

Joint RBA-organized session at the UNOSSC GSSD Expo 2018

# From fragility to resilience in rural settings: the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

Thematic Solution Forum 7, UNHQ  
29 November 2018, 10.40 – 12.00, Conference Room 1

## CONCEPT NOTE



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Investing in rural people



World Food  
Programme

## Background, objectives and thematic focus

Fragility plays a crucial role in determining global development outcomes. Its centrality and importance in the global development agenda and the need to reduce the risk of disasters have been echoed by several international initiatives, such as the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World. During the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the importance of aligning humanitarian and development actions was emphasized, especially to reduce the needs of poor people in fragile situations. The quest for peace is also central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Declaration and SDG 16).

From the development perspective, a common factor undermining food security is conflict, and more conflicts cause greater hunger. The number of undernourished people on the planet increased to 821 million in 2017,<sup>1</sup> up from 777 million in 2015.<sup>2</sup> While it is difficult to develop long-term development plans in fragile or deeply impoverished contexts, building resilience to prevent shocks and stress can relieve human suffering. Resilience is crucial to address the humanitarian-development nexus for reaching food security.

Cooperation among fragile and conflict-affected countries of the Global South is intensifying. “Fragile-to-fragile (F2F)” cooperation is the support that countries in conflict or emerging from crisis provide to each other, including through peer learning, capacity-building, mobilization of third-party support, financial assistance or knowledge generation.<sup>3</sup>

The g7+ group of fragile states has been particularly active in F2F cooperation, with the aim of helping countries to make progress towards peace, resilience and development through the provision of mutual support, as well as promoting a shared vision among its member countries.

F2F cooperation is inspired and closely aligned with South-South Cooperation (SSC), and F2F can learn from the experience of SSC, but can also take its place in the driving seat by sharing lessons, especially around the importance of country-owned and country-led approaches to peacebuilding and state-building. F2F is also strongly supported by the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding,<sup>4</sup> which is widely recognized as a particularly successful example of *triangular* cooperation.

The session entitled “*From fragility to resilience in rural settings: the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation*” will look at how UN agencies can support and scale up the exchange of experiences between g7+ countries, further and support the work of the g7+ group, and share practices of the countries who are champions in building resilience.

The following are examples of how UN agencies broker SSTC among countries in this specific context of work.

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO is working towards increasing the resilience of people and their livelihoods to agricultural threats and crises. This includes protecting, restoring and improving livelihoods systems in the face of threats that impact agriculture, nutrition, food security and food safety in fragile states, including through SSTC.

FAO seeks to develop the capacities of families, communities and institutions to protect people and their livelihoods, through measures to avoid (prevention) or limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse effects of hazards and to provide timely and reliable hazard forecasts.

FAO’s resilience strategy is based on four pillars: (1) Enable the environment – Institutional strengthening and governance of risk and crisis in agricultural sectors; (2) Watch

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1 FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2018. *The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2018. Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition*. Rome, FAO

2 <https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/hunger-conflict-zones-continues-intensify>

3 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v-SOfeNvMuk8ecBEf1zOzzEMGcSFUkoT/view>

4 <https://www.pbsdialogue.org/en/>

to safeguard – Information and early warning systems on food and nutrition security and transboundary threats; (3) Apply risk and vulnerability reduction measures – Protection, prevention, mitigation and building livelihoods with technologies, approaches and practices across all agricultural sectors; and (4) Prepare and respond – Preparedness for and response to crises in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

## **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

In 2016, IFAD released a new strategy for engagement in countries with fragile situations<sup>5</sup> which outlines some guiding principles for the Fund’s engagement in these countries, and specifically: (a) risk management and resilience; (b) focus on root causes (within IFAD’s mandate and comparative advantage); (c) gender mainstreaming and targeting; (d) institution-building to promote trust and social cohesion; (e) flexible and responsive resources, instruments and approaches; (f) strategic and complementary partnerships; and (g) results measurement and learning.

Since then, the theme of fragility has gained more and more traction within IFAD. It is in fact a commitment of the Fund in its Strategic Framework 2016-2025<sup>6</sup> to work in fragile situations, and resilience is adopted as a key theme. Moreover, fragility was a core thematic area of the February 2018 IFAD Governing Council, during which a commitment was made to allocate 25-30 per cent of IFAD resources to fragile states.

In addition, IFAD has established the Facility for Refugees, Migrants, Forced Displacement and Rural Stability (FARMS) to ensure that poor rural people affected by crisis and displacement overcome poverty through remunerative, sustainable and resilient livelihoods. By creating opportunities for host communities, refugees and internally displaced persons, FARMS addresses fragility and tensions that arise due to displacement. It bridges the gap between humanitarian and development financing by ensuring that, in addition to relief and emergency services, communities in crisis benefit from long-term development strategies that address underlying problems. In 2017, IFAD mobilized US\$33 million of funding for FARMS.

Following the 2030 Agenda commitment to “leave no one behind”, IFAD works to mobilize investments in the most remote rural areas to link farmers to markets, build small-scale infrastructure and introduce the appropriate technologies for smallholders to produce more and better, thus contributing to achieving global food security. The 2030 Agenda is a global commitment to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. Nowhere is this challenge more pertinent than in rural areas.

## **United Nations World Food Programme**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the largest humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. WFP operates in the most difficult settings in the world and is present in 83 countries. WFP’s approach to SSC has a strong focus on engagement with countries in conflict, fragility and transition, and empowering them to bridge the development-humanitarian-peace nexus. The focus is on building resilience for food security and nutrition.

WFP brokers SSTC to empower governments in areas such as early warning and preparedness systems that allow the governments to prevent crises or respond quickly when they happen, developing national capacities to manage disaster risk through finance and risk-transfer tools, such as weather risk insurance, and to provide access to expertise in vulnerability analysis and mapping, as well as support to social protection systems. Integrated resilience strategies, climate adaptation and Food for Assets (FFA) programmes play a key role in strengthening resilience and food security.

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5 <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/119/docs/EB-2016-119-R-4.pdf>

6 <https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39132730/IFAD+Strategic+Framework+2016-2025/d43eed79-c827-4ae8-b043-09e65977e22d>

## Concrete outcomes

The session will be an occasion for governments and UN agencies to discuss opportunities for SSTC engagement with countries that are facing situations of conflict and fragility. It will focus on sharing experiences of “fragile-to-fragile” cooperation that can help to bridge the development-humanitarian-peace nexus, with an emphasis on the areas of rural development, rural transformation, food security and nutrition. Specific outcomes identified for this session are:

- Share country experiences that can promote resilience-building for strengthening rural livelihoods in g7+ countries, bridge the development-humanitarian-peace nexus and support countries to advance progress towards food and nutrition security in the context of conflict and fragility
- Provide an overview of UN approaches and opportunities in complementing the efforts of governments in creating resilience-building for g7+ countries with a focus on advancing progress towards SDG 2
- Share results, impact and lessons learned with concrete examples (i.e. case studies) from the portfolios of the speakers’ organizations
- Participants from g7+ member countries are invited to speak on the relevance of SSTC in the context of fragility and resilience-building initiatives
- Identification of forward-looking opportunities for concerted inter-agency action to broker SSTC in fragile states or situations
- Include interventions from the audience (UNICEF and other UN and non-UN agencies) to learn from other institutions about their approaches in SSTC in the context of fragile states or situations in the rural context.

## Focal point contact details

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