Triangular Cooperation: Impact Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissio-ond by</td>
<td>Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Triangular cooperation projects between Latin American and Caribbean partner countries and Germany foster public policies for sustainable development in the partner countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Context

Triangular cooperation projects (TrC) promoted by the „Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean“ are jointly planned, financed and implemented among three partner countries: a Latin American emerging country as the South provider; an OECD/ DAC member as the traditional provider, and a third country as beneficiary. Compared to bilateral cooperation projects, they provide an added value due to the complementary strengths of the three partners aiming at jointly tackling global challenges.

At the international level the interest in TrC projects has increased considerably. Not only since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda it is increasingly important to verify impacts and results of international cooperation activities, especially regarding “newer” modalities like TrC.

Through the Regional Fund for TrC, established in 2010, the German Government contributes to a better use of the potential of this effective instrument. At the same time, it also supports the achievement of the 17th SDG (global partnership) and also of other SDGs, depending on the subject of the triangular cooperation project in question. Some selected impacts, achieved so far in the framework of the Regional Fund, are summarised and put into the context of the SDGs in the following section.

Projects focused on: Environment, Energy, and Climate Change

The Center for Environmental Technologies (CTA), established in the framework of the TrC among Brazil, Peru and Germany, has become a recognized center of excellence and a professional reference point for the Peruvian industries in the environmental technologies sector. The CTA is specialized, among others, in energy efficiency, renewable energy, air quality, environmental management, water treatment, clean production as well as in consulting for private sector companies. Since 2012 the CTA offers different vocational training courses for professionals from the industry, for example on environmental technologies and water treatment. To date, 420 students have participated in these trainings, 90 of which have concluded their studies to become technicians. More than 1200 people have been trained in short term courses and technical diplomas.

In a triangular project among Costa Rica, Morocco and Germany, state and non-governmental institutions in Costa Rica provided their expertise on cooperation initiatives and financing mechanisms in conservation and forest development to 40 Moroccan professionals from different sectors. This resulted in a financing system that allows different sectors, including the private sector, to invest in forestry projects that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. On the other hand, a dynamic cartographic mapping system of risks for the prevention of forest fires was developed in Costa Rica with the support of Morocco and Germany. This early warning system contributes to the adaptation to the consequences of global warming due to climate change. The system was implemented in a Costa Rican conservation area, leading to a high level of interest in extending these maps to other conservation areas in the country. Furthermore, the Moroccan counterpart learned from the Costa Rica experience and implemented strategies to increase the synergy between tourism and national parks to benefit local communities.
By signing the town twinning agreement in late 2015, the cities of Sacaba (Bolivia) and Durango (Mexico) confirmed their interest in collaborating on sustainable water management. The triangular project among Mexico, Bolivia and Germany on waste water treatment and its agricultural reuse has led to a close relationship between both cities, which will continue to work together at municipal level. According to Bolivian authorities, the project has been one of the most successful in the country, emphasizing the exchange of experiences and knowledge which will lead to the development of a National Water Plan and enabling them to face the challenges of climate change. The operation of the first waste water treatment plant with activated sludge technology in Bolivia was achieved, and more than 220 professionals and Bolivian authorities were trained in water resource management. The implementation of a diploma on waste water treatment and agricultural reuse, which culminated in an agreement between Universidad Mayor San Andrés de Bolivia and the Mexican Institute of Water Technology, is an outstanding achievement among other trainings. These measures will ensure that around 75,000 people in the area have access to sustainable basic sanitation. Safe water from this plant will irrigate approx. 100 hectares.

Projects focused on: Social Development

The TrC among Peru, Paraguay and Germany focused on the quality of the management of the citizen registration process. As a result, the Civil Registry of Paraguay now has the institutional capacity to train its officials in registration issues, focusing on areas inhabited by indigenous population, in order to guarantee all citizens the access to identity rights. The establishment of the Center for Registration Studies, a training center, and the development of teaching materials with the support of the Peruvian National Registry of Identification and Civil Status, provides the basis for this important institutional change. To date, more than 200 officials and staff members of the Paraguayan Civil Registry, as well as of other public institutions in Paraguay, have been trained in identity rights. Their feedback has been positive.

INFOBRAS is an innovative online system implemented by Peru’s General Comptroller’s Office, which provides transparent information about public works to civil society. It serves as a control tool with citizen participation for the correct use of public resources. In the framework of the TrC project among Chile, Peru and Germany on governmental e-controlling, knowledge and innovative practices have been transferred by replicating the INFOBRAS system in Chile, naming it GEO-CGR Control Ciudadano de Obras. Since the launch of the platform in late 2014, GEO-CGR has been visited almost 46,000 times. Furthermore, within this TrC, Peru’s General Comptroller’s Office expressed its interest in the GEO-CGR’s geographic focus and improved its own INFOBRAS system with the support of its Chilean counterpart. As a result, the number of visitors to its website increased from 450,000 in 2015 to 2.4 million to date.

Project focused on: Cooperation with the Private Sector

The Mexican retailers’ association (ANTAD) developed the virtual platform ANTAD.biz, which allows more than 17,000 registered small and midsize enterprises (SMEs) to market their products. In the context of the TrC among Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Germany the ANTAD.biz platform was optimized with an environmental component and opened for Guatemalan and Honduran suppliers and buyers offering to SMEs in these countries the opportunity to sustainably expand their sales internationally. Thereby, the project contributes to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Within this triangular project a regional network of private sector institutions was established. As part of this network, ANTAD, the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa, and the Chamber of Industry of Guatemala collaborate in coordinating the platform. Between May and September 2016, more than 300 Guatemalan and Honduran SMEs registered on the platform ANTAD.biz. The project stands out as being the first triangular cooperation which was implemented with and substantially financed by the private sector.