



World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# **2021 – 2022 Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**



# FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The global community is at a critical moment in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The world is facing a hunger crisis on an unprecedented scale, where food and energy prices have never been higher, and with the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies facing devastating impacts. All this comes at a time when countries from the Global South were already struggling with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and inadequate resources amidst persistent and growing inequalities.

Across the countries where WFP operates, 345 million people are estimated to be facing acute food security in 2022. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is one of the key avenues to support progress towards zero hunger and the achievement of the ambitious goals set in the 2030 Agenda. By sharing innovative solutions and technologies and building new partnerships with support from WFP, countries from the Global South can tap into SSTC to address common challenges, strengthen national systems and programmes, and ultimately work towards achieving food security and nutrition for all.

The 2021–2022 Overview of WFP's initiatives on South-South Cooperation presents an outline of WFP's work as a broker and facilitator of knowledge exchanges and innovation among countries in the Global South. Since 2015, WFP has increasingly stepped up its commitment to brokering SSTC and is now considered one among the United Nations entities that have made the most progress towards mainstreaming SSTC in 2021, reaching 1.11 million people and mobilizing \$2.7 million for SSTC field projects.

This is also an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the trust that governments place in WFP as a broker of choice of SSTC for zero hunger, as well as the crucial support of our partners, and the relentless work of the WFP Centres of Excellence, regional bureaux, and country offices.

Going forward, WFP will further reiterate its commitment to SSTC through the revision of its internal SSTC Policy, planned to be presented to the Executive Board in June 2023. This strategic document will provide further clarity on WFP's new strategic direction in SSTC in view of the rapidly changing environment and the need to respond to growing demands from host governments. It will also clarify how SSTC will contribute to the implementation of [WFP's new Strategic Plan \(2022-2025\)](#), the 2nd generation of Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) and further align WFP's SSTC approach to the [UN System-wide Strategy for SSTC](#). We must use what we have learnt to accelerate progress towards zero hunger, deliver on the 2030 Agenda and keep our promises to current and future generations.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'DK', is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Kaatrud, Director  
Programme- Humanitarian and Development

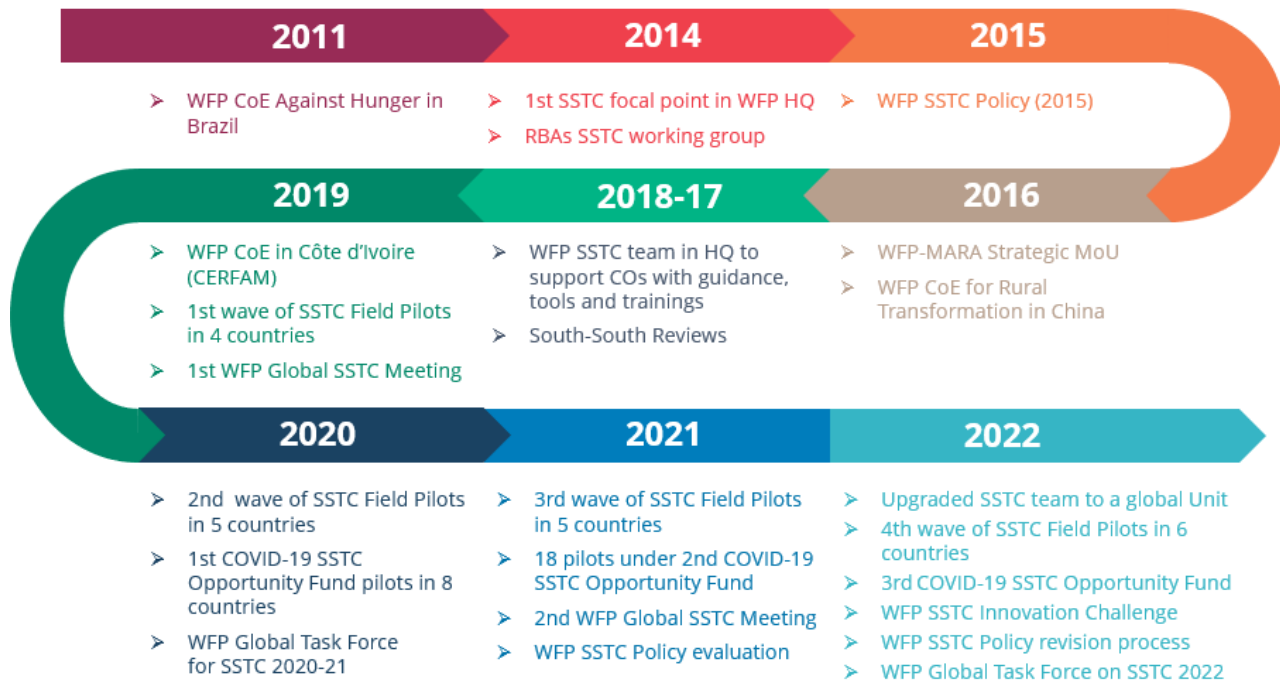
# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>ACR</b>	Annual Country Report
<b>CERFAM</b>	Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CoE</b>	Centre of Excellence
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus Disease 19
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategic Plan
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EPR</b>	Emergency Preparedness and Response
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GSSD</b>	Global South-South Development Expo
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>IBSA</b>	India, Brazil, South Africa Facility
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>MARA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China
<b>PHL</b>	Post Harvest Loss
<b>RB</b>	Regional Bureau
<b>RBB</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Asia and the Pacific
<b>RBC</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Northern Africa and the Middle East
<b>RBD</b>	WFP Regional Bureau West Africa
<b>RBJ</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Southern Africa
<b>RBN</b>	WFP Regional Bureau East and Central Africa
<b>RBP</b>	WFP Regional Bureau Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>RBA</b>	Rome-Based Agencies
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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# TIMELINE



## NUMBERS 2021/22



**91% COUNTRY OFFICES**  
FEATURED SSTC IN THEIR  
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN



**40+ SSTC PROJECTS**  
IN THE FIELD



**51% COUNTRY OFFICES**  
RECORDED SSTC IN THEIR  
ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT



**11K PEOPLE**  
DIRECTLY REACHED



**1.1 MILLION PEOPLE**  
REACHED INDIRECTLY



**48% FEMALE**  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN SSTC FIELD PROJECTS

## GLOBAL INITIATIVES



# OVERVIEW ON SSTC, ITS ROLE AND HISTORY IN WFP

## WHAT IS SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION?

South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to a broad framework of collaboration between developing countries. This usually involves a learning process or transfer of knowledge, experience, training, technology, financial and monetary cooperation or in-kind contributions between two or more countries of the Global South.

When donor countries and/or multilateral organizations help facilitate South-South exchanges, this form of cooperation is called Triangular Cooperation (herein SSTC). WFP is recognized as a triangular partner as soon as it engages in supporting South-South initiatives.

WFP facilitates effective, results-oriented, and demand-driven SSTC to support country-led efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 17 with a focus on the most vulnerable and food insecure populations.

In doing so, WFP aims to contribute to strengthening host governments' national abilities and independence to drive their own development process and leverages multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience.

## WHY DOES WFP FACILITATE SSTC?

WFP faces the challenge of a world that is not moving towards but away from zero hunger.

New wars and unresolved conflicts, the global climate crisis and recurrent economic shocks – including the economic turmoil triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic – are driving this downward spiral.

Working in partnerships is the only way to augment and revert this trend of increasing food insecurity and malnutrition.

SSTC offers an opportunity for WFP to bring more partners onboard and unlock the knowledge and solutions available in the Global South to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition.

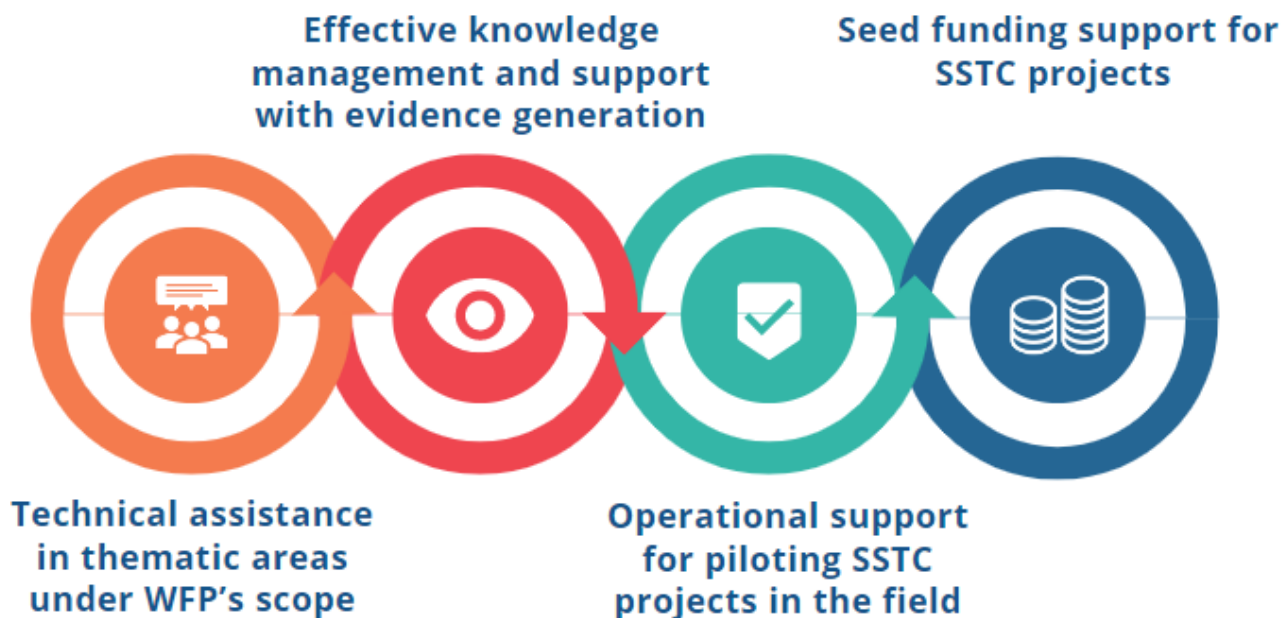
Strengthening national capacity and systems presents opportunities for scale, impact and sustainability, helping to reach the increasing number of people who are food insecure and unable to afford healthy diets.

SSTC is a key pillar in WFP's efforts to strengthen national systems and programmes in countries from the Global South, as well as to mobilize new resources and local innovations to achieve Agenda 2030.

## HOW DOES WFP SUPPORT SSTC?

Governments and national stakeholders are at the forefront of SSTC. Upon demand, WFP supports governments to tap into SSTC to achieve their own national priorities in food security and nutrition. Some of the areas in which WFP supported governments by brokering SSTC include smallholder farmers support, school feeding, emergency preparedness and response, nutrition, etc.

To do so, WFP leverages SSTC across its work at the policy, programme and operational levels, ensuring coherence across all three. Governments and national stakeholders engaging in South-South exchanges brokered by WFP tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise from countries in the Global South benefiting from a wide range of services including:



## MAINSTREAMING SSTC IN OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Upon request of host governments, WFP leverages SSTC as a means to strengthen national programmes and systems, as well as individual capacities across programme areas. This engagement at the country level is reflected in Country Strategic Plan (CSP) which outline WFP's portfolio of assistance in a 5-year plan.

It is therefore paramount to include SSTC in CSPs, where appropriate, to reflect WFP's commitment to responding to national demands in this area. In addition, mainstreaming SSTC will increase advocacy with diverse partners, and ensure timely budgeting and reporting for the related activities.

In 2021, 91% of country offices (COs) reflected SSTC as an area for host government engagement, and over half of all COs reported SSTC in the Annual Country Reports (ACRs).

Governments are at the drivers' seat of WFP's efforts to facilitated SSTC. Recognizing that, the SSTC team developed a methodology called 'South-South reviews' that supports COs to start the dialogue with host governments and capture country demand for WFP-facilitated SSTC.



South-South reviews help governments to systematically capture SSTC opportunities and identify short- to mid-term priorities to be included in the CSPs with support from regional bureaux (RBx) and COs.

So far, WFP has conducted 20 South-South Reviews, of which the following in 2021-2022: Indonesia, El Salvador, Burundi, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. This can be tailored both for recipient and provider countries.

Furthermore, in response to the continuously rising country demands for WFP-brokered SSTC, WFP stepped up its commitment by scaling up its SSTC workforce capacity and by setting-up a global seed funding facility with support from China to support pilot projects (*see page 10*).

## THE SOUTH-SOUTH REVIEW IN GHANA

In March 2022, several Ministries of the Government of Ghana including Health, Agriculture, Interior and others, engaged with WFP and local partners to develop a South-South Review document. The main results of this process were: 1) The overview of Ghana's existing engagement and interest in SSTC (e.g., drivers, motivation, existing partners); 2) Entry points for Ghana to engage in SSTC with WFP's support and potential partners in the region and beyond; and 3) 12 most relevant SSTC investment opportunities for Ghana to explore with WFP support. The findings of this week long consultation, and particularly some of the investment opportunities, will be featured across the new CSP as modalities that contribute to achieving the strategic objectives. Opportunities touch upon the entire portfolio of WFP's work in support to the Government of Ghana, ranging from smallholders' access to markets, early warning systems, rice fortification and school feeding to name a few.

### SSTC SUPPORT AVAILABLE AT ONE GLANCE



WFP facilitated SSTC across the full range of its saving lives and changing lives portfolio. Key thematic areas for SSTC engagement where WFP has expertise in SSTC include school-based programmes, social protection, food systems, nutrition, emergency preparedness and response, and supply chain. Through different exchange modalities, WFP supports governments to leverage SSTC to:

1. Drive change at policy-level by incentivizing policymakers to prioritize investments in zero hunger through generating evidence, advocating, and giving exposure to other countries' experiences;
2. Empower experts at the technical level by enhancing their the skills and capacities to design and implement inclusive and gender-transformative food security and nutrition programmes through training, technology transfer, peer learning and joint problem solving; and
3. Scale up innovations at grassroots level by testing what works and what doesn't in the field, facilitating joint problem analysis, peer coaching and farmer-to-farmer exchanges to build resilience and improve nutrition of people and communities affected by the protracted crisis.



## EXAMPLES OF WFP FACILITATED SSTC MODALITIES

### TRAINING OF TRAINERS

To mitigate the limitations of smallholder farmers' access to markets due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Government of Zimbabwe sought WFP's support to tap into Chinese expertise in e-commerce to expand the use of the local "eMkambo" online platform. In 2021, 31 food stakeholders received a training on e-commerce from the China Agricultural University to be able to further train other potential users of eMkambo. 500 smallholder farmers in Mount Darwin district in Zimbabwe were profiled on the e-commerce platform to access it. This successful pilot will be scaled up in 2022 thanks to WFP China CoE's support.



### TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

In 2022, a delegation from the Government of the Gambia visited the Ivory Coast, thanks to the facilitation of CERFAM, to learn about their best practices in school feeding programs. The visit enabled an in depth exchange specifically on the home-grown element of school feeding programmes amongst a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, rural farmers cooperatives, the Government of the Gambia and WFP Offices in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal and China.

### POLICY DIALOGUE

The Government of Ethiopia currently operates a pilot school feeding project in its capital Addis Ababa and is looking for ways to make it as nutrition-sensitive as possible to contribute to improving the country's child malnutrition problem. Given Brazil's expertise in nutritious school meals menus, in May and June 2022, WFP CoE Brazil welcomed the Government of Ethiopia for two virtual and 1 in-person study visits. A total of 124 people participated including, the Ethiopian Government at the national and regional level. The core of the learning experience were the details on policies to link school food purchases to family farming, which in Brazil need to be at least 30% of the total. Following the mission, WFP is now supporting the adaptation of learnings from the mission in the local context in Ethiopia.



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_31679](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_31679)

