

UN Office For South-South Cooperation

The progress made in implementing the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, 2018-2027.

1. Promoting policy dialogue and Knowledge sharing

The 2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index published by UNDP showed that of the 6.1 billion people covered, 1.1 billion remain in poverty and that most of the 1.1 billion people are in sub-Saharan Africa. However, over twenty-five years, the world had collectively halved multidimensional poverty by 2023. That means that there is a scope for sharing knowledge between countries of the global South on eradicating poverty.

Furthermore, a per indicators of Multidimensional poverty, that is: Health (nutrition, child mortality); Education (years of schooling, school attendance) and standard of living (cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets), multi-dimensional poverty is driven by many causes and solutions for poverty eradication strategies have to fit the unique contexts of different regions and country typologies, supporting localized approaches to sustainable development.

The role of South-South cooperation in addressing multi-dimensional poverty has been enhanced particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic which reversed years of progress in some developing countries. Notable dialogue fora include The UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation 20th and 21st Sessions, the Fifth United Nations Conference of Least Developed countries (2023) Ministerial Dialogue on South-South Cooperation, the G-77 Summit on Science Technology and Innovation (Havana, Cuba – 2023) and the G-77 South-Summit (2024).

Relating to knowledge sharing, there are 66 solutions in the [South-South Galaxy platform](#) with 'No Poverty' as the primary Sustainable development goal.

1. Key activities,

Very tangible activities targeted at reducing multi-dimensional poverty in UNOSSC during the period have been undertaken through the UNOSSC managed Trust Funds which include:

The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), established in 2004. During the reporting period, the Fund has allocated at least \$16.6 million for about 15 projects in 23 countries, focused mainly on the eradication of poverty.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established in 2017, has allocated at least \$60M for 77 projects across the 17 SDGs.

Under the UNOSSC-RoK Facility triangular cooperation project, the project has been supporting exchange of knowledge between countries in the Lower Mekong Region, targeting communities whose livelihoods have been affected by climate change and human development along the river. The project was approved in 2022 for USD4 million.

Other Trust Fund projects are supported by the People’s Republic of China as summarized in following sections.

Summary of Resources and disbursements

The IBSA Fund and the India-Fund have contributed at least \$ 32.5 M for 32 projects in 31 countries across the global south for eradication of poverty. Consistent with the growing levels of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, 75% of these projects, 50% of the funds, and 71% of the countries supported are in Africa. These are some of the examples from the two Trust Funds and the China-funded initiatives:

IBSA Fund

Project country and budget	Project focus	Implementing Institutions	Number of beneficiaries
Eswatini (\$999,350)	The installation of three solar pump water supply systems, construction of 173 hand-washing facilities, soap-production training, and provision of start-up materials to 50 women, training of 456 farmers on the use of efficient irrigation methods, training of lead farmers on rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation supporting 60 lead farmers with storage tanks, water harvesting gutters, drip irrigation and farm inputs that include fruit trees, organic fertilizers, and seedlings.	The National Disaster Management Agency and UNDP.	500 community members.
Benin (\$1,000,000)	Promoting Local Salt production through new production technology, improved usage of mangrove resources, and promotion of iodized salt.	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Employment Opportunity and UNDP	1,500
Congo Republic (\$996,450)	Contribute to self-sustained food and nutrition security by improving smallholder farmers’ livelihoods and enhancing their access to local markets while increasing school children’ access to a diversified and nutritious diet.	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and WFP.	
The Gambia	Enhanced vegetable production and processing project for the rural youth and women in the Gambia	UNDP India, UNDP in participating countries, International Solar Alliance (ISA)	

Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda. \$2,000,000	Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use. Will provide 196 solar-based irrigation systems	UNDP India, UNDP in participating countries, International Solar Alliance (ISA)	

India-UN Fund

These are some of the projects under the India-UN Fund:

Project country and budget	Project focus	Implementing Institutions	Number of beneficiaries
Burkina Faso (\$1,000,000)	Construction of dam with a capacity of 580,000 m3. The project will recover 5,000 hectares of degraded land, restore and irrigate 10 hectares for agricultural purposes, and improve the agricultural techniques of 120 producers.	UNDP Burkina Faso	120 producers
Cameroon (\$1,000,000)	Scaling Up Rural Households' Use of Renewable Energy and Energy-efficient Technologies	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Employment Opportunity and UNDP Partners: Ministry of Water and Energy, and UNESCO Cameroon	26 villages
Haiti (\$1,000,100)	Improving Access to Water through the Installation of a Solar Pumping System. The project successfully installed eight solar photovoltaic-based water pumping systems. As a result, 40,000 inhabitants of four municipalities have improved access to water through the nearly 400 kilowatts of green energy that are produced by the more than 1,000 photovoltaic solar modules installed by the project.	Ministry of Environment and UNDP Haiti	40,000
Zimbabwe (\$998,523)	The project contributed to reduction of the negative effects of frequent	The Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation	5200 farmers

	droughts and towards longer-term resilience by improving food production and marketing opportunities of smallholder farmers. It provided these farmers with resilient seeds and extended technical and field trainings to community-based extension officers and lead-farmers on small grain production, using conservation agriculture methods.	Development's Extension Service and the World Food Programme (WFP)	
--	--	--	--

UN Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC)

China cooperation

The following are some of the initiatives funded under the project portfolio supported by the Government of China's contribution to the UNFSSC.

Project country and budget	Project focus	Implementing Institutions
Nepal (\$172,000)	The project targets sustainable agriculture value chain development and improving local stakeholders' skills in horticulture and livestock production. It facilitates implementation of a field demonstration based on the technical needs analysis, including knowledge sharing and technology transfer for local communities.	World Food Programme (WFP) China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation, UNDP Nepal, WFP Nepal, and the Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of P. R. China (FECC)
Nepal, India and China \$120,000	Global mushroom consumption patterns present an excellent opportunity to farmers and NGOs in developing nations to lift communities out of poverty through the sustainable and environmentally friendly cultivation of economically valuable mushroom species.	Partners: Center for Mountain Ecosystems Studies, Kunming Institute of Botany, China Academy of Science, Balipara Tract and Frontier Foundation (India), Ministry of Forest and Environment (Nepal)
Tanzania (\$108,000)	Dispatching specialists to Tanzania to carry out technical demonstrations, technical training, and technological exchanges and to provide technical consultancy on standardized transformation of fish farms and breeding and intensive farming of tilapia. The dissemination of tilapia industry chain technology will promote the development of tilapia industry, effectively increase the income of fishermen, contribute to food security and poverty alleviation, and enhance women's status in the family and society	Freshwater Fisheries Research Center, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (FFRC/CAFS)

	through their participation in tilapia production with higher economic benefits.	
Uzbekistan (\$100,000)	Conduct knowledge exchange and capacity building in poverty reduction, gender equality and employment promotion,	Chongqing Training Center for International Cooperation (CTCIC), Uzbekistan State Committee for Tourism Development
Rwanda \$150,000	The development and scaling-up of green bamboo concrete board industry in Rwanda by technical transfer from China to Rwanda through public-private partnership and help to provide solutions to local development tailored to real demands.	Partners: China National Bamboo Research Center,
Nigeria, Pakistan (\$150,000)	Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills Improvement	Fujian Science Technology and Culture Innovation Association (FSTCIA), Universities in Nigeria and Pakistan

2. Assessment of results

The profiles of the projects reflect the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and that solutions can address several of these all at once thus transcending the silo approach to poverty eradication. Furthermore, the technologies used are usually already in use in other countries thus helping with leapfrogging. Although the projects are relatively small, they are demonstrative in nature and can be scaled up by the member states.

3. Efforts made to foster greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration.

Following requests by the Member States at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC and the Inter-Agency Mechanism consisting of about 40 UN Agencies prepared a United Nations System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development (2020-2024). In order to operationalize the strategy, UNOSSC, the Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the Inter-Agency Mechanism Prepared Guidelines for the Integration of South-South and Triangular Cooperation into the Country- and Regional-level Work of the United Nations Development System which were jointly released by UNOSSC and DCO in December 2023. The guidelines supported the work of the UN entities at Country and Regional levels. To further strengthen collaboration with UN Regional Commissions and regional intergovernmental organisations, UNOSSC developed The UN Office for South-South Cooperation Regional Engagement Plan finalized and shared with regional partners in January 2024. All these efforts will leverage the use of South-South cooperation for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

For IBSA and India-UN Trust Funds, although the funds are managed by UNOSSC, the implementation is by various entities in the UN Development System. Efforts are ongoing with partners to further strengthen the South-South cooperation in the projects.

4. Proposed measures, programmes and policies to end poverty.

Data collection among these projects will be necessary and further targeting of the countries falling behind is necessary. Triangular cooperation to support the capacity building by countries that have effectively reduced multidimensional poverty should be supported. **SDG Indicator 17.3.1, remains largely unpopulated due to lack of data. While UNCTAD is the co-custodian of the measurement framework, UNOSSC is collaborating with UNCTAD towards the elaboration of this framework.**