Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa

A South-South and Triangular Cooperation Report

UNDP

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABC	Brazilian Cooperation Agency
ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific
Africa CDC	African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
AfDB	African Development Bank
Afreximbank	African Export-Import Bank
AMEXCID	Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development
AU	African Union
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Partnership Agency
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
BAPA+40	Second High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CSO	Civil society organization
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPI	Global Partnership Initiative
G-20	Group of 20
ICT	Information and communications technology
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development

ILO	International Labour Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise
NDB	New Development Bank
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOREC	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation Development
PBU	Prevention of Blindness Union
PICA	Palestinian International Cooperation Agency
PPE	Personal and protective equipment
PPP	Public-private partnership
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEGIB	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SSC	South-South Cooperation
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
TAP	Tech Access Partnership
TIKA	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
TrC	Triangular cooperation
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Progamme
UNOSSC	United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WPI	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Foreword

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of global and regional partnerships in addressing common problems and finding shared solutions. Partnerships are critical for addressing persistent development challenges that transcend beyond individual countries and regions. The South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC) has gained traction in Africa as a platform for supporting effective and localized ways of achieving sustainable development by turning around some of the most constraining challenges into new opportunities.

This report, *Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa,* illustrates the strength of Africa's resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic through the mutual sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise across countries and regions, demonstrating the powerful Pan-African solidarity, as the Swahili word Ushikamano suggests. It provides unique experiences that addressed pressing financing needs, restructured debt, coordinated policies at the national and regional level, and contributed to economic recovery. It also articulates a new development paradigm that supports countries in breaking away from aid dependency.

It builds on two previous reports, the '*First African South-South Cooperation Report',* which demonstrated Africa's achievements from South-South Cooperation and the *'Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling up Made-in-Africa Solutions'* report that highlighted the importance of scaling up innovative solutions to development challenges in Africa.

The BAPA+40 recognizes the need to support SSC/TrC, which is a foundational enabler towards the realization of Africa's Promise - UNDP's Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa. The UNDP can facilitate the implementation of the UN System-wide Strategy on SSC/TrC for Sustainable Development (2020–2024) by promoting enabling environment at the country and regional level. This could play a catalytic role in achieving the ambitious regional initiatives laid out in the African Union's

Agenda 2063, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and resources mobilization from the Global South to finance the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP will continue to proactively act as a trusted knowledge broker, partnership facilitator, and a capacity development supporter for SSC/TrC by leveraging on its network, expertise and experience.

This new report, *Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa,* showcases Africa's innovativeness and ability to develop effective solutions to its own development challenges. It also highlights UNDP's role in developing and sustaining effective South-South and Triangular partnerships for sustainable development on the continent.

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Executive Summary

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has left health systems floundering and has set back developmental gains as countries react to the new reality. The virus is likely to have long-lasting impacts and further perpetuate previous inequalities. However, there is a chance to build forward better and to use the pandemic to reconsider ways of promoting development. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC) offer a means of 'doing more with less' by providing cost-effective, context-specific and localized solutions for socio-economic development that build on wide-ranging partnerships and use innovative mechanisms to address ongoing challenges. COVID-19 has also brought to the fore the importance of proactively embracing digitalization, and SSC/TrC can further provide ways in which technology transfer can be facilitated on mutually agreed terms.

This report examines African SSC and TrC responses to COVID-19 and beyond. It showcases how SSC and TrC have been used to facilitate a COVID-19 response, and how this can be used in the future to strengthen COVID-19 recovery. It targets a broad audience of African stakeholders and aims to generate momentum on the use of SSC/TrC while facilitating horizontal knowledge exchange on innovative solutions. By highlighting current efforts, it is hoped that national experiences can be scaled up at the regional and global levels. The report also highlights ways in which UNDP can support these efforts.

The report builds on the findings of an E-survey that was conducted through UNDP's country offices and government counterparts in Africa, as well as an E-survey submitted to Chinese Chambers of Commerce on the African continent. In addition, a number of follow-up interviews were held with survey participants as well as key SSC/TrC partners and additional information sourced through a literature review. The report documents a variety of African SSC and TrC responses to the pandemic and looks at specific ways in which SSC and TrC can be used in the COVID-19 response. Key findings and recommendations are detailed below.

1. KEY FINDINGS

- Africa has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by developing coordinated and collaborative approaches in health, macroeconomic and economic responses at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. This has played an important role in alleviating the impact of the virus and demonstrates the power of SSC.
- African countries and regional/sub-regional organizations are also beginning to develop comprehensive socio-economic responses to COVID-19, and SSC/TrC can play a critical role in sharing and scaling up effective means to this end. The AfCFTA can be a game changer for Africa by promoting local production and enhancing intra-African trade, but this needs to be developed according to Africa's capacities and context.
- SSC/TrC has been used as a means of responding to COVID-19. This has come primarily from partner countries that have already been focused on SSC/TrC as a health response, such as China, Cuba, Japan, Morocco and Turkey. Similarly, SSC/TrC initiatives have been carried out in the area of emergency response, which has not traditionally featured heavily in SSC/TrC. SSC/TrC initiatives in other sectors have also facilitated a COVID-19 response in Africa. This shows the importance of SSC/TrC institutionalization.
- COVID-19 has also hindered ongoing SSC/TrC initiatives while shifting means of engagement. In some ways, the move online has made information sharing more accessible and more democratic and enabled broader participation, but has also challenged countries lacking the infrastructure for digitalization.
- Most African countries believe that SSC/TrC will become more pronounced in the future, as Northern countries turn inward. They see the utility in developing a long-term response to COVID-19 through increased partnerships in the form of TrC and for addressing Africa's megatrends.

- Partnerships will be critical in responding to COVID-19. Primarily, African countries see TrC as important for sharing knowledge and learning, achieving global and regional development goals through strengthened partnerships for sustainable development, and promoting complementarity/coordination in development cooperation. For this modality to be effective, it is important that trust be developed, with a strong sense of ownership among all parties, and that clear coordination mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities be established.
- Partnerships in SSC/TrC require a multi-stakeholder approach. The private sector, academia and civil society have already played an important variety of roles of the COVID-19 response and demonstrate a growing trend towards multi-actor engagement, but this can be scaled up and made more systematic.
- COVID-19 has promoted a rapid transition to digitalization. Africa should take a proactive stance by understanding its needs and developing a strategic approach. SSC/TrC can be a means of facilitating the transfer of technologies and technological know-how.

2. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To national governments

- Develop SSC/TrC strategies and assign SSC/TrC focal points within government, as well as with academia, civil society and the private sector, and share these efforts with other countries carrying out similar initiatives.
- Map current national capacity for implementing an SSC/TrC strategy, including financing possibilities.
- Collect a database of good practices that can be shared with other countries through SSC/TrC in SS Galaxy and other digital platforms.
- Develop strategies for post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery that use SSC/TrC to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- Develop strategies for digital transformation that consider how SSC/TrC can be used for technology transfer and digital technologies.

2.2 To regional bodies

- Organize policy dialogues to support the sharing of experiences in SSC/TrC.
- Consider regional frameworks and mechanisms to support SSC/TrC, such as through AUDA-NEPAD and the AfCFTA.
- Consider joint financing strategies for enhancing SSC/TrC, such as an SSC/TrC fund for responding to COVID-19.
- Strengthen SSC/TrC engagement with regional centres of excellence, academia, think tanks and resource centres.
- Support regional capacity assessments and matchmaking of SSC/TrC activities.

2.2 To UNDP

- As the technical lead of the United Nations' socio-economic response, continue to facilitate the development of COVID-19 socio-economic responses on the continent and share them across African countries through SSC/TrC.
- Use UNDP's extensive country network integrator role to support the scaling up and sharing of good practices through SSC/TrC among African countries, including on SSC institutionalization and digitalization.
- Enhance UNDP's integrator function by facilitating the sharing of experiences in how multi-stakeholder partnerships can be made more effective and the means of doing so, and provide advice on how these actors can be engaged.
- Support the implementation of the AfCFTA by examining ways to promote it, such as through regional professional associations and the transfer of goods and experts across the continent, and by providing technical assistance, including through guidelines/manuals.
- Strengthen UNDP's innovation and country Accelerator Labs by developing agile teams to explore areas of innovation, finding solutions that connect the digital and informal sector, and using the labs to matchmake current solutions with emerging needs.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) can offer innovative and context-specific development solutions, and are recognized for promoting horizontal exchanges of knowledge and technology. This occurs either between two countries facing similar development challenges, namely a sharing partner and host partner (SSC), or involving a third TrC facilitating partner from a developed country or multilateral organization. The advent of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has had highly detrimental socio-economic consequences across the world. Consequently, African governments have turned to SSC/TrC for sharing their solutions to the pandemic, as demonstrated later in this report, while continuing with previous SSC/TrC initiatives where possible. SSC/TrC can also offer useful means of sharing cost-effective solutions for a post-COVID-19 response in a climate where governments are forced to become more inward-looking as they direct their resources towards internal and emergency efforts.

In 2019, the Second High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The outcome document, known the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40), affirmed the importance of SSC/TrC and made a number of recommendations on how SSC/TrC could be strengthened. The document emphasizes the role of the United Nations in supporting and promoting SSC/TrC, appreciating the efforts of many United Nations entities in integrating SSC/TrC frameworks in their frameworks and workplans. It calls on the United Nations to support countries in building human and institutional capacity in SSC/TrC, while promoting potential partnerships and encouraging the transfer of technology.[1] The United Nations has now also developed a system-wide strategy for SSC/TrC, which was finalized in August 2020. UNDP has already been promoting SSC/TrC through its network of country offices and through efforts to share these experiences at a regional and cross-regional level, as evidenced by the First African South-South Cooperation Report, which was launched at BAPA+40.[2]

This report builds on these efforts and examines how African countries and Southern partners have used SSC/TrC for the transfer of medical equipment and technical assistance for their COVID-19 policy responses, and more broadly to promote socio-economic development. It aims to showcase how SSC/TrC can be instrumental in building

forward from COVID-19 across a wide range of areas and in generating momentum and impetus from strengthening SSC/TrC engagements at a regional level by sharing national experiences.

The builds on the findings of an E-survey conducted between August and October 2020, which gathered information on the achievements of countries in institutionalizing SSC/TrC and assessed what kinds of SSC/TrC engagements had been carried out in response to COVID-19, as well as how previous SSC/TrC efforts facilitated COVID-19 responses. The survey also examined the impact of COVID-19 on SSC engagements and asked forward-looking questions on TrC and future areas of engagement. In total, there were 23 respondents to the UNDP E-survey.[3] It should be noted that among the respondents, four came from Côte d'Ivoire, four from China, and two each from Angola and Namibia. The remainder came from Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia. Respondents were primarily from United Nations Country Office staff and their partner government officials (eight from government, 13 from UNDP and two from think tanks) that work on SSC/TrC and/or development issues. The findings are supplemented by a survey conducted by UNDP on Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Africa. In total, there were 15 responses from Chambers of Commerce. These responses came from Algeria, Cameroon (six responses), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea (two responses), Lesotho, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan and South Africa.

Furthermore, this report examines case studies of specific SSC/TrC initiatives available in the literature, and incorporates findings from interviews with a number of UNDP country offices, governments and TrC partners. They include UNDP country offices and government officials from Cabo Verde, Botswana, Namibia, Nigeria, Kenya, and Zambia, and TrC partners such as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the UNDP Policy Centre in Seoul and the United Nations Technology Bank. Interviews were also conducted with civil society partners, such as the Reality of Aid, Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD) and Oxfam South Africa. The report

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1 https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80

2 www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/UNDP-Africa-SSC-Report-2019-EN.pdf

3 Two respondents answered the survey twice, and their answers have been combined into one response each.

also builds on previous UNDP engagements with partners, namely the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

Chapter 2 looks at how African governments have responded to COVID-19 through their policy responses. It first examines the global response to COVID-19, with a focus on the response of the United Nations. It then looks at how African governments have responded in terms of health, macro-economic and economic responses, and then in terms of socio-economic development. The chapter then looks at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which many have said to be a game changer for Africa's recovery from COVID-19 because it can facilitate trade, joint positions and regulatory frameworks, and represents a prime opportunity to further strengthen intra-African South-South partnerships.

Chapter 3 examines how SSC/TrC is becoming institutionalized, and outlines some of the different experiences of African governments and their efforts to share them. It then looks at specific SSC/TrC COVID-19 responses across the African continent, including the main actors involved, the types of assistance given and the modalities. It first examines SSC/TrC responses in the area of health, and then in other thematic areas in which survey respondents stated that previous SSC/TrC engagements had facilitated a response. Moreover, it outlines how SSC/TrC engagements have been forced to embrace new means of SSC/TrC through new technologies or multi-stakeholder models. It then looks at how COVID-19 has impacted ongoing SSC/TrC initiatives, such as through travel disruptions or the reprioritization of government priorities while also looking at some of the opportunities resulting from

the pandemic. Finally, the chapter examines the potential for SSC/TrC in a COVID-19 socio-economic recovery response, pointing out previous SSC/TrC examples across a range of areas.

Chapter 4 looks at how global dynamics are changing in response to COVID-19 and how this is likely to affect SSC/TrC in the future. Noting that global collaborative and concerted partnerships will be critical for ensuring that countries recover from the multitude of consequences arising from the pandemic, it examines how TrC can be scaled up. The chapter analyses the responses gathered in the UNDP E-survey on SSC/TrC to see how African governments perceive the importance of TrC in the future, as well as its suitability to tack megatrends. It then looks at ways of engaging multiple stakeholders in a COVID-19 response, particularly with regard to the private sector, academia and civil society. It then discusses how to build forward better through SSC/TrC by examining the four areas of UNDP's forward-looking SSC/TrC COVID-19 response, namely governance, social protection, the green economy, and digital disruption.

Chapter 5 looks at UNDP's role in SSC/TrC, outlining how it plans to work with governments and partners across the four areas of its socio-economic response, as well as how its Strategic Plan (2018–2021) aims to support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also outlines UNDP's Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa. The chapter then makes a number of policy recommendations to enhance UNDP's role in the future. The paper then concludes by summarizing the key findings and way forward in terms of SSC/TrC.

CHAPTER 2

African Policy Responses to COVID-19

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic launched the world into action, with efforts to contain the virus and to address its socio-economic impacts. This chapter explores how Africa has responded to these new challenges through a variety of means and measures. It first examines the global policies and how they have been applied to the African continent. It then outlines African policy responses, paying attention first to its immediate joint health responses and then looking at economic policy responses before exploring Africa's efforts to develop recovery plans and its pressing priorities of socio-economic development. The chapter looks both at regional policies, which are SSC efforts to establish common positions and frameworks on the continent, and national experiences that have been shared, or have the potential to be shared through SSC or TrC by involving a third facilitating partner from the North or from an international organization. Finally, it examines the role of the AfCFTA, which is expected to be a game changer for Africa's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and is an example of another South-South solution.

2.1 The global response to COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, the World Health Organization (WHO) led the global health response, supported by the establishment of the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. The humanitarian response, which is detailed in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan,[4] was led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In April 2020, the United Nations developed a framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, focusing on health, protection, economic response and recovery, macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration, and social cohesion and community resilience.[5]

UNDP is the technical lead of the United Nations' socio-economic response, which initially focused on health support, multi-sectoral crisis management, and socio-economic impact and response. Regarding healthcare, UNDP supported governments to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies while mobilizing funding by reprogramming. In terms of crisis management, UNDP supported governments in maintaining business continuity and developing their crisis responses. UNDP also supported governments to develop socio-economic impact

assessments (SEIAs), which outlined possible scenarios and consequences of COVID-19.[6] Suggested interventions arising from these assessments are explored later.

These SEIAs have informed the evolving role of the United Nations and its response. In June 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19. The response has three pillars of operation:
- Delivery of a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response.
- Adoption of policies that address the devastating socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crisis.
- A recovery process that builds back better.

Regarding the first pillar, part of the response includes work towards developing a COVID-19 vaccine, diagnostics and treatment that are affordable to everyone. The second pillar examines ways of keeping economies functioning while addressing the impact of the most vulnerable through a Global Humanitarian Response Plan. It calls for a stimulus package, a debt standstill, debt restructuring and support through international financial institutions. The recovery process focuses on a transition to sustainable systems and approaches, such as moving to focus on renewable energy, sustainable food systems, gender equality, social safety nets, and universal health coverage.[7] Specifically for UNDP, the next phase of its crisis response is to focus on health, protection, economic response and recovery, macroeconomic response, collaboration, social cohesion and community resilience. It aims to achieve this by focusing on four main areas: governance, social protection, green economy and digital disruption.[8]

Moreover, global financial institutions have adapted their support to provide economic support to the COVID-19 response. The Group of 20 (G-20) developed an action plan in response to COVID-19, including tools to safeguard the global economy.[9] The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began using various instruments to support the global response, including by extending loans and addressing the issue of debt vulnerability. However, the United States of America rejected calls to issue Special Drawing Rights

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4 https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-response-plan-covid-19-april-december-2020-ghrp-july-update-enar
5 https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economic-response-to-COVID-19.pdf
6 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html
7 www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_comprehensive_response_to_covid-19_june_2020.pdf
8 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html
9 https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/FMCBG percent20Communiqu percentC3 percentA9_English_14October2020_700pm.pdf

(SDRs) for enhanced liquidity.[10] Southern institutions, such as the New Development Bank (NDB), also extended loans to their member states. In addition, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a global partnership to develop vaccines to stop future pandemics, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, were also mobilized. The next section looks at how Africa has responded to the pandemic.

2.2 The coordinated and collaborative African policy response to COVID-19

African countries have taken a variety of measures to address COVID-19, including legal and institutional mechanisms, disease prevention and containment measures, social and humanitarian measures, and fiscal and monetary measures. The AU notes that only four countries on the continent have applied one of these categories of measures, while 20 have applied all four categories.[11] Africa has also developed institutional mechanisms to address this response. For instance, Mozambique established an advisory and technical committee, while other countries such as Nigeria and Togo established strategic committees, crisis committees and coordination mechanisms. Given the multitude of responses, it is clear that African countries have been learning from each other's experiences. Across the spectrum of responses, African countries have been collaborating and developing joint approaches to address the emerging issues. There has also been coordination between regional, sub-regional and national levels, although this has varied. Looking across the main Regional Economic Community responses, four levels of engagement around COVID-19 have been identified: information and communication; nudging and guidance; coordination of actions; and collective action. [12] African national and regional efforts are detailed below in terms of health, macro-economic/economic and socio-economic responses.

2.2.1 Developing regional partnerships for Africa's health responses

The impact on the virus on Africa raised immediate concerns, given challenges such as limited testing, sanitation and medical capacity, and the enforcement of physical distancing measures. Specifically, the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) identified four key areas of concern with regard to the virus: insufficient healthcare infrastructure and equipment; limited human resources in the fields of virology and lung disease; poor coordination capacity at the central government level in many African countries and insufficient financial resources.[13] The potential consequences of the pandemic on the continent are multi-fold, including food insecurity, loss of income, increased debt and political/security risks. Nevertheless, there was optimism that previous responses to Ebola and the HIV/AIDS pandemic could provide examples of regional, national and community-level pathways of response.[14] Research suggests that this has indeed been the case: a study by the University of Oxford in collaboration with the African Research Network has shown that Africa's experience in combating Ebola has been a key element in its effective responses to COVID-19. The research showed that the expertise developed in previous pandemics, as well as Africa's younger demographics, climate, lockdown measures and centralized public health infrastructure stood the continent in good stead when responding to COVID-19.[15]

In terms of adapting health responses to COVID-19, Africa moved quickly to react, demonstrating the power of SSC to build partnerships and provide regional responses as well as coordinated policies. The African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), a technical institution of the African Union (AU) established in 2017 to address Ebola, created an Africa Taskforce for Novel Coronavirus to oversee preparedness and response towards the virus. The AU CDC's Emergency Operations Center and its Incident Management System were also activated. By March 2020, the AU had established a Joint Continental Strategy to address the COVID-19 outbreak. The plan has two objectives, namely the coordination of multiple actors on COVID-19 response, and the promotion of evidence-based health practice for COVID-19 response. This role has developed into working on three main fronts: surveillance, emergency preparedness and response; continental assistance and joint funding; and a collective appeal to the international community.[16]

The Africa CDC has held training sessions and workshops, launched web-based tools (e.g. to manage public health

10 www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-usa/u-s-opposes-massive-liquidity-imf-boost-mnuchin-idUSKCN21Y1QU
11 https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38893-doc-covid_19_final_english.pdf
12 https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf
13 Personal communication with UNOSSC, 13 January 2021.
14 www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_comprehensive_response_to_covid-19_june_2020.pdf
15 www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-06-11-african-countries-battle-ready-take-covid-19#
16 https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf

emergency workforce deployments) and developed health programmes. It has provided technical support to a number of African countries on: surveillance, including screening at points-of-entry; infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities; clinical management of persons with severe COVID-19 infection; laboratory diagnosis and subtyping; risk communications; and stockpiling of supply chains. The Africa CDC has also provided support to the expansion of laboratories. To this end, UNDP has provided support to the Africa CDC through a joint programme aimed at cooperation and coordination.[17] In addition, the Africa CDC has also launched a number of knowledge products, such as guidance documents, policy briefs and public health updates.[18] Furthermore, the African Peer Review Mechanism published a report on Africa's governance response to COVID-19, which examines the pandemic.[19]

In addition, the UNOSSC supported AU institutions and bodies to develop coordinated responses, mobilize networks and generate funding. The UNOSSC Office supported the AU Office to identify its needs and to establish practices based on successful practices elsewhere that could be applied to the African continent. The UNOSSC reviewed the "test, trace and treat" strategy commonly used in Asia, and allocated resources for enhancing this capacity in six African countries: Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. It also supported health institutions and experts in Republic of Korea to share knowledge, train medical staff and provide advice. UNOSSC supported the mobilization of resources[20] and dialogues, which are discussed further below.[21]

In addition, the AU appointed several committees and special envoys to address the health and economic fallout of the pandemic. At least seven virtual meetings were organized for the AU bureau, and all the regions in Africa were represented, providing opportunities for experience sharing of national-level responses. The African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team

(AVATT) was also established in November 2020 to ensure that African countries would have access to a future COVID-19 vaccine.[22] In January 2021, it was announced that AVATT had secured 270 million COVID-19 vaccine doses for African countries, and that 50 million doses would be available between April and June 2021. The total target is 600 million doses, which will cover 20 percent of the African population. Arrangements have been made with Afreximbank in which the bank will provide advance procurement commitment guarantees of up to US$2 billion to the manufacturers, the Serum Institute of India, and suppliers Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca on behalf of member states.[23]

The AU response to COVID-19 has also engaged a number of sub-regional mechanisms that have also used their structures to strengthen the COVID-19 response. The Africa CDC has five Regional Coordination Centres (RCCs), in Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia, for the Northern Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa, and Southern Africa regions, respectively[24] They are stand-alone entities, and their engagement varies widely, depending on their level of capacity that has been developed in past health responses.

In West Africa, the West African Health Organization (WAHO) served as a specialized agency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). WAHO created a Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control (RCSDC) which collaborates with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control in Abuja. The RCC has therefore been embedded in the RCSDC. WAHO has allocated funding for medical equipment, developed a regional strategic plan, and assumed a regional information and communication role. [25]

The East African Community (EAC) was also quick to respond to COVID-19 by issuing alerts and setting up a regional coordination committee while designating focal points for the COVID-19 response. In March, the EAC issued a statement

17 https://africacdc.org/news-item/the-africa-centres-for-disease-control-and-prevention-africa-cdc-partners-with-the-united-nations-development-programme-undp-to-strengthen-africas-response-to-covid-19/#:~:text=As percent20part percent20of percent20the percent20efforts, program percent20to percent20support percent20on percent2Dgoing

18 https://africacdc.org/covid-19

19 https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38893-doc-covid_19_final_english.pdf

20 These included US$100,000 from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, US$30,000 from the Yingke Law Firm in China and US$20,000 from the Shenzhen Youth Foundation, as well as support from the IsDB.

21 Personal communication with UNOSSC, 13 January 2021.

22 https://issafrica.org/iss-today/as-au-chair-south-africas-leadership-fell-short-in-key-areas?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=ISS_Today&utm_medium=email

23 www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/african-union-secures-270-million-covid-19-vaccine-doses-for-africa-ramaphosa-20210114

24 https://africacdc.org/regional-collaborating-centres

25 https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf

with several directives[26] and then developed a COVID-19 response plan.[27] The EAC has carried out training, deployed mobile laboratories to member states, and provided medical equipment for the response. It is now working on a recovery strategy.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has also encouraged the procurement of essential medical supplies and equipment for the fight against COVID-19.[28] In addition, it produces a regular bulletin and statistics updates, and has emphasized the importance of national preparedness and response plans, as well as contingency and emergency funds. SADC has further proposed that member states institute peer review mechanisms to ensure that their plans are effective. Finally, SADC conducted a study on the effects of the pandemic on member states.[29]

In March 2020, in the Horn of Africa, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) adopted a regional approach to fighting COVID-19. This included the decision to formulate a regional response strategy for pandemic diseases, in particular COVID-19, establish an emergency fund for the control of pandemic diseases, strengthen health systems in the region, mobilize support from the international community, request debt relief, and mobilize support from IGAD medical professionals in the diaspora.[30] It is also mobilizing resources from member states. IGAD has a regional COVID tracker dashboard and has set up a high-level joint task force.[31]

In Central Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has been developing a strategy against COVID-19, which is focused on preventing the spread of the virus, managing ongoing cases, responding to the socio-economic and security impact, and communicating effectively about the pandemic.[32] The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) has also taken measures to coordinate, promote solidarity and carry out international outreach.[33] Finally, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has reported on country cases, levels of testing, and measures in place in member states.[34]

African countries also took a number of their own initiatives to provide health responses. Containment measures have also been applied, with total or partial lockdowns in many places, the sourcing of medical equipment, and the closure of borders. There has been some sharing of health responses between different Southern partners as well as partners in the North. South Africa's University of Witwatersrand has been carrying out COVID-19 vaccines, which are also being tested at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, and with Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency. The testing of the vaccine in developing countries is critical for ensuring efficacy across low- and middle-income countries as well as high-income countries, but it will also be critical to ensure that the vaccine is made widely available.[35] South Africa has also secured one million doses of the Oxford University-Astra Zeneca vaccine following negotiations with the Serum Institute of India, which manufactured the serum. The Indian Government has agreed to export the vaccine to governments for vaccination programmes but not to the private market.[36]

Moreover, countries such as the Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and United Republic of Tanzania have ordered shipments of Madagascar's organic remedy for the virus. The product has now been registered in a clinical trial to test its efficacy.[37] Although its effectiveness has not yet been established, which is critical for ensuring the safety of African people, these measures speak volumes about Africa's abilities to develop its own solutions and to collaborate in findings solutions to address the pandemic.

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26 eac.int/statements/1705-joint-statement-by-the-ministers-responsible-for-health-and-east-african-community-affairs-issued-on-25th-march-2020-on-covid-19-preparedness-and-response-in-east-african-community-region

27 www.tralac.org/documents/resources/covid-19/regional/3466-eac-covid-19-response-plan-april-2020/file.html

28 https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/regional-coordination-against-covid-19-what-role-for-the-recs

29 www.sadc.int/news-events/news/sadc-member-states-step-efforts-mitigate-impact-covid-19

30 www.igad.int/coronavirus/2400-igad-heads-of-state-and-government-adopt-a-regional-approach-to-combating-covid-19

31 https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf

32 www.nepad.org/news/communication-africa-time-of-covid-19-experiences-central-africa

33 https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38893-doc-covid_19_final_english.pdf

34 https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf

35 www.samrc.ac.za/news/covid-19-vaccine-challenges-running-trial-middle-pandemic

36 www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2021-01-07-sa-secures-early-vaccine-for-health-workers

37 www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/07/08/learning-from-the-best-evaluating-africas-covid-19-response

2.2.2 Collaborating to address African macro-economic and economic challenges

At the start of the pandemic, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) convened a meeting of African finance ministers on the social and economic responses of COVID-19. This resulted in an appeal for a US$100 billion stimulus package that would assist with debt relief towards African countries.[38] South African President Cyril Ramaphosa used his position as Chair of the AU and the only African country serving on the G-20 at the time to make an appeal for financial support from developed economies and to grant debt relief for two years. A number of prestigious African leaders also led calls to go beyond this, including broadening the criteria and extending the time period for debt relief, promoting private creditor participation, mobilizing special drawing rights from international institutions, and strengthening the governance of mobilized resources.[39] There have subsequently been continued calls to cancel debt in its entirety. French President Emmanuel Macron supported calls for debt suspension while appealing for international support and issued a joint statement with the AU after taking part in an AU Bureau meeting.[40]

The G-20 has now agreed on a joint framework for restructuring debt, which calls on all bilateral creditors to jointly pursue the nation's debt treatment, look at debt servicing vulnerabilities on a case-by-case basis, and invoke collective creditor oversight. The framework is an important shift from previous approaches in that it is initiated at the request of the debtor country and not the creditor. It must also be aligned with national priorities. As such, this provides an independent mechanism for reviewing debt, which builds on collaborative and cooperative partnerships, including across private sectors, to address the issue of debt across the globe. This has monumental implications for Africa, since debt is a major concern for some countries and requires a coordinated approach. China has also been targeted to explore debt relief options for its debtees.[41] On 17 June 2020, Chinese and African leaders convened an Extraordinary China-Africa Summit, where it agreed to act earnestly on the G-20 Debt Suspension initiative and to take measures to ease Africa's debt burden.[42] *Export-Import Bank* of *China* (EXIM) has now signed debt relief agreements with 11 African countries, and China has agreed to exempt 15 African countries from repaying zero-interest loans due at the end of 2020.[43]

In directing resources mobilization for the continent, the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government (composed of South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Egypt, Kenya and Mali) agreed to establish an AU COVID-19 Response Fund. The AU received funding from a number of member states and appealed to business and political figures to support this Fund and the Africa CDC more broadly. The World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and even regional organizations such as the Eastern and Southern Trade and Development Bank (TDB) have made financial commitments, and donors such as Republic of Korea and Japan have supported the Africa CDC.[44]

There were also broader discussions on sub-regional approaches related to positions on trade and keeping the economy afloat. Member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) met to discuss measures against COVID-19, since they share a common bank and currency. It was agreed that funds would be issued to alleviate the effect of the pandemic on employment and production. They also took measures to limit debt and inflation.[45] The Central Bank of West Africa States (BCEAO) has further implemented measures to increase the liquidity of banks, facilitated access to credit and reduced the cost of mobile payments. The West African Development Bank (BOAD) also approved concessional loans.

The EAC Secretariat has also proposed incentives to enhance trade, develop regional value/supply chains, and provide a harmonized system of certification and sharing of COVID-19 test results after there were significant problems regarding the clearance of truck drivers at borders. They also called on national governments to ensure complementarity

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38   www.uneca.org/stories/african-finance-ministers-call-coordinated-covid-19-response-mitigate-adverse-impact

39   www.theafricareport.com/26474/the-g20s-action-on-debt-is-an-important-first-step-now-for-the-hard-part

40   www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/04/15/only-a-global-victory-that-fully-includes-africa-can-bring-this-pandemic-to-an-end.en

41   www.ft.com/content/5a3192be-27c6-4fe7-87e7-78d4158bd39b

42   www.tralac.org/news/article/14670-joint-statement-of-the-extraordinary-china-africa-summit-on-solidarity-against-covid-19.html

43   www.globaltimes.cn/content/1203209.shtml

44   https://africacdc.org/news-item/trade-and-development-bank-donates-half-a-million-dollars-to-covid-19-response-in-africa

45   https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/regional-coordination-against-covid-19-what-role-for-the-recs

with the regional response, since border restrictions are defined locally.[46] Moreover, SADC has also focused on its regional trade agenda, adopting the Regional Guidelines on Harmonization and Facilitation of Movement of Essential Goods and Services. It was agreed that member states would set up facilitation committees with a liaison office at the SADC Secretariat in Botswana, but there have been several challenges in implementation. [47]

Another trade-related response was initiated by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), with information and communication on trade. It then called on member states to conform to standards to minimize disruptions to the supply chain for essential goods, and approved a harmonized set of regional measures to be applied across its 21 member states. [48] In May 2020, it also agreed to create an online platform related to the exchange of information on essential goods.[49]

At the national level, countries have adopted a variety of fiscal and monetary relief measures, including lowering interest rates and postponing debt repayments, with countries such as the Gambia extended the filing and payment of tax.[50] There have also been efforts to bolster the financial and banking sectors in African countries by easing liquidity conditions, such as in Angola. Special funds have been established, and countries have also used mobile money operators to minimize the use of bank notes.

The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) has been working with African Ministries of Finance to gather information on how different countries are responding to COVID-19 by adapting efficiency measures and budget adjustments through their fiscal frameworks.

Efficiency measures refer to strategic healthcare purchasing and improved public financial management processes and practices. While it is unclear to what extent African governments have shared their own experiences with one another in this regard, CABRI has launched the COVID-19 Africa Public Finance Response Monitor and is building a repository of public finance management experiences to addressing the crisis.[51]

Four types of key efficiency measures (Figure 1) have been taken by African countries:

•   Twenty-one countries have established a new unit or facility to facilitate the procurement of medical supplies and ensure the delivery of public services and government response.[52] In particular, SADC Member States have established National Emergency Operations Centres and Pooled Procurement Services facility to facilitate coordination of logistics and stockpiling, and procurement of medical supplies.

•   Eleven countries have taken measures to lower or exempt import taxes and customs duties on healthcare goods and other essential goods to fight COVID-19; in some cases, exports of such goods were suspended or banned.[53]

•   Seven countries have regulated prices and monitored medical goods, food and other essential goods to curb opportunistic price spiking.[54]

•   Three countries have instructed government institutions to expedite the procurement of essential goods and services required to control the spread of the virus.[55]

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46   https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pd

47   https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/regional-coordination-against-covid-19-what-role-for-the-recs

48   https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/African-regional-responses-COVID-19-discussion-paper-272-ECDPM.pdf

49   ibid.

50   ibid.

51   www.cabri-sbo.org/en/blog/2020/covid-19-africa-public-finance-response-monitor-how-african-governments-particularly-ministries-of-finance-are-tackling-covid-19

52   These countries are Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

53   These countries are Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

54   These countries are Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa.

55   These countries are Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Figure 1. Efficiency measures taken by African countries

A	B	C	D
Establish a new unit/ facility to facilitate procurement of medical supplies, and ensure public services and government response.	*Lower/exempt import taxes and duties* on healthcare goods and other essential goods; in some cases, exports of such goods were suspended or banned.	*Exercise price regulation* on medical goods, food and other essential goods.	*Expedite procurement* of essential goods and services.

Four major types of budgets adjustments are taking place in African countries (Figure 2):

• Twenty-nine countries are increasing budget spending on health response, together with social-economic assistance and stimulus in some cases.[56]

• Thirteen countries are reallocating or redirecting budget to health spending, in particular coupled with lowering non-essential expenditures.[57]

• Six countries are cutting costs by reducing or deferring budget revenue on non-priority expenditures.[58]

• Six countries are increasing budget spending or reducing selected tax and fee budget revenues for economic and social support. [59]

56 These countries are Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

57 These countries are Algeria, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

58 These countries are Algeria, Angola, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

59 These countries are Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Seychelles and Somalia.

Figure 2. Budget adjustments taken by African countries

A	B	C	D
Increase budget spending on health response, together with social-economic assistance and stimulus in some cases.	*Reallocate/redirect budget* to health spending, in particular coupled with lowering non-priority expenditures.	*Cut costs by reducing* or deferring budget on non-priority expenditures.	*Increase budget spending/ reduce selected tax and fee revenues* for economic and social support.

2.2.3 Working together to develop socio-economic responses

As an initial response to the pandemic, countries began to establish special social and humanitarian funds to mitigate its effects. Zimbabwe launched a humanitarian appeal, while countries such as Kenya set up a COVID-19 emergency response fund. Countries such as Namibia and South Africa launched economic stimulus and relief packages, providing special funds for workers earning below a certain threshold to assist SMEs and aid certain sectors such as the tourism and hospitality sectors. Countries such as Ghana suspended the payments of utility bills for three months, while Botswana and Lesotho offered subsidies to supplement worker's wages.[60] Countries have also begun developing recovery plans.

In the SEIAs conducted on the African continent, a number of interventions have been identified for responding to COVID-19, as specified in Table 1.

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60   https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38893-doc-covid_19_final_english.pdf

Table 1. Types of interventions identified in Socio-Economic Impact Assessments

Focus area	Types of intervention
Social recovery	• Providing emergency financial assistance to vulnerable households, especially in the area of health, housing, food, employment and education. • Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and employment. • Providing targeted stimulus packages based on disaggregated data (targeted interventions), restoring purchasing power, and harnessing new opportunities in telehealth, remote work and education.
Economic financial recovery	• Prioritizing the hardest hit sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy). • Investing in domestic production capacity. • Tapping funding from international financial institutions, potential grant financing and debt relief. • Repurposing inflows by development partners and accelerating disbursement. • Promoting research and development. • Expanding value chains and domestic production, reprioritizing restructuring aligned with community-defined needs and human capital investments. • Budgeting, managing debt and inflation, increasing liquidity (lowered bank rate), providing stimulus funding, granting loan extensions and public loan forgiveness, lowering interest rates, and providing more accessible credit.
Investments in digital transformation	• Providing support for digital connectivity and education (coverage, access, quality, reliability). • Building toward more resilient access to public services, infrastructure, e-commerce and digital financial services (IDs, microcredit, digital communication within government). • Fast-tracking transition to cashless payments. • Developing a tourism recovery plan and using subsidies for areas impacted (focused on eco-tourism), private tourism and stimulation of demand by the Government.
Building institutional trust	• Increasing transparency, addressing corruption and money laundering, and improving data collections to fill in missing information. • Moving to an e-governance structure in line with social distance protocols. • Building tax base, reliability of collections. • Engaging in the diaspora: remittances, investments in human capital. • Making bold policy efforts to enhance consumer confidence and signal to domestic and international investors.

Source: Extracted from UNDP Socio-Economic Impact Assessments.

There are also a number of national practices that have been considered exemplary in terms of socio-economic development (Table 2). In the E-survey conducted by UNDP on SSC/TrC, member states pointed to innovative solutions that have been used to address the COVID-19 response, keep the economy functioning and enhance coordination.

Table 2. Good national practices that could be expanded under South-South and triangular cooperation

Country	Solution
Angola	The Government together with multiple stakeholders provided support for the safe functioning of local markets during COVID-19, including the distribution of a biosafety manual, the set-up of local implementation committees, and registration of informal vendors through a private sector actor, linked to a social protection registry.
Cabo Verde	The Government established a national website containing all information on the state of COVID-19, as well as all relevant information related to prevention, recovery and response (www.covid19.cv).
Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire adopted new ways of teleworking in the Government.
Ghana	Ghana established a Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP) in collaboration with the National Board of Small Scale Industries (NBSSI).
Namibia	The Government and the United Nations established an online shop where customers could order supplies found in the open market (e.g. fruit and vegetables, dried meat). Online payments are made, and the supplies are delivered to the homes of customers within an hour.
Nigeria	The One UN Response Plan to COVID-19 strategy calls for a single national platform and financing framework that will coordinate partnerships and mobilize resources and strategies for effective and impactful responses.
Rwanda	National practices in e-procurement, e-signing and virtual meetings, and the development of online tools such as the e-learning platform and the e-showcasing room are seen as effective responses to COVID-19.
Zambia	Zambia has used multi-sectoral responses to address COVID-19. The private sector in Zambia formed the Business Coalition Council Emergency Taskforce comprising various industry leaders to augment the response to COVID-19.

Source: E-survey.

However, greater efforts can be made to enhance the sharing of experiences across countries and to develop common positions. In order to address this, AUDA-NEPAD developed a medium- to long-term response across five key priority areas: (i) Health Systems; (ii) Food Systems; (iii) Skills Development and Employment; (iv) Education; and (v) National Planning and Data Systems. AUDA-NEPAD aims to leverage the support needed through its technical networks and through SSC/TrC.[61]

ECOWAS has also developed a socio-economic response. In June 2020, ECOWAS leaders pledged US$25 million towards their COVID-19 relief and recovery plans, with an emphasis on education and skills development, healthcare and sanitation.[62] In addition, ECOWAS has encouraged its member states to allocate 15 percent of their annual budget to strengthen health care systems and invited member states to contribute to the AU Solidarity Fund. Moreover, ECOWAS developed a joint response plan and an economic recovery plan, and updated WAHO's COVID-19 plan of action. ECOWAS has focused on supporting the private sector, private sector, including to SMEs and the informal sector. ECOWAS ministers dealing with food and agriculture have further agreed to set up a high-level disciplinary task force, together with West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), which will coordinate and monitor a regional action plan on food security. This plan will focus on the free movement of agricultural inputs and products, social protection measures and the mobilization of regional fund reserves.[63] ECOWAS has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which establishes a clear work plan of interventions in the fields of education, science and culture in order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.[64] As these responses take shape, it is critical that these

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61   www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-response-covid-19-other-epidemics
62   www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/ecowas-covid-19-global-goal-unite-for-our-future
63   www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/when-a-global-virus-confronts-local-realities-coronavirus-covid-19-in-west-africa-8af7f692
64   https://reliefweb.int/report/world/ecowas-and-unesco-sign-joint-statement-response-covid-19-west-african-countries

experiences are shared and scaled up across different countries and regions. One way of enhancing Africa's response to COVID-19 is through the AfCFTA, which is explored further below.

2.2.4 The African Continental Free Trade Area as an opportunity for South-South partnerships

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of enhancing domestic production, increasing local value chains, promoting trade and investment, and ensuring that investments address the challenges of inequality: the AfCFTA, touted as a means of helping countries to recover post-COVID-19, is a promising initiative to achieve this. The implementation of the AfCFTA was delayed until January 2021 due to the pandemic, but offers welfare gains, employment growth, intra-trade growth and the potential for businesses and investors to gain from tariff-free trade, trade barriers and the liberalization of the services trade.[65]

The AfCFTA will be able to respond to a variety of sectors and is using short- and long-term tools to regain momentum. For example, it may be used to coordinate the development of regional medical hubs and to further develop the AfCFTA Pharmaceutical Initiative, which has been commissioned in ten pilot African countries, with a focus on maternal and child healthcare products. The initiative will focus on pooled procurement, localized production. and a harmonized regulatory and quality standard leveraging. This speaks to Africa developing solutions for its own priorities and the importance of strengthening local production to reduce import dependency and shows the importance on SSC partnerships.[66]

In the long term, the focus will be on reconfiguring Africa's development, establishing regional value chains. and boosting the manufacture of essential value-added products, which can enhance job creation and economic growth. Beyond this, there are efforts to examine Africa's intellectual property rights to ensure that it has access to the generic drug industry, thereby ensuring affordable healthcare. The AfCFTA also recognizes the value of digital trade, and aims to establish the requisite regulatory environment, legal architecture and platforms to promote it.[67] It is important to note some key challenges, however. For example, the AfCFTA will not undermine the trade liberalization progress made by RECs. Tariffs will also have to be phased out over a specific period. And there will also be non-tariff barriers. Furthermore, to ensure the greatest value addition for African countries, stringent rules of origin are needed. Moreover, there will be varying adjustment costs during implementation. Discussions on services liberalization also need to be further detailed.[68]

If the AfCFTA is to be a success, it will be critical that multiple stakeholders are involved in discussions surrounding its implementation, going beyond governments and including trade unions, the private sector, civil society and academia. This will ensure the proper buy-in and ownership of African countries. It will also be important that the AfCFTA is tailored to conditions on the continent and that capacity is built among African countries to develop these conditions and implement the AfCFTA effectively. Moreover, it will be important that countries exercise discipline and act in solidarity by finding collaborative solutions to address all types of challenges, rather than acting in silos and seeking out bilateral agreements that could give them an advantage.

2.3 Conclusion

This chapter has shown that the African continent has been quick to react at various levels to the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the power of SSC. The Africa CDC has been instrumental in providing a regional health response and many RECS also began to implement strategies of varying proportions. Moreover, Africa has been able to provide a unified voice on debt relief and on resource mobilization. At regional and sub-regional levels, responses thus far have primarily been in the field of health and macroeconomic-economic responses, but recovery will entail a much broader response. This will include addressing the private sector, with specific support to the informal sector and SMEs, food security and agriculture, education, science and good governance. Moreover, African policy responses to COVID-19 demonstrate Africa's growing embrace of multilateralism at a time when international cooperation becomes ever more critical.

65 https://saiia.org.za/research/understanding-the-african-continental-free-trade-agreement

66 https://www.uneca.org/eca-covid-19-response

67 www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/may-2020/coronavirus/implementing-africa percentE2 percent80 percent99s-free-trade-pact-best-stimulus-post-covid-19-economies

68 https://saiia.org.za/research/understanding-the-african-continental-free-trade-agreement

African countries have also implemented a number of innovative solutions to address the pandemic. These responses have not only been directed towards the health sector, but also towards the economic and social sectors, the digital economy and the formation of new partnerships. The measures taken show the importance of engaging the private sector and multiple stakeholders. The pandemic has also highlighted the need to enhance technologies and to develop digital platforms and new ways of working.

Efforts to establish common positions, guidelines and harmonized measures are commendable, although not always as easy to implement in practice. In moving forward, countries will need to develop a common vision and strategy for SSC/TrC research and development. Recovering from COVID-19 will require multiple partnerships and collaborative efforts. Moreover, greater efforts can be made to share national practices with other countries through SSC/TrC. The next section examines some SSC initiatives that have been carried out during COVID-19 and will be carried out beyond.

CHAPTER 3

Africa's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiatives: Solutions for COVID-19 and beyond

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of strengthening local production capacities, facilitating trade movements and developing contextualized solutions. It has also demonstrated the importance of digitalizing Africa, which can provide new means of enhancing technology transfers and facilitate horizontal knowledge exchanges. There have also been a number of important national-level initiatives that provide interesting ways of responding to the pandemic and which could be scaled up. This section looks at SSC and TrC initiatives that have been undertaken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It starts by looking at how SSC/TrC is being institutionalized at a national level, and the context for doing so. It then looks at the achievements of some African countries in developing SSC mechanisms, based on ongoing and previous work done in collaboration with UNDP and other partners. The section then builds on the findings of an E-survey that was conducted by UNDP by looking at specific SSC/TrC initiatives that have been undertaken in response to COVID-19 as well as areas of SSC/TrC that have facilitated a COVID-19 response, which can be enhanced in the future. It shows that these responses were stronger by countries with existing SSC mechanisms, thus demonstrating the importance of SSC/TrC institutionalization.

3.1 South-South Cooperation institutionalization

As outlined in BAPA+40, developing countries are encouraged to:

> adopt or strengthen national policies to advance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms, as appropriate, in order to improve policy coordination, the sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices, and the adaptation of such practices, including through the voluntary exchange of experience and expertise according to national policies and priorities for development.[69]

In response to this, UNDP has prepared UNDP Country Office Guidelines to support national governments in building national SSC and TrC strategies.[70] The guidelines stress the importance of: building a national understanding of SSC; mapping and engaging key national stakeholders; aligning the strategy to the country context; establishing the national architecture for SSC; and institutional reporting, monitoring and accounting, as well as scaling up SSC/TrC. In addition, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), an international financial institution with 57 member countries, through the Reverse Linkage Mechanism, has developed seven pillars that it considers critical to the development of a national institutional framework, or ecosystem for SS/TrC (Figure 3). [71]

Figure 3. The seven pillars of an SSC/TrC ecosystem
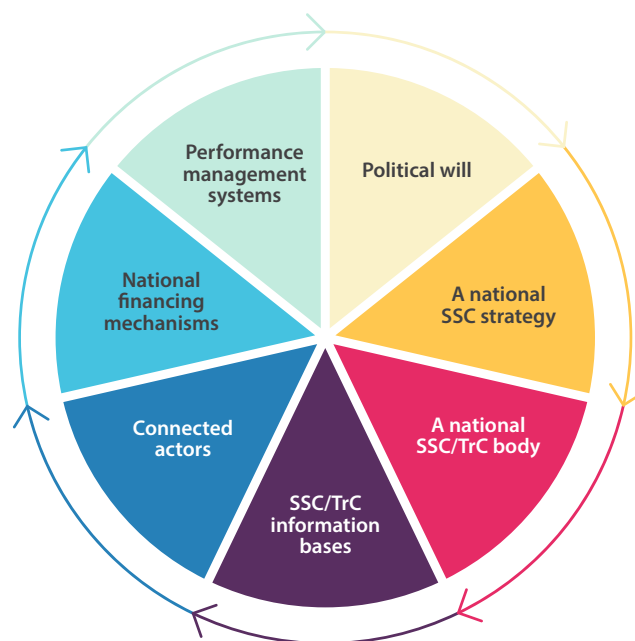
Source: Islamic Development Bank (2020).

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69   https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80
70   https://sdgfinance.undp.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines for Building National SSC and TrC Strategies_0.pdf
71   www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SSTrC_AFrame_LR-1.pdf

Kenya as a key proponent of South-South and triangular cooperation

Kenya has long advocated for South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/TrC) as a solution to addressing development challenges. It instituted an SSC Unit within its National Treasury and Planning Department and hosted the ninth summit of African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Heads of State and Government in 2019, with a collective resolve to deepen SSC/TrC and deepen trade and investment. Kenya will serve as non-permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) member from 2021 to 2022, and its campaign has revolved around bridge building and multilateralism. Moreover, it is strengthening the effectiveness of its SSC as part of an initiative spearheaded by the Colombian Presidential Agency on International Cooperation (APC Colombia).

Although Kenya coordinates annual reports from different agencies such as the Kenya Medical Research Institute and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, there is still limited coordination between different government agencies, and thus the actual scope of data on SSC/TrC is not yet readily available. Some examples of intra-African SSC engagement are with Liberia, Malawi, Somalia and South Sudan. It has also engaged cross-regionally, such as a study tour to Indonesia under the umbrella of the FAO and the EU, to learn from the country's experience of best practices on food security and nutrition policy planning, and implementation within a decentralized governance system. Through the World Bank, Kenya has engaged with sub-Saharan African countries on business development, in collaboration with Singapore, and in gender mainstreaming with India, for example. Kenya has also engaged with Cuba on dairy agriculture and health; with Sierra Leone and Liberia where it sent health professionals to support the Ebola crisis; and with Mexico on social protection.

Source: Interview with UNDP Country Office; www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UNOSSC-Kenya_web.pdf

In Africa, a number of countries have been making efforts to establish these ecosystems for SSc/Trc, as detailed in the First African South-South Cooperation Report, which was produced by UNDP in collaboration with the UNOSSC, the African Union Development Partnership Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the IsDB and the SEGIB.[72] For example, Botswana developed an SSC strategy and, like Djibouti and Côte d'Ivoire, set up its SSC Unit within their Ministries of Foreign Affairs, since they primarily deal with external relations. In Botswana, the strategy was presented to the Parliamentary Committee of Permanent Secretaries, and an implementation plan is currently being developed in consultation with all relevant national stakeholders.[73]

Uganda and Kenya, in contrast, set up their SSC unit within the Ministries of Finance. All of these units closely cooperate with different ministries, such as those that deal with statistics and national planning. The strategies have been built on baseline reports that assess national frameworks and priorities as well as regional and global priorities. In Cabo Verde, a mapping report was carried out and an SSC strategy developed. In order to generate buy-in and to ensure a multi-stakeholder approach, a national forum is being planned to validate these efforts and take this forward.[74] The reports gather data across the multitude of government departments to determine ongoing SSC/TrC activities in different thematic areas and make recommendations for scaling up SSC/TrC based on existing and potential relationships.

While some countries set up their SSC units within existing government structures, there are also countries that developed specific SSC/TrC agencies. This is particularly visible in northern Africa, such as the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI) and the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT). South Africa was also planning to establish a specialized agency, the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA), and completed the Business Case and Draft Partnership for the Development Bill (the Funding Mechanism). The next steps were for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and National Treasury to agree on institutional arrangements and to finalize the Draft Bill, which would then be submitted to Cabinet for approval to gazette for public comment. [75]

72　www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/UNDP-Africa-SSC-Report-2019-EN.pdf

73　Interview with UNDP country office Botswana, 17 November 2020.

74　Interview with UNDP country office Capo Verde, 10 November 2020.

75　https://pmg.org.za/files/160217sadpa.ppt.

Experience sharing on South-South cooperation institutionalization: Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Mexico

On 14 and 28 September 2020, the Governments of Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Mexico and Rwanda, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), came together through two online exchanges to share lessons learned on developing an institutional framework for SSC. In the first meeting, representatives from the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID) explained that its system of development cooperation had taken nearly ten years to develop and was being restructured to adapt to new challenges and priorities. Key elements include the AMEXCID serving as a bridge across all ministries of government and considering evaluation (both during and after projects) as a core part of its cooperation processes. The Agency encouraged their African counterparts to identify people both within AMEXCID and through its embassies to share any ideas on projects. The key takeaways from the webinar meeting is that it was a great opportunity to create inter-regional partnerships and align with national priorities, establish cost-effective ways of cooperation; follow-up would be key to ensuring the success of the exercise.

In the second meeting, Botswana mentioned that it was looking at a coordinated and functional institutional framework for SSC that could address the fourth industrial revolution. Botswana seeks to become a knowledge-based society while stressing self-sustainability. Cabo Verde explained that it had developed a document Ambition 2030, which states its priority intervention areas of human capital, the blue economy, renewable energy, the digital economy and tourism. The country has several bilateral partners such as Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, India, and Morocco. These are some areas in which it has been gaining experience and can start sharing experiences. Rwanda also stated that it was enhancing its institutional

knowledge capacity and would like the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI) to become a global gateway for knowledge exchange by serving as a hub of learning. Rwanda is formulating a business development strategy to assist with marketing, sustainability and a cost-recovery structure.

Source: UNDP Personal Communication.

Furthermore, the UNDP E-survey data show that nine African countries out of the 14 that responded have specialized units that deal with SSC/TrC (Figure 4). Nigeria and Rwanda have specialized agencies, while Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Niger have specialized units in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nigeria has a Directorate of Technical Assistance. Cameroon has different departments that deal with SSC/TrC within its Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, and Namibia deals with cooperation through its National Planning Commission and Joint Commissions on Cooperation while not necessarily distinguishing between South-South and North-South assistance.[76] Zambia engages in SSC/TrC but does not have a specific unit. Nevertheless, different ministries do engage in SSC, and there is a willingness to engage further, such as on electoral assistance and promoting women entrepreneurship.[77] The Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI) provides an example of a slightly different model and innovative approach, since it is a public company owned by the government and intended to give "single window access" to foreign parties that may be interested in sharing Rwanda's public sector solutions. The model is thus clearly seeking to reduce its reliance on government funding by looking at cost-recovery models. These findings suggest that the development landscape is becoming more diversified with new and smaller actors, which also provides multiple opportunities for scaling up SSC and engaging additional partners through TrC.

Taking into account the responses from the E-survey and the countries mentioned above, it is apparent that more than 25 African countries, roughly half of the African continent, have already taken steps to institutionalize SSC, which demonstrates the premium that Africa places on this form of development cooperation.[78]

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76   Interview with Namibia's National Planning Commission, 23 November 2020.

77   Interview with UNDP Country office, 03 December 2020.

78   Considering the responses of the ten African countries that stated that they have specialized units, as well as the other countries mentioned above.

Figure 4. The number of African countries with specialized South-South and triangular cooperation units

- ● International Development Agency
- ● Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ● Other
- ● No unit
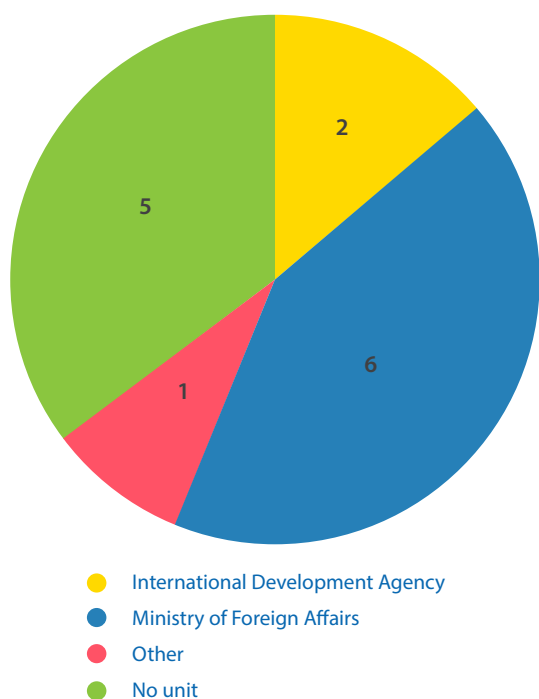
Source: UNDP E-survey (2020).
Note: Cameroon responded with 'other', pointing to a number of different units that dealt with SSC, including departments that dealt with cooperation among emerging countries and regional integration.

The E-survey was also sent to Chinese stakeholders to gather information on China's engagements with Africa. China established the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) in March 2018, which coordinates all of China's development assistance. Other than China, a number of countries across the Global South have also established formalized agencies, such as Mexican Agency of International Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC). Indonesia is an example of another country that is in the process of establishing a development cooperation agency, while TrC partners often have well established TrC agencies or units, such as the JICA, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and TIKA.

At a more continental level, the AU has begun to institutionalize SSC through AUDA-NEPAD, which has the mandate of coordinating and executing priority regional and continental development projects aimed at achieving Agenda 2063.[79] It is also worth noting that the Organization of African,

Caribbean and Pacific States Secretariat (OACPS) established the Centre for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in October 2018.[80]

Efforts to institutionalize SSC/TrC have been important in facilitating a COVID-19 response and will be important for finding a systematic means of using SSC/TrC in the future. As seen in the next section, a large portion of SSC/TrC responses to COVID-19 have come from SSC/TrC partners with specialized SSC/TrC units, which had existing strategies and relationships. Strengthening the institutionalization of SSC/TrC is therefore important for developing a strategic approach for post-COVID-19 recovery.

3.2 The impact of COVID-19 on SSC/TrC

3.2.1 African SSC/TrC initiatives in response to COVID-19

Africa has a multitude of SSC/TrC initiatives that have been undertaken both in response to COVID-19 and more generally. Nine out of the 14 African countries that responded to UNDP's E-survey were involved in knowledge, technical, technological, know-how types of horizontal exchange and transfer with other partners from the Global South in response to COVID-19 in Africa, which showed that the majority of African countries responding to the survey made use of this form of development cooperation to enhance their response to the pandemic. This is further bolstered by the fact that countries such as Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa and Uganda are known to be carrying out SSC/TrC initiatives on the continent, as seen by country responses in the First African South-South Cooperation Report, but did not respond to the survey. Hence, there may be additional SSC initiatives in response to COVID-19 that have not been highlighted.

Nevertheless, the E-survey provided some specific initiatives that have been used to address COVID-19, which have been both bilateral and triangular. A number of key actors emerge, namely Brazil, Cuba, China, Japan, Morocco, and Turkey, as summarized in Figure 5.
As noted in the E-survey, Morocco has provided training to medical doctors in Cameroon. However, Morocco has in fact supported more than 15 African countries across the continent, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros,

79 www.nepad.org/who-we-are/about-us
80 www.acp.int/content/oacps-and-unossc-commit-contributing-international-community-s-efforts-respond-global-challe

Figure 5. Examples of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives under COVID-19

Brazil	China	Cuba	Morocco	Japan	Turkey
Medical equipment	Medical equipment	Deploying medical professionals	Medical equipment	Strengthening national laboratories as centres of excellence	Medical equipment/ hygiene support
Sharing of good practices	Capacity-building	Training in health	Sharing of good practices	Training disease control experts	Food kits
	Sharing of good practices			Networking for collaborative responses	Online training (medical response)
					Support to health facilities

Source: E-survey, interviews.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Eswatini, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia. The products and protective equipment making up the medical aid were manufactured in Morocco by Moroccan companies.[81]

Meanwhile, Cuba has also been a key partner in the field of health for countries such as Cabo Verde.[82] In April, Cuba sent over 200 medical professionals to South Africa to support its COVID-19 response.[83] As noted in the E-survey, 252 students from Republic of the Congo received medical diplomas in 2020 after seven years of training in Cuba. These students will immediately join the public service and the Government's fight against COVID-19. It is estimated that 2,100 Congolese students were sent to Cuba since 2013.[84] Previously, Cuba had sent professionals to assist with the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, 2014).[85]
The E-survey also pointed to Chinese assistance during COVID-19. China has also provided medical equipment to

multiple African countries, including Cameroon, Niger, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and held online capacity-building workshops with over 1,000 attendees to create an enabling environment for promoting China-Africa's partnership on health and development through strategic communications. More broadly, China's response to COVID-19 in Africa has been multifaceted. This included: sharing anti-pandemic practices; providing emergency anti-pandemic supplies to 53 African countries and the AU; facilitating 21 African countries in signing procurement contracts; sending medical expert teams to 13 African countries; engaging 46 hospitals from 42 African countries in China-Africa pair-up hospitals cooperation mechanisms; and signing an implementation agreement with the AU for the construction of the Africa CDC Headquarters project.[86] Construction at the Africa CDC headquarters began in December 2020, while construction on other health facilities, such as the outpatient building for infectious diseases at the Grand National Hospital of Mauritania were completed ahead of schedule to assist in the

81 https://atalayar.com/en/content/morocco-send-aid-against-covid-19-15-african-countries
82 Interview with UNDP Capo Verde Country Office.
83 https://mg.co.za/article/2020-04-25-200-cuban-medics-to-help-sa-fight-covid-19
84 https://congomediatime.com/des-medecins-formes-a-cuba-attendus-au-congo
85 southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/From-Cuba-to-the-World-2018.pdf
86 www.iol.co.za/pretoria-news/opinion/china-supporting-africa-all-the-way-on-road-to-recovery-5dd74b6e-516d-4d3e-bbdf-758e242bd312

fight against COVID-19. Globally, China has provided medical equipment to 150 countries and dispatched 35 medical expert teams to 33 countries. It has also donated US$50 million to the United Nations COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.[87]

While some of China's assistance has been provided specifically by the Chinese Government, Chinese embassies in African capitals have also facilitated assistance from Chinese companies and the Chinese diaspora. This has included assistance to South Africa and Zimbabwe, among others. Medical personnel were also sent to Algeria, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. China also brought 50 African diplomats to visit a vaccine factory and is engaging with some African countries such as Morocco to produce a vaccine while also working to assist African countries in purchasing a vaccine.[88] In terms of TrC, the E-survey showed that the Government of Nigeria partnered with China and UNICEF to curb the community spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Niger Delta State while also cushioning the economic hardship of vulnerable women in the State and increasing their nutritional status as a result of additional income earned from the intervention. In this regard, over 100 women were trained to produce liquid soap and alcohol-based sanitizers for sale in rural communities. China now plans to work with WHO to establish a cooperation mechanism for Chinese hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals to strengthen their response and capacity for disease control.[89]

Furthermore, Brazil has increasingly been taking a humanitarian approach to its cooperation. It has also provided medical equipment to some African countries and held some workshops and training on good practices. Brazil's cooperation with Africa has traditionally focused on the health sector, as well as agriculture and education, among others. This has included training in African health institutes, predominantly in Portuguese-speaking countries, on topics such as tropical diseases, responses to health pandemics and maternal health. Many initiatives have been carried out in Mozambique.[90] It should also be noted that AMEXCID has also been carrying out SSC/TrC initiatives to support a COVID-19 response, albeit focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, Mexico developed locally produced ventilators to treat COVID-19 patients, and subsequently donated machines to Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Santa Lucía, Suriname, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.[91] It has also been engaging in TrC with the European Union (EU) on migration; Germany on epidemic preparedness; Japan on health, Spain on gender; and the United States of America on health and migration. It has further been supporting countries such as Chile, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay on areas such as the protection of minors and human rights violations. Mexico has also been advocating for equitable and global access to the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a potential and interest to scale up SSC/TrC engagements with Africa.[92]

Japan has also developed a strategic approach to responding to COVID-19 globally through the JICA, and in Africa specifically, with a focus on prevention, which builds on TrC partnerships and centres of excellence. Japan has worked with institutes in Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and Zambia, and notes that it has observed that low- and middle-income countries are responding by taking ownership of their challenges, developing scientific knowledge and showing a flexible and resilient governance.[93] Its approach has been three-pronged:
- strengthening the capacity of national core laboratories in Africa;
- strengthening the capacity of disease control experts in Africa through regional raining and in Japan for post-doctoral training;
- networking with regional and global disease control initiatives in Africa such as the Africa CDC and the WHO Regional Office for Africa.

87 www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/10/c_139655400.htm
88 https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/chinas-multifaceted-covid-19-diplomacy-across-africa
89 www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/10/c_139655400.htm
90 Interview with ABC, 27 January 2020.
91 https://dayton247now.com/news/coronavirus/mexico-to-donate-mexican-made-ventilators-to-8-countries
92 Interview with AMEXCISD and UNDP Mexico, 28 January 2020.
93 www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/JICA-Yoshida-Tomoya-PPT.pdf

Moreover, Japan has been supporting national institutes to become regional centres of excellence, in line with its previous public health interventions. For example, Japan has supported Ghana's Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research to become a regional centre of excellence for medical and infectious disease. The Institute has now become the second largest tester for COVID-19 on the continent after South Africa and has conducted 80 percent of the tests for Ghana. Part of its support comes from private sector donations, demonstrating a successful model of a public-private partnership (PPP).[94] Previously, Japan supported centres of excellence in science, technology and innovation.[95] For example, China, India, Japan and the World Bank have supported the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACEII) project. These Centres have enhanced research and capacity on the African continent, including the development of local solutions and innovations in response to COVID-19.[96]

Examples of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's engagement in Africa


The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) initiated a project that increased local production capacity of masks in Gambia through the COVID-19 Gambia Platform, a non-governmental organization that runs a campaign called Mask4All. This came as a response to a request by Gambia's national COVID-19 coordination office for 20,000 surgical masks to be distributed to schools that remained open. TIKA organized several online training sessions entitled, "Methods to Combat COVID-19", within its Emergency Medicine Capacity Building Program (ATKAP), which entailed sharing Turkey's experience and knowledge on its national fight against COVID-19. The 12-hour online training, conducted by 13 prominent academics and medical doctors from Turkish university hospitals, was provided for 113 health experts from Mozambique as well as from Kosovo, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria to learn about the diagnosis, adult and pediatric patient treatment and tracing methods used in Turkey's fight against COVID-19.

TİKA organizes "3-D Modelling and Printing" training, within its Vocational Training and Employment Program to support innovation and contribute to employment. Accordingly, 3D printers and the raw materials needed to produce face shields were made available to countries responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which were distributed to health clinics in need. In Africa, namely Algeria, Sudan, Libya and Uganda, ten 3-D printers were provided, resulting in thousands of face shields produced by local staff. In addition, Turkey provided a training of trainers for participants from various countries, including Uganda and Algeria, entitled "Emergency and Innovative Solutions through 3D Technologies".

Source: TİKA through personal communication.
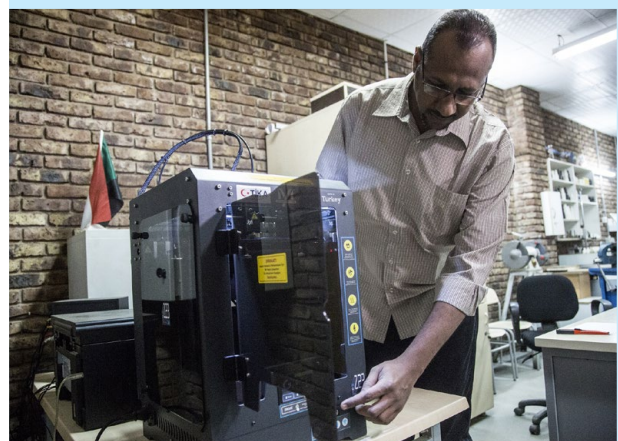
In addition, TIKA provided COVID-19 assistance to 72 countries, with 198 projects conducted (as of January 2021). In Africa, it carried out 59 projects in 30 countries. These projects included the provision of medical equipment,

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94 https://globisinsights.com/global-japan/africa-covid19-investment-opportunity

95 www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/10/10/2nd-africa-japan-higher-education-partnership-workshop-along-with-ticad-7

96 www.worldbank.org/en/results/2020/12/14/investing-in-excellence-in-higher-education-for-development-delivering-quality-post-graduate-education-through-the-eastern-southern-africa-higher-education-centers-of-excellence-aceii

such as personal and protective equipment (PPE), vehicles (including ambulances), food aid and hygiene kits, as well as building countries' capacity for producing PPE. The activities included: (i) the setting up of soap, disinfectant and mask production centres, and the supply of supplementary materials; (ii) the supply of hygiene kits; (iii) the setting up of hand washing units in densely populated areas; and (iv) the supply of complementary materials required to increase the effectiveness of previously implemented health projects.[97]

TIKA also handed over previously constructed/equipped hospitals and health clinics to relevant authorities and offered online training and support for innovation (3D modelling and printing). It continues to provide livelihood assistance, which is vital for people who lost their jobs and means of income during the pandemic, such as: support to women beekeepers in Cameroon; the renovation of a factory in South Sudan where vulnerable women could produce soap; and support to farmers in Somaliland.[98] This assistance included the provision of PPE, donations and hygiene equipment, the renovation of hospitals and health facilities, as well as sharing its experiences in medical response. It shifted its training to online, covering the fields of surgery, emergency rescue, agriculture and others. In general, TIKA emphasizes ownership and self-reliance, and therefore does not often give grants but aims to boost local production by enhancing the creation of goods from local suppliers.[99]

The survey and follow-up interviews with partners therefore reveal that the majority of SSC/TrC in direct response to COVID-19 has come from a few specific countries that often operate in the field of health and have strategic visions for this sector while there were fewer inter-African initiatives. Thus, there has been a reinforcement of previous trends in which partners such as China, Cuba, Japan and Turkey provided technical assistance on health initiatives. In terms of African partners, Morocco was more visible in terms of providing SSC/TrC. Moreover, these responses re-affirm the importance of SSC/TrC as a modality for developing a socio-economic response to COVID-19, particularly in developing basic infrastructures in areas such as health and digitalization.

There are also additional examples of additional SSC/TrC engagements in response to COVID-19. For example, the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), the

IsDB, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and the UNOSSC are carrying out a project to develop the organizational and human competencies of the Sudan National Laboratory on COVID-19-related activities.[100]

Another example recently showcased by the UNOSSC relates to an initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build emergency ventilators with local materials and local people, which began out of a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) joint initiative with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United States.[101] Twitter was used to generate interest, which grew to involve the University of Ohio, Loyola University of Congo (that already partners with the French *Institut catholique d'arts et métiers* group), the University of Louisiana, Biamba Marie Mutombo hospital, e-COM SAS (an electronic payment company), the Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi Foundation, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's National Institute of Professional Preparation (INPP). Students received scholarships for this project and have already developed a pilot prototype for it.[102] The work was carried out under an open licence so that it could be used by others across the continent and the world. At the same webinar in which this example was showcased, other efforts were also highlighted. These included a presentation from Dr. Linda Mobula on the Democratic Republic of the Congo's community-based strategy, which allowed institutions and leaders to trace contacts. Another example was from Uku'hamba, a South African company that develops lightweight prosthetics for amputees, which has re-purposed materials to produce, among others, masks, face shields, and a contact-sensitive lens to automatically track body temperatures for use in public places without human contact. These examples show how Africa is producing innovative responses to COVID-19 that involve a variety of actors. These efforts have the potential to be scaled up through SSC/TrC.

There have also been efforts to share experiences on responses to COVID-19. For example, AUDA-NEPAD published a learning brief on comparative observations from Kenya and South Africa on youth skills development and employment, and details four key areas for post-COVID-19 recovery: (i) sustaining collaborative problem solving; (ii) scaling up service delivery and social protection; (iii) re-thinking youth skills and employment; and (iv) improving micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and informal workers'

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97   Information supplied by TIKA, 11 January 2020.
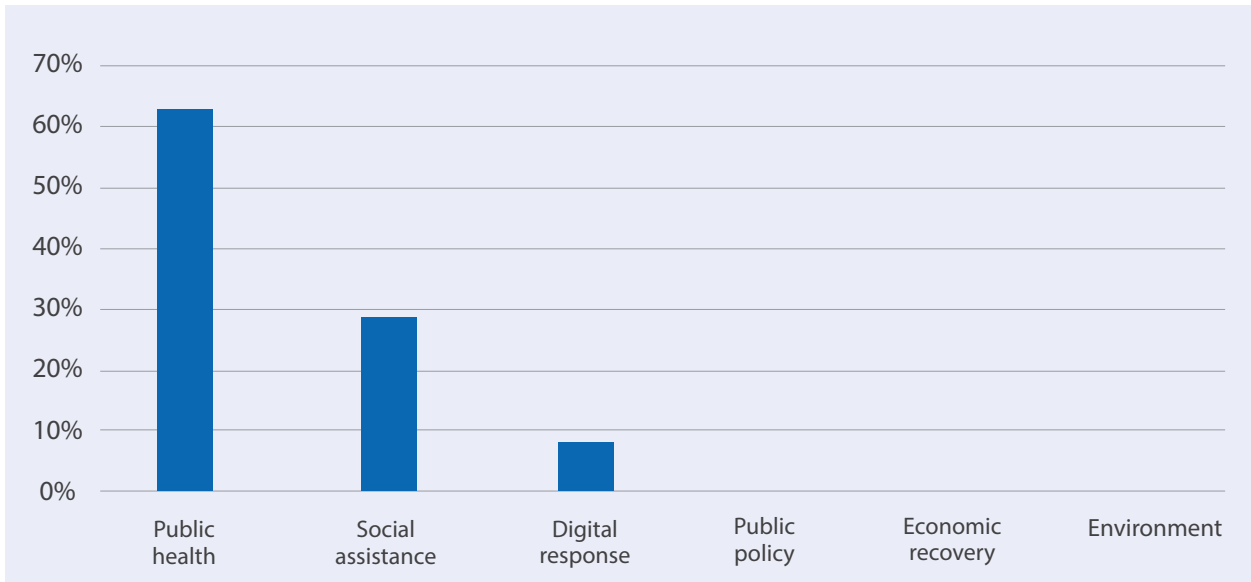
98   ibid.

99   Interview with TIKA, 3 December 2020.

100   OECD TrC repository, Personal Communication.

101   www.stemdrc.com

102   www.respirateur-rdc.com

Figure 6. Percentage of responses from Chinese companies in Africa, by South-South cooperation area

Source: UNDP E-survey (Chinese Chambers of Commerce), 2020.

resilience.[103] A platform called the ECOBIZ-FENAWICC newsletter was also launched in April–May 2020 to allow Africans to share their experiences or information on COVID-19. The platform is still running and has generated exchanges in a number of areas including the economy, health, technology, and so on. There have also been exchanges through a platform named "SMEs in West Africa", which has looked at experiences in agriculture, agribusiness and manufacturing; UNOSSC has supported both of these platforms in dialogue.[104]

What also emerges from the research is the important role that the private sector can play in responding to COVID-19, as seen in the E-survey that UNDP conducted in 2020 with 15 Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Africa. The responses provide an idea of how the private sector can support SSC/TrC. Responses came from Chambers of Commerce in Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa and South Sudan. In all of the responses (Figure 6), most SSC support was given in the area of public health (63 percent), followed by social assistance (29 percent) and digital response (8 percent).

The survey findings (Figure 7) show that most support has been in terms of in-kind assistance (56 percent), followed by financing support (20 percent), the provision of training

and experts (12 percent), and sharing of experience and knowledge (8 percent).

Most in-kind contributions constituted personal and protective equipment (PPE), while technical assistance was in the form of information and communications technology (ICT) training by HUAWEI and through the broadcasting of educational videos on the risks of COVID-19 and its prevention (see Figure 7).[105] HUAWEI also developed a free online training for university lecturers and students, and StarTimes developed a COVID-19 self-test programme and teaching videos on its multimedia platform for elementary, middle and high school students in Cameroon, according to the E-survey. Every single contribution (100 percent of responses) contributed to SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).
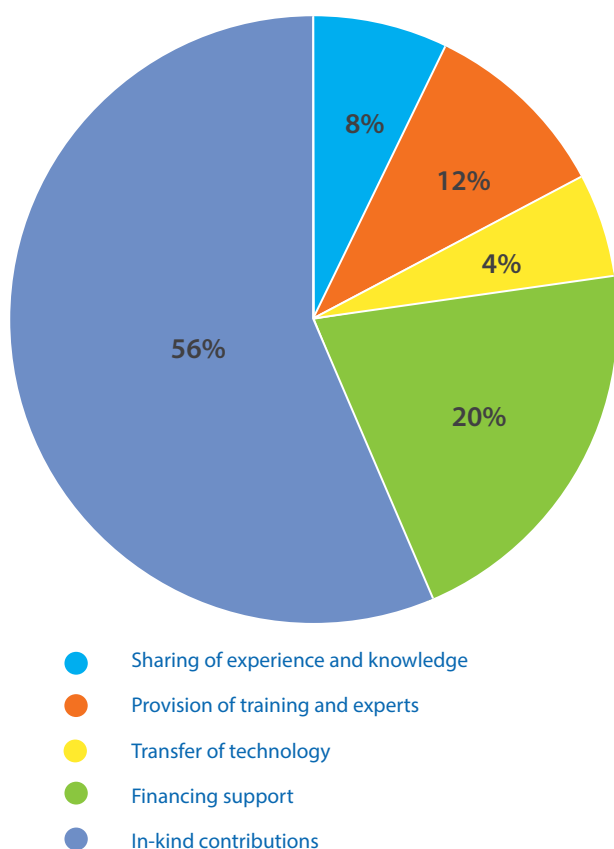

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103   www.nepad.org/skillsportalforyouth/publication/covid-19-learning-brief-comparative-observations-kenya-and-south
104   Personal communication with UNOSSC, 13 January 2021.
105   https://ecomatin.net/coronavirus-startimes-se-lance-dans-la-sensibilization/

Figure 7. South-South and triangular cooperation type of assistance by Chinese companies in Africa

- Sharing of experience and knowledge
- Provision of training and experts
- Transfer of technology
- Financing support
- In-kind contributions

Source: UNDP E-survey (Chambers of Commerce), 2020.

It is also worth mentioning the role that philanthropy has played in SSC/TrC initiatives to address the panic. Chinese billionaire Jack Ma, the founder of China's E-commerce giant Alibaba, distributed a multitude of medical supplies to African countries such as Rwanda and Ethiopia. He also established the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative, which seeks African business heroes.[106]

3.2.2 Innovative technology solutions to COVID-19 that can be scaled up through SSC/TrC

Africa's responses to COVID-19 have also shown the importance of embracing multiple technologies. For example, South Africa developed a COVID-19 tracing app, which keeps an anonymous record of everyone that the person with the app has been in contact with for the last two weeks. It allows users to inform the app if they have tested positive for COVID-19, and in turn, the app alerts the other people with whom the user has been in contact.[107] Youth4Life Kenya has developed an online platform to upskill youths.[108] Such examples are useful for seeing how technology can be used in responding to COVID-19 and suggest ways in which technology can be scaled up if shared through SSC/TrC.

In a programme designed to scale up solutions at a regional level, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) from the United States expanded a science and engineering training programme to ensure that critical medical supplies were provided for COVID-19 response. As part of the Math and Science for Sub-Saharan Africa (MS4SSA) initiative, WPI arranged for 3D printers to be sent to Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria and Rwanda to facilitate the manufacturing of face masks, face shields and parts of automated ventilators. The project has allowed African institutions and the WPI to work together to use and adapt technology to address Africa's needs and has facilitated the development of intra-African partnerships.[109]

Moreover, there are global efforts to scale up technological initiatives, such as through the United Nations Technology Bank, which was established in 2016 with the strategic objective of supporting the 47 least developed countries (LDCs) to strengthen their science, technology and innovation (STI) capacities. Part of the Bank's mandate relates to SDG 17.6: *Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at the UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed.*

The Bank also promotes the exchange and development of environmentally sound technologies (SDG 17.7) and aims to enhance international support for capacity-building to develop national plains to implement the SDGs, including through North-South cooperation, SSC and TrC.

The United Nations Technology Bank supports countries in developing their innovation ecosystems and assessing their needs while providing guidance on how to strengthen research and innovation. It also supports engagement with the private sector. LDCs face three major gaps: limited

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106 www.alizila.com/alibaba-initiatives-in-africa-media-resources
107 www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/enthusiasm-for-south-africas-covid-19-tracing-app
108 https://youth4life.co.ke
109 www.wpi.edu/news/supporting-covid-19-responders-worcester-polytechnic-institute-expands-stem-program-africa

ownership of technologies and limited capacity to adopt technology from elsewhere; an information gap on the technological specificities that allow them to address their needs; and a purchasing power gap. The Bank therefore helps countries to assess these needs while working with other United Nations agencies to deliver this support.[110]

In September 2020, AUDA-NEPAD held the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CJED) on the theme, *"Effectively harnessing innovation and emerging technologies for the recovery and sustainability of African economies: Lessons from the pandemic".* The event was attended by over 240 delegates from various

The Technology Access Partnership: Using technology to respond to COVID-19

The Technology Access Partnership (TAP), a joint United Nations agency response to COVID-19, was initiated in May 2020, and demonstrates how technology transfer and the scaling up of local production can be used to enhance equitable access to personal protection equipment (PPE), respiratory devices and diagnostics. The TAP is hosted by the United Nations Technology Bank and partners with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and World Health Organization (WHO). The TAP aims to achieve equitable access to all goods and services that have been provided during the pandemic, and to enable elements of its approach to be adopted and replicated elsewhere. It also encourages the sharing of solutions on its matchmaking platform and makes practical recommendations on how to enhance science, technology and innovation. Challenges for the TAP include resource constraints, limited capacity to map national landscapes, and the lack of incentives for commercial actors to enter into the local manufacture and production of relevant heath technologies. These challenges then hinder other policy aspirations, such as the desire of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize the purchasing of relevant COVID-19 technologies from manufacturers on the continent since these manufacturers may not have a sustainable business case. As such, a coordinated approach is needed to support this initiative.

Source: United Nations Technology Bank through personal communication, 7 January 2021.

sectors as well as academics, innovators and other relevant experts. Discussions included addressing misinformation, technologies for malaria control, e-learning for schools, gender and youth, Internet penetration and technology infrastructure, as well as accurate data sharing.[111]

The AU also established the Panel on Emerging Technologies in 2016 to support member states in technology and innovation. The event was an opportunity to release its White Paper on harnessing innovation and emerging technologies to address the impact of COVID-19 in Africa, which contains good practices in preparedness strategies for pandemics.[112] The White Paper makes a series of recommendations for prioritizing the needs of the continent that can be addresses through innovation and emerging technologies through nine priority areas: African Union; Health; Food Security and Nutrition; Education and E-Learning; Science, Technology and Innovation; Adaptation of Policies and National Planning Systems; Communication, Advocacy and Community Engagement; Global Partnerships; and Investment.[113]

110   United Nations Technology Bank, Personal Communication, 7 January 2020.

111   www.nepad.org/news/3rd-calestous-juma-executive-dialogue-successfully-convened-sharing-knowledge-and

112   www.nepad.org/publication/white-paper-harnessing-innovation-and-emerging-technologies-address-impact-of

113   www.nepad.org/file-download/download/public/127159

Importantly, the AU has also been making efforts to engage the private sector. For example, AUDA-NEPAD has been collaborating with the Ecobank group to establish a continental framework to support African MSMSEs.[114] This includes creating a one-stop platform to address the issues, challenges and needs of MSMEs during COVID-19, identifying ways to coordinate and harmonize efforts to support them as well as job opportunities. The Africa CDC has also been examining how to scale up local production of PPE and developing a digital exchange with the Africa CDC and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank).[115]

There have also been efforts to address the potential inequalities arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This includes addressing the digital gender divide, which is a particular concern because ensuring women's participation in the digital economy can provide worldwide access for women's goods and services, offer possibilities for entrepreneurship, and can be a means of community building.[116] Indeed, the UNOSSC and the African Union Commission have recognized the importance of empowering women in STEM and have been holding a series of webinars aimed at enhancing opportunities for African women in STEM sectors by facilitating capacity-building and mentorship, and using SSC to share knowledge and experiences.[117] A Women in STEM (WISTEM-Net Africa) platform is currently being established to scale up these efforts.

Thus, the data above suggest that there has been some sharing of SSC/TrC experiences and that SSC/TrC does offer a means of responding to COVID-19. In attempting to scale up and systematically share COVID-19 responses, the UNOSSC has mapped Southern solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic that will allow countries to quickly access information, share their practices and learn from one another. All but five African countries are currently mapped.[118] These initiatives are useful and provide ways to promote SSC/TrC in the future.

3.2.3 The impact of COVID-19 on ongoing SSC initiatives

Despite the positive findings above that demonstrate the importance of SSC/TrC and how this is changing in response to the pandemic, the reality is that the pandemic has tended to slow ongoing SSC initiatives as countries had to look inwards to prepare their emergency responses. In the E-survey, 11 respondents said that COVID-19 had hindered ongoing SSC/TrC initiatives, 3 were not sure, 3 had no such partnerships, and only 2 said that COVID-19 had not hindered ongoing relationships.

Figure 8. Effect of COVID-19 on SSC/TrC initiatives
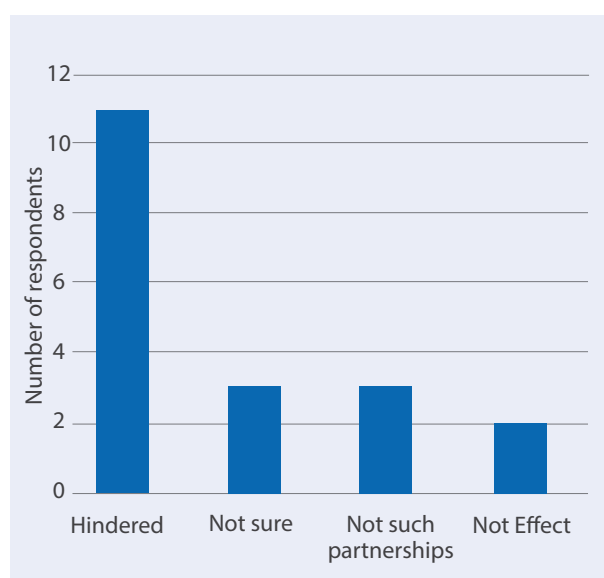
Source: UNDP E-survey.

Most respondents pointed to hindrances due to travel restrictions, while others pointed to a shifting of government priorities, requiring further negotiations between partners or a reallocation of resources. These included: exchanges in the areas of e-governance and statistics (Cabo Verde); a joint collaboration between the Government of Ghana, UNDP and the private sector in the manufacturing of solar photovoltaic (PV) components; support to initiatives for MSMEs between Namibia and Ghana; and Chinese capacity-building exchanges in the areas of climate change and biodiversity. Respondents also pointed to delays in the launching of the AfCFTA until 2021. In addition, some efforts to build an SSC/TrC ecosystem have been hindered due to the inability to hold physical meetings. In general, stakeholders have continued to "tread water" until borders open and exchanges are safer while continuing ongoing partnerships and trying to deepen multilateralism.[119]

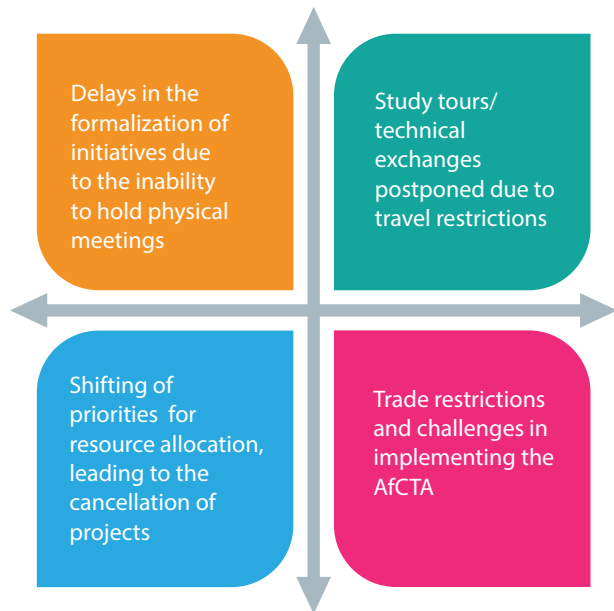
114 ibid.
115 https://www.uneca.org/eca-covid-19-response
116 www.fc-ssc.org/getfile/index/action/images/name/5cc7d42426ec9.pdf
117 www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/presscenter/events/african-women-in-stem-and-their-contribution-to-the-covid-19-eme.html
118 www.southsouth-galaxy.org/response-to-coronavirus
119 Interviews with NOREC, 11 November 2020.

Figure 9. Types of hindrances due to COVID-19

Delays in the formalization of initiatives due to the inability to hold physical meetings

Study tours/technical exchanges postponed due to travel restrictions

Shifting of priorities for resource allocation, leading to the cancellation of projects

Trade restrictions and challenges in implementing the AfCTA

for strengthening SSC/TrC in areas where it will have a socio-economic impact, such as in developing statistical and demographic data collecting capacities, agricultural production/food subsistence, and clearly, more work in the health sector.[123] In addition, as witnessed by the examples mentioned previously, COVID-19 responses have often involved multi-actor engagements, and demonstrated the utility of these collaborative approaches, which can be less politicized and sometimes more efficient.[124] This is in line with the recommendations of BAPA+40.

COVID-19 has also shifted to digital meetings, which has reduced the amount of travel and travel time, and facilitated greater stakeholder engagement since there are no associated travel costs. This has facilitated exchanges such as the previous example of the meeting on SSC institutionalization between Botswana, Cabo Verde, Mexico and Rwanda, in collaboration with UNDP. Arguably, the move towards digitalization has made exchanges more democratic, such as the High-Level Political Forum, which hosted a record number of civil society organizations.[125] While there have been some challenges such as power cuts and Internet connections, the move online has shown that SSC/TrC exchanges can continue and actually be broadened, as demonstrated by UNDP's online exchange on SSC institutionalization, noted earlier.

However, the pandemic also provides some opportunities to re-think the nature of SSC/TrC while also re-affirming its importance and the importance and that of multilateralism more broadly. For example, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NOREC) facilitates North-South, South-North and South-South exchanges. While most Norwegian experts in the South returned home at the advent of COVID-19, most Southerners remained in Norway, and those involved in South-South exchanges remained in their host countries. As a result, Pride Community Health Organization in Zambia and Life Concern Organization in Malawi managed to continue their work on HIV/AIDS.[120] This example suggests that SSC/TrC is much more sustainable than North-South exchanges. Moreover, the pandemic has provided an opportunity to focus on developing institutional capacity and to continue capacity-building initiatives in the Global South.[121]

For TIKA, while projects were delayed in some cases, SSC/TrC enabled the organization to develop the infrastructure for digital responses.[122] In the case of Brazil, ABC used the time to strengthen the humanitarian cooperation element of its engagements while re-adjusting programming where possible to move online. It increasingly sees a role

Moreover, the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI), a voluntary initiative that aims to bring together development stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of TrC, conducted a survey in 2020 to see if TrC had been used in response to COVID-19. While the survey was not conducted specifically for African countries or partners, many of the responses are applicable to the continent. The majority of respondents had indicated that they would not use TrC as a first response to COVID-19, but most had suggested that it would be useful at a later stage in the recovery response. This is because it takes time to establish trust and forge partnerships. However, projects in which partnerships had already been established had been flexible and adaptive to the changing circumstances.[126] This was the case with NOREC projects in Africa, for example.[127]

120   www.norec.no/en/aktuelle/post-covid-19-business-as-usual-or-game-changer
121   Interview with NOREC, 11 November 2020.
122   Incterview with TIKA, 3 December 2020.
123   Interview with ABC, 26 January 2020.
124   Interview with UNOSSC, 13 January 2020.
125   ibid.
126   Interview with OECD-GPI, 13 November 2020.
127   Interview with NOREC, 11 November 2020.

Nevertheless, while TrC is increasing as a modality, cooperation often remains bilateral. At the regional level, Latin America continues to lead in terms of TrC, although multi-regional initiatives and those undertaken in Africa followed.[128] Moreover, the 2019 Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America has shown that, in 2017, there were 83 bilateral initiatives with Africa, eight TrC initiatives and two regional SSC initiatives.[129] In an evaluation of German development cooperation, only 0.047 percent of funding was allocated to TrC between 2006 and 2017.[130] Clearly, greater efforts could be made to enhance TrC in Africa in response to COVID-19.

It is also worth noting that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) emphasized the importance of SSC/TrC in responding to COVID-19 in a report that highlights North-South divergence in battling the pandemic. The report explains that developing countries are likely to be more vulnerable to the pandemic due terms of higher levels of informality, a lack of diversity in the formal economy, and a heavy reliance on external markets and finance. Accordingly, it calls for three key areas of action: (i) scaling up South-South finance; (ii) building South-South cooperation for trade and industry; and (iii) strengthening regional integration and value chains.[131] It views the pandemic as an opportunity for:

South-South solidarity, involving new financial relations, rebuilding trade competitiveness by reviving industrial growth and strengthening south-south cooperation for taking bold initiatives in health and health-related areas. Further, south-south solidarity is needed for carving out policy space in multilateral trade agreements for sustainable recovery of the South.

In sum, SSC/TrC engagements have been used in response to COVID-19 in Africa, albeit mostly from specific actors who place health as an area of focus. Although SSC/TrC was not utilized as much as it could have been for the pandemic, possibly because countries were focused on their own internal national emergency responses rather than projects that take time to develop, there is certainly a case for SSC/TrC playing an important role in COVID-19 recovery. There are also a number of other areas in which SSC/TrC can facilitate a post-COVID-19 socio-economic response, as detailed below.

3.2.4 SSC/TrC engagements that can facilitate COVID-19 recovery

The UNDP E-survey showed that, for five of the countries in the survey, past SSC/TrC initiatives have enhanced African governments' responses to COVID-19 (Figure 10). These have occurred across a wide range of areas and suggest the utility of continuing SSC/TrC exchanges to provide a comprehensive socio-economic response to COVID-19 in the future.

Figure 10. Have South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges facilitated responses to COVID-19?
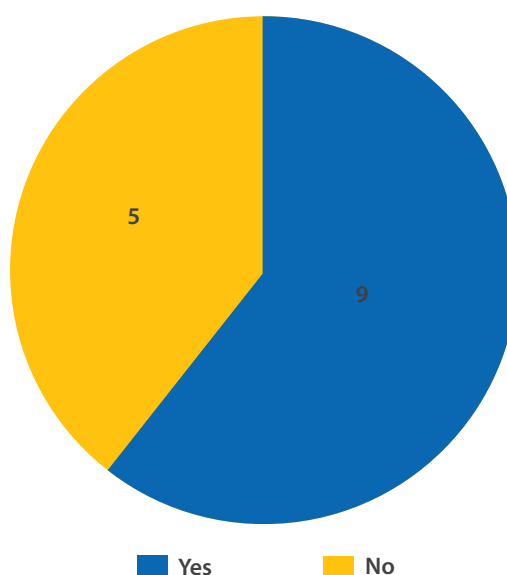
Source: UNDP E-survey 2020.

As can be seen in Figure 11, most respondents to the E-survey said that SSC/TrC exchanges in the area of public health and infrastructure, as well as socio-economic development had facilitated their response. This affirms findings from the First African South-South Cooperation Report, where this sector had the third largest number of SSC initiatives on the continent in 2017, and shows that health has continued to be an important area of focus for African countries.[132] Examples of initiatives under each of these thematic areas are further explored below.

128 ibid.

129 www.informesursur.org/en

130 www.giz.de/en/downloads/Summary_DEval-2020-Trilateral_cooperation.pdf

131 www.southsouth-galaxy.org/publications/south-south-cooperation-at-the-time-of-covid-19-building-solidarity-among-developing-countries

132 www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/UNDP-Africa-SSC-Report-2019-EN.pdf

Figure 11. Areas of SSC/TrC engagement that facilitated a COVID-19 response
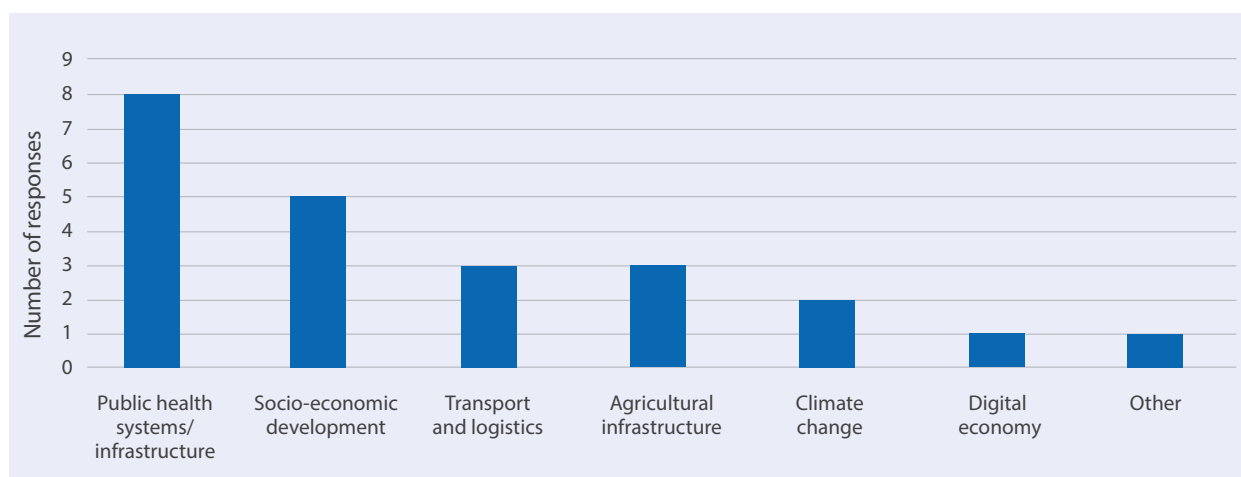
Source: UNDP E-survey.
Note: Ten out of 23 respondents answered this question.

3.2.4.1 Health

In addition to the examples mentioned above, in direct response to COVID-19, there are a number of additional SSC/TrC public health initiatives that have facilitated partnerships in the area of public health and could continue to be enhanced. For example, Uganda has collaborated with Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Mexico on health while also providing support to countries in their Ebola response, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sudan. Kenya has collaborated with Zambia to develop a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) to promote the scaling up of the health force. The Kenya HRIS was funded by the United States and then also implemented in Zambia in collaboration with Emory University in the United States. In order to implement the project, several exchange trips were organized for raising awareness, information sharing and orientation. The project was then adapted to the Zambian context, including the customization of software. A consultative forum, similar to the one developed in Kenya, was established to promote coordination and communication. The use of Kenyan consultants rather than overseas consultants reduced costs, and the project was monitored and evaluated. Overall, the project was a successful example of using TrC to implement a health response.[133]

In another TrC project, Uganda and Kenya shared experiences in addressing health inequalities between rural and urban areas, with the support from NOREC. The project has involved the exchange of skilled health personnel to marginalized communities who then trained locals in basic healthcare. Areas of focus have included: preventive health education and services for maternal and child health; preventive health education and services for HIV and Hepatitis B; malaria prevention; hygiene and sanitation; nutrition for children under five and breastfeeding mothers; guiding principles for health facility management; capacity in managing community development projects; knowledge and practice of community-directed intervention projects; and professionalism in cross-cultural settings.[134]

Another partner in the field of health is TIKA, who has been working with Sudan to share its experiences of developing its capacities in emergency health services with Djibouti, Chad, Somalia, Guinea, Gambia and Niger under the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The objective of the project is to encourage these professionals in turn to develop the capacity of local trainers. Training sessions were planned for Algeria, Cameroon, Libya, Senegal, Tunisia and Uganda; and despite COVID-19 delays, this is set to be expanded once the pandemic eases.[135]

Elsewhere, India has promised medical equipment and assistance to Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Mali,a natural progression of its ongoing relations since it is a major

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133   https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12960-019-0342-z

134   https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/detail/improve-healthcare-in-rural-areas?fbclid=IwAR2upFYDRSnA9LOt9NNksYx992EMld-5MsrgZSqWZE1t-5VIn1YDfaQG04c

135   www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-for-Sustainable-Development-Vol.-3-2020-Digital-Light-FINAL.pdf

exporter of medicines to Africa and has established the framework of cooperation through the India-Africa summit.[136] India has previously shared innovations in the field of family planning, child and maternal health care through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Global Linkages Project in 2016. And the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) has further supported TrC with Indian civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa working on issues such as digital green agriculture, health and nutrition, housing and sanitation, child literacy and rural development.[137]

Other examples of SSC/TrC engagement in the health sector include a collaboration between the PICA, the Government of Mozambique and the IsDB on spinal and paediatric orthopaedic care. The IsDB has also collaborated with Morocco and Djibouti on clinical and electronic surveillance at birth and addressing at-risk pregnancies. The IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) have further collaborated with Egypt, Azerbaijan, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and institutes such as the African Institute of Tropical Ophthalmology, Al Bassar International Foundation Morocco, Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH- Turkey), Nadi Al Bassar Tunisia and Prevention of Blindness Union (PBU) in a project across Africa to address avoidable blindness. Morocco is also now establishing a support fund with Belgium to promote training for 104 professionals in 32 African countries on water, health, energy, animal health, media and public finance.[138]

The GPI also notes how TrC has been scaled up to TrC initiatives in the field of health, pointing to a Japanese approach that was shared with hospitals in Sri Lanka. United Republic of Tanzania then participated in a training session in Sri Lanka through the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Programme, and then started sharing experiences with Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.[139] Thus, a bilateral exchange can be extended to several countries, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of TrC.

3.2.4.2 Socio-economic development

Developing an online registry in Namibia

UNDP has supported Namibia in procuring a Kenyan consultant to assist in developing an online registry for the Ministry of Home Affairs, based on Kenyan experiences. The registry will assist in developing contactless measures for registering citizens and ensuring the provision of essential services. This will go far in achieving SDG 16.9, namely providing a legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Source: Interview with UNDP Namibia, 11 November 2020.

As shown by the E-survey, another major field for SSC/TrC exchanges is socio-economic development. These exchanges have not only facilitated COVID-19 responses, but have also shown how SSC/TrC can address COVID-19 recovery, such as by ensuring strengthening financial systems and addressing inequalities. Nigeria, for example, has collaborated with African partners in the field of public financial management reforms and public works. Moreover, five African Portuguese-speaking countries have shared experiences in e monitoring public finances by CSOs and Angola's Court of Auditors according to the UNDP E-survey. E-governance is also an area of focus for Rwanda, as it has made excellent progress in developing E-procurement systems.

There are also examples of how these efforts are being scaled up through TrC. One project between Tunisia, the JICA and the AfDB on public finance management, for example, has been expanded to Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.[140]

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136 www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/indias-medical-diplomacy-during-covid19-through-south-south-cooperation-69456/
137 www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GPI-Report-Triangular-Co-op-in-the-Era-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf
138 ibid.
139 ibid.
140 www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GPI-Report-Triangular-Co-op-in-the-Era-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf

Beyond public finance management, the E-survey showed that countries have also engaged in governance initiatives more broadly. Eritrea has, for example, organized study tours with Rwanda on its justice system, including the Gacaca community courts. The E-survey also showed that Angola has also been learning from Cabo Verde's experience to develop a national gender indicator system, which illustrates how SSC/TrC can be used to address inequalities including gender. The plan to implement this has been approved and will be operationalized by 2021. Angola has also learned from experiences in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and others on frameworks/models for political parties and decentralization, according to the E-survey.

Decentralized partnerships are also increasingly being used in SSC/TrC. For example, Germany and South Africa have instituted the Zimbabwe, Germany, South Africa (ZIGESA) Trialogue, which promotes peer learning between the cities of Harare, Durban and Munich. These peer learning exchanges have continued beyond Germany's support of the project and again speak to the variety of partnerships in SSC/TrC.[141]

Other examples of ongoing TrC projects include NOREC's promotion of rural businesses in Asia and Africa,[142] and its support to the members of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) that builds institutional capacity for advancing gender equality in education in Africa, specifically in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.[143]

3.2.4.3 Transport and logistics

In the field of transport and logistics, SSC/TrC can facilitate Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery. The best-known examples are China's support to the development of African railways, such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway built in Kenya, and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway. These projects have been facilitated by loans from the *Export-Import Bank* of *China*, although a variety of financing models have been used throughout the continent. In the broader scheme of things, China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to span from east to west, is likely to further transform transport

infrastructure across the continent, which can facilitate trade and exchanges of personnel. There is also a number of important African initiatives such as one of the AU's 2063 flagship projects, which is the creation of an integrated high-speed train network.[144]

In addition, there have been specific TrC projects related to transport and logistics, which have enhanced employment and job creation. For example, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has developed a project with Morocco that seeks to strengthen the abilities of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia in the automotive field. The countries have subsequently established action plans to develop vocational training, which is ongoing. Morocco and Senegal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure sustainability in the future. In addition, Morocco has established a Heavy-Duty Equipment and Commercial Vehicles Academy in partnership with Volvo, and has trained over 600 students from Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Senegal.[145] Zambia has also established the Zambian Industrial Training Academy (ZAMITA), which employs innovative approaches such as simulators of the latest engine technology, and trained over 450 students in this field with a focus on women and previously disadvantaged individuals.[146]

3.2.4.4 Agricultural infrastructure

COVID-19 has already exacerbated challenges on the African continent such as food insecurity, but SSC/TrC provides an opportunity to address them. For instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established an SSC/TrC strategy, which specifies that its main providers are Brazil and China, with other SSC providers such Mexico, Morocco and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.[147] Brazil has been engaging with Angola to strengthen agriculture and veterinary research institutes, which, considering that the pandemic is thought to be linked to animal-human transmission, may be critical in preventing future pandemics. FAO has also used SSC/TrC to support local production, such as through the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) programme.

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141   Interview with GIZ, 16 November 2020.
142   www.norec.no/prosjekt/promoting-rural-businesses-in-asia-and-africa
143   www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UNOSSC-NOREC_web.pdf
144   https://au.int/en/agenda2063/flagship-projects
145   www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-for-Sustainable-Development-Vol.-3-2020-Digital-Light-FINAL.pdf
146   ibid.
147   www.fao.org/3/a-i6249e.pdf

TrC partners such as Japan and the Republic of Korea are also engaged in these areas. The Republic of Korea strengthened the business capacities of rice-producer organizations in parts of West Africa in a project launched in 2014. FAO initiated another project in 2016 in partnership with Japan, which promoted sustainable infrastructure, food security and trade and poverty alleviation through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.[148] China has further deployed its rice fish systems to countries such as Uganda,[149] and is working with Madagascar through FAO to develop its agriculture livestock and fisheries sector.[150] In addition to Brazil, Argentina is growing as a partner for Africa in this area.[151]

Exchanges on agricultural infrastructure have also occurred outside FAO's ambit. For example, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the IsDB and the UNOSSC are supporting a project aimed at addressing food security, poverty and water resource management in Algeria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.[152] This project has resulted in the knowledge product, "The Harvest IT application", an ICT solution that offers information on a range of agricultural topics. The project also places a focuses on youth and women's access to innovative solutions.[153] In another project, Switzerland, the IsDB, Pakistan, together with a number of other partners, such as United Nations Environment Programme, the International Rice Research Institute and Helvetas Swiss Interco-cooperation) engaged in knowledge transfer to produce rice production through solutions on water productivity across several West African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Sudan. Israel, Ghana and Canada have also shared experiences on increasing agricultural productivity of food crops and improving the marketing of food crops for smallholder farming families, particularly women.[154] In another example reflecting the diversity of current partnerships, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

and Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture developed a smallholder horticulture project in Ethiopia.

3.2.4.5 Climate change

The pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of supporting the development of health systems and has also raised awareness on the need to address climate change. Health systems are affected by events such as extreme weather conditions and vector-borne diseases.[155] In addition, climate change has significant physical and economic impacts that can further perpetuate inequalities and hinder a COVID-19 response. However, SSC/TrC exchanges on environmental governance and climate resilience, and the focus on renewable energies are already being witnessed across the African continent and can support a COVID-19 response. In March 2018, for example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo and Indonesia signed the Brazzaville Declaration on Peatlands in order to protect the Congo Basin. The outcome declaration formalized the relationship between the three governments, while Indonesia's experience was captured in the report.[156] In addition to this initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been supporting a range of projects by, *inter alia*, preventing biodiversity loss and enabling the sound management of chemicals and waste through the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Programme, in collaboration with the EU. For example, a workshop was held in December 2018, involving Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia on the trade in hazardous chemicals. There have also been biodiversity projects, such as farmer-farmer exchanges between Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey, and training on nutrition.[157] In one pioneering project, UNEP assisted the Seychelles, Nepal and Mauritania in using an ecosystem-based adaptation strategy. The project has been implemented in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In Seychelles, mangroves were planted to develop resilience against storms and floods while improving local fish stocks, while in Mauritania, shelter

148   www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-09-17-the-value-of-south-south-cooperation

149   www.fao.org/3/a-i6249e.pdf

150   www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-for-Sustainable-Development-Vol.-3-2020-Digital-Light-FINAL.pdf

151   Interview with SEGIB, 11 November 2020.

152   www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GPI-Report-Triangular-Co-op-in-the-Era-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf

153   https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/detail/harvest-it-application-for-farmers?fbclid=IwAR3mdzOXVmE1RVbr51osBT6HqsxPKMsuTU2s7c3mouh
      DYOuUxW5P7wEaZSQ

154   ibid.

155   www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/climate-change-coronavirus-linked

156   https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/31239/SSC_2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

157   ibid.

belts were used to create a line of defence against extreme weather. In this project, a web-based platform was built to facilitate collaboration and research programmes were established with local universities. A number of publications were also produced.[158]

There have also been exchanges on disaster risk prevention, such as a technical assistance project between Brazil, Germany and Mozambique that took place between 2017 and 2019. This project was notable in that it developed a steering structure to engage all of its levels and ensure effective coordination.[159] Moreover, this project shows the importance of bringing in different experts with different experiences and expertise. While German had developed advanced technological solutions to measure water levels in Mozambique, which Brazil had adapted to Mozambique's climate conditions, neither had taken into account the fact that Mozambique had frequent power cuts that disrupted Internet connections, hence water levels could not be transmitted regularly. Therefore, Mozambican experts developed an idea to transmit this through a cell-phone network.[160] Such experiences are important when looking to the future because they can prepare countries for emergency responses and show the importance of building on the various comparative advantages of different partners.

3.2.4.6 Digitalization

Finally, one significant area for SSC/TrC is digitalization. In this regard, the UNDP Global Centre identified seven digital foundations that will be important in how countries recover from COVID-19:

- *Wired and wireless digital connectivity, which is a fundamental component of healthcare systems but also drives remote working and learning, e-commerce, and public service delivery.*
- *Equitable and inclusive governance, to ensure that no one is marginalized or excluded from recovery efforts particularly to prevent any widening of the digital divide, or bias created by digital tools.*
- *Cybersecurity, to protect the privacy of citizens and other users in a growing digital economy and to ensure the resilience of the critical infrastructure needed to respond to future challenges.*

- *Skills and change management, improving the digital literacy of citizens and civil servants from senior leadership and down.*
- *Software, whether open-source or proprietary, to drive how governments function and operate.*
- *Authentication and identification, because inclusive, secure, and citizen-centric verification assets and processes are likely to be a central component of accessing public and private services and for receiving government subsidies and other support.*
- *Data, because open data, data harmonization, and other norms and standards have been essential in tracking disease spread; and will prove even more important in continuing to drive a whole-of-government approach, and catalysing the private sector, for recovery.[161]*

The examples above have already shown how new technologies and digital platforms, such as the UNOSSC COVID-19 responses platform and the Harvest IT application, have been used for SSC/TrC exchanges, which have facilitated COVID-19 responses by being more accessible and allowing for greater knowledge sharing. In another example, the International Trade Centre (ITC) has also been working with Indian and Kenyan partners to build digital entrepreneurial skills through its SheGoesDigital initiative. The training programme includes a focus on social media and digital marketing, and offers industry internships.[162]

Africa's embrace of technology also goes beyond the COVID-19 response. For example, a number of countries in Africa use platform companies such a M-Pesa and Jumia. M-Pesa is a fund transfer, financing and small loan service used on smartphones, which originated in Kenya in 2007. Jumia is an e-commerce platform company offering more than 500,000 products and services, and operating in Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Tunisia.[163] M-Pesa has been particularly useful in the COVID-19 response for avoiding contact cash transfers.

Africa CDC has held training sessions and workshops, launched web-based tools It has also provided support to the expansion of laboratories. To this end, UNDP has provided support to the Centre through a joint programme aimed at cooperation and coordination.

158   www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/south-south-cooperation-tackle-climate-change
159   www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GPI-Report-Triangular-Co-op-in-the-Era-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf
160   ibid.
161   https://digileaders.com/7-ways-digital-can-boost-covid-19-response-and-recovery
162   www.fc-ssc.org/getfile/index/action/images/name/5cc7d42426ec9.pdf
163   ibid.

In addition, AUDA-NEPAD has formalized its partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to accelerate technological development in Africa. This includes a focus on research, development and innovation for localized technologies, generated through multi-stakeholder engagements. Thematic areas include energy security, industrialization (e.g. chemicals, manufacturing and mining), water resources management and biotechnology.[164] As part of this collaboration, AUDA-NEPAD, the CSIR, Vodacom Africa and the universities of Stellenbosch and Cheik Anta Diop have held a series of webinars on the side-lines of the 75 United Nations General Assembly on accelerating digital transformation in Africa in the post-COVID-19 era.[165]

In the First African South-South Cooperation Report, the vast majority of initiatives undertaken in 2017 contributed to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and the pandemic is only likely to make this trend more pronounced.[166] Moreover, while these initiatives may have been limited in scope and size, there are also promises of more systematic approaches. For example, Egypt has launched a Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation, which aims to transfer technological knowledge and promote innovation-based development among African states, including digitalization.[167] Thus, South-South exchanges offer an opportunity for scaling up and sharing experiences in digitalization.

3.3 Observable SSC/TrC trends under COVID-19

The data from the E-survey, interviews and literature review suggest that a number of key trends can be observed with respect to African SSC/TrC initiatives:

- A number of actors, such as Botswana, Cabo Verde and Rwanda, are emerging in the field of SSC which have begun to institutionalize their approach and identify their niche. This makes the field of development cooperation more diverse and provides opportunities for scaling up SSC as well as for adding additional partners through TrC.
- In terms of a specific SSC/TrC COVID-19 health response, a few actors dominated in providing medical equipment, technical expertise and networking support.

- COVID-19 has hindered some ongoing initiatives but has also promoted the use of new solutions, such as digital exchanges and initiatives involving the private sector. These are key areas for scaling up SSC/TrC.
- Despite COVID-19, bilateral SSC cooperation continues to take place across the continent. This not only occur sub-regionally, but also across sub-regions, such as between Ghana and Namibia; Angola and Cabo Verde; and Eritrea and Rwanda, among others.
- Previous bilateral SSC cooperation trends have continued across continents, such as between African countries and countries such as China, India and Brazil, and also newer actors are engaged.
- The exchange of SSC/TrC initiatives has often occurred in the area of health, although industry and innovation are also key for the continent. There have also been many SSC/TrC exchanges in a number of areas, including socio-economic development, transport and logistics, agriculture, climate change and the digital economy.
- There are an increasing number of TrC partners beyond the traditional ones, as well as a growing number of United Nations organizations involved in TrC.

3.4 Conclusion

This section provided examples of SSC/TrC initiatives that are being undertaken in Africa, as well as the key trends, actors and partners involved. It also illustrates the growing focus on new technologies and innovative solutions, and private sector involvement, which can continue to be scaled up to maximize Africa's development. While the majority of African SSC/TrC COVID-19 responses have occurred in the field of health, it is also worth noting that SSC/TrC initiatives existed prior to COVID-19 in a number of areas. There is also an increasing number of different partners from which Africa can choose, so it is important that it become more proactive and selective in its priorities, and how best they can be achieved. Moving forward, it will be critical that a COVID-19 recovery response take into account a holistic perspective, including looking at the economic, social, environmental and governance sectors. In particular, it will be critical that research and development spurn innovative solutions. The next section explores ways of enhancing SSC/TrC in more detail.

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164   www.csir.co.za/auda-nepad-and-csir-partnership

165   www.nepad.org/event/auda-nepad-knowledge-series-critical-role-of-digital-transformation-africa-post-covid

166   www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/UNDP-Africa-SSC-Report-2019-EN.pdf

167   www.unsouthsouth.org/2020/07/10/webinar-building-resilient-societies-post-covid-19-in-the-global-south

CHAPTER 4

Beyond COVID-19: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa

COVID-19 has become a global health emergency, and its impact on global structures and systems has been extreme. With the majority of resources directed towards COVID-19 responses and recovery, what does this mean for SSC/TrC? This chapter explores the impact of COVID-19 on development cooperation and SSC/TrC more specifically. It looks at new opportunities arising from the pandemic within this changing global dynamic. The chapter thus explores new avenues of accelerating SSC/TrC, with a focus on technology while also looking at how partnerships can facilitate the sharing and scaling up of solutions from the Global South.

4.1 Changing global dynamics in response to COVID-19

Although there is no doubt that North-South cooperation remains important and complementary to SSC, there are possibilities that it may become a less dominant form of cooperation in the future with Northern countries becoming more inward-looking. Since SSC has demonstrated a number of cost-effective and novel ways of addressing the pandemic, it may also increase. From an ideological perspective, SSC is important for Africa because it enables the continent to build on its own solutions and innovations, and maximize its own benefits. The COVID-19 pandemic has also prompted other forms of development cooperation, such as South-North cooperation, exemplified by China's assistance to Italy, or East-North cooperation as seen by Russian Federation sending medical material to the United States.[168] Following a series of webinars, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre presented three main crossroad scenarios when examining the international development cooperation landscape.

The first of these crossroad scenarios considers whether COVID-19 can be seen as a game changer or super accelerator. Initial evidence suggests that cooperation continues to be competitive despite the crisis, but there is a decreasing willingness to act collectively. Thus, it appears that COVID-19 is accelerating trends that existed in the international system before the pandemic. The second crossroad scenario considers whether COVID-19 will enhance cooperation between states or further weaken multilateralism. Although multilateralism can be useful for addressing the global health crisis, member states may compete for national gain, preferring bilateral cooperation or specific governance "clubs" such as the G-20. This may drive collective action towards smaller countries. The final crossroad, between quick economic recovery and smart recovery, considers whether countries will adopt quick solutions at the expense of more sustainable development gains and climate change.[169]

The OECD has identified five megatrends pertinent to Africa's development dynamics, which are insightful for examining the future of changing global dynamics.

> *The first megatrend corresponds to the stronger role of emerging countries in the global economy (also referred to as "shifting wealth"). The second is the new production revolution brought about by technological change and digitalization. The third megatrend relates to the continent's demographic growth, which could bring 'demographic dividends' if countries implement the right policies. The fourth megatrend is rapid urbanization, which impacts the economic structure of many countries, living conditions and multi-level governance. The fifth megatrend is climate change, which calls for innovative and sustainable "green growth" strategies.* [170]

All of these trends are important to be aware of when examining how to scale up SSC/TrC. In this regard, UNDP's socio-economic response to COVID-19 recovery provides four key areas of focus that are instrumental for supporting Africa's response to the pandemic, namely governance, social protection, green economy and digital disruption.[171] The potential for scaling up SSC/TrC in these areas is explored later.

It is also important to bear in mind Africa's priorities, as encapsulated in Agenda 2063, whose seven aspirations and 20 goals specify important areas of engagement, such as ensuring a high standard of living and equality for all (including gender equality), education, health, sustainable

168 https://devpolicy.org/international-development-cooperation-in-a-post-covid-19-world-a-new-way-of-interaction-or-super-accelerator-20200501-1
169 ibid.
170 www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264302501-8-en.pdf?expires=1604646665&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=FFA2DF659718598DB39DA9AB981D5A92
171 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html

economic growth, increased productivity for modern agriculture, a blue economy, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies, functional continental financial and monetary institutions, world-class infrastructure, peace and security, and good governance, among others.[172]

The UNDP E- survey asked respondents about changing global dynamics as a result of COVID-19 and more generally. On the whole, respondents did not feel that the shifting priorities of traditional development partners would make SSC less attractive; in fact, 33 percent (eight out of 23) thought this would make it more attractive, and 29 percent thought it would not change (Figure 12).

Figure 12. The perception of shifting priorities of traditional development cooperation partners on South-South and triangular cooperation

Percentage of respondents who think shifting priorities of development partners will make SSC more/less attractive
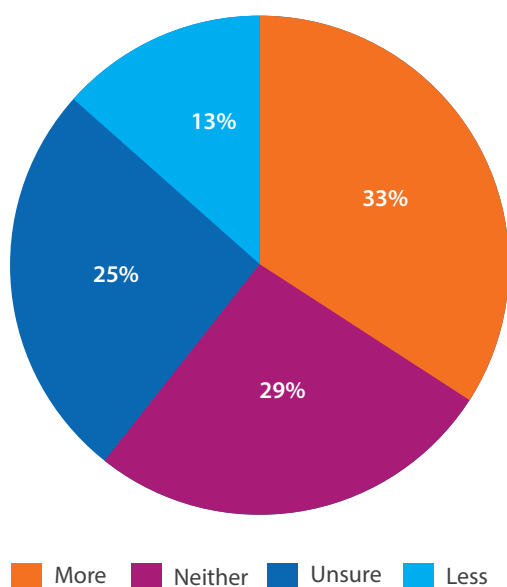
Source: UNDP E-survey 2020.
Note: In total, all 23 respondents answered this question.

Participants explained that SSC could become more attractive since it is a means of directing resources and investment. Some respondents suggested that COVID-19 had highlighted the realization that there was a need for greater and better partnerships, as well as contextualized/localized solutions that capitalize on comparative advantages. Those who thought SSC/TrC would be negatively affected pointed

to country-level social and economic problems and a focus on the pandemic. One respondent thought that a growing reliance on SSC/TrC was unfair since the North continues to have historical obligations.

Irrespective of the actual situation, what comes to the fore in the context of COVID-19 is that new solutions and partnerships will be critical to strengthen international development cooperation. The next section explores in more detail how TrC can enhance development in the African context, paying specific attention to the use of TrC to enhance technology and innovation.

4.2 Partnerships for development: Strengthening SSC/TrC in Africa

Partnerships are key to attaining the SDGs, as detailed in SDG 17, which specifically calls on North-South, SSC and TrC to implement effective and targeted capacity building, and to enhance this cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation. Moreover, an assessment of the goals reveals that engagement across different thematic areas will also require a multi-stakeholder approach, such as in the areas of health and education. BAPA+40 reaffirms the need for a collective approach to addressing global challenges, outlining stakeholders such as "subnational entities and parliamentarians, civil society, private sector, volunteer groups, faith-based organizations, philanthropic organizations, scientific and technological communities, foundations and think tanks, and academia". It also mentions the role of multilateral institutions, international and regional banks, and funds, including those newly established by developing countries, in terms of financial support to SSC initiatives.[173] The engagement of multiple partners is even more critical as countries develop their post-COVID-19 recovery plans and new solutions to drive development.

4.2.1 Strengthening TrC partnerships in Africa

As the previous section has demonstrated, TrC is a growing modality in Africa that builds on different partnerships, and that is different from both North-South cooperation and SSC. BAPA+40 recognizes that TrC enables developing countries to source and access more, as well as a broader, range of resources, expertise and capacities to achieve national

172 https://au.int/en/agenda2063/goals
173 https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80

development goals. It provides a flexible and adaptive approach to development challenges that builds on the different comparative advantages of the actors involved and can reduce transaction costs. Although the terminology has now come to understand TrC as **involving a third TrC facilitating partner from a developed country or multilateral organization, in addition to the two developing countries, TrC is constantly evolving and taking on different forms in a wide range of areas.** Therefore, there is a need to better understand its role and impact. TrC breaks down silos. And it is important to look at who has what to offer and to leverage that to bring partners together. For example, a Northern country may be able to assist in terms of sharing their monitoring and evaluation systems, while the developing countries may share practical initiatives.

An OECD toolkit on TrC outlines six specific ways in which TrC partnerships typically add value and increases the effectiveness of developmental initiatives:

1) Building ownership and trust
2) Promoting complementarity and increasing coordination in development cooperation
3) Sharing knowledge and learning jointly
4) Co-creating solutions and flexibility
5) Enhancing volume, scope and sustainability
6) Achieving global and regional development goals through strengthened partnerships for sustainable development.[174]

In the UNDP E-survey, participants were asked to explain what they thought the value-add and strength of TrC was in terms of these categories. In this regard, respondents pointed to shared knowledge and joint learning, achieving global and regional development goals through strengthened partnerships for sustainable development and promoting complementarity/coordination in development cooperation (see Figure 13). Thus, for most respondents, TrC offered the advantage that the knowledge shared could operate across both North and South contexts, with a longer-term commitment for capacity development and the partnership.

Figure 13. The value added and strength of TrC
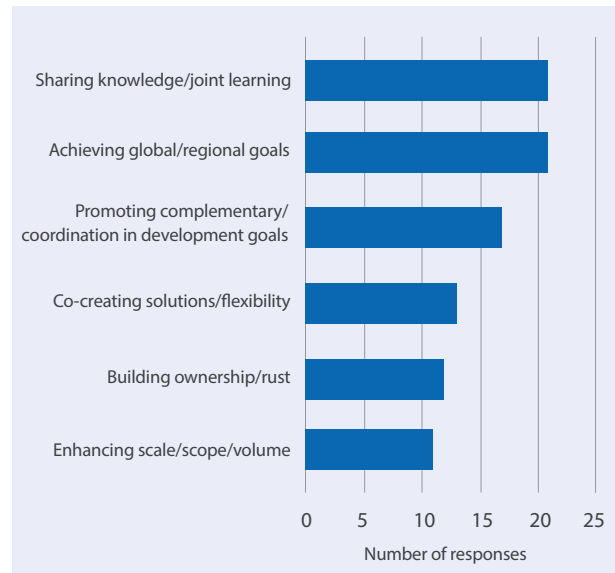
Source: UNDP E-survey, 2020.

Interestingly, the value-added of TrC was seen less in terms of building ownership or enhancing scale, scope and volume. Nevertheless, the issue of ownership has been a recurring theme in a number of TrC projects, as seen in the last section, which examined both the formal processes (i.e. processes of working out governance structures and decision-making) and informal processes (i.e. the relationships between stakeholders). As noted by the Organization for Co-operation and Economic Development (OECD), ownership can be considered an overarching and cross-cutting principle as well as a dynamic process.[175] The principles of ownership involve horizontality and trust, mutual responsibility, knowledge sharing and accountability. The processes involve ensuring the ownership of all partners, monitoring transaction costs, and aligning to national development strategies. Ownership has been found to be critical in facilitating TrC initiatives, and therefore needs to be an important focus at the beginning of any project. Hence, all projects should have clear mechanisms of coordination and collaboration.

NOREC conducted an analysis of how best to enhance TrC through exchange programmes, based on a review of its experiences. The review concluded that systems, processes and policies all matter. In general, South-South partnerships were very successful in capacity-building, whereas North-South partnerships, being unbalanced, negatively affected


174　www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2019-06/TOOLKIT_TrC_August_2018.pdf
175　https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/deliver/f9aa8833-en.pdf?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fpaper%2Ff9aa8833-en&mimeType=pdf

achievements. This was because South-South exchanges were often based on a participatory needs assessment, with effective monitoring. Prior experience of exchanges and the matching of capacities were critical, as well as shared values and commitments.[176]

Since TrC can be seen as a means of achieving global/regional goals and promoting complementarity and coordination in development goals, the E-survey also asked respondents their perspectives on whether or not TrC could be a suitable modality for tackling emerging and important megatrends in Africa, as mentioned above. Only two respondents saw TrC as an unsuitable modality and 23 respondents saw it as suitable (Figure 14). One respondent did not think that TrC was a suitable modality since education remained the primary concern on the continent and should be the primary focus of resources, while another stated that TrC was ambiguous and should be seen as supplementary to bilateral cooperation.

Figure 14. Percentage of respondents who see TrC as a suitable modality for tackling Africa's megatrends
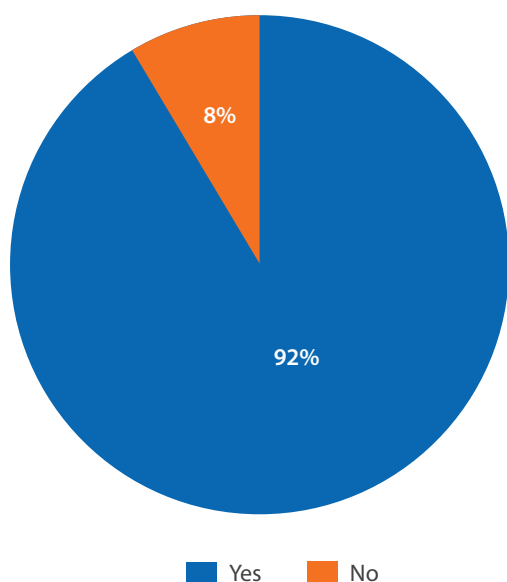
Source: E-survey 2020.

In terms of the areas in which TrC could enhance Africa's response to megatrends on the continent, most respondents saw the strength of TrC as lying in digitalization, climate change and rapid urban growth, whereas environmental impacts and demographic impacts were considered less important (see Figure 15). The other cited area of strength was health.

Figure 15. Thematic areas of strength for triangular cooperation
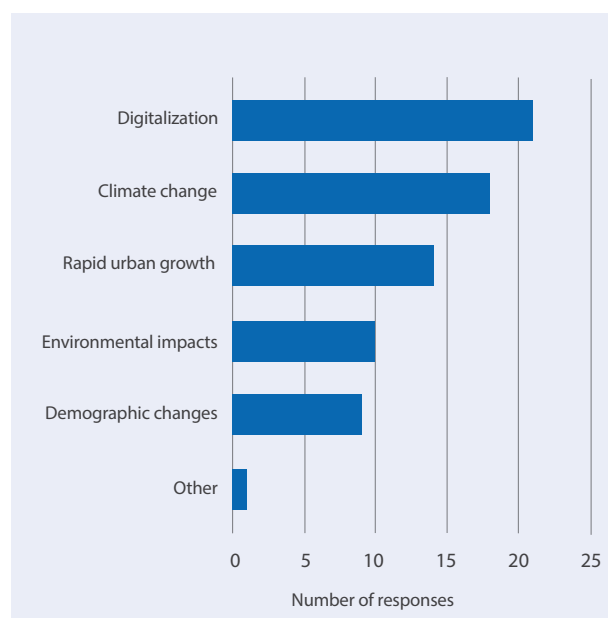
Respondents were also asked to explain why they said that TrC was a suitable modality to tackle megatrends in Africa. Many provided examples of how TrC can promote knowledge sharing while pointing to its added advantages of providing more resources and expertise than SSC. Some respondents mentioned that TrC managed to bridge the gaps (e.g. funding, capacity) to ensure that projects were implemented, while others explained that global collaboration was the only way to ensure effective developmental solutions. Some respondents explained that TrC was able to facilitate technology transfer and digital technologies, which impacts employment. Others stated that TrC addresses the interconnected nature of the world, allowing for the sharing of innovative solutions, and can safeguard economies and social cohesion. Moreover, it has also been suggested that TrC should tap into areas that are not reached by national programmes or bilateral initiatives.

Research has shown that, although governments tend to be the main actors involved in TrC, there are also a growing number of stakeholders. In an evaluation of TrC projects, 47 percent of them were multi-stakeholder, of which 36.5 percent involved academia and research institutes, closely followed by CSOs (30.6 percent), the private sector (20.3 percent), philanthropic institutions (6.5 percent) and sub-national actors (6.2 percent). This shows the potential of partnerships.[177] It is also worth noting that the examples above show a variety of different roles played by multiple

176   www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/cliff-allum-rapport_endeleg_v2.pdf
177   https://www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-co-operation/TOOLKIT%20-%20version%20August%202018.pdf

stakeholders, which evolve over time. This point is also made in the OECD *Toolkit for identifying, monitoring and evaluating the value added of triangular co-operation,* which notes that partners (which they term 'facilitator partners', 'pivotal partners' and 'beneficiary partners') can take on various roles throughout the lifetime of the horizontal collaboration or can play different roles in related activities or partnerships.[178]

The UNDP E-survey asked respondents for their views on the advantages of engaging multiple stakeholders and their experiences in doing so. The responses affirmed the importance of partnerships for SSC/TrC and reflected a wide variety on engagements. The advantages of engaging multiple partners were cited as knowledge and innovation, flexibility and self-sustainability, transparency and accountability, the ability to reach all members of society as well as ensuring no one gets left behind, promoting ownership of the Paris Agreement, creating country ownership, and leveraging resources. Respondents also suggested that partners can assist in better formulating programmes and projects while bringing in information and identifying opportunities. However, ensuring that all actors have the same developmental objectives will be critical.

One TrC partner that engages multiple stakeholders is TIKA. TIKA operates in numerous fields such as health, education, agriculture, media, tourism, civil administration and other social infrastructure (for the empowerment of vulnerable groups and women). It focuses on the productive sectors to ensure that countries become more self-sufficient. It has increasingly given more importance to skills development in order to increase the sustainability of its interventions. Accordingly, it has partnered with universities and governmental organizations to enhance digital skills and other skills across many sectors. It partners with various organizations such as JICA, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

(SESRIC), UNDP, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) and others. While it does not partner with the private sector, since it is a government institution, it does contract companies with specific expertise and engages in multi-stakeholder partnerships that also include private sector organizations. For example, it has supported the establishment of a private-sector-led Vocational Training Centre in Bosnia, in partnership with UNDP, which aims to decrease youth unemployment; this could be a model for engaging the private sector on the African continent in the future.[179] It also partners with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa in delivering humanitarian aid carrying out healthcare projects, and so on. Cited benefits of this approach are that it allows TIKA to understand the needs of local people on the ground, is demand-driven and creates trust.[180]

A challenge in TrC is ensuring that joint objectives and frameworks for engagement are met, but this can be promoted through the use of joint funds. For example, the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) fund, administered through UNOSSC, has been used to promote SSC/TrC in specific agreed areas. A joint fund can develop strong rules of engagement, reduce preparation costs, ensure ownership and commitment, and pool resources.[181] For example, the African Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Fund uses blended mechanisms to support private sector MSMEs in education, technology and innovation, including through SSC/TrC.[182]

4.2.2 SSC/TrC partnerships with the private sector

The engagement of the private sector is key in leveraging resources for responding to COVID-19, as well as its expertise, ingenuity and innovation. To promote the role of the private sector in SSC/TrC, BAPA+40 calls on Member States to share best practices on PPPs and regulatory frameworks.[183] The UNDP E-survey further revealed a number of benefits that African countries see in engaging this sector, which are outlined in Figure 16.

178   https://www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-co-operation/TOOLKIT%20-%20version%20August%202018.pdf
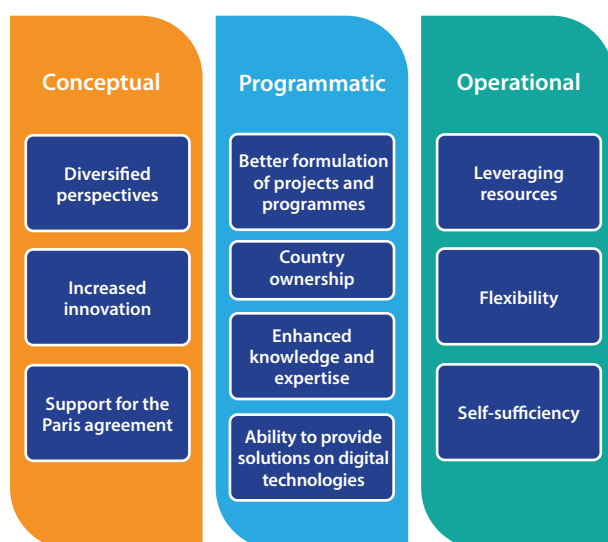
179   www.iicpsd.undp.org/content/istanbul/en/home/news-centre/2019/private-sector-is-boosting-skills-development-in-northern-bosnia.html

180   Interview with TIKA 3 December 2020.

181   Interview with GIZ, 19 November 2020.

182   www.nepad.org/file-download/download/public/127159

183   https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80

Figure 16. Benefits of engaging the private sector

Conceptual	Programmatic	Operational
Diversified perspectives	Better formulation of projects and programmes	Leveraging resources
Increased innovation	Country ownership	Flexibility
Support for the Paris agreement	Enhanced knowledge and expertise	Self-sufficiency
	Ability to provide solutions on digital technologies	

Source: E-survey, 2020.

However, there have also been caveats regarding the adverse consequences of involving the private sector, such as impacting local private sector development, ignoring the principles of development effectiveness, and subsidizing the private sector of donor countries.[184] Similar concerns also emerged from stakeholders engaged in the policy dialogue on private sector engagement in development cooperation, facilitated by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). This led to the development of the "Kampala Principles on Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation".[185] These five principles launched in Kampala cover all modalities of private sector engagement (Table 3) and address key challenges and opportunities for better country ownership, fostering trust and mutual benefits, increased transparency and accountability, and a stronger focus on risk sharing approaches that can help reaching those furthest behind.

It is for all of these reasons and due to these issues that BAPA+40 also calls for business practices to be aligned with the SDGs and line with national plans and priorities.[186] Hence, it is important for the private sector and all other actors involved to understand the aim of the cooperation

and to develop common standards, and for the development community to develop a greater understanding of risk sharing. There is also a need to counter short-term behaviour and ensure sustainable development results that are made possible through the simultaneous creation of both social *and* economic value.

There have been efforts to understand how private sector engagement in TrC can be more effective, including:

- developing an integrated business model that will allow for the monitoring of economic and development results and the scaling up of success;
- fostering trust and inclusiveness through dialogue with all stakeholders;
- promoting ownership across all partners;
- mitigating the risks for public and private stakeholders.[187]

Accordingly, FAO has developed instructive guidelines for engaging the private sector, including a preliminary screening according to United Nations Global Compact Principles, the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, and FAO corporate risk factors. A sub-committee of management and senior technical officers then reviews proposals, and a partnership committee endorses the final agreement. A monitoring and evaluation system is also established.[188] These models can be instructive for future efforts to engage the private sector. In addition, Morocco has included private sector engagement in its polices, which facilitates such interventions.

The recent establishment of a service centre and training academy in Egypt illustrates how the private sector can be used to achieve results. Siemens Energy, the Government of Egypt and GIZ developed a public private partnership to offer occupational training to technicians and engineers, and to allow them to develop their skills while developing a service centre to enable remote support for power plant outages. The aim is to increase the localization in Egypt's energy supply chain while supporting the local economy.[189]

184   https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldcr2019overview_en.pdf
185   www.effectivecooperation.org/landing-page/action-area-21-private-sector-engagement-pse
186   https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80
187   www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-co-operation/2020_03_04_Final_GPI_report_BAPA%2040.pdf
188   www.fao.org/3/a-i3444e.pdf
189   https://energyegypt.net/siemens-energy-contributes-to-egypts-energy-sector-with-new-service-center-training-academy

Table 3. Typology of private sector engagement in development cooperation

Modality	Objectives	Mechanisms
Knowledge and information sharing	• Advance solutions by sharing new methods, tools and innovative approaches to addressing development challenges.	• Multi-stakeholder networks. • Learning platforms. • Conferences, seminars, workshops and other events. • Funding for research (specifically on private sector engagement in development cooperation).
Policy dialogue	• Develop policy agendas and frameworks at the international, national and local levels that reflect all parties' interests. • Change behaviour such as through improvements in corporate practices and industry standard-setting.	• Multi-stakeholder networks and platforms. • Cross-sector roundtables. • Specialized hubs or institutions. • Institutionalized dialogues.
Technical assistance	• Enable private sector actors to effectively engage in development co-operation, such as through support for project design. • Improve private sector actors' operational capacities and effectiveness.	• Business advisory services. • Feasibility studies.
Capacity development	• Improve the capacities of private sector actors to contribute to development results. • Change or modify business operations.	• Training activities and other forms of capacity development programming. • Professional exchanges and secondments.
Finance	• Leverage or raise private sector finance and investment promotion. • Test innovation and scale success. • Monetize development results (e.g. output-based mechanisms). • Support expansion of more and better business, including through the promotion of business-to-business partnerships, inclusive business, responsible business conduct and corporate social responsibility. • Harness private sector expertise and market-based solutions to development challenges.	• Private sector instruments including grants, debt instruments, mezzanine finance instruments, equity and shares in collective investment vehicles, guarantees and other unfunded liabilities. • Includes the range of instruments captured under innovative finance.

Source: OECD DAC, The Development Instance Committee, Understanding Key Terms and Modalities for Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation, www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/Inventory-1-Private-Sector-Engagement-Terminology-and-Typology.pdf

What are the various types of private sector engagement? OECD has developed a typology of private sector engagement in development cooperation, which is summarized in Table 3. On the African continent, engagement with the private sector has primarily been in terms of knowledge sharing, technical assistance, capacity development and finance. The engagement thus far appears to be driven by specific countries that have a strategy for engaging the private sector. For example, Morocco boasts enterprises in more than 30 countries.[190] In terms of cross-regional SSC, Brazil also engaged the private sector in its development cooperation on the African continent, such as through its Companhia de Bioenergia de Angola project, known as Biocom. This is an Angolan plant for the production of sugar cane, bioethanol and electric energy using Brazilian technology. The project uses state-owned and privately owned companies, as well as private and public banks.[191] China and India are also well-known for their efforts in involving the private sector in SSC. For example, the International Trade Centre has been engaging China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to promote investment, trade and technology partnerships between India, China and these African countries by promoting dialogue, networking, improving the capacities of East African countries and creating business linkages.[192] In addition, there have been exchanges between Sierra Leone and Ghana on PPP solutions in order to improve the delivery of public services, provide inclusive access to financial services, expand income solutions for the poor and meet infrastructure needs.[193] Private sector partners can also be engaged through philanthropic organizations. For example, the Tony Elumelu Foundation, which engages with the private sector as well as organizations such as UNDP, the African Development Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross, GIZ and the United Bank for Africa, has been offering an Entrepreneurship Programme.[194]

AMEXCID has been supporting the creation of the Pacific Alliance Capital Venture Fund, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to support post-COVID-19 recovery in SMEs in fields such as culture, education, fishing and tourism. This platform is also being recreated in other regions and in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay, and could be instructive on how Africa can engage the private sector in business. Academia has also been engaged. Throughout these engagements, Mexico has aimed to ensure alignment with national priorities and the SDGs (such as gender equality). Benefits of the engagement include flexibility and the ability to engage additional stakeholders without too many bureaucratic hurdles. It has encountered some challenges with digital transformation, such as access to Internet (particularly with groups such as artisanal fishers) but aims to address this through by with local technical schools, local government and digital platforms. There is further potential to engage NGOs and CSOs that are aware of community needs.[195]

The private sector is also increasingly being brought into policy dialogue, and domestic efforts across the continent suggest ways of doing this, which could be shared with other countries through SSC/TrC. In Nigeria, following the advent of COVID-19, around 50 private sector organizations formed a partnership with the Government and health agencies to develop a health response, including building and equipping isolation and treatment centres, generating awareness campaigns, and providing food to economically vulnerable Nigerians. There was also a focus on job creation.[196] In terms of SSC more generally, in Ethiopia, the Government has been engaging with the Chamber of Commerce, an umbrella organization of more than 500 private sector organizations in the country, on its SSC strategy. At the regional level, the AU has held a yearly private sector forum, with the last taking place in November 2019.[197] This was held in collaboration with the UNOSSC and the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), and focused on attracting more investors in the context of the soon-to-be-launched AfCFTA.[198] Similarly, the ACP also held its first private sector summit in 2020.[199] The AU CDC has furthermore been examining how to scale up

190   www.moroccoembassy.co.za/morocco/morocco-africa

191   https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1076&context=djilp

192   www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-co-operation/2020_03_04_Final_GPI_report_BAPA%2040.pdf; www.intracen.org/sita-at-a-glance; www.intracen.org/piga

193   https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/detail/private-and-financial-sector-development-in-sierra-leone

194   www.tonyelumelufoundation.org

195   Interview with AMEXCID and UNDP Mexico, 28 January 2021.

196   https://businessday.ng/banking/article/cacovid-cbn-banks-sustaining-lives-livelihoods-with-n32bn

197   https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/conceptnotes/37210-cn-abridged_concept_note_private_sector_forum-_en.pdf

198   www.unsouthsouth.org/2019/11/06/private-sector-is-a-valuable-engine-for-africas-economic-growth

199   https://mcusercontent.com/f8b60aa070b5990d881be17b6/files/f5bd16cf-64ef-416c-b2aa-ed0eb5ed195a/NEWSLETTER_BACP_EN_February_2020.pdf

local production of PPE and developing a digital exchange with the Africa CDC and Afreximbank.[200]

The private sector has also been involved in TrC. Globally, a study on TrC has shown that 20.3 percent of projects in 2017 involved the private sector.[201] Some TrC facilitating partners have experience in private sector engagement, including NOREC, TIKA and JICA. For example, NOREC engaged in a TrC E-waste project, as mentioned previously. The United Nations has also been supporting SSC/TrC initiatives involving the private sector. For example, the Joint SDG Fund has supported the Tanzanian National Government in developing a pro-poor and child-sensitive national social protection system, which it is sharing among countries that have implemented similar schemes. Implementing partners included government ministries, the Tanzania Social Action Fund, the private sector organizations and CSOs.[202] Similarly, it has also supported a technology exchange between the National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa,[203] the Government of Mozambique, private sector organizations and civil society. The United Nations' Joint SDG Fund has further established a Private Sector Advisory Group, composed of the leaders of major companies across various industries, including from the Global South, to better align PPPs for sustainable development.[204]

In addition, TrC can also enhance the private sector rather than vice-versa. An effective project between the Governments of Brazil, Mozambique and Germany has been developed to strengthen the National Institute for Standards and Quality in Mozambique (INNOQ). The project aims to enhance export growth by strengthening competitiveness and ensuring conformity with international standards. It will also revitalize legal metrology in districts and municipalities. As a result, the INNOQ has been expanded and modernized, and has begun offering services to private sector companies, which have increased its revenues.[205]

A study conducted in 2016 in South Africa reaffirmed the variety of roles that the private sector can play in development cooperation, but also offers some caveats. The first case it examined focused on SME development through the Sustainable Enterprise Development Fund, which was financed by the Flemish Development Cooperation and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with the local governments of the Free State and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces. There were several activity clusters, including the development of modular entrepreneurship education, support to policy research on SME development, the establishment of an SME observatory and an SME challenge competition. However, the policy aspect was hindered by a lack of coordination and consultation, with low levels of coherence between the national, provincial and municipal levels. There were also challenges of sustainability and hidden costs. Government buy-in was also critical, and the project suffered from some challenges due to the partnership configuration, as well as to insufficient regulatory frameworks for engagement.[206]

The study also examined the Danish International Development Assistance's (DANIDA) Business to Business (B2B) Programme to facilitate partnerships between Danish organizations and select countries, namely Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. While this study focused on North-South Cooperation, the findings also suggest some important considerations to be aware of when considering how to scale up private sector engagement in SSC/TrC. In the study, the partnerships covered a wide variety of thematic areas, agriculture, ICT and environmental technologies. It was found that the project went beyond facilitating partnerships to also paying specific attention to corporate ethics, the developmental impact and corporate social responsibility. In particular, the project achieved its target in terms of technology. One-on-one partnerships and hands-on support facilitated these partnerships, and the involvement of Danish embassies and confederations also facilitated these efforts. However, the project did not make any link between poverty reduction and strengthening local business.[207]

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200 https://www.uneca.org/eca-covid-19-response

201 www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-co-operation/2020_03_04_Final_GPI_report_BAPA%2040.pdf

202 www.sdgfund.org/joint-programme-support-tanzanias-productive-social-safety-nets-pssn

203 This is a government institution that looks at ways of enhancing resource efficiency and cleaner production methodologies.

204 www.sdgfund.org/south-south-cooperation

205 http://ctba.net.br/images/factsheets/en/Factsheet-Mozambique_21.02-EN.pdf

206 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319702336_the_role_of_the_private_sector_in_development_cooperation_three_case_studies_in_south_africa

207 ibid.

A GPEDC study on Bangladesh, El Salvador, Uganda and Egypt arrived at similar results, analysing a total of over 900 development projects that involved the private sector in North-South or South-South cooperation (with the former dominating the evidence base).[208] Thus, SSC/TrC projects involving the private sector should ensure ongoing, adequate support to implementation and can benefit from embassy engagements while ensuring that projects align with poverty reduction efforts and local business.

The role of the private sector is therefore important in SSC/TrC and can be used to facilitate the COVID-19 response, but it is important to consider what role the private sector is expected to play, whom to engage and how to make this most effective. The private sector should not just be seen as as offering resources, but rather being able to share its use of technology, platforms and assessment of risks. In addition, the private sector can be supported to develop more sustainable approaches that support the SDGs while also promoting corporate social responsibility efforts. As SSC/TrC partnerships with the private sector, it will be important to retain a focus on local MSMEs and informal business beyond multinationals and parastatals. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a multi-stakeholder approach, the next section therefore looks at partnerships with academia and civil society.

4.2.3 SSC/TrC partnerships with academia and civil society

In contrast to COVID-19 responses that have involved the private sector, partnerships with civil society and academia have been less pronounced. Certainly, academia is considered to play a vital role in SSC/TrC, as noted by BAPA+40, which stresses the importance of research and development, and capacity-building; however, the role of civil society in SSC/TrC and in a COVID-19 response is less understood. The UNDP E-survey explores what African countries saw as the benefits of engaging these stakeholders, as shown in Figure 17.

Figure 17. The roles of civil society and academia in South-South and triangular cooperation
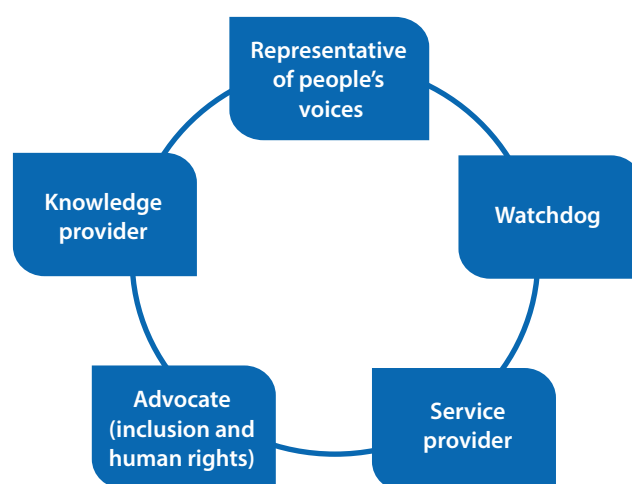
Source: UNDP E-survey, 2020.

To date, the roles of academia and civil society have not been systematically incorporated into SSC/TrC initiatives since, as previously noted, most initiatives have been government-government. Nonetheless, COVID-19 has brought to the fore the importance of engaging developing regional and intra-regional partnerships in digital education and how how they can be used to address some of Africa's challenges.[209] Since the pandemic struck, universities have been moving to online teaching and have looked at ways of enhancing their ICT infrastructure and capacity. For example, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) has been documenting the achievements of member universities in terms of technology and innovation to address the pandemic in the continent.[210] In addition, the consortium Alliance for African Partnership (AAP), made up of 11 universities in Africa and Michigan State University in the United States, has a six-part dialogue series to address the regulatory frameworks needed to ensure the quality of online learning. COVID-19 has hindered cross-university exchanges, and it was therefore necessary to develop a means of communication.[211]

208   www.effectivecooperation.org/content/effective-private-sector-engagement-through-development-co-operation-1-issues-paper
209   www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20200521060338162
210   www.nepad.org/file-download/download/public/127159
211   www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20200521060338162

There have also been efforts to scale up exchanges on higher education on ICT. For example, Kenya signed an agreement with Barbados to establish higher education ties, which cover student and faculty exchanges, including in ICT.[212] In terms of cross-regional SSC exchanges, India developed a PPP model focusing on ICT, education and health expertise. The Pan African e-Network Project (PAEN) focuses on tele-education and tele-medicine, and establishes virtual classrooms between Indian and African universities in Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda, as well as tele-medicine centres in Egypt, Mauritius, Niger, Republic of the Congo and Senegal.[213]

Moreover, there is a general desire to strengthen partnerships across academic institutions. Indeed, a E-survey conducted by UNDP with the Office of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Development (OHBCUD) and International Cooperation, for example, shows that there are already some ongoing initiatives between universities in the United States and Africa in pursuit of the SDGs (e.g. between Morgan State University and Cameroon, Malawi and Ghana on community health and nursing). The survey also shows that there was a general desire to strengthen partnerships at the regional level through engagement with the AU.[214]

Academia can primarily play the role of knowledge provider, which can be used specifically to further SSC/TrC, such as the development of the South-South Global Thinkers Network by the UNOSSC and UNDP, which is now hosted on a digital platform and shares the latest policy research and online discussions among Southern experts. The Southern Voice network has also developed a digital knowledge hub on COVID-19 in the Global South, which looks at how each SDG is being affected by COVID-19 and details a database of experts that can be accessed by policymakers.[215] The AU's Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) held its 7th Africa Think Tank Summit in November 2020, with a view to implementing the AfCFTA and assessing country readiness.[216] AUDA-NEPAD is also developing an African think tank platform to better connect knowledge generators with policymakers.

However, the other roles that civil society can play in the COVID-19 response and in scaling this up through SSC/TrC are not as well known, yet their role is even more critical than ever. The pandemic has clearly reversed previous developmental gains made, and with the emergency response, there has been a rise in the prominence of centralized state structures. There have also been challenges of access to information, particularly in the rural areas of some African countries. As a result of lockdowns, civil societies' efforts have been restricted and become more inward-looking. Civil society engagements have been further restricted by limited resources since governments have led the COVID-19 response and not directed their resources to civil society. Furthermore, civil society efforts have primarily been supported by OECD countries, but often directed to international, rather than local organizations.[217] Civil society has therefore had to contend with supporting itself and remaining functional, which has limited its potential for SSC/TrC and for facilitating a COVID-19 response that builds back better. To highlight the roles that civil society can play, the United Nations has also been gathering stories on civil society responses to the pandemic, including stories from Africa. For example, the United Nations Association of Mauritius (MUNA) has been providing items such as food, babies' milk, nappies and sanitary pads to the most vulnerable. The Black Coffee Network in Kenya has promoted awareness on COVID-19 by translating the announcements of the Ministry of Health in local languages. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in Nigeria has focused, rather, on the increase in domestic violence.[218] These efforts provide examples of how civil society can facilitate a COVID-19 response, and should be shared across different African countries.

There have been some efforts to hold webinars to share experiences across Africa on COVID-19 responses, such as a webinar facilitated by the UNOSSC and held on 20 October, "Health and Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 – Challenges and Opportunities for NGOs and CSOs in the Global South". It covered the role of youth, gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the role of networks, such as the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation

212 https://thepienews.com/news/barbados-kenya-in-new-south-south-academic-exchange-initiative
213 www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/pan-africa-e-network-indias-africa-outreach
214 UNDP E-Survey (HCBU).
215 http://southernvoice.org/covid-19-about
216 www.acbf-pact.org/media/press-release/acbf-hosts-africa-think-tank-summit
217 Interview with Reality of Aid, 24 November 2020.
218 https://mailchi.mp/un/civilsocietycovid-19

(ANCSSC), which has over 250 members.[219] Civil society can also play an important role in sharing knowledge on developmental issues such as addressing inequality. In this regard, India and South Africa have shared experiences on housing rights through a network of community-based organizations. The organizations have specifically mobilized women's leadership and used microfinancing to promote the needs of the urban poor.[220]

The role of civil society becomes even more critical in the context of growing debt since it can act as a watchdog, enhance transparency and accountability in government institutions, and serve as a representative of people's voices. For example, civil society in South Africa, coordinated by Oxfam South Africa and African Monitor, established a civil society working group to engage with the New Development Bank (NDB) Regional Centre. The group grew out of previous efforts to establish a South African network that could then engage with other civil society networks in Brazil, Russian Federation, India and China. The group has requested a formalized mechanism of engagement with civil society and to work with an M&E officer to see how NDB projects are monitored and evaluated, including the recent $1 billion Emergency Programme Loan to South Africa and other BRICS countries. In addition, the group has been calling for greater community involvement on Environmental and Social Frameworks (ESF) and on other forms of community involvement on issues such as gender.[221]

These findings resonate with the need to foster an enabling environment for CSOs in order to deliver the 2030 Agenda.[222] The GPEDC noted in its work programme (2020–2022) that the political, financial, legal and policy context in which CSOs work and the way in which they organize themselves deeply affect their development effectiveness and ability to achieve results. It therefore calls on partner countries and development partners to support CSOs as equal partners in their own right and to recognize their contribution in bringing knowledge on local development needs and priorities.[223] The examples above show how civil society and academia can and must be engaged in developing a COVID-19 response through SSC/TrC, not only at the project implementation level, but also in the formulation of policy and the designing SSC/TrC projects.

4.3 Building forward better: Areas of SSC/TrC focus

4.3.1 Governance

As noted in UNDP's second phase of COVID-19 crisis response,[224] governance is critical for ensuring that countries adapt to changing dynamics, such as ensuring that citizens have access to information and are protected from widening inequalities, and that resources are used in a transparency, accountable and effective manner. It is also critical that civil society is included in a response that can enhance the rule of law, human rights and gender equality and social cohesion.[225] This report has shown how SSC/TrC is being used to facilitate exchanges of knowledge on matters such as public finance management, the development of gender indicators, transitional justice and inequality. In one project, the United Nations Population Fund's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (UNFPA ESARO) worked with Botswana, Burundi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe to share experiences in conducting their national digital census on population and housing. The use of ICT in the data collection process, cartographic mapping, geospatial analysis and data processing was emphasized.[226] Furthermore, engagements with civil society, such as the NDB-CSO working group, demonstrate how civil society can be used to enhance accountability and transparency.

SSC/TrC can also be used to promote social cohesion. For example, UNDP, with support from Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the EU, has facilitated the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). This aims to provide relief to communities affected by Boko Haram in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, including immediate stabilization,

219 www.unsouthsouth.org/2020/10/12/health-and-socio-economic-impact-of-covid19-challanges-and-opportunities
220 https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/5656/PB84_AGID421_CivilSociety_Online.pdf?sequence=1
221 Author's own engagement with the New Development Bank–Civil Society Organizations working group.
222 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/Making-development-co-operation-more-effective.html
223 https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2020-06/2.4%20CSO%20Partnerships_CONCEPT%20NOTE%20ONLY_6%20May%202020.pdf
224 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html
225 ibid.
226 https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/detail/Knowledge-and-technology-transfer-for-the-2020-census-round-in-east-and-southern-africa

community safety and security, and the provision on livelihood opportunities for those affected by the insurgency.[227] Another project looks at cross-border conflicts between Ethiopia and Kenya, and strengthening early warning systems.[228] The sharing of experiences sub-regionally and the development of joint strategies are a key element of SSC/TrC that should be promoted.

4.3.2 Social protection

Social protection mechanisms are imperative to address inequalities that were visible before COVID-19 but that are even more visible today. Social protection can include cash transfers, universal health coverage, and access to basic services, and must also focus on gender equality in order to reverse social norms.[229] Social protection is increasingly being taken seriously across parts of the African continent. The Transform Initiative aims to develop technical skills for social protection systems and is a good example of using TrC to achieve global/regional goals. The learning approach focuses on the local context and stresses SSC and peer learning. The first training of trainers was conducted in Zambia in 2017 and involved government, academia, the private sector and the United Nations, and represented Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These trainers then facilitate further training across the continent, and there are plans to adapt curricula to national contexts.[230] These efforts need to be continued and scaled up across the continent.

4.3.3 The green economy

A focus on the green economy entails a rebalance of nature, the climate and the economy. This may involve encouraging sustainable PPPs, developing green transport systems, transforming agriculture, and using integrated thinking in the health sector.[231] This report has shown how SSC/TrC can support these efforts, for example, in promoting renewable energy systems, such as the ongoing project in Ghana in the manufacturing of solar photovoltaic (PV) components or developing sustainable agricultural initiatives. There are additional examples of how SSC/TrC is enhancing this area: the African Green Charcoal Cluster is a network of producers from ten countries who exchange knowledge on the production and commercialization of green charcoal, including information on certification, and the Network of Green Entrepreneurs from 15 African countries in Francophone Africa meet annually to promote common solutions.[232]

In Malawi, a project entitled, "Implementing urgent adaptation planning through strengthened decentralized and national development plans" (ADAPT-PLAN) looks at the institutional framework for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development planning. Malawi has conducted Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) assessments in hotspot areas while learning from experiences in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.[233] In another project, UNDP, FAO, UNEP and the IADB are collaborating with the Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles to strengthen national capacities, share these experiences, and build regulatory frameworks to address chemical waste management.[234]

4.3.4 Digital disruption

COVID-19 has demonstrated the need to bring in new digital technologies to address global challenges. The digital economy is believed to promote access to, and the use of, digital technologies that can improve service delivery, such as healthcare and education while reducing hunger, poverty and addressing climate change. This is because it can reduce information and transaction costs, create new jobs, establish new revenue streams and conserve resources.[235] Digital transformation can further provide African MSMEs better access to global networks and modes of production that can generate better economies of scale, remove logistic constraints and customs barriers, and tap into new niche

227 www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/regional-stabilization-facility-for-lake-chad-basin.html
228 https://open.undp.org/projects/00114703
229 www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html
230 www.unsouthsouth.org/2018/09/12/good-practices-in-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-vol-2-2018
231 www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/regional-stabilization-facility-for-lake-chad-basin.html
232 www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Good-Practices-in-SSTC-for-Sustainable-Development-Vol.-3-2020-Digital-Light-FINAL.pdf
233 https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/detail/adapt-plan-malawi
234 www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/web-documents/10185_PFD_SIDS_PFD.pdf
235 www.southsouth-galaxy.org/events/digital-with-purpose-accelerating-action-and-transformative-pathways-for-delivering-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-and-recovering-from-covid-19-pandemic

markets. Enhancing competition in the telecommunications sectors can ease the costs of doing business through e-government programmes while utilization of digital finance can ensure that customers have access to digital tools that are cheaper and more effective.

However, the development of ICT has been extremely uneven between different countries. UNCTAD notes that Africa and Latin America account for less than 5 percent of the world's colocation data centres,[236] while Africa's average Internet penetration rate is 35.2 percent, with less than 10 percent in countries such as Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Somalia.[237] It is therefore imperative that countries employ policies to address new trends in the digital economy so as to prevent widening inequalities. However, the global South, and Africa in particular, face several risks in terms of the growth of the digital economy, such as worsening unemployment (particularly among youth), wealth concentration, and challenges to the protection of human rights and freedoms.[238] Moreover, there are global trends of widening inequalities and ongoing gender stereotyping, which can be further exacerbated by digitalization if left unchecked.

A number of recommendations have been made for enhancing digital transformation in the Global South. These include: enhancing accessibility to technologies and infrastructure; making technology more affordable; developing the relevant skills; identifying niche opportunities; introducing enabling and mitigating policies and regulations; and harnessing the potential of partnership.[239] There should also be better knowledge transfer between public and private companies, and with strategies to enhance business, such as through business clusters on the financing of MSMEs.[240] However, more importantly, Africa should take a proactive and anticipatory stance on the digital economy, and develop strategies and scenarios to mitigate the risks and seize on opportunities. Although digital technology can make the sharing of skills more accessible, this can only occur if all sectors of society are given opportunities.

SSC/TrC is a means of ensuring access to, and transfer of, technology on mutually agreed terms. Some have argued that SSC/TrC is more relevant to the digital economy than ever before, since collaboration may reduce the resources required to achieve the much-needed changes and be appropriate to the local context.[241] In this regard, BAPA+40 encourages: "*broader South-South collaboration on technological developments, including collaboration on the acquisition of capabilities for research and development, the management of technology and information networks inclusive of technology producers and users as well as those working on infrastructure and human resources development.*" It also emphasizes the importance of environmentally sound technologies.[242]

Looking ahead, it is likely that SSC/TrC initiatives will increasingly move to digitally based exchanges since this provides more flexibility and reduces costs. However, the move towards digitalization will take time and is not a quick-fix solution. The UNDP E-survey also asked participants what they thought were important fields for future SSC/TrC partnerships in order to strengthen digital transformation. The digital economy was overwhelmingly considered the most important field to strengthen digital transformation, followed by telehealth and telemedicine, and e-governance (Figure 18). Telework in the areas of public administration, justice and renewable energy was also considered important.

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236   https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/der2019_en.pdf
237   www.fc-ssc.org/getfile/index/action/images/name/5cc7d42426ec9.pdf
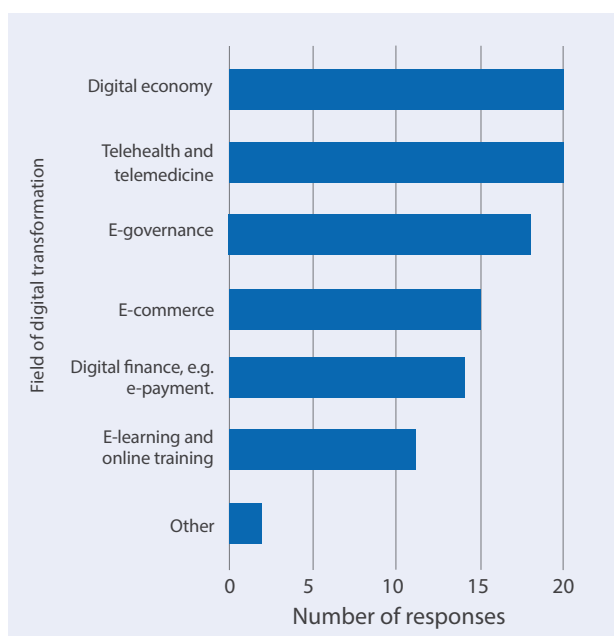238   www.fc-ssc.org/getfile/index/action/images/name/5cc7d42426ec9.pdf
239   https://apolitical.co/en/solution_article/digital-transformation-tips-for-the-global-south
240   www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264302501-enpdf?expires=1604993082&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=1B51EAC521B2C2A0BC90337DC3DA13AB
241   www.fc-ssc.org/getfile/index/action/images/name/5cc7d42426ec9.pdf
242   https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80

Figure 18. Important fields for future SSC/TrC partnerships to strengthen digital transformation

4.4 Conclusion

This section has shown how SSC/TrC can be strengthened by making it more effective by building on wide-ranging partnerships including the private sector and civil society. TrC offers greater resources, expertise and sustainability to share knowledge, but Africa needs to ensure that TrC initiatives are aligned with its own regional and global own goals. Indeed, countries should ensure that their priorities are met through TrC, and that North and the South relationships are built on horizontal and equally accountable relationships. In this regard, regional and multilateral institutions should assist national governments in developing guidelines for such engagement in a way that aligns with their priorities. African countries can be supported in sharing their successes and failures of TrC so that others can draw lessons learned; the United Nations as a trusted multilateral partner, and UNDP in particular, can play a role in facilitating this.

Furthermore, Africa will have to strategize on how it can best address emerging trends and focus on specific areas to ensure that COVID-19 responses build forward better and smarter. In this regard, Africa should capitalize on the digital economy by prioritizing the development of infrastructure, and also by examining the kinds of processes and partnerships that can facilitate this. Africa has the benefit of being able to draw from and go beyond experiences that have been learned in the North, and should capitalize on this. The continent should also welcome its demographic growth and related dividends, and invest in young people to capitalize on this. The move towards digitalization may provide opportunities for deepening stakeholder engagement by eliminating travel cost and time for stakeholders with less human resource capacity.

CHAPTER 5

Supporting SSC/TrC capacities in Africa: The role of UNDP

5.1 Supporting national and regional capacities for SSC/TrC in Africa

As noted by the BAPA+40 Outcome Document, national governments are encouraged to develop their national capacities for SSC/TrC, such as through national policies, coordination mechanisms, the sharing of knowledge and good practices.[243] In response, the United Nations system-wide strategy on SSC/TrC specifies five main outcomes in its action plan:

1. **Outcome 1:** Strengthened United Nation ability to respond to developing countries' demands to address specific development challenges through SSC/TrC.

2. **Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional, human and technical capacities in countries of the South through/for South-South and triangular cooperation.

3. **Outcome 3:** Improved exchanges of experiences, know-how, appropriate technologies and adaptable development solutions among developing countries and Southern policymakers, institutions, professionals, civil society, academia and private sector organizations.

4. **Outcome 4:** Enhanced integration of Southern perspectives and needs into global and regional policies and international development cooperation.

5. **Outcome 5:** Mobilized financial and in-kind resources and expertise through SSC and TrC partnerships and strategic alliances for increased impact of South-South cooperation.[244]

The action plan specifies a number of different activities to achieve this while noting that the first year of implementation will be focused on defining the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting framework. This includes the definition of baseline data and targets for each indicator and detailed responsibilities for data collection and reporting, in collaboration with other United Nations entities. As the next section shows, UNDP can play a vital role in implementing this strategy, as well its own SSC strategy and offers.

5.2 UNDP's SSC/TrC offer for Africa

UNDP is the technical lead of the United Nations' socio-economic response to COVID-19. In its forward-looking COVID-19 response, it specifically outlines four areas that it aims to engage in, namely governance, social protection, the green economy and digital disruption. In addition, UNDP can promote and achieve these efforts by using SSC/TrC to scale up engagements that enhance these areas. UNDP's Strategic Plan (2018–2021) sets out how UNDP is responding to the changing development landscape and how it will support countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Strategic Plan recommits the organization to work as a catalyst and facilitator of United Nations system support in partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector. It affirms the role of SSC/TrC as a key driver of the 2030 Agenda and bases its work on six Signature Solutions:

1. Keeping people out of poverty
2. Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies
3. Crisis prevention and increased resilience
4. Environment: Nature-based solutions for development
5. Clean, affordable energy
6. Women's empowerment and gender equality.[245]

Roughly 17 percent of these initiatives in each respective signature solution already use SSC/TrC to achieve their development objectives.[246] In each instance, UNDP provides technical expertise to support countries in scaling up their institutional and policy capacities, which can be used to share knowledge good practices and to scale up partnerships. UNDP's SSC Corporate Strategy (2016) specifies three roles for UNDP: as trusted knowledge broker, partnership facilitator, and capacity development supporter.[247] UNDP has a network of country offices in over 170 countries, which can be used as drivers, connectors knowledge hubs and centres of excellence to support SSC/TrC, as well as up to 50 country support platforms and 60 country Accelerator Labs.

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243   https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.80
244   Draft Outline of Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-south and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, 2020–2024. Unpublished.
245   https://undocs.org/DP/2017/38
246   www.africa.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Reports/UNDP-SSC_English_Web.pdf
247   undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/undp-ssc-corporate-strategy-.html

- Moreover, UNDP's Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa[248] sees SSC as one of its six foundational enablers, noting the importance of solidarity, flexibility and proximity in facilitating developmental solutions. The implementation plan of this Offer aims to:
  - harness its network of Accelerator Labs to rapidly surface and signal local solutions that work in different contexts, and improve collective knowledge across the network;
  - continue to support the systematic knowledge codification of southern development solutions and link the codified solutions and good practices to the South-South knowledge repository, the UNOSSC-led South-South Galaxy (SS Galaxy);
  - support the brokering of regional or country-to-country South-South partnerships through the facilitation of match-making events, where experiences and knowledge are shared, and specific demands are matched with their relevant solutions;
  - continue, with UNOSSC, to partner with the global coalition of six think tank networks, further strengthening the African based think-tanks to foster and advance dialogue and develop new thinking and research on SSC and African-born development solutions.[249]

UNDP is capable of capitalizing on its operational capacities and support the implementation of SSC/TrC initiatives while working with UNOSSC, which operates more as a platform for advocating, promoting and coordinating SSC/TrC. Thus, while UNOSSC can support knowledge-sharing on SSC, UNDP can do the actual brokering of partnerships on the ground while examining ways of simplifying procedures and promoting harmonized approaches.

In order to ensure adequate financing, UNDP is supporting the implementation of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with a focus on the priorities contained in Agenda 2063 and the AfCFTA.

Accordingly, UNDP established the Africa Sustainable Finance Hub in Pretoria, South Africa. UNDP also supports the development of integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) and has developed a Development Finance Assessment Guidebook to assist in the implementation.[250] The Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020, developed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, also makes recommendations for slowing the backslide of development financing.[251] Hence, there is potential for UNDP to facilitate SSC/TrC partnerships, including with the global South, development finance institutions and international financial institutions, to use mechanisms such as blended finance to address the COVID-19 response and beyond.

UNDP could also leverage its Accelerator Labs to develop knowledge-sharing partnerships with these above institutions whereby solutions can be scaled up. For example, UNDP, in collaboration with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the consulting firm Bearing Point, carried out a survey to highlight technological solutions in Africa and Europe, and to identify the digital solutions that African countries need. These solutions were classified according to five priorities. The research showed that most African countries had reached their financial limits and were unable to complete the digital transformations required to support COVID-19. The bank therefore plans to work with the public and private sector to increase financing for healthcare and businesses. One specific example from the UNDP Accelerator Lab in Kenya pertained to a systems map covering the relationship between the effects and responses of the COVID-19 pandemic. This map allows governments to anticipate the impact on society and the economy.[252]

248   The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa. https://www.africa.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Outreach%20Material/Strategic%20Offer%20in%20Africa.pdf
249   The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa Implementation Plan. Unpublished.
250   https://sdgfinance.undp.org/sites/default/files/UNDP-DFA%20Guidebook-D4-HighResolution%20%28002%29.pdf
251   https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/FSDR_2020.pdf
252   www.eib.org/attachments/country/africa_s_digital_solutions_to_tackle_covid_19_en.pdf

Table 4. UNDP COVID-19 offer and potential thematic areas of SSC/TrC support

| Area	Means of engaging with government and agencies	Potential thematic areas of SSC/TrC support
Governance	• Supporting rule of law, human rights, and national and local government institutions to keep their 'doors open' with e-governance, manage crisis and uncertainty, develop and implement emergency policies, regulations and contingency planning, ensure the continuity of essential services, tackle corruption, and address misinformation, working with international financial institutions (IFIs), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and many other partners. • Breaking gender stereotypes and the drivers of discrimination and bias while ensuring the continuity of services to support women's empowerment and the survivors of gender-based violence, with UN Women and other partners. • Supporting governments to create fiscal space, invest in priority markets, strengthen engagement with the private sector, and develop inclusive, green economic recovery strategies, including in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for migrants and people forcibly displaced from their homes. • Strengthening social capital – the habits, norms and systems for voice, inclusion, solidarity and engagement with civil society. • Maintaining the momentum of conflict prevention and peaceful transitions as part of UNDP's ongoing efforts to advance joint humanitarian, development and peace results in fragile contexts, working closely within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Bank, and many other partners.	• Rule of law • Human rights • E-governance • Crisis response • Gender equality • Development financing and investment • Civil society engagement and inclusion • Conflict prevention.
Social protection	• Strengthening cash transfers and financial inclusion options, in partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and others, including Temporary Basic Income and Universal Basic Income as parts of a renewed social contract. • Framing the future of work, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, UNEP and other partners. • Implementing social protection measures and fiscal stimuli that reflect the care economy and are inclusive, reaching domestic and informal workers, people with disabilities, women migrants and other groups, working with UN Women, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and many other partners. • Advancing universal health coverage and supporting health care systems and services, including for key populations and people living with HIV, with World Health Organization (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), the Global Fund and other partners.	• Financial inclusion and social protection • The future of work • Fiscal stimulation • Universal healthcare.

| The green economy	• Working with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), FAO, UN-Habitat and many other partners to boost green and resilient recovery by helping translate countries' nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans into urban planning, agriculture and land-use climate solutions. • Working with the International Labour Organization ILO and other partners to help countries explore green recovery grants to promote and protect nature-based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship. • Promote community-based and -owned solutions and approaches, especially in indigenous communities. • Working with UNEP, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and other partners to accelerate a green energy transition as part of the COVID-19 response, including supporting countries on the political economy of fossil fuel subsidy reform.	• Green energy • Urban planning • Agriculture • Land use • Rural entrepreneurship • Community-based/indigenous solutions.
Digital disruption	• Helping governments and institutions to keep their 'doors open' by operating remotely through digital platforms while planning broader digital transformation strategies. • Delivering critical governments services, including healthcare, remotely. • Supporting data integration and insights for better decision-making. • Establishing digital payment platforms and e-commerce systems, with a focus on women-run small and medium-sized enterprises, and closing the digital divide for women and for marginalized populations. • Enhancing digital financing options, including for improved remittance flows, working with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the World Bank, the International Organization on Migration, and other partners.	• Digital transformation strategies • Digital healthcare • Data integration • Digital payment platforms and e-commerce • Digital financing.

Source: UNDP. Beyond Recovery: Towards 2030.
www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/beyond-recovery--towards-2030.html

Since the institutionalization of SSC/TrC is essential to establish partnerships and ensure cooperation, UNDP should also continue to support SSC/TrC institutionalization. Accordingly, the UNDP E-survey survey examined how UNDP could support SSC/TrC at a national level. Primarily, respondents thought that UNDP could provide financial support, although technical advice on SSC/TrC institutionalization (e.g. an SSC unit/agency, network of focal points, definitions, monitoring and reporting) and support to the development of an SSC strategy were also identified as paramount (Figure 19).

Figure 19. UNDP support to the institutionalization of SSC and TrC
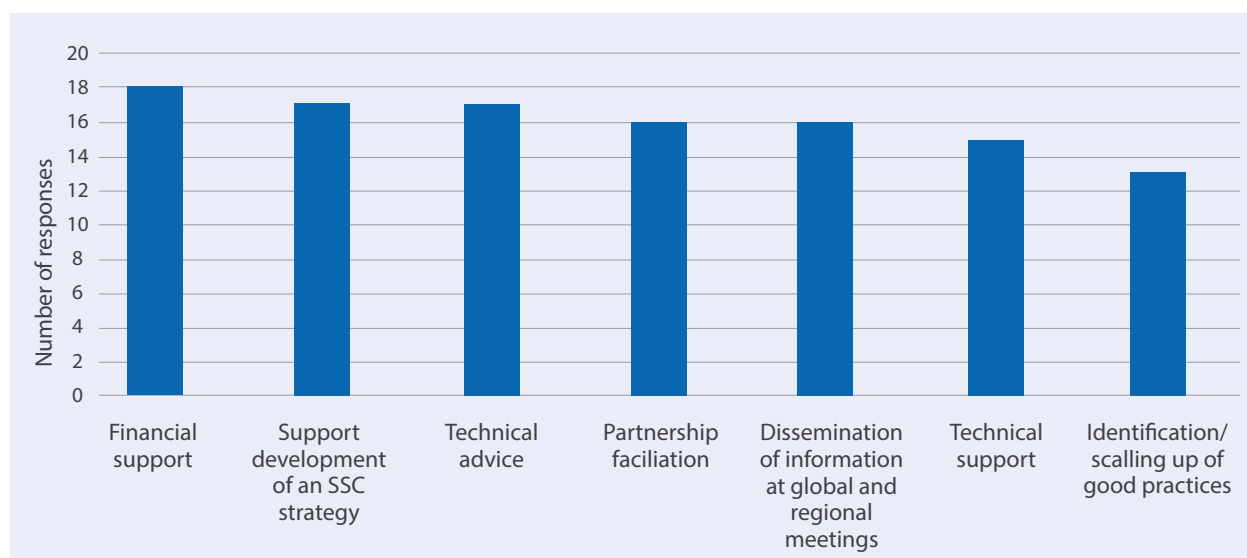
Respondents were also asked about their interest in webinars on South-South exchanges. They stated that they wanted topics on SSC coordination mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels (working groups, committees, etc.), followed by SSC centres of excellence as an institutional space for knowledge development and sharing, and then a national SSC strategy/ policy environment (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Interest in UNDP proposed SSC webinar topics
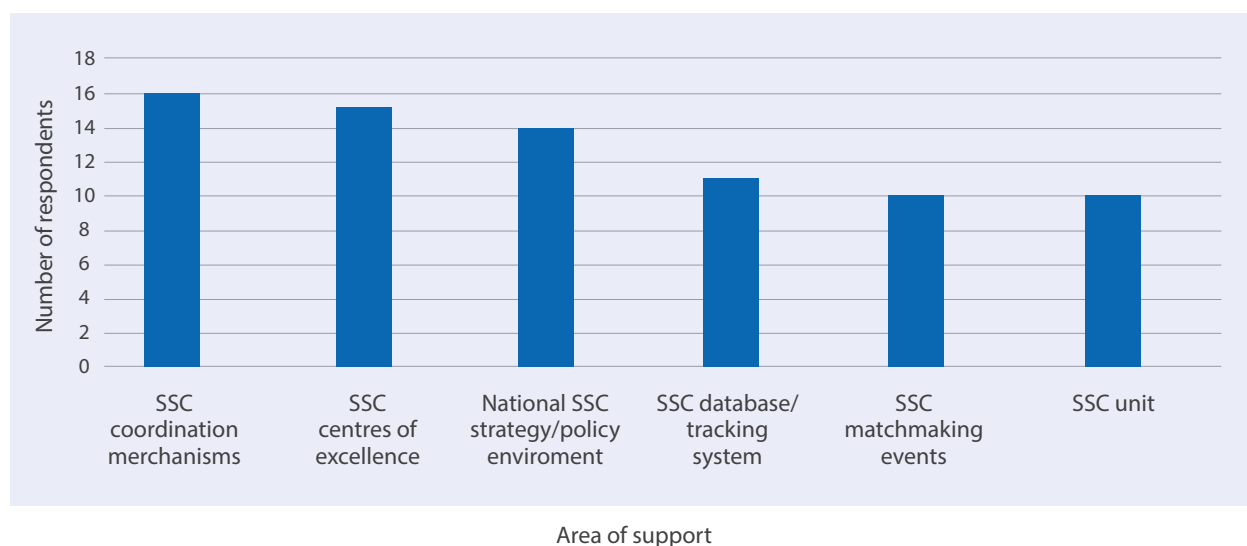
It is clear that UNDP can play important roles in facilitating SSC/TrC. Given the variety of these roles, a number of recommendations are made to UNDP for first enhancing SSC/TrC at the national and regional levels, and then at the country office, continental and global levels.

5.3 Recommendations for SSC/TrC stakeholders

5.3.1 To national governments

- Develop SSC/TrC strategies and assign SSC/TrC focal points within government, as well as with academia, civil society and the private sector, and share these efforts with other countries carrying out similar initiatives.
- Map current national capacity for implementing an SSC/TrC strategy, including financing possibilities.
- Collect a database of good practices that can be shared with other countries through SSC/TrC in SS Galaxy and other digital platforms.
- Develop strategies for post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery that use SSC/TrC to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- Develop strategies for digital transformation that consider how SSC/TrC can be used for technology transfer and digital technologies.

5.3.2 To regional bodies

- Organize policy dialogues to support the sharing of experiences in SSC/TrC.
- Consider regional frameworks and mechanisms to support SSC/TrC, such as through AUDA-NEPAD and the AfCFTA.
- Consider joint financing strategies for enhancing SSC/TrC, such as an SSC/TrC fund for responding to COVID-19.
- Strengthen SSC/TrC engagement with regional centres of excellence, academia, think tanks and resource centres.
- Support regional capacity assessments and matchmaking of SSC/TrC activities.

5.3.3 To UNDP

5.3.3.1 Recommendations to country offices

- Continue to support national governments in developing institutional structures for SSC/TrC and to capitalize on good practices for scaling up SSC/TrC.
- Support the development of integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) that consider the whole range of financing options available for Member States, including opportunities for blended finance that involve South-South partnerships, and promote the sharing of regulatory frameworks for enhancing trade and investment, including a focus on MSMEs and informal economies.
- Support countries to develop national-level strategies on digitalization by learning from other country experiences via SSC/TrC, in line with the AU's White Paper, "Harnessing Innovation and Emerging Technologies to address the impact of COVID-19 in Africa".
- Strengthen UNDP's country Accelerator Labs by: developing a roster of thematic experts to support an agile team to explore areas of potential innovation; finding solutions that connect the digital and the informal sector; and using the labs to matchmake existing solutions with emerging needs.
- Promote the codification of good practices in COVID-19 responses, including those involving multi-stakeholder approaches and technological innovation.
- Support the implementation of the AfCFTA through capacity mappings on implementation, investment projects and training in e-commerce.

5.3.3.2 Recommendations to the UNDP Regional Centre for Africa

- Encourage knowledge sharing of good African national-level practices in responding to COVID-19 at the sub-regional, regional, cross-regional and global levels, including through UNDP's Innovation Labs.
- Promote SSC/TrC exchanges on SSC/TrC institutionalization, as well as good practices in developing an SSC/TrC ecosystem in Africa by convening regional workshops and codifying good practices.
- Support the implementation of SSC/TrC initiatives while developing simplified procedures and harmonized approaches.
- Promote good practices of engaging multiple stakeholders at the regional and global level, including the private sector, civil society and academia, by sharing examples or multi-stakeholder engagements at various levels, from policy engagement to project implementation.
- Promote systematized networks and facilitate the codification of good practices from Africa in global platforms such as SS Galaxy.

- Support digital cooperation, technical innovation and data-driven knowledge systems at the regional level by sharing national experiences on digital transformation.
- Share national experiences on the financing of development strategies, including challenges (e.g. regulatory frameworks) and opportunities (e.g. the blended financing) at the regional and cross-regional levels.
- Support the development of regional frameworks and common positions, such as the AfCFTA, and support its implementation through, *inter alia*, the establishment of regional professional associations, the promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue on topics such as the free circulation of experts and goods, as well as through manuals that share country practices in preparing for the AfCFTA.
- Facilitate partnerships in order to scale up bilateral SSC initiatives to TrC initiatives that provide more sustained and long-term approaches.
- Work with regional and sub-regional blocks to promote cooperation and coordination on broad socio-economic responses, and to develop early warning systems and strategies to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.3.3.3 Recommendations to UNDP headquarters

- Showcase African SSC/TrC COVID-19 responses at the global level and support their alignment with global frameworks such as Agendas 2063 and 2030 by engaging African experts in global discussions.
- Promote SSC/TrC as a modality for enhancing responses to COVID-19 through workshops and publications, and strengthen global partnerships to ensure that SSC initiatives can be scaled up to include TrC partners.
- Develop guidelines for multi-stakeholder SSC/TrC approaches to promote UNDP's socio-economic response and develop strategic means of bringing these stakeholders on board while stressing important frameworks in place, such as United Nations Global Compact Principles and the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector.
- Facilitate the development of global frameworks on digitalization by facilitating discussions and collaboration between the African continent and other regions so as to reduce inequalities and to build forward better.
- Promote and administer global funds that can facilitate SSC/TrC exchanges on the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion

The coronavirus pandemic has left – and will continue to leave – countries extremely vulnerable as they prioritize health responses and direct resources into emergency efforts. The virus has also unequally impacted countries, bringing to the fore pre-existing inequalities and challenges that become ever-more pressing to address in the future. SSC and TrC offer ways of sharing unique, innovative, context-specific and cost-effective solutions for sharing responses to the pandemic and for building forward better. This report has shown the utility of this modality and provided examples of how such responses can be used to enhance the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

First, this report has shown that Africa has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by acting in a collaborative and coordinated manner at regional and subregional levels. Primarily, the response has been in terms of health, macroeconomic and economic policy, but increasingly there will be a need to address socio-economic recovery. South-South partnerships have facilitated responses thus far and will be critical in building forward better. The AfCFTA promises to be a further opportunity to strengthen SSC partnerships by enhancing intra-African trade and promoting local production. However, for its implementation to be successful, it will be important to promote multi-stakeholder intra-African discussions, facilitate the exchange of goods and experts, and ensure that regulatory frameworks are in place that can promote exchanges.

Second, this report has shown how SSC/TrC has been used as a response to COVID-19, with countries such as China, Cuba, Morocco, Japan and Turkey using it to provide support such as medical experts and PPE, capacity-building, the sharing of good practices and the development of regional networks. Previous SSC initiatives facilitated a COVID-19 response and can offer many opportunities for the future. Even so, COVID-19 has challenged some SSC initiatives due to travel restrictions and the shifting of priorities regarding resources. It has also forced some engagements to move online, reflecting the need for the African continent to embrace digitalization. And yet, in some ways, this shift has allowed for broader participation and greater information sharing with reduced costs.

Third, it is clear that SSC will become more important in the future, with reduced resources available from the North. TrC offers a way to scale up partnerships and to develop critical sources of funding. Africa will need to take a proactive stance for addressing megatrends, and SSC/TrC can be an important means of sharing knowledge and innovation while achieving global and regional partnerships. Moreover, trust and local ownership will be critical for administering TrC, with clearly defined coordination mechanisms. Resources can be further maximized by engaging the private sector, academia and civil society, but the variety of roles and their potential in SSC/TrC needs to be better understood and made more systematic.

UNDP can play an important role in supporting these initiatives by facilitating exchanges on socio-economic responses on the continent, using its country offices to document good practices and then scaling them up through UNDP's integrator function role. UNDP can support the development of multi-stakeholder networks and share successful experiences of engaging these stakeholders in SSC. Moreover, UNDP's innovation and country Accelerator Labs can document innovative and technological solutions; it will be important that this support continues and is scaled up and shared across the African continent.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has left many countries around the world with even greater challenges than before, it has also demonstrated the need to bond together and collaborate to achieve developmental results. Hencve, SSC/TrC is an important modality and should be promoted in developing a COVID-19 response and beyond.