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## **DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics**

### **Reporting triangular co-operation activities in the CRS – Review of the use of the bi\_multi code**

**DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics**

16-18 March 2022, Hybrid Meeting

Coefficients in paragraphs 6 and 13 have been updated.

In November 2015, members approved a proposal to monitor triangular co-operation activities in the CRS through the bi\_multi code “8”, which came into effect for the reporting in 2016 of 2015 activities. Reporting was initially challenging for reporters.

After two years of implementation, the Secretariat proposed some clarifications that were approved in July 2019. Since the rules were clarified, reporting by DAC members clearly increased. However, there are still many members who conduct triangular co-operation activities but do not report them in the CRS.

In 2021, the OECD organised a series of workshops as a part of a knowledge sharing exercise on triangular co-operation, which included reporting and statistics.

This paper reviews current reporting of TrC activities in the CRS and makes some proposals to further increase and improve its use, based on the results of the 2021 workshops and the analysis made by the Secretariat. Members are expected to provide feedback on the proposals.

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# Reporting triangular co-operation activities in the CRS – Review of the use of the bi\_multi code

## Introduction

1. **In November 2015, a proposal was approved by the WP-STAT to monitor triangular co-operation activities (TrC) in the CRS through the bi\_multi code “8”.** The proposal came into effect for the reporting in 2016 of 2015 activities. The code was not extensively used by reporters, and after two years of implementation, the Secretariat proposed some clarifications that were approved in July 2019. Since the rules were clarified, reporting by DAC members clearly increased.
2. **Recent analysis by the Secretariat, as part of a wider OECD DAC knowledge-sharing exercise on triangular co-operation, revealed that challenges and inconsistencies persist in the reporting on triangular co-operation.** These challenges include under-reporting of TrC activities by some members, codes not always being properly used to capture the full information on TrC, and TrC activities being reported by members in the CRS but not to TOSSD, or vice versa.
3. **This paper conducts a short review of members’ current reporting of triangular co-operation activities in the CRS and makes some proposals to further increase the coverage and quality of reporting.** The paper draws on the findings and recommendations of the OECD’s TrC knowledge-sharing exercise. The main proposal is to issue a guidance note for reporters. **Members are invited to: (i) comment on the draft guidance note included in the Annex, (ii) comment on the recommendations by the Secretariat to improve reporting of TrC in the CRS (paragraphs 16-21) and, (iii) share other challenges and propose, where possible, ways of addressing the challenges they have in reporting TrC activities in the CRS not identified in this document.**

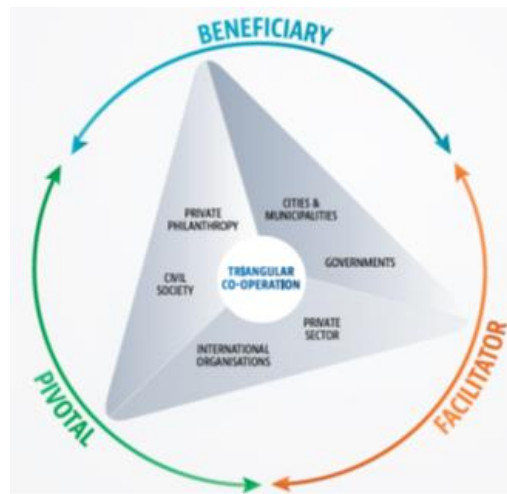
## The current use of the bi\_multi code Triangular Co-operation in the CRS

4. **The Reporting Directives describe triangular co-operation as “Activities where there are at least three partners and where three main roles can be identified as follows:**
  - (i) **A beneficiary partner, which has requested support to tackle a specific development challenge and which is an ODA-eligible country;**

(ii) **A pivotal partner**, which has relevant domestic experience of addressing the issue in a context similar to that of the beneficiary country and that shares its financial resources, knowledge and expertise; and

(iii) **A facilitating partner**, that may help connect the other partners, and supports the partnership financially and/or with technical expertise.

Figure 1. Three roles in Triangular Co-operation



Source: OECD

5. **The concept of triangular co-operation has evolved overtime and is now no longer restricted to involving exclusively a provider of South-South co-operation, but a far wider group of partners.** The Directives note that *‘Partners include countries (at national and sub-national levels), international organisations, civil society, private philanthropy, private sector and academia. The pivotal partner is often an actor or institution from another developing country or from the same region as the beneficiary.’*

6. **The OECD CRS shows that 14 out of the 30 DAC members reported TrC activities between 2016 and 2020<sup>1</sup>.** Among members who reported TrC activities, the EU provided the largest volume of financing, disbursing USD 126.8 million or 40% of total DAC TrC funding over this period, followed by Canada (15% of total DAC TrC funding) and Germany (13%).

7. **The number and volume of TrC activities reported in the CRS has increased over time** and especially since clarifications on reporting were agreed by the WP-STAT in 2019. The EU Institutions and Germany were the only two DAC members to report TrC projects in 2016, when the TrC code was introduced in the CRS. In 2017, they were joined by the Czech Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, the UK, the Slovak Republic, and in 2018 by Spain. In 2019 Canada, New Zealand, Norway, and Poland also started reporting TrC in the CRS for the first time. The partial 2020 data show that France also started to report TrC in 2020. The increase in reporting is a positive and welcome sign of expanding coverage. The Secretariat encourages all DAC members to use the bi-multi code 8 to report their TrC activities.

<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing the document, 2020 data from only 17 DAC members were available in the CRS database and included in the analysis.

**Table 1. Volume of TrC gross disbursements by DAC member in 2016-20, USD thousands**

DAC member	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (partial data)	Total by member
Canada				31,741	16,384	48,125
Czech Republic		5,286	2,023	1,556	1,381	10,245
EU Institutions	13,024	41,767	25,399	21,974	24,677	126,839
France					19,777	19,777
Germany	10,952	12,512	10,788	7,885	n.a.	42,136
Italy		1,701	70	498	n.a.	2,269
Luxembourg		983				983
New Zealand				19,352	n.a.	19,352
Norway				25,623	13,223	38,847
Poland				206	6	212
Portugal		915	1,430	85	n.a.	2,430
Slovak Republic		1,494				1,494
Spain			548			548
United Kingdom		2,048	108			2,156
<b>Total per year</b>	<b>23,975</b>	<b>66,706</b>	<b>40,365</b>	<b>108,920</b>	<b>75,448</b>	<b>315,413</b>

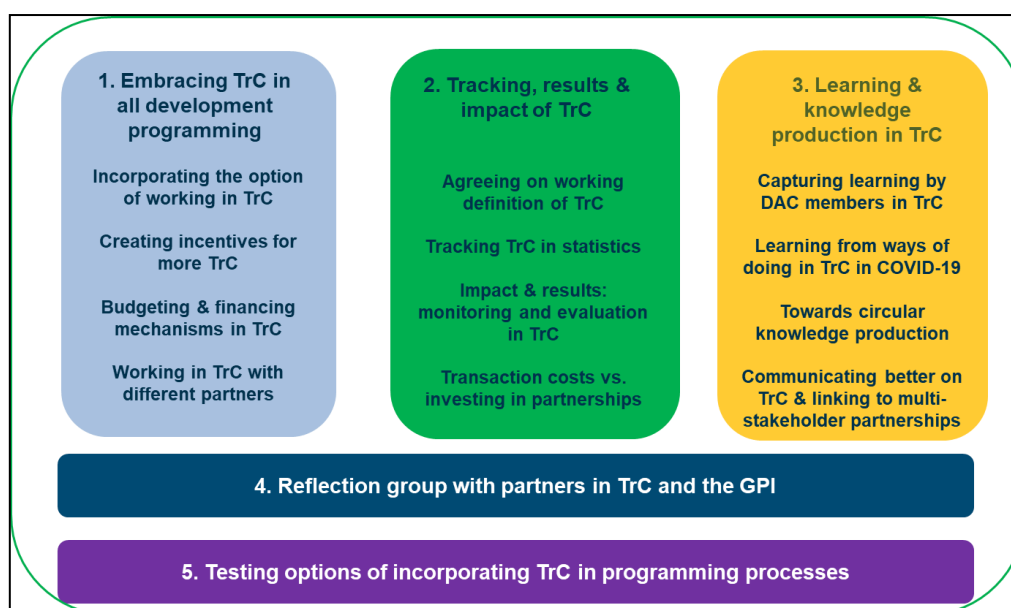
Note: partial 2020 data, from 17 DAC members

Source: OECD CRS Database; In Thousands of US Dollars, Constant Prices 2019

## On-going challenges in reporting triangular co-operation

8. In 2021, the Secretariat initiated a knowledge-sharing exercise on triangular co-operation focused on improving DAC members' use and impact of triangular co-operation. Fifteen interactive workshops were held in 2021 and most DAC members engaged in the process. The exercise (which is planned for two years) is organised around five key pillars of work (see Figure 1 below) and included a series of workshops focused exclusively on reporting and statistics.

**Figure 1. Five pillars of the OECD knowledge sharing exercise on triangular co-operation 2021-22**



Source: OECD 2021

9. The knowledge sharing exercise identified a number of challenges around reporting triangular co-operation in the CRS as follows.

### ***Under-reporting***

10. Many members noted that their organisations were likely under-reporting (or not reporting) their triangular co-operation activities in the CRS. The Secretariat has also identified that the OECD's voluntary TrC project repository contains activities involving DAC members that have never reported TrC activities in the CRS<sup>2</sup>.

11. DAC members identified three key challenges that can prevent their organisations from reporting their triangular co-operation activities in the CRS and proposed some solutions for resolving them:

- **Limited awareness of triangular co-operation across the organisations.** Many participants noted that there was limited awareness amongst their project management or statistical colleagues of what TrC is. They also flagged that there often is confusion as to whether regional projects or partnerships with certain regions to assist a beneficiary country can be reported as TrC. This can result in TrC activities not being labelled as triangular co-operation internally, and then not reported in the CRS. Participants proposed establishing clearer guidance on the definition of triangular co-operation (see the draft guidance in Annex A).
- **Lack of internal systems to systematically identify triangular co-operation.** Even when project staff in DAC member organisations are aware that the activity is TrC, the internal systems are often not able to systematically capture TrC, which can result in under-reporting internally and in turn under-reporting to the CRS. Participants proposed that DAC members improve their internal systems to better enable the reporting of triangular co-operation, e.g. by introducing a marker/checkbox for triangular co-operation to facilitate internal data collection.
- **Challenges in reporting triangular co-operation when it is a component of a wider project/programme.** Participants noted that TrC is often only a small component of a wider programme and calculating the exact resources dedicated solely for triangular co-operation can be extremely difficult and time consuming. Often, only the wider project/programme is reported in CRS for fear of over reporting (i.e., the TrC activity is not reported). During the workshop, the EU shared their approach to calculating a TrC component within a broader programme, noting that they used a co-efficient approach so that if 50% or more of the project was focused on triangular co-operation then the whole project was classified as TrC in the CRS. The EU noted that this methodology was far from perfect, given that projects that were 49% focused on triangular co-operation failed to get counted, but it had at least enabled the EU to begin reporting more of their TrC activities. Another approach discussed was to split the activity in two lines, to separately identify the TrC component (or an estimation of the TrC component). Participants proposed guidance on reporting TrC to help DAC members manage this issue.

### ***Capturing the pivotal partner***

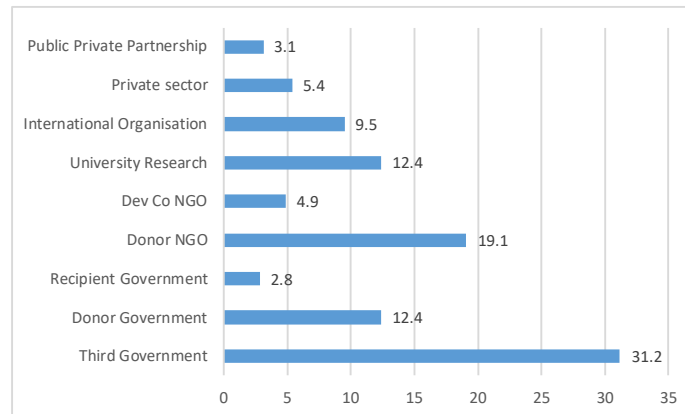
12. The methodology to track TrC in the CRS also enables reporters to identify the pivotal partner of triangular co-operation using the CRS fields “Channel of delivery name” and “Channel of delivery code”. Paragraph 392 of the Reporting Directives indicates: “Reporting on triangular co-

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<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that DAC members may not have reported themselves all of their commitments for TrC projects within the repository, as other actors (non-DAC countries, CSOs, international organisations) can indicate a DAC member participating in a project they are involved in. Note also that the database does not contain funding volumes but only the number of projects that DAC members are reported to be engaged in.

operation relates to cases where the beneficiary countries are ODA-eligible. A triangular co-operation activity can be reported as ODA if its objective is to provide assistance to an ODA-eligible country. It can be counted as ODA even if the resources committed and disbursed are channelled through a non-ODA-eligible country. However, if the non ODA-eligible country receives through the triangular cooperation activity financial and/or technical support that does not directly benefit the ODA-eligible country, then these amounts cannot be reported as ODA.

**Figure 2. Share of TrC disbursements by channel code in 2019-20**



Note: The analysis is based on 2019 and 2020 data only, after the clarifications of the TrC reporting rules in July 2019. 2020 data are partial.  
Source: OECD CRS Database

13. **Analysis of the data shows that some DAC members are still struggling to use the channel code to identify the pivotal partner.** While the largest share (31.2%) of DAC members' disbursements for TrC went via third country governments in 2019-20, 31.5% is recorded as channelled through DAC members' own governments (12.4%) and CSOs (19.1%). These categories would not be considered as pivotal partner in the Reporting Directives for triangular co-operation, as a DAC member channelling its ODA via its own government departments or its own CSOs to a beneficiary does not constitute the involvement of a third party outside the DAC member country. The only exception would be when DAC members act as pivotal partner, which is relatively uncommon but possible (see question 3 of the Annex). For the channel code, DAC members should identify the pivotal partner and add the institution's name in "Channel of delivery name".

### ***Inconsistent data for DAC members in CRS when compared to TOSSD***

14. **The new statistical framework of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) provides a global picture on the use of triangular-co-operation and enables capturing resources from all partners (DAC and non-DAC) to TrC activities.** The second round of TOSSD data collection in 2020 shows disbursements for TrC activities by DAC and other bilateral and multilateral providers beyond the DAC including Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, and Indonesia.

15. **Analysis shows that there are inconsistencies between CRS and TOSSD data on DAC members' triangular co-operation.** Several countries report TrC activities in the CRS but not in TOSSD, or vice versa. For example, while Canada and the European Commission report their TrC activities in both the CRS and TOSSD, Norway reported TrC activities in the CRS but not in TOSSD. On the contrary, Sweden and Spain reported TrC activities in TOSSD but not in the CRS.

## Proposals for improving reporting of triangular co-operation in the CRS

16. **The Secretariat makes the following proposals to improve reporting of TrC activities in the CRS.**

17. **Developing additional guidance to help improve the quality of members' reporting on triangular co-operation.** The Secretariat has developed a draft guidance note (see Annex) to help members understand what constitutes triangular co-operation (and what does not), the codes to be used for reporting TrC (channel codes and names to identify pivotal partners) and how to report TrC when it is component of a larger project. If members agree to the guidance document, the Secretariat will publish it in the Financing for Sustainable Development standards website and on the OECD's TrC webpage<sup>3</sup>. **Members are invited to comment on the draft guidance in the Annex.**

18. **Creating a discussion page in the WP-STAT community space to share best practices on identifying triangular co-operation in countries' reporting systems and on reporting TrC in general.**

19. **Identifying triangular co-operation using the keyword field.** Some members have challenges in identifying TrC activities. The Secretariat proposes that when reporters do not feel comfortable using the bi\_multi code because they are unsure about whether the activity qualifies for triangular co-operation, they indicate TrC in the keyword field. As per the agreement at the November 2021 WP-STAT meeting, members can propose additional keywords (such as triangular co-operation) without using the hashtag. The Secretariat can then look at these activities when conducting TrC analyses and consider whether they should be part of the analysis.

20. **Reporting TrC when it is a component of a larger project.** When members are able to estimate or calculate the component of TrC within a larger programme, they are invited to split the activity in two lines and report the TrC component separately. When they are unable to do so, they are invited to identify the programme as TrC in the CRS and provide this information in the activity's long description. The Secretariat encourages members that use a co-efficient for reporting their TrC to share their methodology in the WP-STAT community space. If there is enough demand, a methodology could be developed for inclusion in the Reporting Directives at a later stage.

21. **Ensuring consistency between the CRS and TOSSD databases on triangular co-operation.** The Secretariat will amend the existing macro that enables reporting in the CRS and TOSSD with the same reporting form to ensure that triangular co-operation information in the CRS is automatically updated into TOSSD.

22. **Members are invited to comment on the above.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/data-collection-and-resources-for-data-reporters.htm> and <https://www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-cooperation/>  
<https://www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-cooperation/>

# Annex A. Draft Guidance: Frequently Asked Questions on reporting triangular co-operation in the CRS

*This guidance note has been produced to assist DAC members in their reporting of triangular co-operation activities within the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS). In November 2015, a proposal was approved by the WP-STAT to monitor triangular co-operation activities (TrC) in the CRS through the bi\_multi code "8". The proposal came into effect for the reporting in 2016 of 2015 activities and rules was clarified in 2019. An OECD's knowledge-sharing exercise on triangular co-operation held in 2021-22 revealed that many DAC members continue to find reporting of triangular co-operation a challenge. This guidance notes addresses some the frequently asked questions that DAC members asked when reflecting on their reporting practices of triangular co-operation in the CRS.*

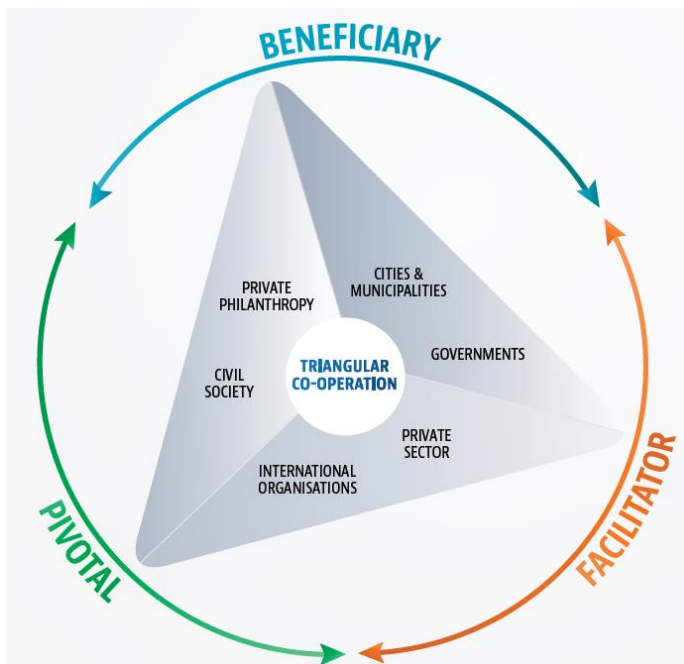
## Q1. What is triangular co-operation?

The Reporting Directives describe triangular co-operation as a form of bilateral co-operation with "Activities where there are at least three partners and where three main roles (see Figure A A.1.) can be identified as follows:

- (i) a beneficiary partner, which has requested support to tackle a specific development challenge and which is an ODA-eligible country;*
- (ii) a pivotal partner, which has relevant domestic experience of addressing the issue in a context similar to that of the beneficiary country and that shares its financial resources, knowledge and expertise; and*
- (iii) a facilitating partner, that may help connect the other partners, and supports the partnership financially and/or with technical expertise."*



Figure A A.1. Three roles in triangular co-operation



Source: own visualisation

## Q2. Which countries can be reported as beneficiary partners of triangular co-operation within the CRS?

The **beneficiary partner** in triangular co-operation is the main country target of the project. To be reported in bi\_multi code 8, the beneficiary partner must be a ODA-eligible country. The beneficiary is reported as for any other ODA activities under the CRS Recipient Code.

The description of triangular co-operation implies that the roles can change in the course of the activity and the same country to act as beneficiary and pivotal partner in a TrC project (see Box A A.1).

### Box A A.1. Understanding the different roles in triangular co-operation – example of a project with Costa Rica, Germany and Morocco

The beneficiary partner usually solicits support to tackle a specific development challenge, while the pivotal partner provides expertise and other resources, and the facilitator helps connect all partners, supporting the collaboration financially and technically. In the programme “Improving the Management and Sustainable Use of Forests, Protected Areas and Watersheds (2013-2016)”, Morocco and Costa Rica, with support from Germany, implemented a number of pilot projects that aimed to improve watershed management, to prevent forest fires and to protect biodiversity. Morocco implemented two pilot projects in national parks and adopted Costa Rica’s system of payment for environmental services to design a financing system and a collaboration association to tackle forest issues. In these pilots Morocco is the beneficiary and Costa Rica the pivotal partner. At the same time, Costa Rica implemented two pilot projects to improve watershed management, based on the Moroccan experience. For these pilot projects Morocco was recorded as the pivotal partner and Costa Rica as the beneficiary.

Germany provided knowledge of bilateral co-operation in the management process across all the pilots and offered organisational and methodological impulses and across all the projects remained the facilitating partner.

These project should be reported by Germany as TrC and “third country government” as the channel code, indicating the name of the Moroccan or Costa Rican institution (depending on the project) acting as pivotal partner.

Source: GPI on Effective Triangular Co-operation (2019, p. 16<sup>[11]</sup>), Triangular co-operation in the era of the 2030 Agenda – Sharing evidence and stories from the field; <https://triangular-cooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-GPI-report-BAPA40.pdf>

### Q3. Which entities can be a pivotal partner in triangular co-operation and how do I report the pivotal partner in the CRS?

The role of the **pivotal partner** is what differentiates triangular co-operation from other modalities, such as regional co-operation. The pivotal partner has developed and tested expertise in an area in its own context. This experience is valuable for beneficiary partners to learn and adapt the expertise to their specific context with the support of the pivotal and facilitating partners.

The concept of triangular co-operation used to limit pivotal partners to government providers of South-South co-operation. However, the OECD DAC has widened its understanding of triangular co-operation in recent years and the Reporting Directives now include ‘countries (at national and sub-national levels), international organisations, civil society, private philanthropy, private sector and academia. The pivotal partner is often an actor or institution from another developing country or from the same region as the beneficiary.’

While the pivotal partner is nearly always an entity from a developing country, the widening of the definition means that in some exceptional circumstances DAC members can play the role of pivotal partner. For example, support from the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic to Georgia with the facilitation of Austria. The Czech Republic and Slovak Republic are both DAC members but, in this case, played the role of pivotal partners in sharing their transition experience with Georgia.

**The methodology to track TrC in the CRS also enables reporters to identify the pivotal partner of triangular co-operation using the CRS fields “Channel of delivery name” and “Channel of delivery code”.** With the new wider definition of triangular co-operation, you can tick any of the following Channel delivery names – ‘Third country governments’, ‘developing country NGO’, ‘private sector in third country’, ‘University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank’, ‘network’ and ‘multilateral organisation’. The TrC with the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic illustrates an exception, where ticking ‘donor country government’ is fine. If the DAC member does not act as pivotal partner – which should be the majority of cases – it should not identify its own institutions as channel of delivery but name the pivotal partner as channel.

Unlike the beneficiary, the **pivotal partner does not need to be ODA-eligible** to be reported in bi\_multi code 8. This means, for instance, that triangular co-operation projects where Chile or Uruguay are acting as pivotal partners can be reported in CRS. Funds should only be channelled through them and any funding that benefits Chile, Uruguay or any other non-ODA recipient country cannot be counted as ODA.

#### Q4. Can a regional project ever be counted as triangular co-operation?

Yes. A regional project can be classified as triangular co-operation if a DAC member or international organisation is working with a pivotal partner to share information and learning across multiple other countries. The pivotal partner could be any developing country government, CSO, academic or private sector actor that has relevant expertise and experience to share in the region. It could also be a government, CSO, research institute or private sector actor from the region that is not necessarily categorised as a developing country. Take for example, Finland's Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme (Box A A.2) that includes a triangular component or the programme Mesoamerica without Hunger (Box A A.3)

##### Box A A.2. Example of a regional-focused triangular co-operation programme: the Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme

The [Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme \(SAIS 2\)](#) is a regional initiative that supports the growth of new businesses through strengthening innovation ecosystems and promoting cross-border collaboration between innovation role-players in Southern Africa. SAIS 2 is supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland, in partnership with the Ministries responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. SAIS 2 is managed through a Programme Management Office based in Namibia. The Finnish MFA and the Programme Management Office together take up the role of facilitators and the five partner countries are beneficiaries. Nevertheless, depending on the activity, partner countries also act as pivotal partners, sharing knowledge and expertise and engaging in capacity development and networking. Thus, SAIS 2 has components of triangular co-operation, where some partners, like South Africa, often play a double role of a pivotal partner. During the design of the second phase of SAIS, South Africa actively contributed and was considered as pivotal partner in the implementation of SAIS 2, while also benefitting from other elements of the programme.

The SAIS programme is a good example of fluid boundaries between regional and triangular co-operation. The initial project design is benefitting all partner countries in a regional co-operation approach. SAIS 2 dedicates a special role to the Government of South Africa as pivotal partner and allows all other partners to take up this role in sharing knowledge and expertise with the others.

This programme should be reported in the CRS as triangular co-operation with the channel of delivery "third country government", specifying South Africa as the pivotal partner.

Source: GPEDC (forthcoming)

### Box A A.3. Mesoamerica without Hunger – a programme with bilateral, regional and triangular components

The programme Mesoamerica without Hunger aims to promote regional actions in food and nutritional security as well as family farming to contribute to eradicating hunger in Mesoamerica. The participating countries are: Mexico, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. It is facilitated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which provides regional advice on the definition, characterisation and registration of family farming as well as the promotion of sustainable seed systems. FAO is not the only knowledge producer, since Mesoamerican knowledge networks have been established (parliamentary advisers, journalists and experts in rainwater collection) and systematically built into the project. The complementary expertise of other Mexican and Central American actors has been used to build bridges and co-create solutions to problems related to food security.

The programme is implemented at three levels:

- **Regional:** Compilation, systematisation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices, as well as technical assistance and capacity building.
- **National:** Implementation of differentiated actions within the framework of 10 lines of action aimed at strengthening family farming and food security through the technical support of FAO.
- **Triangular:** Transfer of experiences and good practices by Mexican institutions, acting as pivotal partners, to address the effects of drought through the improvement of water resource management in countries of the Central American Dry Corridor.

FAO would report the triangular component of the programme indicating “third country government” as the channel code, and the name of the Mexican institution acting as pivotal partner in the channel of delivery name.

Source: GPI on Effective Triangular Co-operation (2019, p. 16<sup>(1)</sup>), Triangular co-operation in the era of the 2030 Agenda – Sharing evidence and stories from the field; <https://triangular-cooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-GPI-report-BAPA40.pdf>

### Q5. Is there a limited number of partners that can be engaged in triangular co-operation?

No, there is no limit to the number of partners that can be engaged in triangular co-operation. However, what distinguishes triangular co-operation from multi-stakeholder partnerships is the fact that the partners collectively perform all three of the roles critical to triangular co-operation – facilitator, pivotal or beneficiary. There can be multiple partners playing one of the roles, as exemplified by the triangular co-operation “Alliance to fight avoidable blindness” in Box A A.4.

### Box A A.4. Multiple beneficiary, pivotal and facilitating partners in a triangular co-operation in a triangular co-operation project

The “Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness” is a triangular co-operation example that was scaled up from a pilot phase with few partners to a large global alliance with multiple beneficiaries, pivotal and facilitating partners. Based on the successful first phase, the second phase is:

- **Facilitated** by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), along with the African Institute of Tropical Ophthalmology, Al Bassar International Foundation (based in Saudi Arabia), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).
- **Counting with expertise from pivotal partners, such as:** Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA), Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), Palestine International Cooperation Agency (PICA), Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH- Turkey), Nadi Al Bassar Tunisia, Prevention of Blindness Union (PBU) and further partner institutions from Brazil, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, and Libya.
- **Including beneficiaries across Africa, namely:** Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Comoros, Niger, Somalia and Togo.

The programme benefits from the expertise of several research and medical institutes, CSOs, government institutions and multilateral development banks, making it a multi-stakeholder triangular partnership. What distinguishes this alliance from others of similar scale and scope, is the role of the pivotal partners. For instance, under the contribution of AIDA, Azerbaijani ophthalmologists from the National Eye Center, shared their knowledge and experience with their colleagues in Western African countries. More than 300 000 people had eye examinations and more than 56 000 patients regained their vision after cataract surgery carried out free of charge. In addition, 177 local doctors benefited from professional training as part of the initiative. This is just one example of a pivotal partner sharing its expertise; others include doctors sent through Egypt, PICA or Tunisia – just to name some examples.

Some international organisations, only consider a project to be triangular, when they are joined by another facilitator in the same role – either a DAC member or another international organisation, as is also the case in this example. In its new [United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular co-operation for sustainable development](#) (2021), the UN sheds light on the role of international organisations in triangular co-operation.

Source: GPI on Effective Triangular Co-operation (2019, p. 16<sup>[1]</sup>), Triangular co-operation in the era of the 2030 Agenda – Sharing evidence and stories from the field; <https://triangular-cooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-GPI-report-BAPA40.pdf>

## Q6. How can I report a triangular co-operation project that is part of a wider bilateral programme?

Often bilateral programmes have a component within it that is triangular co-operation. There are multiple ways to report the triangular co-operation component within the CRS. If you know the exact amount spent on the triangular component, you can count the triangular co-operation component as a separate activity within the CRS, separating it from the wider bilateral programme. If you do not know the exact amount of the project that is triangular co-operation you could estimate the share of funding that was spent on triangular co-operation component and then report it as separate activity.

Another way of managing larger bilateral programmes that contain a component of triangular co-operation is to use a co-efficient. The European Union for example, marks all projects that have 50% or more

component of triangular co-operation as triangular-co-operation in the CRS. If you choose to use a co-efficient approach, please make sure you note the methodology that you use in the project description and do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat to share your experience or to clarify questions in this regard.

### **Q7. What if I am unsure whether to report my project or programmes as triangular co-operation?**

If you feel uncomfortable using the bi\_multi code 8 because you are unsure of whether the activity qualifies for triangular co-operation, you can add a keyword “triangular co-operation” in the keyword field. This way the OECD Secretariat can assess whether the project should or should not be classified as triangular co-operation.