly shows that institutional resources of the Global South are scarcely used to scale-up the implementation of the ICPD agenda<sup>23</sup>. For UNFPA, it is crucial that **global, regional offices and country offices whenever appropriate and strategic are also positioned to function as south-south and triangular cooperation partners**, both as providers and host countries, to upstream inter-country exchanges of capacity, knowledge and social technology to address national gaps on the implementation of the ICPD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

This can be accomplished by:

- Mainstreaming SSTC as an integral part of UNFPA’s business to consolidate and strengthen institutional capacities of countries on implementing the ICPD and the SDGs.
- Establishing global south-south projects to generate synergies for the ICPD and the SDGs, considering SSTC as a complement, and not a substitute, to traditional cooperation<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> It is important to note, however, that even countries with the highest needs may become providers in particular areas due to their accumulated knowledge in pursuit of solutions to complex problems.

<sup>23</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal 17, targets 17.6 and 17.9 explicit highlights South-South Cooperation.

<sup>24</sup> The ongoing south-south and triangular cooperation initiatives supported by UNFPA units shall not be affected by the strategy, but shall progressively adapt to its principles and logical framework.

### 3.3. Structure

As a managerial response to UN Resolutions, ICDP and the 2030 Agenda, the Executive Office established in 2015 the “South-South Project” with the main objective of mainstreaming SSTC and propose innovative alliances with developing countries to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs. The SSCP may function in collaboration with other corporate units as a support hub for accelerating the implementation of SSTC.

In order to mainstream SSTC across UNFPA, the South-South Project regularly gathers and shares information within and outside the Fund, connects internal and external implementers, represent the Fund on SSTC related for a and generate working mechanisms. As part of the new corporate strategy, a detailed operational division of labor will be detailed with roles of HQ Divisions, Regional Offices and Country Offices in promoting and supporting SSTC.



## 4. SSTC AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF UNFPA BUSINESS MODEL

The corporate responses are based on UNFPA strengths to, upon countries requests, promote, support and facilitate SSTC in a systematic fashion. Rather than preempting the cooperation requests of Member States, UNFPA business model will be demand-driven and consist of corporate measures to address needs of Member States in unfinished areas of the ICPD that are essential for the implementation of the SDGs and building global alliances to up-scale SSTC on the ICPD.

**Up-streaming technical cooperation partnerships to improve national capacities for the implementation of the ICPD agenda through SSTC.** UNFPA is positioned to help countries identify their comparative advantage(s) and priorities, support the creation of networks of technical partners, facilitate the exchange of lessons learned utilizing southern solutions, knowledge and social-context specific innovative models.

**Creating opportunities for policy dialogue to renew commitments to the ICPD agenda.** SSTC possess the potential of building bridges and creating the environment through which agreements between developing countries can be formalized. UNFPA can act as a broker and convener of policy dialogue, preventing countries from falling back on their previous development commitments and reducing sensitiveness around the ICPD and SDGs issues.

**Integrating SSTC in UNFPA's CPDs within the scope agreed between UNFPA with respective governments and national counterparts.** The potential of SSTC to broaden the range and scope of UNFPA programming can be best achieved if cooperation arrangements are based on flexible, but systematic impact-oriented procedures and mechanisms, given UNFPA's global spanning different categories of countries, including MICs and LDCs.

**Assessing new SSTC partners for supporting the ICPD agenda.** Putting in place innovative possibilities for funding the ICPD agenda, -with a focus on institutional development and capacity building. UNFPA shall continuously assess emerging partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) New Development Bank of the BRICS, National Development Banks<sup>25</sup>, Southern trust funds, trilateral partnerships and regional funds<sup>26</sup>, foundations, philanthropies groups<sup>27</sup> and multilateral funds<sup>28</sup>. Further, UNFPA will also continue working with UN system partners at both the global level and in the field.

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<sup>25</sup> Including the export-import Bank of India, Brazilian Development Bank, Export-import Bank of China

<sup>26</sup> Including the IBAS Fund, Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development

<sup>27</sup> Including the Aga Khan Foundation, Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, South Asia Enterprise Development Facility

<sup>28</sup> Including the World Bank South-South Experience Exchange Facility, OPEP Fund for International Development.

## 5. STRATEGY

**Matchmaking needs and supplies.** UNFPA will use its knowledge about countries' needs and the best applicable and relatable experiences are in order to properly address countries' demands contributing to use and adapt good practices in different realities.

**Facilitating connections between domestic partners.** Knowing the lessons does not mean that knowledge can be automatically accessed or shared. UNFPA will act as a broker and facilitate alliances between countries on areas of common interest for the implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs.

**Supporting networks/communities of practices.** In addition to focusing on the bilateral cooperation, <sup>29</sup> UNFPA shall support SSC initiatives that are of a global nature and stimulate knowledge sharing and exchange of social technology among groups of countries within, but not limited to, intergovernmental spheres.

**Providing quality assurance.** UNFPA is positioned, upon request by Member States, to use its robust technical expertise to identify solution provider institutions and to provide substantive advice in the course of the implementation of SSTC projects.

**Giving operational support.** UNFPA will help countries design and implement SSTC projects and activities by giving the operational support needed, focusing on streamlining business practices, and eliminating bottlenecks to optimize substantive benefits of cooperation.

**Fostering communication on SSC.** Communicating across regions and countries to showcase SSC on ICPD for wider audiences, to ensure challenges, opportunities and accomplishments are communicated in a compelling way, and with a “human face” to demonstrate tangible impact of SSC efforts on the lives and well-being of people.



<sup>29</sup> The assessment of UNFPA shows that 73% of SSTC initiatives supported by UNFPA are bilateral.

## 6. VALUE PROPOSITION AND DELIVERABLES

The value proposition is based on the need to accelerate national capacity of developing countries through SSTC, addressing persistent institutional gaps that are crucial for the implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs. The operationalization of the project consists of two core functions with correspondent deliverables: to upstream UNFPA capacity to use SSTC for the implementation of the ICPD; and to build alliances with key stakeholders at the global level.

### 6.1. OFFER OF SERVICES

The South-South Project will work with concerned units, especially regional offices and country offices, providing advice on substantive, methodological and operational matters related to SSTC.

#### 6.1.1. South-South Tool: Matchmaking Needs vs Supplies

UNFPA will map on a regular basis through its global presence and network, requests/needs from countries related to the ICPD and the SDGs that could be addressed through SSTC. Simultaneously, the Fund will identify national champions with robust expertise on ICPD related issues.

##### Key deliverable(s):

- South-South Tool to mobilize partners, with the support of UNFPA to assess, through SSTC: qualified solution providers to address national needs on: commitment towards the ICPD agenda technical expertise, public profile and potential for replicability.

#### 6.1.2. Programme instruments for SSTC

Mainstreaming SSTC in UNFPA country programmes requires adaptation of procedures, practices and guidance on modalities and operationalization. UNFPA may also play an advisory role to help countries incorporate ICPD related issues in their cooperation frameworks with other countries (i.e. under bilateral agreements).

##### Key deliverable(s):

- Systematized guidance notes on modalities and how to operationalize SSTC as part of UNFPA's business in the field (i.e. Handbook for Country Programmes on how SSC links and responds to CPAP, multilateral basis, rationale, activities, partner institutions, budgeting, in-kind contribution, co-financing schemes, templates, SSTC Work Plan).

#### 6.1.3. Capacity of emerging SSTC players

Some partner institutions are highly qualified and possess recognized expertise on ICPD issues (i.e. census, SRH services), but have relatively limited experience and knowledge of international cooperation modalities. UNFPA will foster understanding of the benefits of SSTC and capitalize on entry points in capacity building and knowledge exchange, especially at the country level.

**Key deliverable(s):**

- UNFPA staff will be provided continuous training to develop internal capacity on concepts, methodologies and modalities on SSTC so that different units, especially country offices, can properly engage in SSTC.
- Upon countries' request and in close collaboration with concerned national partners, UNFPA can help potential providers with capacity building and engagement in SSTC via: a) knowledge sharing; b) international cooperation modalities; c) operational mechanisms.

#### 6.1.4. Positioning particular Country Offices to function as South-South and Triangular Cooperation HUBs

Country Offices are on the forefront of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation and can be mobilized and supported to boost cooperation with host governments for investing on SSTC on the ICPD agenda.

**Key deliverable(s):**

- Selected Country Offices qualified to also function as SSTC HUBs and contributing to form a pool of national partner institutions to support, upon request, government's efforts to conduct matchmaking exercises.
- Establish, in coordination with national authorities, working groups/ platforms at country level to promote SSTC on ICPD, engage partners, identify national strengths, gaps and create incentives (i.e. awards for human resources) to up-scale involvement in SSTC initiatives.

## 6.2. GLOBAL SSTC INITIATIVES

The Global Initiatives will serve as the corporate blueprint for action based on strategic partnerships to accelerate SSTC on the SDGs and the ICPD with a special focus on the unfinished agenda.

### 6.2.1. Global agreements with solution providers

UNFPA will propose tailored global agreements between the Fund and national institutions for joint promotion of SSTC on key ICPD issues covering: collaboration of civil servants and experts, technology transfer and funding. The idea is to build a systemic collaboration with south-south champions, constituting an operational "community of practice".

**Key deliverable(s):**

- Formal alliances between UNFPA and Governments via Presidential Cabinet, Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Planning for wide technical support of various government areas to other countries to be channeled through SSTC.
- Agreements with national institutions including technical departments, research institutes for execution of specific initiatives: peer-to-peer learning, training, seminars, online courses.

## 6.2.2. Thematic Initiatives

The flagship thematic initiatives will consist of global triangular projects to be implemented within two years with the involvement of UNFPA, traditional donors and developing countries to focus on critical issues of the unfinished ICPD agenda. Three particular themes that represent a common challenge, but count on a multiplicity of good practices in the Global South that can be replicated in other developing countries are proposed:

- **SRH/Family Planning:** Project/trust-fund based to enable substantive collaboration of national institutions leading to incorporation of successful strategies to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity, strengthen health systems, increase access to information and RH commodities including by health service providers, midwives through innovative technologies to reach rural, remote and impoverished urban areas.
- **Gender Based Violence and Children Marriage:** Project consisting on a large-scale sharing through training and technical assistance of successful laws, policies, integrated and participatory services enabling capacity building of civil servants, parliamentarians, security and police forces and health professionals to the prevention and provision of services for victims of violence.
- **Demographic Dividend and Youth:** Policy dialogue platform to scale-up exchange of promising experiences, including integrated strategies, innovative policies and practices that offer value to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. It shall include decentralized strategies and policies on school dropout among boys and girls aimed at keeping girls, married and/or pregnant in school and ensuring admission or re-entry to school after delivery.

## 6.2.3. Facilitation of Global Dialogue among National ICPD partners<sup>30</sup>

The rational use of SSTC for the implementation of the ICPD requires a multilateral space to generate an action-oriented dialogue of key ICPD practitioners and implementers.

### **Deliverable(s):**

- Establishment of a Coordination Committee with UNFPA acting as the Secretariat for advancing SSTC on ICPD with the participation of Member States, centers of excellence and non-state entities to serve as platform to articulate sharing modalities, partnerships and technology transfer for further implementing the ICPD and the SDGs.

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<sup>30</sup> Direct follow-up to Beijing Call to Action (March, 2016)

## 7. MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The monitoring of SSTC activities has historically focused on processes and mapped specific initiatives, technical missions and e-learning. Quantification of expenditures, financial resources as well as in-kind contributions to SSTC through various organizational units is still challenging. While assessments of specific projects are usually done in those rare cases in which there is systematic work and specific agreement with the government, in general, the overall picture is difficult, especially in mapping the in-kind contributions towards capacity development.

The Monitoring and Evaluation of SSTC is crucial and should be aligned with principles agreed by the multilateral system, and focus on those areas where it is expected to generate change so that impact can be measured and attributed to SSTC. For all SSC activities implemented in the context of the South-South Corporate Project, particular baselines will be defined in terms of capacity development and measurable progress indicators based on institutional change and country satisfaction.

Thus, each SSTC initiative should have the participation of concerned institutions as a key criteria for project evaluation, and should comprise the following basic steps:

- i) A basic logical framework with appropriate indicators to measure progress containing a baseline scenario and description of an initial assessment.
- ii) Mid-term monitoring assessment documenting progress and accomplishments, proposing any necessary adjustments.
- iii) Ex-post evaluation to assess results through interviews, feedback from concerned partners and visits, if necessary.

In this regard, two group of streamlined indicators should be selected to assess an initiative's performance and contribution to increasing national capacity, and, ultimately implementing the SDGs:

### 7.1. Process Indicators: SSTC in Action

# SSCT Initiatives promoted or facilitated by UNFPA to support the ICPD agenda, linkages with the SDGS organized or facilitated by UNFPA units.

# Institutions benefited/affected by SSTC initiatives.

# Number of individuals trained, technical hours.

### 7.2. Impact Indicators: Institutional change in country policy, strategy, organizational skills, knowledge and abilities as corporate culture.

# Adoption of new norms, policies and protocols.

# Adherence to new approaches, methodologies and technical concepts.

# ANNEX 1. UNFPA KEY MESSAGES ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

## GLOBAL CONTEXT

## IMPLICATIONS FOR UNFPA

The global south has experienced **increasing economic growth in the last decade** resulting in significant advances in development. Gains were seen in GDP growth, poverty reduction and in other areas of development including increased educational enrollment rates.

The rapid expansion of economic relations has **increased the motivation of countries to share their common challenges and solutions**, engaging in cooperation initiatives with partner countries and peer institutions.

**Not all countries from the global south have experienced equal gains in areas related to the ICPD agenda.**

Some areas that show great disparities among developing countries include: maternal mortality, female genital mutilation/cutting, high fertility rates, adolescent mortality, access to contraceptives, child marriage.

A series of **UN documents** including GA Resolutions, SG Reports and Frameworks demand concrete response from specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

**SSTC is also an integral part of the ICPD PoA**, which explicitly highlights the important role of SSC in the further implementation of the ICPD agenda.

The trust fostered among partners from the Global South throughout the last decades created an enabling environment for **multiple partnerships and “large-scale sharing”** of solutions.

Leveraging the role of UNFPA as a convener.

There is an opportunity for using Southern solutions **as a complement to traditional assistance modalities.**

Having a global network and presence in more than 130 countries, UNFPA **understands the reality of countries** and enjoys access to a broad network of good practices and durable solutions that are likely to be replicated.

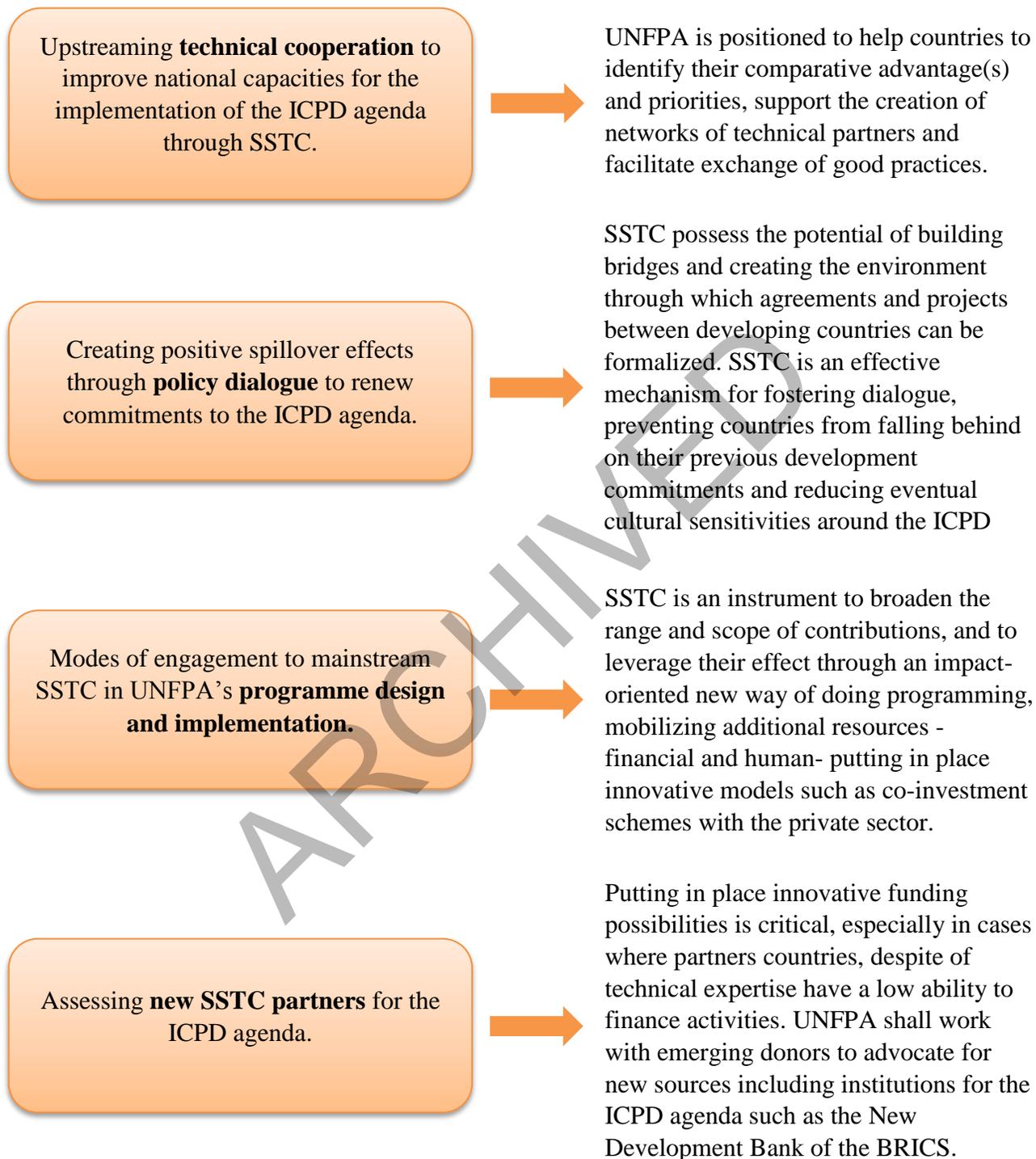
UNFPA can: work as a **matchmaker between recipient and provider countries** helping governments to identify country’s strengths and needs, **facilitate alliances** between countries, **convene technical capacity, provide quality assurance and operational support.**

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an integral part of UNFPA business model.**

Consolidate the South-South Project to function as a **mechanism to institutionalize SSTC through organizational units** and;

Propose **innovative alliances with developing countries for accelerating the implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs.**

## ANNEX 2. WHAT: SSTC AS STRATEGIC BUSINESS FOR UNFPA



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