Regional progress and challenges on measuring SSC in the Arab Region
UNESCWA

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Background on SSC in Arab Region

South-South cooperation plays an important role in

• Generation of employment
• Poverty alleviation
• Attainment of inclusive, sustained economic development
  • Through technical assistance, knowledge exchange and technology transfer.
  • Across a number of sectors

Findings of the Study

Arab Countries have achieved considerable progress in development cooperation, solidarity with other developing countries, and strengthening bilateral and multilateral relationships.

Cumulative loans and grants from Arab countries amounted to US$144 billion between 1970 and 2009 and over 60 per cent of that amount was provided by Saudi Arabia, the largest Arab donor country.

More than 50% of the assistance was provided to other Arab countries, helped developing countries finance development projects in various sectors or respond to emerging crises.
Background on SSC in Arab Region

- National-level Coordination Board for South-South and Triangular Cooperation
- Online SSC Portal for Real-time Access to SSC-related Information
- Arab Regional Funding Facility for SSC
Regional generosity was on display after the February 6 temblor ...

Policy Notes 130 Disaster Dynamics: Assessing Middle East Responses to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake and Other Destructive Events by Sarah Cahn, Erik Yavorsky Mar 2023 THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR NEAR EAST POLICY

Increasing Regional Generosity and Cooperation

Figure 1. Aid Chart as of March 2, 2023
Labor from developing countries to Arab countries

• 24.1 million migrant workers in 12 Arab States in 2019 (ILO)
• 14% of all migrant workers worldwide.
• 41.4 per cent global share of migrant workers as a proportion of the total workforce in 2019, highest compared to the global average of 5%.
• 41.4 million international migrants and refugees in 2020. The GCC subregion hosted almost 75% of all migrants in the Arab States region, most of them migrant workers.
Trade in Goods: ESCWA External Trade Data Platform for the Arab Region (ETDP)

https://etdp.unescwa.org/dashboard/platform.html#
Total Trade Flows (USD) Arab Region (All Reporters) to Countries Global South

Growth rate 2% for exports 28% form imports from 2012 to 2021

Trade Flows Values (USD) per Partner Groups 2021

- **Global South**
- **GAFTRA**
- **SAARC**
- **ASEAN**
- **COMESA**
- **MERCOSUR**
- **ECOWAS**
- **CEFTA**
Trends in Trade in Services in 14 Arab Economies (Million US Dollars)

BOP6 - SOX - Commercial services

https://stats.wto.org/
In Kind Support, Knowledge Transfer and Assets Sharing

• Egypt’s and Jordan’s digital census 2017, collected on-ground data using Windows tablets

• The Tablets were shared with Palestine and Lebanon and this year Egypt shared with Djibouti for their Census

• Study tours were set up for Iraq officials who visited Egypt and Jordan for onsite learning and discussions with related authorities for transfer of knowledge and skills on management, governance structures, procurement, and ICT

• Scholarships and other non-monetary cooperation
Arab SDG Monitor-SDG 17.3.1

SDG 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries
In West Asia, flows to Saudi Arabia fell by 59% to $7.9 billion. FDI to the United Arab Emirates increased by 10% to $23 billion – the highest amount ever recorded. The country attracted the fourth-highest number of greenfield projects in the world. Flows to Türkiye rose by 9% to $13 billion.

Flows increased also in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (up 42%, to $580 billion), among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (where they more than doubled, to $37 billion) and in member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (up 20%, to $56 billion).
A range of official providers give ODA to developing countries

ODA from DAC and other official providers, and outflows from multilateral organisations (2021)

Note: Estimates of aid to Syrian Arab Republic from other official providers include large volumes of ODA that Türkiye reported to the OECD in 2021, which consist mainly of support to Syrian refugees in Türkiye.

Better Framework for measuring SSC Project Implementation

• Reporting on SDG 17.3.1 SSC with methodology agreement and ownership by countries of the Global South with total respect to their sovereignty.
• Regional reporting and capacity-building, and inter-regional knowledge sharing
• Very strong support from policymakers in the Arab Region after Natural and War Disasters afflicting many countries and the disruption of Supply chains caused by the Ukraine War
Survey Results Regarding Arab/ESCWA Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report_Date_SSC</th>
<th>Key_Areas_Improved</th>
<th>Capa_Dvpt_Support</th>
<th>Capa_Dvpt_Init</th>
<th>Other_Issue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Near future (1-2 years); Legal framework; Resource availability; Political support; Technical training, such as courses or workshops; Sharing of tools and resources; Financial support to improve data collection and establish national reporting systems; Advisory missions and consultancy to lend expertise;</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Near future (1-2 years); Statistical capacity; Resource availability; Collaboration between agencies; Technical training, such as courses or workshops; Sharing of experience, such as study visits or meetings; Advisory missions and consultancy to lend expertise;</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Near future (1-2 years) Statistical capacity; Resource availability; Collaboration between agencies; Technical training, such as courses or workshops; Sharing of tools and resources; Sharing of experience, such as study visits or meetings; Methodological materials on how to compile these statistics; Financial support to improve data collection and establish national reporting systems;</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>There are great efforts to collect data for indicators related to sustainable development, and we collect, publish and update data annually or quarterly according to each indicator. Cooperation with the countries of the south is not clear due to the lack of partnerships with those countries. We hope that there will be activities and initiatives in the future to enhance cooperation with those countries and to exchange views, experiences and data between us.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Long term (&gt; 5 years) Statistical capacity; Sharing of experience, such as study visits or meetings; Technical training, such as courses or workshops; No</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Near future (1-2 years) Collaboration between agencies; Resource availability; Statistical capacity; Technical training, such as courses or workshops; Sharing of tools and resources; Methodological materials on how to compile these statistics; Forum of countries for exchange and development; We are currently working to establish a national framework that accommodate all data related to international cooperation, including South-South Cooperation. Technical support in data management and setting up agreed upon tools about South-South Cooperation will be of a good benefit for all concerned countries and parties.</td>
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DA Project 2023-2025 in the Arab region

https://unctad.org/project/quantifying-south-south-cooperation-mobilize-funds-sustainable-development-goals

Engagement from our Region to refine and Validate the Conceptual framework to measure and report South-South cooperation

Data collection, compilation and reporting tools developed based on discussions in an expert meeting (with experts nominated by governments)

Organize one regional event, to disseminate the conceptual framework and the goals/objectives of measuring South-South cooperation and identify interested countries.

Inter-regional capacity building workshop

National workshops in beneficiary countries to test and adapt the validated framework, tools and resources to the national context

A report summarizing the methodology and the findings, including early estimates of South-South Cooperation.

An e-learning course (We can translate into Arabic) to support measurement and reporting of South-South Cooperation.

Sharing the SSC framework, tools and resources in national and international events of statisticians

A report summarizing the methodology and the findings, including early estimates of South-South Cooperation.
Framework fit for Arab Countries

1. 3 Participating Countries to this Expert Forum to Review and agree on Core Variables. Customize to each Country Case while keeping the core variable to report on (Private Cooperation, Philanthropic Aid, Impact assessment)

2. Check Data on Bilateral Cooperation between Pilot and Beneficiary Countries (Participating countries)

3. Assess Data Availability and report back to ESCWA, UNCTAD and ISDB

4. Pilot: Egypt Ministry of International Cooperation-Experience and Leadership in the Region

5. Qatar: Both Statistics and International Affairs are participating, large portfolio on SSC.

6. Beneficiaries: Jordan, need to coordinate with International Affairs and set up the coordination mechanisms

7. Translate the questionnaire into Arabic
Complement and integrate Previous and On-going Work

With ISDB PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

FIGURE 1: THE SEVEN PILLARS OF NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

TABLE 4: STATUS OF SSTRC ECOSYSTEM PILLARS

1- Add the Framework in SSC to pillar 4
2- Add countries of the UNCTAD SSC Project
3- Develop a national platform for data collection based on the SSC
Partnership Potential cooperation with Pilot/Beneficiary Countries

With Jordan: Coordination and institutional set-up and National Workshop

With Qatar: Host a National Workshop and Subregional (GCC) countries

With Egypt: International Cooperation Forum 2023 03 2024 Egypt-ICF is a global platform

With Brazil: assistance and sharing lessons on data collection on the platform