

DAC GLOBAL RELATIONS

TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION

– Findings from a 2015 Survey*

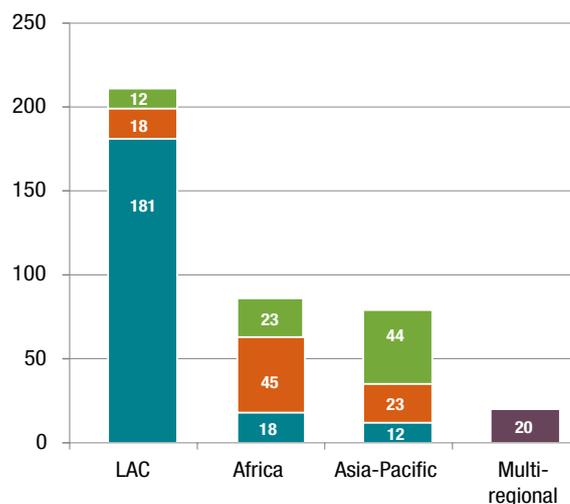
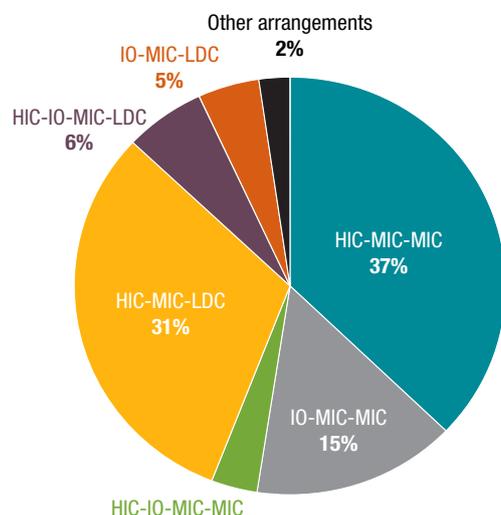
A total of 70 actors from government and international organisations responded to a survey on triangular co-operation conducted by the OECD between May and August 2015 (from the 203 questionnaires sent out). Detailed information was obtained on over 350 triangular co-operation programmes, projects and activities from 57 respondents. Next steps include securing more responses, preparing a report to present the main findings and organising events to share the results and discuss their implications.

Who are the actors involved in Triangular Co-operation?

According to the survey findings, the main actors in triangular co-operation were governments or international organisations. In addition, civil society organisations (CSOs) and private sector actors provide valuable inputs. Actors involved in triangular projects can be facilitators, pivotal partners and beneficiaries, as concluded at the Policy Dialogue on Triangular Co-operation held in Lisbon in May 2013. (www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/dialogue-triangular-cooperation.htm). These roles can evolve over time.

Based on the responses from 57 actors, the most active countries in triangular co-operation were Japan, Chile, Brazil, Norway, Germany, South Africa, Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia (with 20 to 160 activities each). The Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) were the most dynamic international organisations (with 10 to 20 activities each).

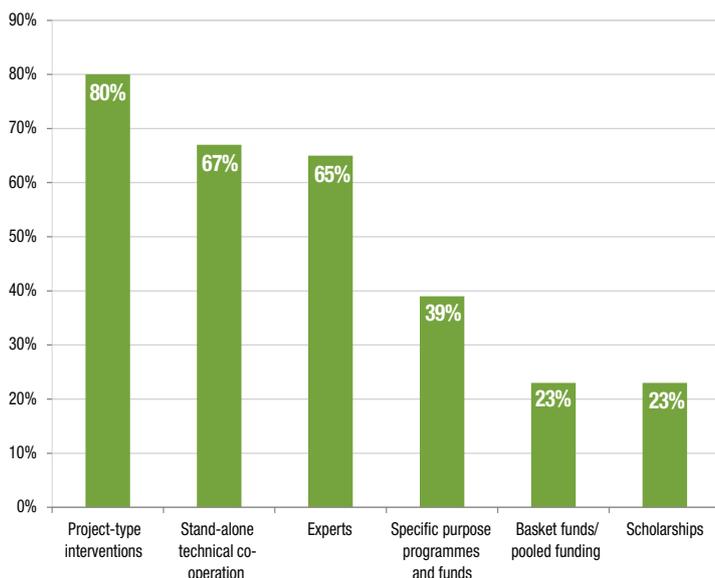
The majority of triangular co-operation projects and activities were found in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), followed by Africa and the Asia-Western Pacific region. Of the projects reported, 22% involved more than one region, especially in Africa and Asia-Pacific (see graph below). The MENA region and Eastern Europe were mostly mentioned within the scope of multi-regional projects, involving more than two regions. More than half of all triangular co-operation projects involved only LAC, a region with mainly middle-income countries.



The survey results showed that the most typical triangular co-operation project (56% of the cases) involved two or more middle-income countries (MICs) and one or more high-income countries (HICs) or international organisations (IOs). The second most typical arrangement involved one or more high-income countries or international organisations, middle-income countries and least developed countries (LDCs). In 11% of cases, there were four types of actor involved with HICs and IOs jointly engaged in triangular co-operation projects with MICs and LDCs, as depicted in the graph.

* This factsheet was prepared by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate in May 2016, drawing on the responses received from 57 actors involved in triangular co-operation. In some cases, complete data was not provided on the activities reported.

How do countries and international organisations engage in Triangular Co-operation?



Triangular co-operation provides a diverse range of actors with an opportunity to explore new ways of working together. Respondents reported engaging in triangular co-operation mainly through project-type interventions. Technical co-operation activities and dispatching experts - e.g. for training, workshops and exchange visits - also occurred frequently.

This finding correlates strongly with responses on durations. The average duration of the reported projects was 33 months, 67% lasted between 12 and 48 months, while 17% lasted under one year – i.e. workshops or training activities. Another 16% involved several project phases and had durations of up to a total of 14 years.

Of the projects for which budget information was provided, costs were shared in 44% of cases. The average budget amounted to USD 1.8 million. However, budgets varied from approximately USD 2 000 to more than USD 40 million. Consistent with the finding on frequent use of short-term training or dispatching experts, the budget in most cases (72%) was less than USD 1 million.

The survey results showed that triangular co-operation projects were implemented in all sectors and depended on the specific requests and expertise of the actors involved. About 30% of the over 300 projects captured in the survey were in the field of government and civil society, followed by health (13%), agriculture (12%), environmental protection (8%) and business (6%).

According to respondents, 68% of the reported triangular co-operation projects were evaluated. However, few actors conducted joint evaluations. Many respondents stated that the specific value added of triangular co-operation was not adequately captured through existing evaluation methodologies.

Triangular Co-operation Budgets (in USD)	% of Projects
Under 100 000	30%
Between 100 000 and 500 000	26%
Between 500 000 and 1 000 000	16%
Between 1 000 000 and 5 000 000	20%
Between 5 000 000 and 10 000 000	3%
> 10.000.000	5%

Duration of Triangular Co-operation Activities	% of Projects
Between 49 and 168 months	16%
Between 25 and 48 months	32%
Between 12 and 24 months	35%
> 12 months	17%
Average:	33 months

Why do countries and international organisations engage in Triangular Co-operation?

Actors reported that their main motivation for engaging in triangular co-operation was to share knowledge and experience. This enables the combination of different assets - e.g. specific expertise, technology and cultural proximity - as a way to maximise the benefits for all actors, especially among developing countries that face similar challenges.

Providers of South-South co-operation reported that they are often interested in enhancing their capacity to manage development co-operation. Respondents indicated that triangular co-operation helps forge mutually beneficial relationships and creates new opportunities for regional integration.

What are the trends in Triangular Co-operation?

The OECD has now conducted two surveys on triangular co-operation, in 2012 and 2015. Comparing the findings, it is clear that triangular co-operation remains highly relevant. More project data and evaluations are now available and point to an increase in the number of projects, their budgets and durations. There is a great variety of triangular co-operation in terms of scale, scope, regions, sectors and project types. Moreover, respondents to the 2015 survey mentioned a more strategic use of triangular co-operation by pooling different actors' expertise and resources. In the long run, this evolution can lead to greater ownership by the actors involved, the involvement of other actors, scaling-up and joint implementation of activities designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).