



COLOMBIA

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Contextualization of SSC in Colombia

APC Colombia has participated or has led previous analysis:

- **SEGIB Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS):** Colombia reports SSC and TC initiatives from the beginning of the report 10 years ago. This exercise has been refined but still has challenges to be solved
- **Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC):** as member of the group of action 2.3 for SSC, Colombia refined a self-assessment model on SSC effectiveness based in the proposal from Mexico, which is available for application by interested GPEDC member countries. APC Colombia led a pilot of 5 countries from Global South to apply the model between 2021 and 2022.
- **Annual report produced by APC-Colombia on South-South and Triangular Cooperation:** we have produced annual reports of SS and Tr cooperation that we implement from 2020 onwards. We show the data of the initiatives, together with an analysis of the main topics, sectors, SDGs, partner countries, entities involved, number of actions, among others. This also allow us to analyse the implemented cooperation with funds and participation of APC-Colombia and the results obtained (from a qualitative point of view).

Contextualization of SSC in the country/region

- APC-Colombia manages an **excel database** that compiles all the SSTC initiatives in which the agency participates as partner and that it is aligned with information required by SIDICSS.
- We have quality information since 2020, and currently collect data such as: Type of initiative, name, objective, date of approval, budget, status of the initiative, activities (exchange instrument and dates), the SSC ways of cooperation (offer, demand or doble way), region, participating countries and their role, technical entities, cooperation sector (based on SEGIB table), alignment with SDGs and beneficiaries.
- The quantification of the contributions made in SSC projects is based on the line items identified from the funds provided by APC-Colombia (FOCAI) and the in-kind contribution of the technical entities, based on a table to quantify the cost of the technicians involved in the exchange (cost per hour).

Institutional aspects – setting up collaboration

Strengthening the set-up

It would be desirable that all South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives developed by the local or national institutions are somehow reported through APC-Colombia. This would facilitate to have a real map of SSTC initiatives running on the territory.

We would need a more collaborative work with DANE and establish regular meetings in order to unify a methodology to assure SSTC data collection, timely and with quality at national level. DANE also could give feedback about APC Colombia's software and tools to collect data (CICLOPE)

Institutional challenges

Areas for improvement, resources and skills, capacities, what will need to be enhanced to measure SSC:

- Capacities for collection of information (software –data bases) and Systematization of information
- Process of data quality verification
- Develop data bases open to the public
- Assure timely dissemination of information

Data gaps analysis – planning towards measurement

Assessment of data availability

We consider it important to maintain standardization of data concerning the initiatives from the different modalities (Bilateral, Triangular, Regional) respecting their particularities and seek information from direct sources. This can be achieved starting with the reports sent directly by the technicians involved in the initiatives. However, we have some difficulties with the timely submission of information

Main Gaps:

- We have not developed a software that facilitates data collection timely, with defined and clear competencies for all the actors involved.
- Lack of detailed indicators that allow to carry out quantification and valorization of SSTC activities/projects
- We identify gaps in deadlines for the execution of activities, especially when the reports depend on other countries.

Towards filling data gaps

In Colombia, the entity with the mandate for the production, availability and quality of strategic statistical information is DANE, which is currently working on a government Act which seeks that all entities, especially public ones, make their statistical reports about international cooperation timely.

DANE and partners as SEGIB could provide technical support in order to establish an internal methodology and tools based in the experience acquired by the Agency and develop capacities for data collection and processing information (applied for SSTC)

Challenges with data

- Not having a tool that facilitates the systematization of information from primary sources, i.e. from the data producer himself.
- The manual registration in a database (Excel), without an adequate risk control (can generate losses and leaks of information).
- Not having a registration system which apply for all the actors and countries, this for SSTC projects.
- Lack of real-time data availability to provide timely and quality reports

All of this, delays the assessment of the data produced, as they are not available timely and with the required quality.

Opportunities in data collection

Feedback/suggestion on improving the data collection file (Excel sheet)

- It is important to reach consensus on the coding, given that some tools produce their own coding for the registration of initiatives (e.g. SIDICSS, TOSSD).
- Item 9 - External link: in many cases it does not apply, so we consider that it could be evaluated if this information is neither relevant nor necessary for the analysis of dynamics and impacts on SSTC.
- Item 13 – Sector: we consider that it should be a consensus with the conceptual aspects applied by each country (i.e. we apply SIDICSS - SEGIB sectors, which was conceptually agreed with all member countries). For the classification we also consider thematic lines related to the goals established in our National Development Plan. We consider that it could obey not to a codification but to a concept agreed with the countries.

Opportunities in data collection

- Item 14 – Modality: we consider that it should be a concept and not a codification, in this way it can be understood not only by the person who operates the tool but also by anyone who needs to read it.
- Cost report: it is important to standardize the currency of report and exchange rate, based on a framework agreed and accepted by all the reporting countries.

Opportunities – towards reporting data

Country's plans and your own insights on improving measurement of SSTC in your country

- Use technological tools to collect, systematize and analyze information.
- To have a person or area in charge for collecting and verifying data quality/analysis.
- Refine the criteria and guidelines for data collection to avoid misinterpretation.
- Promote knowledge dissemination/capacities development through a community of practice to socialize and maintain a culture of data management.

Next steps and support needs

- It is necessary to open or expand spaces to reach consensus on the way of measuring and quantifying SSTC. APC-Colombia is carrying out exercises to verify the quality of the existing information that we have and how we can improve its collection.
- With the support of ECLAC and PIFCSS (Ibero-American Program for Strengthening SSC) we will expand a Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of SSC led by APC Colombia in 2022. We try to generate dialogue and reach consensus among actors of the global south to adequately measure the results of SSC based on the experiences of each one of us. We have identified 3 main objectives for the joint work with ECLAC and PIFCSS:
 1. Conduct a pilot with at least 5 countries for measuring SSTC (involving cooperation and statistical agencies)
 2. Mapping mechanisms to which we report data (initially for Latin American countries) to identify common points and differences and the report upload for work teams in the countries
 3. Identify an impact/effectiveness SSTC indicator based on the results of the exercises already made.



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