

DAC GLOBAL RELATIONS

TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION

– Findings from a 2015 Survey*

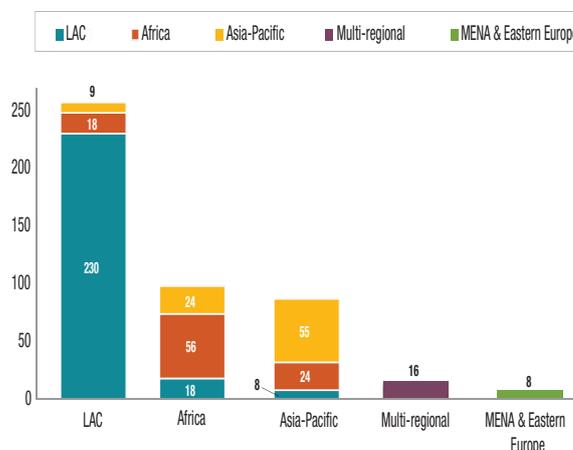
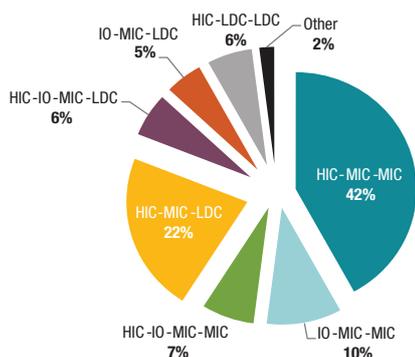
A total of 73 actors from government and international organisations responded to a survey on triangular co-operation conducted by the OECD between May and August 2015 (from the 203 questionnaires sent out). Detailed information was obtained on over 400 triangular co-operation programmes, projects and activities from 60 respondents. The report “Dispelling the myths of triangular co-operation - Evidence from the 2015 OECD survey on triangular co-operation” provides a detailed description and analysis of the survey findings, which are summarised in this factsheet.

Who are the actors involved in Triangular Co-operation?

According to the survey findings, the main actors in triangular co-operation are governments or international organisations (61% of the reported projects). In addition, academia and research institutions (14%), civil society organisations, media and foundations (13%), the private sector (6%), and other actors (5%, e.g. hospitals, wildlife authorities, cities) 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 60 responses received, the most active countries in triangular co-operation were Japan, Chile, Brazil, Norway, Spain, Guatemala, Germany, South Africa, Mexico, 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 active international organisations (with 10 to 20 activities each).

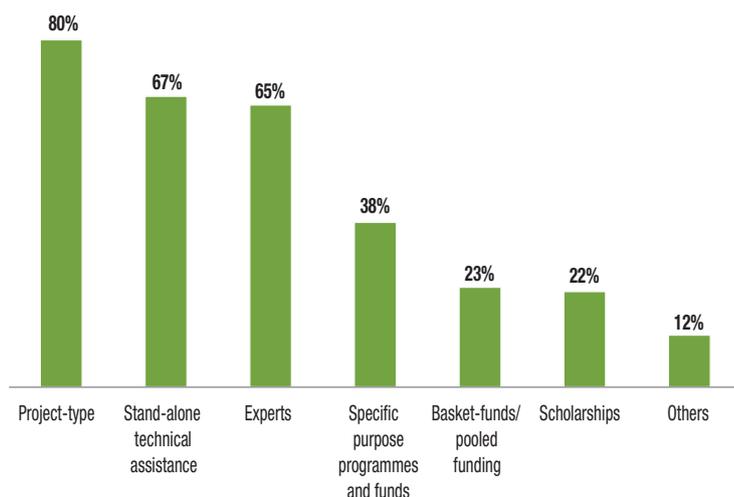
The majority of triangular co-operation projects can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), followed by Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Eastern Europe. Triangular co-operation between countries in the same region is still the most common arrangement, with 55% of all reported projects being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, 14% of projects in Africa and 13% in Asia-Pacific. In addition, 18% of the triangular co-operation projects reported involved more than one region. 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 (59% 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 13% 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 September 2016, drawing on the responses received from 60 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?



Of the projects for which budget information was provided, costs were shared in 48% of cases. The average budget amounted to USD 1.7 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 (74%) 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 400 projects captured in the survey were in the field of government and civil society, followed by health (13%), agriculture (13%), environmental protection (7%) and business (5%).

According to respondents, 66% 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 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 32 months, 71% lasted between 12 and 48 months, while 15% lasted under one year – i.e. workshops or training activities. Another 14% involved several project phases and had durations of up to a total of 14 years.

Duration of Triangular Co-operation Activities	No. of Projects	% of Projects
< 12 months	58	15%
Between 12 and 24 months	142	38%
Between 25 and 48 months	125	33%
Between 49 and 168 months	53	14%
Total	378	100%

Triangular Co-operation Budgets (in USD)	No. of Projects	% of Projects
Under 100 000	109	32%
Between 100 000 and 500 000	99	28%
Between 500 000 and 1 000 000	47	14%
Between 1 000 000 and 5 000 000	63	18%
Between 5 000 000 and 10 000 000	10	3%
> 10 000 000	17	5%
Total	345	100%

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).