



International
Labour
Organization

► **South-South and triangular cooperation good practices in the World of Work in a changing multilateral environment: 2024-2025**

► Preface

In a world of interconnected and escalating challenges in the world of work, the demand for adaptable, cost-effective, and solidarity-driven development solutions has never been greater. The compilation of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practices from across the International Labour Organization’s South-South real stories for 2024–2025 represents more than a mere catalogue of successful initiatives; it encompasses a strategic and evolving modality of international cooperation. This collection of good practices reveals a deliberate approach to fostering mutual learning, co-creation, and solidarity in pursuit of the Decent Work Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For the 2024–2025 biennium, the ILO, through its PARTNERSHIPS Department, and its Emerging, Special and South-South Cooperation Unit (ESPU), intensified its South-South and triangular cooperation thanks to the support of the Regular Budget (RBTC) and through 13 results-oriented projects spanning five regions, alongside global initiatives supporting action programmes and the activities of the International Training Center (ITC)-Turin (ITCILO). These initiatives engage more than 80 countries, leveraging adaptable, sustainable, and results-oriented approaches.

In the Americas, the ILO projects on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) advanced care economy dialogues in the region, while reinforcing commitments to eliminate child labour. Anchored in the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean for Combating Child Labour, countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay, as well as all LAC countries, shared experiences on Alliance 8.7 on Combating Child Labour and Forced Labour. Brazil, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), connected these experiences to global SSTC platforms, including BRICS, and fostered exchanges with Africa and Asia. These initiatives positioned the Americas as a hub for cross-regional solidarity and evidence-based policy innovation grounded in decent work principles.

In Asia and the Pacific, the SSTC initiative supported a cross-regional dialogue on employment creation, and data systems SIDS-SIDS. The Employment-Intensive Investment Arab States–Asia and the Pacific Dialogue connected experts and policymakers from both regions to exchange experiences on climate-resilient infrastructure, green public investment, and job creation. The Small Island Developing States- Small Island Developing States (SIDS-SIDS) Statistics Cooperation enhanced labour statistics and evidence-based policymaking among small island developing States, improving data comparability and regional collaboration. Together, these initiatives fostered mutual learning between Asia, the Arab States, and the Pacific, promoting inclusive and sustainable growth aligned with the ILO’s decent work agenda.

In the Arab States, SSTC focused on just transition, social protection, and the care economy. The project *Just Transition and Climate Policy Development through NDCs: A South-South Learning Approach*, led by ILO Beirut, ITCILO, and ILO Doha, enabled 16 countries—including Jordan, Iraq, Qatar, and the UAE—to integrate just transition principles into their NDCs. Over 56 officials were trained, and two regional frameworks were launched: a GCC Just Transition Framework and a Non-GCC Research and Training Network. Complementing this, the South4Care Initiative, launched in Doha, advanced South-South collaboration on care policies and decent work for care workers, linking the Arab States with Latin America and Africa to exchange innovative approaches for care economy development and gender equality. Together, these efforts strengthened cooperation between labour and environment ministries, expanded social dialogue, and established regional models for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Across Africa, SSTC (funded by RBTC managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department) initiatives promoted productive employment, skills development, and social protection, emphasizing triangular partnerships and shared solutions. Countries such as Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d’Ivoire, and Rwanda exchanged experiences on extending social protection for informal workers and facilitating transitions to the formal economy, building on ILO’s long-standing cooperation frameworks. Regional peer-learning workshops strengthened national strategies for decent work, youth employment, and gender-responsive policy innovation, while cooperation with Brazil, Portugal, and ILO’s SSTC facilities enhanced cross-continental knowledge transfer. Another flagship initiative in the Africa region was the triangular cooperation project in supply chains, Madagascar-Kenya-France, where Kenya and Madagascar shared good practices to be more effective in accessing the Rungis market in France.

In Europe and Central Asia, two initiatives supported just transition and green employment through regional collaboration, creating a COP29-COP30 bridge. The first, promoted a gender-responsive just transition among countries such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, linking them with Brazil, China, and the Arab States. Regional workshops have built a momentum toward COP29 in Baku and COP30 in Brazil, while a new network connected climate action with decent work and gender equality. The second, strengthened the employment dimension of just transition in the Western Balkans, Georgia, and Moldova through triangular cooperation with EU partners. Peer exchanges defined green jobs, piloted employment diagnostics, and supported value chain mapping in e-waste and textiles.

Globally, the ILO deepened SSTC through flagship cross-regional platforms. The BRICS Productivity Platform advanced comparative studies in China, Brazil, and South Africa, generating evidence-based strategies to boost productivity and decent work in BRICS countries, while supporting South-South cooperation. The Future Leaders for the World of Work – South-South University (FLSSU) organized with ITC Turin, trained officials and practitioners from all regions on integrating SSTC into Decent Work Country Programmes. During the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting (LEMM) in Brasilia in April 2025, a dedicated side event showcased SSTC’s contributions to just transition, social protection, and productivity-led growth. Together, these initiatives positioned the ILO as a bridge-builder across regions, aligning SSTC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing a human-centred future of work. The ILO’s SSTC also supported the creation of a BRICS platform on Productivity for Decent Work, following the South African and Brazilian presidencies of BRICS. Finally, ILO PARTNERSHIPS also supported the ITC-Turin Labour Migration academy and studies that linked SSTC resilience to climate change in SIDS.

These practices are built on a foundation of structured peer-to-peer learning, applying participatory and horizontal methodologies. The emphasis is on creating "horizontal" ecosystems where countries learn from each other's successes and failures. The innovation lies not in a specific technology, but in the process itself—the creation of regional networks, the use of digital platforms for continuous exchange, and the "thematic leadership" model where countries contribute their comparative advantage to a global common of knowledge and solidarity.

Peter van Rooij Director

Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARTNERSHIPS) - ILO

This collection of good practices was coordinated and edited by Anita Amorim

Co-authors: Anita Amorim, Feixia Li, Anastasiia Pavlova, Daniel Harczi-Kabuya, Duncan Chando, Redouane Bekrar, Emad Mruwat, Chaoyang Quan, Pilar Rodriguez, Fernando Casanova, Anaclara Matosas, Joel Alcocer, Daniela Zampini, Linda Deelen, Michela Albertazzi, Cristina Martinez, Carlotta Clivio, Tomas Stenstorm, Daniela Zampini, Aya Matsuura, Laura Addati, Mette Grangaard Lund.

► Table of Contents

► AFRICA: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Leveraging South-South Cooperation to Promote the Transition to the Formal Economy in Africa	5
► AFRICA: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: South-South and Triangular cooperation between Madagascar, Kenya and France to promote decent work and export in the horticulture value chain through peer-to-peer exchange and capacity development.	8
► AMERICAS: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Skills Development and Lifelong Learning in the Care Economy	12
► AMERICAS: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: SSTC Programme to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labour in Supply Chains in Latin America and the Caribbean	15
► ARAB STATES: Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: South4Care: Fostering Decent Work for Paid Care Workers in the Arab States through Peer Learning.....	18
► ARAB STATES: South and triangular cooperation good practice: Just Transition and Climate Policy Development through NDCs: A South-South Learning Approach.....	22
► ASIA & THE PACIFIC: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Improving Labour Market Statistics to Reflect Climate Impact on Labour Market Outcomes in the Asia-Pacific Region through South-South Cooperation.....	25
► ASIA & THE PACIFIC: South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: EIIP Inter-regional Technical Forum for Asia-Pacific and Arab States for South-South Experience Sharing (Bangladesh)	29
► EUROPE & CIS Title of South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Promotion a gender-responsive just transition through knowledge-sharing and peer learning for COP29 (Azerbaijan) & COP30 (Brazil).....	32
► EUROPE & CIS Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Peer-to-peer mechanisms and triangular cooperation elevated the employment dimensions of Just Transition discussions in CEE	35
► GLOBAL: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Country Studies: Brazil, China & South Africa	37
► GLOBAL South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Future Leaders for the World of Work – South-South University (FLSSU) and BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS “Emerging Technologies and New Frontiers for Employment for Just Transitions” Knowledge-Sharing Event Event during BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting (LEMM)	40
► GLOBAL of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: South-South Collaboration on Climate Change, Human Mobility and Just Transitions (Caribbean–Pacific SIDS Cooperation).....	43

► AFRICA: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Leveraging South-South Cooperation to Promote the Transition to the Formal Economy in Africa

Author's name: ILO Abidjan, ILO Luanda, ILO Dar es Salaam, ILO International Labour Organization (ILO) – Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Countries involved: Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde

South-South Objective(s)

The initiative aims to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy in African countries by promoting peer learning, co-development of strategies, and extension of social protection to informal workers. It responds to the persistent challenge of informality, which undermines decent work, social protection extension, and economic resilience. Anchored in ILO Recommendation No. 204, the project seeks, between countries with almost similar socio-economic profiles, to strengthen institutional capacity and foster inclusive national policies that support decent job creation, entrepreneurship, and poverty reduction in line with SDGs 1, 5, 8, and 17.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The initiative brings together the ILO Country Offices (Abidjan, Dar es Salaam, Praia) with ministries of labour, social protection institutions, workers' and employers' organizations in each country. Each participating country leads a thematic area in which it registered progress and good practices: Côte d'Ivoire on social protection, Cabo Verde on labour inspection, Rwanda on digital registration, and Guinea-Bissau on policy development. Peer learning visits, workshops, and joint diagnostics foster horizontal exchange and mutual adaptation of practices. Cabo Verde and Rwanda also share financing and digital tools inspired by other Global South experiences, ensuring triangular collaboration.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The project applies to participatory peer-to-peer exchanges through field visits, regional workshops, and national task forces. Each country shares practical experiences while adapting lessons from peers to local contexts. Diagnostic reports and strategy development were co-designed with ministries, social partners, and ILO specialists, ensuring ownership. Rwanda's digital registration system and Cabo Verde's financing models illustrate successful transfer of practices across borders. The multilingual and inclusive process created shared knowledge products (policy briefs, videos) accessible in English, French, and Portuguese. The multicultural environment and experiences of institutions and other actors involved in formalization and social protection systems enriched the discussions during visits to beneficiaries and key actors.

Innovation

The initiative is innovative because it replaces top-down technical assistance with reciprocal learning tailored to African realities. The thematic leadership model—where each country contributes to its comparative advantage—ensures relevance and balance. The use of digital tools, such as Rwanda's enterprise registration platform, and

cross-fertilization with experiences from Cabo Verde on sustainable financing, make the project adaptable. Multilingual dissemination and modular knowledge products further enhance innovation and accessibility.

South-South Sustainability

Members of the national delegations play a key role in their countries' social protection and formalization systems and have the capacity to influence both processes and decision-making. Preliminary exchanges during the preparation of the missions helped to clearly identify the specific issues and expectations of governments in line with their national priorities, thereby almost ensuring the integration of relevant good practices. The tripartite composition of the delegations further facilitates dialogue after the missions, supporting the institutional adjustments that may be needed. Moreover, the contacts established between national institutions will help ease any challenges that arise when adapting or applying 'imported' practices.

Sustainability is ensured by embedding results in national institutions through the creation of task forces and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms. The adoption of elements into formal policy processes, such as Côte d'Ivoire's next formalization policy, guarantees long-term ownership. Continuous support from the ILO and growing regional political will underpin durability. Furthermore, the initiative triggered new bilateral exchanges and set the basis for a regional SSTC platform on formalization, securing continuity beyond the project's timeframe.

South-South Adaptability

The good practice can be extended to other African and Global South countries facing high informality rates. Adaptation requires strong political will, institutional engagement, and technical support. The modular design of tools and the flexible methodology (peer learning visits, national diagnostics, regional workshops) enable easy replication. Lessons learned stress the importance of co-ownership, stakeholder trust, and adapting digital or financial solutions to local socio-economic conditions.

South-South Results

- Four national diagnostic reports on informality were completed.
- Development/updates of national formalization strategies were aligned with ILO Recommendation 204.
- Over 150 stakeholders trained through peer learning SSTC workshops.
- Cabo Verde and Rwanda's digital and interoperable registration systems were adapted by peers.
- The project achieved strengthened institutional capacity and regional cooperation for formalization strategies.
- Awareness of existing opportunities to improve mechanisms for re-employment and formalization of economic units.
- Tripartite commitment to introducing reforms in the social protection and formalization system in order to address weaknesses and extend coverage to excluded populations.
- Taking into account best practices identified in defining the implementation modalities of Decree No. 2025-182 of 12 March 2025 establishing the modalities for the collection of contributions due under the basic universal health coverage scheme by persons liable for the municipal tax on entrepreneurs.
- Initiation of discussions with a view to signing inter-agency agreements (INSS-CNPS) between Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau.

Contact details	Martial Kouakou National Project Coordinator, ILO Country Office Abidjan kouakoum@ilo.org
Funding Sources	Funded and technically supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through ILO's South-South and triangular cooperation
Materials and Web-links	Policy briefs, videos, and training materials (in EN/FR/PT) on formalization strategies. South-South Meeting Point (platform for knowledge exchange): www.southsouthpoint.net High-resolution photos and documentation available via ILO Country Offices (Abidjan, Kigali, Praia). https://x.com/sstc_mp/status/1922233890636259547 https://x.com/sstc_mp/status/1922239838427771373

► AFRICA: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: South-South and Triangular cooperation between Madagascar, Kenya and France to promote decent work and export in the horticulture value chain through peer-to-peer exchange and capacity development.

Author's name: ILO Antananarivo, ILO Dar es Salaam, ILO International Labour Organization (ILO) – Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Countries involved: Madagascar, Kenya, France

South-South Objective(s)

The initiative aims to facilitate sustainable enterprises for inclusive growth and decent work, particularly for young men and women, by increasing access to decent and productive jobs for rural workers. By promoting peer learning, co-development of strategies, employment opportunities and economic resilience of the constituents to develop more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable enterprises in supply chains and responsible business conduct for decent work.

It responds to the persistent challenge for SMEs of the agriculture sector in general and the horticulture sub sector in particular which are facing important decent work deficits and have difficulties in accessing the international market despite the high potential of Madagascar to produce, in quantity and in quality, fruits and vegetables (including vanilla, cocoa, cloves, sugar, black-eyed peas, lychee, etc.).

Through this intervention, the enabling environment will be created for the promotion of a job-rich and export-oriented agribusiness in Madagascar and Kenya, with special attention to responsible business conduct and FPRW (Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, namely C 29, C105, C 87, C98, C100, C111, C138, C182, C155, C187). The project will also contribute to efforts of the Global Coalition on Social Justice as poor rural farmers in the global supply chain of fruits and vegetables in Kenya and Madagascar will be lifted out of poverty through export-oriented agriculture. SMEs outsourcing these products from poor farmers will also have their capacity developed in meeting European export standards and ESG requirements.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The agriculture sector in general and the horticulture sub-sector in particular are facing important decent work deficits and have difficulties in accessing the international market despite the high potential of Madagascar to produce, in quantity and in quality, fruits and vegetables (including vanilla, cocoa, cloves, sugar, black eye peas, lychee, etc.). The initiative brings together the ILO Country Offices (Antananarivo, Dar es Salaam and Paris) ministries of labour, and workers' and employers' organizations in Madagascar and Kenya. The French Market of Rungis is also involved.

Through the Trade For Decent Work (T4DW) and the ProAgro Youth projects, ILO is actively engaged in the creation of decent work, the promotion of sustainable agricultural enterprises and responsible and inclusive business practices in Madagascar. In Kenya, through the project 'All Hands in Kenya – Advancing Labour Standards through Cooperative Action (AHK)', the ILO Office in Dar es Salaam, working with tripartite constituents, is enhancing

capacities to comply with international labour standards and acceptable forms of work in the tea value chain in selected regions in the country.

Through SSTC, peer learning visits, workshops, and joint diagnostics between these two countries will foster horizontal exchange and mutual adaptation of practices.

Additionally, the European Union has updated the regulation on “maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin¹”, and some of the Malagasy export products (e.g. vanilla, black-eyed peas, etc) may face important challenges to comply with this regulation. For example, the maximum authorized level of nicotine content in vanilla for the European market was updated from 0.3% to 0.05% ppm per kilo in September 2023. If this regulation is put into effect, more than 1600 tonnes of vanilla, stored in the warehouses of the growers, the processors, and the exporters, will not be exportable.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The project applied participatory peer-to-peer exchanges through field visits, regional workshops, and national task forces. Each country shared practical experiences while adapting lessons from peers to local contexts. Diagnostic reports and strategy development were co-designed with ministries, social partners, and ILO specialists, ensuring ownership. Madagascar companies will learn from the Federation of Kenya Employers’ experience in ESG training and capacity building. Additionally, this initiative will also build on the experience of the ILO Country Office in Dar es Salaam, which is implementing a South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) project, which is part of the ILO-Brazil South-South Cooperation Programme for promoting decent work in the cotton sector. The lessons learned in the ILO-Brazil SSCP project in terms of knowledge exchange, skills development, resource sharing, and the transfer of technical know-how will be used for an effective collaboration between the exporters of horticultural products of Madagascar and Kenya and the Rungis Market, and to build and/or reinforce partnership between these countries. Buyers of fruits and vegetables from Kenya and Madagascar will be sensitized on the critical importance of supply chain management, ESG requirements and the need to support capacity building of their supply chain. The ILO Office in Paris will help mobilize the various stakeholders to support this exchange of experiences.

Innovation

The initiative is innovative because it replaces top-down technical assistance with reciprocal learning tailored to African realities. The thematic leadership model—where each country contributes to its comparative advantage—ensures relevance and balance. The use of digital tools, such as the Developing ESG/Sustainability Training material and providing training courses to Malagasy companies using the experiences from the Kenyan Employers FKE. Multilingual dissemination and modular knowledge products further enhance innovation and accessibility.

South-South Sustainability

The sustainability of this initiative depends on strong national ownership from each country. Therefore, investment made by the participants, supported by the government, is the first step. Diversifying funding sources will allow for extending the activity not done during its implementation period. Continuous support from the ILO and growing regional political will underpin durability. Furthermore, the initiative triggered new bilateral exchanges and set the basis for a regional SSTC platform on formalization, securing continuity beyond the project’s timeframe.

South-South Adaptability

The good practice can be extended to other African and Global South countries facing high informality rates. Adaptation requires strong political will, institutional engagement, and technical support. The modular design of

¹Regulation - 396/2005 - EN - EUR-Lex ([europa.eu](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj))

tools and the flexible methodology (peer learning visits, national diagnostics, regional workshops) enable easy replication. Lessons learned stress the importance of co-ownership, stakeholder trust, and adapting digital or financial solutions to local socio-economic conditions.

South-South Results

- Result 1: Through triangular cooperation, the needs in terms of upgrading for export to the EU Market in General and the Rungis (France) market in particular, of Malagasy and Kenyan SMEs and/or cooperatives active in the horticulture value chain, were analysed and identified, and concrete interventions were formulated on the basis of lessons learned from the Kenyan approach. This was done through Triangular Cooperation modality, while keeping partners from Kenya and Madagascar in the driver's seat.
- Result 2: The SSTC programmes supported the operationalization of an upgrading SSTC plan of Malagasy and Kenyan SMEs and cooperatives, active in the horticulture value chain, within the framework of a triangular collaboration between Madagascar, Kenya and France in order to support them to export their production to the EU Market in General and the Rungis (France) market in particular. This will be done through Triangular Cooperation modality, engaging the trilateral/ triangular cooperation of France, Kenya and Madagascar.
- Result 3: Malagasy SMEs and cooperatives have started the discussion about obtaining authorizations and B2B agreements and Kenyan SMEs have enhanced capacity for the effective export of their production to the Rungis market in France through triangular cooperation.

Throughout these 3 main outcomes, specific interventions for the promotion of sustainable, responsible and inclusive business practices, based on the guidance offered by the Declaration of Tripartite Principles on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and the ESG criteria will be carried out at all levels of the supply chain.

Contact details	Duncan Chando National Project Coordinator, ILO Country Office Dar es Salaamchando@ilo.org Sylviane Vololoniaina Programme Officer, ILO Country Office Antananarivo vololoniaina@ilo.org
Funding Sources	Funded and technically supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
Materials and Web-links	• Policy briefs, videos, and training materials (in EN/FR) • South-South Meeting Point (platform for knowledge exchange). • High-resolution photos and documentation available via ILO Country Offices (Antananarivo, Dar es Salaam). • <u>ILO Concludes Successful South-South Cooperation Forum in Naivasha, Kenya to Strengthen Horticulture Value Chains and Promote Decent Work – South-South Meeting Point</u> • <u>Workshop on the Promotion of Decent Work and Horticultural Exports between Madagascar, Kenya and France, 13 November 2024 – South-South Meeting Point</u> • <u>How ILO’s South-South triangular Cooperation is Transforming Horticulture for Global Markets!</u>  

► AMERICAS: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Skills Development and Lifelong Learning in the Care Economy

Author's name: ILO CINTERFOR

Institution: Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (ILO/CINTERFOR)

Countries involved: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

South-South Objective(s)

The initiative aimed to develop the capacities of 17 vocational training institutions to respond more effectively to the demand for skills in the rapidly expanding care economy sector. It sought to ensure that their training and certification services were aligned with national care policies, leveraged the efforts of key allies, and deepened social dialogue. The project was a direct response to the regional challenge of professionalizing the care sector to improve service quality, recognize the value of care work, and empower caregivers, primarily women, by improving their skills, working conditions, and labour rights.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The cooperation was led and coordinated by ILO/CINTERFOR. It involved 23 vocational training institutions, government ministries, trade unions, and certification bodies from 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. These institutions formed a Regional South-South Cooperation Network called 'Saber Cuidar' (Knowing How to Care). They interacted through collaborative planning, joint development of methodologies, peer-learning activities, technical support exchanges, and the implementation of a shared Roadmap. The network's work was based on principles of solidarity and mutual benefit, with ILO/ CINTERFOR facilitating and providing technical and administrative support.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The methodology was fundamentally horizontal and participatory. It was built upon a collaborative process that started in 2022 and was formalized during an in-person workshop in Montevideo (2023), where the Network and its Roadmap were established. The approach combined peer-to-peer technical assistance, the development of tools and their application in participating institutions, working groups to develop joint strategies (e.g., for social dialogue and external alliances), and systematic virtual and in-person exchanges of experiences and good practices. This ensured that solutions were co-created, contextually relevant, and leveraged the diverse expertise within the network.

Innovation

The innovative element was the creation of a permanent regional network specifically dedicated to skills development in the care economy through SSTC. It innovatively linked vocational training and certification directly with the implementation of national care policies and systems. The project also featured the collaborative adaptation and piloting of methodologies for transversal skills and a concerted strategy to strengthen social

dialogue and build external alliances for the sector. This integrated approach, connecting training, policy, social dialogue, and partnerships, was a novel model that made it highly relevant and transferable to other national contexts facing similar challenges.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was ensured by institutionalizing collaboration through the established Regional Network and its Roadmap. The development of internal capacities within member institutions, the creation of practical guides and systematized methodologies, and the strengthening of external alliances meant that the cooperation could continue beyond the project's timeline. The project fostered a sense of ownership among participants and created concrete tools and strategies that institutions could continue to use and adapt. The focus on aligning with national policies also helped anchor the activities within broader, long-term governmental frameworks, ensuring continued relevance and institutional support. The network “Saber Cuidar”, functions as a permanent regional mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation on skills development in the care economy. It provides a structured space for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement on skills training and certification systems aligned with national care policies across Latin America and the Caribbean.

South-South Adaptability

The good practice was designed for wide replication. The methodologies, guides, and strategies developed were documented and systematized for easy adaptation. The conditions for successful extension included the presence of vocational training institutions interested in the care economy, a minimum level of institutional commitment to engage in South-South cooperation, and the facilitation of a coordinating body like ILO/CINTERFOR or a similar agency to initiate the process. The model proved to be extendable to other countries in the region; in fact, new institutions and countries have joined in the course of this project and are now fully integrated. This is a working strategy that ILO/Cinterfor has promoted since its inception, so it is quite possible that it could be extended to other sectors beyond care, or even to other continents, using the same approach based on networks and peer learning.

South-South Results

The main results achieved were:

1. Member institutions designed and began implementing institutional care agendas aligned with national policies, supported by a specialized training course.
2. Methodologies for working on cross-cutting skills were developed and disseminated.
3. A collaborative strategy was developed and implemented to strengthen social dialogue on training and certification in the field of care.
4. An external communication and partnership-building strategy was created, leading to new partnerships and the creation of the Saber Cuidar network identity.
5. A robust South-South exchange system was established, including virtual webinars and annual face-to-face meetings, fostering continuous shared learning.

Contact details	ILO/CINTERFOR: oitcinterfor@ilo.org
Funding Sources	RBTC-SSTC: Contribution from ILO Regular Budget to South-South Cooperation.
Materials and Web-links	The project generated several key materials, including: • A diagnostic report on training needs of LAC countries on care economy. • A curriculum and pedagogical design for a course on care economy. • Systematized and updated methodological tools for transversal skills. • Practical SSTC- Care Economy guides based on the pilot applications. • Strategy documents for social dialogue and external alliances. • Communication materials (institutional identity, reference sheets, publications, videos, podcasts). • Systematized records of shared good practices from webinars and meetings. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yNUKPvalklXFsLr_le2NVuI1Yxb8OeqI?usp=drive_link  

► AMERICAS: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: SSTC Programme to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labour in Supply Chains in Latin America and the Caribbean

Author's name: Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (Technical Secretariat: ILO)

Institution: ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Countries involved: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela

South-South Objective(s)

The initiative aimed to strengthen the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour as a tripartite South-South platform to prevent and eradicate child labour in regional supply chains. It sought to promote decent work, enhance the capacity of governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and facilitate peer learning on the application of due diligence principles in global and domestic supply chains, aligning with SDG 8.7 and the ILO's decent work agenda.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The project connected 31 countries in the region through a structured South-South and Triangular Cooperation model, bringing together ministries of labour, employers' and workers' organizations, and ILO technical teams. Through regional exchanges, virtual learning spaces, and a collaborative observatory, participants shared methodologies, policies, and tools to identify and mitigate child labour risks in supply chains. Cooperation was strengthened with technical contributions from Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, as well as interregional exchanges with Africa and Asia through ILO's global networks.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The initiative applied the ILO's eight-step South-South learning methodology — offer, demand, commitment, execution, reflection, action, accompaniment, and feedback — ensuring a truly horizontal process. Countries jointly identified priority supply chains and co-developed national and regional action plans. Continuous peer exchanges, hybrid workshops, and a shared monitoring tool enabled knowledge transfer, collective accountability, and institutional learning. The tripartite approach guaranteed participatory engagement and the integration of local contexts into regional strategies.

Innovation

The project innovated by integrating a technological monitoring platform within the Regional Child Labour Observatory, allowing countries to track progress, share good practices, and visualize results in real time. It also produced a regional Practical Guide for Identifying Vulnerability to Child Labour in Supply Chains and a Governance Roadmap to sustain the Regional Initiative. The inclusion of an intersectional gender approach (EGIR) ensured that all actions addressed the specific vulnerabilities of women, adolescent girls, and boys in informal and export-oriented sectors.

The creation of the MONITORA tool has been very effective and efficient because it provides a harmonized digital system for tracking progress across 31 countries, enabling real-time visualization of results and peer learning. Developed through South-South Cooperation, it fosters joint monitoring and mutual accountability among countries, reducing reporting times, improving data quality, and strengthening evidence-based decision-making at both national and regional levels.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was ensured through institutional ownership and the integration of project results into the Regional Initiative's 2022–2025 Strategic Plan. The tripartite governance model, endorsed by 31 countries, allowed ongoing replication and financing through national and regional mechanisms. The online monitoring tool, housed within the ILO Regional Observatory, continues to function as a living repository of practices and commitments, guaranteeing that knowledge and accountability remain active beyond the project cycle.

South-South Adaptability

The model proved highly adaptable to other regions. Its tools and methodologies have already been requested by African and Asian countries engaged in South-South and Triangular Cooperation on child labour and decent work in supply chains. The step-by-step approach, together with the participatory peer learning structure and digital monitoring system, offers a replicable framework for tackling other labour-related issues, such as forced labour or gender inequalities, within global production networks.

South-South Results

- Strengthened tripartite capacities to identify and address child labour risks in at least four prioritized supply chains (agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and tourism).
- Creation and operationalization of an online regional monitoring platform hosted by the Child Labour Observatory.
- Adoption of formal South-South cooperation agreements and roadmaps among 10 countries.
- Publication of a Regional Action Plan for the Eradication of Child Labour in Supply Chains and the Governance Roadmap of the Regional Initiative.
- Enhanced integration of gender equality principles (EGIR) into national and regional child labour strategies.
- Reinforced visibility and recognition of the Regional Initiative as a leading South-South cooperation mechanism within the ILO and G20/BRICS+ dialogues.

Contact details	ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Initiative “Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour” program@ilo.org partnerships@ilo.org www.ilo.org www.iniciativa2025alc.org
Funding Sources	RBTC-SSTC funds managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS (USD 150,000) complemented by resources from Brazil (RLA/20/05/BRA), Spain (PRAETI), and the United States (USDOL-GALAB), as well as in-kind support from participating countries and the ILO’s Regional Office.
Materials and Web-links	www.ilo.org www.iniciativa2025alc.org 

► ARAB STATES: Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: South4Care: Fostering Decent Work for Paid Care Workers in the Arab States through Peer Learning

Author's name: ILO PARTNERSHIPS, ILO Regional Office for Arab States, ILO GEDI, WORKQUALITY, ILO Training Centre (ITC)

South-South Objectives

1. Promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as the core modality for knowledge-sharing, bringing together experiences and expertise from the Global South and North to strengthen policy and practice in the care economy.
2. Build the capacity of ILO constituents and stakeholders in the Arab States region to design, implement, and evaluate care policies and systems that respond to the needs of workers, employers, and society at large.
3. Address decent work deficits faced by paid care workers, particularly migrant domestic workers, through peer learning and exchange of good practices facilitated under SSTC frameworks.
4. Strengthen national care policies and systems by drawing on comparative lessons from South-South exchanges, with an emphasis on inclusiveness, gender equality, and sustainability.
5. Operationalize the ILO's 5R Framework (Recognize, Reduce, Redistribute, Reward, Represent) through SSTC-driven policy dialogue and innovation, enabling governments and social partners to adapt the framework to national contexts.
6. Support women's labour force participation in the Arab States by leveraging SSTC peer learning to identify strategies that reduce unpaid care burdens and expand decent work opportunities.
7. Foster collaboration among developing countries to co-create solutions for fair migration governance and improved protections for migrant domestic workers, using SSTC as a tool for solidarity and shared responsibility.
8. Positioning the ILO as a lead knowledge and technical partner in the global care economy agenda, using the South4Care platform to consolidate evidence, document good practices, and disseminate innovative approaches through SSTC channels.
9. Promote policy coherence between global commitments and regional priorities, ensuring that the 2024 ILC Resolution on Decent Work and the Care Economy is translated into actionable national strategies through South-South exchanges.
10. Lay the foundation for sustained regional and interregional cooperation by institutionalizing the South4Care platform as a long-term SSTC hub for knowledge exchange, capacity development, and solidarity across countries of the Global South.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The application of the SSTC approach was enhanced through the collaborative organization of the South4Care Learning Hub by ILO ROAS, GEDI, WORKQUALITY, and PARTNERSHIPS, in partnership with ITC/Turin. With different departments working together, the first edition of the South4Care Learning Hub was able to bring a wider range of participants and experts from all regions of the world. ILO and ITC/Turin acted as the convener and knowledge agent to ensure rich information exchange and learning experience. Through a triangular cooperation modality, these stakeholders engaged in peer learning with champion countries from the Global South (including

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Moldova, the GCC, Arab Partners, Qatar, Brazil, and countries from Latin America and the Caribbean). UN Women, UN ESCWA, UN OHCHR, and UNICEF joined to strengthen the existing partnerships and ensure policy coherence. In total, 92 participants, 9 observers and 56 experts joined the meeting.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

This peer-to-peer approach allowed Arab State constituents to directly learn from the successful models of South Africa, Bangladesh, Japan, Moldova, and Indonesia to name a few. In addition to the inspiring plenary sessions, the event also offered 10 technical tracks where participants had the opportunity to deep dive into the topics of their interests to learn further and have more interactions. The participatory format fostered honest dialogue about shared challenges and adaptable solutions, moving beyond theoretical policy discussion. Because of the topic of the meeting, this event also saw many female participants in the region where female representation is limited. This provided a valuable opportunity for women representatives to connect with their counterparts in different regions, exchange and explore possible partnerships for the future.

Innovation

The design of the online segment was adjusted slightly to ensure good engagement and buy-in by the participants from the Arab States region, where the discussion on the care economy, especially among ILO constituents, remains sensitive. Specifically for the Arabic-speaking participants, one session was introduced to cover topics of equality, masculinity, and engagement of men, which created a good basis for the participants to join the in-person segment and interact with participants from other regions. Designed carefully to ensure adjusted particularly to The ILO's transformative 5R Framework and relevant international labour standards remained as key guiding framework and instruments to promote better understanding and action in the care economy.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was embedded by focusing on capacity building and network creation. Through the opportunities for the participants to share experience and discuss solutions based on global and local experiences, the participants developed good rapport, which will be a good basis for maintaining contacts for future collaboration. The knowledge products produced will continue to be a key resource for ongoing advocacy.

South-South Adaptability

The good practice is highly adaptable. The core model—using research, a peer-learning workshop, and national follow-up—can be replicated in any region, and the selection of champion countries can be tailored to address specific regional challenges. For instance, Brazil's secretariat for Care Economy, Uruguay's model is highly adaptable for middle-income countries seeking to build integrated systems, while South Korea's insurance model offers a roadmap for countries anticipating rapid population aging. The experience of the social security systems of Oman and Jordan in financing care policies is pertinent for countries with incipient public care policies and systems.

South-South Results

1. Positioned the ILO as the key knowledge partner on care work in the region.
2. Produced a regional situational analysis overview on childcare, elderly care, and domestic workers, providing an unprecedented evidence base.
3. Enhanced the capacity of over 40 policymakers from Arab States to formulate rights-based care policies.
4. Inspired follow-up national dialogues in three countries to adapt lessons learned into draft legislation, particularly focusing on the rights of domestic workers.
5. Established a lasting partnership network between Arab States, including the GCC, and Brazil.
6. Launched and disseminated a South-South online Platform, South-4-Care Platform, to showcase illustrative practices of countries at different levels of development.

7. Fostered peer-to-peer exchanges between ministries of labour, women's affairs, and social development across Arab States, leading to concrete South-South cooperation initiatives on care economy policies.
8. Strengthened collaboration with UN agencies, workers' and employers' organizations, and civil society actors, ensuring a tripartite and multi-stakeholder approach to advancing care policies.
9. Generated visibility and global recognition of the Arab States' contributions to the care economy agenda through international fora, including COP, HLC on South-South Cooperation, and ILO Governing Body discussions.
10. Developed a set of practical policy tools and guidelines on financing, regulation, and quality assurance in the care sector, now serving as references for ongoing reforms.
11. Contributed to positioning care work as a central pillar in gender-responsive just transitions and social justice frameworks, influencing the integration of care in national development strategies and SDG reporting.

Contact details	ILO Regional Office for Arab States Email: ROAS-CARE@ilo.org; CAREPOLICY@ilo.org Website: www.ilo.org/beirut
Funding Sources	The initiative was primarily funded through the ILO's Regular Budgetary Technical Cooperation (RBTC-SSTC) fund managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department, with a total budget of USD 100,000, and was co-funded by multiple sources. This includes 55,300 USD from GEDI/WORKQUALITY RB, 69,232 USD from ILO-Sida's partnership programme (GEDI portion), 12,017 USD from the project Promoting workers' rights and gender equality at work in Africa – Phase II (Outcome 2 - GEDI); USD 2,324 from an RBSA project in Brazil; USD 2,375 from an RBSA project in Mexico; USD 2,000 from the Kenya PPDP project. An estimated total of around USD 6,500 to cover travel costs for 2 participants from Moldova, 3 from Cambodia, 3 from Sri Lanka, 1 from India, 1 from Uzbekistan from multiple TC and RBSA projects. To make the event possible, the ILO Regional Office for Arab States also provided USD57,000 through RBTC Turin. The ILO Doha Project Office also contributed USD20,000. In addition, various projects in the Arab States region made financial contribution to support the participation of constituents (amount to approximately USD20,000) and the ILO's Fairway Project (USD 10,000). Altogether, the total funding mobilized for the initiative amounted to around USD 356,000.

Materials and Web-links

- Final Research Report: "The Care Economy in the Arab States: A Situational Analysis and Policy Review"
- Short summary Report with key findings and policy recommendations.
- A short documentary video showcasing the SSTC exchange and participant testimonials.
- Pictures of the event: [Launch of South4Care | Flickr](#).
- Web-link: | [South-4-Care Platform](#)

[ILO Director-General Gilbert F.Houngbo video message for the launch of the South-4-Care Platform](#)

[ILO inaugural session of South-4-Care Platform with Global Partners to Advance Decent Work in the Care Economy through South-South and Triangular Cooperation – South-South Meeting Point](#)

[New South4Care Platform launched to advance decent work in the care economy](#)

[International Labour Organization](#)



ILO Director-General Gilbert F.Houngbo video message for the launch of the South-4-Care Platform



► ARAB STATES: South and triangular cooperation good practice: Just Transition and Climate Policy Development through NDCs: A South-South Learning Approach

Author's name: ILO Regional Office For Arab States

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Countries involved: Arab States Region – including Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Iraq, UAE, Yemen, and others

South-South Objective (s)

To empower Arab States to integrate just transition principles into climate policy through enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The initiative aimed to address the dual challenge of climate vulnerability and fossil fuel dependency by fostering inclusive climate action that incorporates employment and social dimensions, aligned with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 8 (Decent Work).

This initiative aims to deepen knowledge and networking among ILO constituents in the Arab States to strengthen the role of World of Work actors in the NDC revision as well as the uptake of just transition policies in the next round of NDCs. This intervention supported the first regional assessment of Arab States' NDCs and INDCs, identifying best practices and key gaps. The assessment led to a regional capacity-building course to enhance national NDC development and regional collaboration on just transition.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The initiative was led by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States, ITCILO, and ILO Doha, in collaboration with national Ministries of Labour and Environment, and workers' and employers' organizations across Arab countries. These institutions engaged in peer learning, joint planning, and regional initiative development, fostering a cooperative environment for knowledge exchange and policy innovation. This intervention targets the World of Work actors, namely Ministries of Labour, Workers' and Employers' Organization. As the NDC development is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, this intervention also included the capacity building of Ministries of Environment, to build their understanding of social dialogue and just transition topics. For the online training, 16 countries participated, but with particular attention to the Arab States region and the countries of: Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen. The in-person workshop was for representatives from the Arab States region only.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The methodology combined online modules, live SSTC dialogues, and an in-person masterclass in Doha. It emphasized participatory learning through stakeholder mapping, case studies, and regional initiative design. Peer-to-peer engagement enabled countries to share experiences, co-develop solutions, and build regional frameworks, enhancing ownership and practical application of just transition principles. The project used a phased methodology starting with a regional desk review of Arab States' NDCs and INDCs to identify gaps, best practices, and inform capacity-building needs. This was followed by online training through interactive webinars and self-guided modules, enabling broad access to key concepts on just transition and NDC integration. Finally, an in-person regional workshop focused on case studies, group work, and peer learning, fostering practical skills and stronger networks among ILO constituents. Together, these steps strengthened the capacity of world of work actors to shape ambitious, inclusive NDC revisions and advance just transition policies. South-South cooperation was central.

Participants exchanged national experiences, identified common challenges, and developed collaborative regional initiatives, including a proposed GCC framework on just transition and a Non-GCC research and training network.

Innovation

The initiative innovatively linked climate and employment policies through a South-South peer learning model. It introduced a dual focus on environmental and social dimensions in NDCs, a gap often overlooked. The use of regional collaboration to co-create frameworks and networks was a novel approach that strengthened policy coherence and regional integration. The in-person workshop used case studies, interactive group work, and role-play scenarios to deepen participants' understanding and build their confidence in applying new terminology and concepts. This hands-on, participatory approach allowed participants to translate theoretical knowledge into practical skills, strengthen problem-solving abilities, and foster peer learning in a supportive environment, ultimately enhancing their capacity to integrate just transition principles into national climate policies.

South-South Sustainability

The initiative's sustainability is ensured through the creation of regional networks, follow-up commitments, and institutional partnerships. Countries initiated steps such as joint MoUs, peer reviews of NDCs, and collaborative workshops. These mechanisms foster ongoing cooperation and policy alignment, making the practice resilient and adaptable over time. The self-guided modules are adapted to the Arab States context and fully available in Arabic and English, making them easy to roll out to new participants and lowering future capacity-building costs. This flexible, self-paced format also makes the online training fully scalable, allowing more stakeholders to benefit without significant additional resources.

The regional assessment report also doubles as a base-line report, which can help measure the uptake of just transition concepts in NDCs over time, as they get revised.

South-South Adaptability

The model is highly adaptable to other regions undergoing climate transitions. Key conditions for replication include political will, coordination between labour and environment ministries, and basic infrastructure for peer learning. The participatory and modular design allows for customization to different national contexts and development stages. The practice can be widely extended to other regions through its adaptable, modular design and strong focus on peer learning. To ensure successful adaptation, it requires localizing training content to regional policy contexts, translating materials into relevant languages, and engaging national institutions early to secure ownership. Active collaboration among ministries of labour, environment, and social partners is also essential to strengthen social dialogue and build trust. By maintaining these conditions, the approach can effectively support other countries in integrating just transition into their climate commitments and foster lasting networks for South-South cooperation.

South-South Results

- 56 officials trained across 16 Arab countries
- Two regional initiatives launched (GCC framework and Non-GCC network)
- Strengthened national capacities for just transition integration
- Enhanced regional collaboration and peer learning networks
- Initiated policy actions including MoUs and joint planning efforts
- The initiative trained 56 officials from 16 countries of which 22 people received a certificate of completion. 36 officials from the Arab States region participated in the in-person masterclass, which led to the launch of two regional initiatives, and strengthened national and regional capacities on just transition. Lastly, the regional assessment report also serves as a baseline to track the integration of just transition concepts in future NDC revisions, ensuring sustained regional commitment to inclusive climate and development policies.

Contact details	Name: Mette Lund Title: Just Transitions Specialist Organization: RO-Arab States/DWT-Beirut Email: lundm@ilo.org
Funding Sources	The initiative was technically and financially supported by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States, ITCILO, ILO Doha, and ILO Partnerships. Additional collaboration came from national Ministries of Labour and Environment, as well as workers' and employers' organizations.
Materials and Web-links	<u>ILO's Regional Masterclass brings just transition to the core of climate change policies International Labour Organization</u>   

► ASIA & THE PACIFIC: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Improving Labour Market Statistics to Reflect Climate Impact on Labour Market Outcomes in the Asia-Pacific Region through South-South Cooperation

Author's name: ILO Suva, ILO Bangkok

Institution: ILO, Tonga/Vanuatu NSO and Ministry of Employment/Labour, SPC

Countries involved: Pacific Island countries, in particular Tonga and Vanuatu

South-South Objective (s)

This initiative seeks to address a critical gap among Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS): the limited capacity to measure and respond to the labour market impacts of climate change. These countries experience recurring climate-related disruptions such as cyclones, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation, which significantly affect employment outcomes. However, without adequate data, these impacts remain underrepresented in policy decisions. This initiative responds by strengthening national labour market statistics systems to incorporate climate change indicators, enabling data-driven policymaking aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), also aligning with the 2030 Agenda's call for disaggregated, timely, and relevant data for sustainable development.

The SSTC collaboration mechanism aims at establishing partnerships from the Global South, as well as traditional funding partners, to improve the capacity of the Pacific Island Countries to assess the climate impact on the labour market and to facilitate evidence-based policy responses.

The initiative supports several peer learning and online knowledge-sharing sessions among academics and experts from different SIDS, in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC).

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The initiative's process has been highly participatory, involving national constituents, SPC, and ILO experts. Partners co-designed the project through consultation meetings and workshops, with shared responsibilities for knowledge sharing and report production. SPC's involvement as a regional technical hub ensures coherence, cross-country comparison, and regional capacity building. These concerted actions fostered strong ownership among stakeholders and enhanced alignment with national and regional policy frameworks.

A key strength of the initiative is its successful facilitation of cross-country knowledge transfer. Through the SIDS-to-SIDS modality, it connects countries facing similar climate and labour challenges, enabling them to exchange good practices, analytical tools, and policy insights. By learning from Tonga's data & jointly participating in peer-learning workshops, these countries benefit from regional synergies and avoid duplicating efforts. This collaboration reflects the spirit of South-South Cooperation, enabling transnational responses to development challenges that no single SIDS can address alone.

Although full quantitative outcomes will be available only upon completion of the project in 2025, early milestones include the development of analytical reports, guidance notes, and climate-integrated labour market tools for national use. These deliverables will support the incorporation of climate modules into future LFSs and feed into

national employment policies and SDG monitoring frameworks. The initiative also contributes to regional knowledge systems through a digital peer-learning platform hosted by SPC, reaching 11 ILO member states in the Pacific.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The project employs a multi-pronged, participatory methodology centered around South-South and SIDS-to-SIDS cooperation. It supports national statistical offices (NSOs) in Tonga and Vanuatu through technical assistance, capacity building, and peer-learning platforms coordinated with the Pacific Community (SPC). These efforts focus on analyzing existing Labour Force Surveys (LFS), developing climate-relevant statistical modules, conducting new surveys in underrepresented areas, and producing analytical reports. This approach promotes cross-country collaboration, local ownership, and institutional capacity development—all key factors in accelerating progress toward the SDGs. For example, Tonga's LFS data from 2018 and 2023 will be analyzed to assess the labour market effects of a recent climate disaster, showcasing how national data can inform climate-resilient employment policies.

Innovation

Innovation lies at the heart of the initiative. By integrating climate change dimensions into labour market statistics—traditionally treated separately—it introduces a novel analytical framework for Pacific SIDS. This enhances their competitive advantage by enabling targeted policy responses, attracting climate finance, and strengthening resilience planning. The use of existing statistical systems, augmented by innovative modules, ensures cost-effectiveness and scalability.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability is built into the initiative's design through institutional engagement, long-term partnerships, and capacity development. By embedding the work within national NSOs and linking it to policy cycles (e.g., the National Employment Policy in Vanuatu and Tonga, National Apprenticeship Policy in Tonga), the project ensures continued relevance. It also complements regional integration efforts under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the outcomes of the SIDS4 conference, supporting long-term systemic change.

Sustainability is promoted through long-term institutional engagement, inclusive design, tripartite partnerships, and continuous capacity building.

South-South Adaptability

The model is highly replicable across other SIDS and Global South countries. Conditions for replication include alignment with national development priorities, support from regional institutions, and availability of baseline labour statistics. The framework's flexibility allows adaptation to various geographic, economic, and institutional contexts, particularly in climate-vulnerable countries.

The initiative is adaptable to other countries of the Global South, especially among SIDS with similar characteristics. Active involvement of the NSOs from member states in supporting the implementation of the UNSDCF by producing evidence and critical labour market analytics with climate impacts is significant to ensure its adaptation to other countries, contexts, or regions. This project offers possibilities for widespread extension through its adaptable framework, scalable design, and emphasis on knowledge transfer through the creation of networks of experts. The initiative's inclusive approach, involving often excluded island countries and developing states, serves as a model for broad participation. To ensure successful adaptation to diverse countries or regions, key conditions include aligning with local priorities, engaging stakeholders at multiple levels, and providing mechanisms for capacity building and the systematic up-gradation of regional and local human resources of the NSOs and key partners such as SPC.

South-South Results

Key lessons learned highlight the central role of regional partnerships such as SPC in ensuring data harmonization. Future iterations should provide quantified indicators or case examples demonstrating how these partnerships

concretely improved policy coherence or data quality. Additionally, integrating statistical innovation into existing systems rather than building parallel structures enhances both cost-efficiency and adoption.

- Improved knowledge, expertise and capacities of DoLs', NSOs' staff and tripartite constituents through South-South exchange of experiences and good practices to engage effectively in contributing to UNSDCF through crucial labour market analytics of climate change impact.
- Enhanced peer learning and sharing platform through partnerships on labour market data and statistics: done by online learning and experience-sharing sessions engaging experts, academics, Think Tanks and relevant ILO specialists among the SIDS where the analytical reports, guidance and technical tools has been shared and discussed for joint peer learning.
- Establishing a robust South-South network of experts, statisticians, academics and researchers: among the selected countries through partnership with SPC by exchanging knowledge, experience, and expertise for sustained cooperation in analyzing and incorporating the climate impacts on the labour market. Improved knowledge sharing through South-South Cooperation, identifying areas of labour market statistics incorporating climate change effects.
- Two analytical reports on the impact of climate change in the labour market and employment outcomes in the Pacific region through analyzing data from the selected countries, as well as guidance notes and technical tools that will also facilitate peer-learning among these countries and other SIDS.

Contact details	Sonja Aholelei Programme Officer CO-SUVA aholelei@ilo.org Quentin Mathys Labour Statistician International Labour Organization mathys@ilo.org
Funding Sources	RBTC-SSTC budget managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department: <i>USD 200,000.00</i> Main funding source from the SSTC Partnerships HQ, with support from the PCCMHS project funding.

Materials and Web-links

- ILO news article: [Vanuatu prepares for its first stand-alone Labour Force Survey | International Labour Organization](#)
- [Local Fiji newspaper news article during ILO@50 Regional Conference, September 2025: Data not appreciated, says statistician - The Fiji Times](#)
- [Local Fiji radio news article during ILO@50 Regional Conference, September 2025: Collecting reliable data critical for decision making – FBC News](#)
- [Fiji Ministry of Employment news article on Day 2 of ILO@50 Regional Conference, September 2025: Day 2 of the Pacific Regional Employment Conference featured discussions on Workforce Resilience & Climate Change Adaption through South-South and Triangular Cooperation \(SSTC\). Delegates shared experiences and strategies on how regional collaboration can strengthen resilience, promote decent work and support Pacific communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change. #FijiNews #fijiemployment... - Fiji Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations | Facebook](#)
- ILO news article: [ILO marks 50-years of engagement with Pacific Island countries | International Labour Organization](#)
- Guidance manual for the ILO-SPC Climate Change module
- Draft paper with analysis of Labour Force Survey Data from Tonga to Assess Labour Market Impact of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha’apai Eruption and Related Disaster, to be finalized
- Implementation reports on LFS from Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics, forthcoming.



Photos taken at training organized by ILO, in collaboration with SPC, in Port Vila in May 2025 to support Vanuatu in conducting their first-ever LFS, which will include a climate change module and will facilitate cross-country knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences

► ASIA & THE PACIFIC: South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: EIIP Inter-regional Technical Forum for Asia-Pacific and Arab States for South-South Experience Sharing (Bangladesh)

Author's name: ILO New Delhi, ILO Regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific and Arab States

Countries involved: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

South-South Objective (s)

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals and Targets: SDG 8 Decent Work, Target 8.5 Full and productive employment and SDG 13 Climate Action, Target 13.2 Integrate climate measures into policies and Target 13b Capacity building. Project period March 2024–April 2025.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific and the Arab States regions face mounting challenges from climate change, conflict, and economic downturns, resulting in job losses, fragile livelihoods, and weakened resilience. The increasing frequency and impact of natural disasters, conflict-induced displacements, and environmental degradation underscore the urgent needs for employment creation, infrastructure recovery, and climate adaptation. Traditional recovery models often overlook employment-intensive approaches that could simultaneously address resilience and create decent jobs. From a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) perspective, the Forum aimed to foster peer-to-peer learning and collaboration between countries facing shared challenges of climate change, crises, and employment. The Forum responded to these needs by promoting knowledge exchange on Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP) and green job creation through South-South learning, fostering capacity to integrate employment, crisis recovery, and environmental resilience into national policies and public works programs.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The EIIP Inter-regional Technical Forum brought together decision-makers and officials from Ministries of Labour, Technical Line Ministries in charge of green and crisis-related work, Social Partners, Implementing Partners and ILO officials from 19 countries covering Asia-Pacific and the Arab States (listed above). The initiative aimed to strengthen their capacities to mainstream employment-intensive approaches into climate adaptation, crisis recovery and green works policies and National Public Works programmes, projects and training programmes through peer learning and South-South Cooperation (SSTC), and to create a momentum among these countries to continue collaborating and sharing their experiences in the context of crisis response and green recovery.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The approach combined technical sessions, case study exchanges, field visits, experience sharing, networking and use of ILOITC eCampus. The Forum was organized around three key themes: (1) Understanding EIIP concepts and application in green jobs and crisis contexts, (2) Learning from good practices and innovations, and (3) Developing a collaborative action plan for advancing EIIP approaches nationally and regionally. The process was highly participatory. Peer learning exercises, group discussions, and interactive workshops allowed participants to identify good practices, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. Officials from India shared lessons from large-scale national programs like MGNREGA and PMGSY, while Arab States counterparts reflected on post-conflict and refugee crisis responses using EIIP.

Innovation

EIIP empowers countries to co-develop innovative, employment-centred solutions that enhance resilience, promote social justice, and build national capacities. There is a vast amount of experience and knowledge available amongst participating countries and therefore a huge scope for cross learning across the two regions. This was the first-ever inter-regional knowledge sharing forum for Asia-Pacific and the Arab States on employment-intensive investment programmes (EIIP). The innovation of the initiative lies in its inter-regional, cross-crisis focus — bringing together key institutions and lessons from conflict, disaster, and climate adaptation contexts — and positioning employment-intensive methods as core to job-rich resilience-building country-owned strategies, policies, and training.

South-South Sustainability

The initiative was designed with sustainability in mind. It fostered institutional linkages, encouraged the integration of EIIP into national systems as an integrated approach beyond donor-driven projects, recognizing the importance of training and developing local expertise to ensure long-term success in the adoption of new technologies, policies, and practices. Country delegations identified concrete mechanisms for continued peer learning. ILO was tasked to facilitate further knowledge exchange and bilateral meetings amongst countries and continue to carry out research, developing technical guidelines and collating and sharing of best practices. The benefit of in-person meetings and networking was acknowledged, and it was suggested that the regional forum should become a recurring event.

South-South Adaptability

The SSTC principles and EIIP approaches dovetail neatly in that EIIP strategies include using local skills and expertise through participative projects that connect communities, employers and government to build sustainable infrastructure, which bolsters local economies and long-term employment. An SSTC approach applied in tandem with EIIP activities can be instrumental in supporting employment generation and the local economic development of countries in the Global South. Replication is highly feasible. The SSTC model can be adapted for other regions or countries confronting complex crises and seeking job-rich, climate-resilient recovery paths. Successful replication depends on political buy-in, technical capacity, and modest resources to facilitate exchange and technical support.

South-South Results

Key outcomes included:

- 80 participants across the two regions enhanced their understanding of EIIP and its application to climate resilience and crisis recovery and mainstreaming into national public works and employment programmes.
- Good practices and innovations from both regions were collected and shared across the network, including research into indigenous materials for construction, e.g., the use of bamboo in construction, recycling of construction and waste plastic for road construction, etc.
- Country-specific action plans and regional roadmaps for EIIP mainstreaming were developed. Participants committed to further collaboration through identified roadmaps, with action points such as mainstreaming EIIP approaches into national policies, creating training modules, and promoting regional cooperation.
- Country delegations identified concrete mechanisms for continued peer learning, including through digital platforms and agreed to follow up bilaterally on issues of common interest, e.g. on EIIP application for refugee management, community contracting, sharing of ICT tools to enhance planning and monitoring of PEPs/PWPs, comparing of technical guidelines, institutional arrangements and capacity building for greater impact and sustainability of interventions.
- Commitments were made to pursue funding strategies for EIIP expansion through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), including organising regular EIIP SSTC meetings.
- South-South peer learning accelerates knowledge transfer and inspires policy innovation and the added benefit of in-person meeting and networking was acknowledged.
- The power of cross-regional collaboration: recognizing that despite geographical and cultural differences, regions such as the Asia Pacific and the Arab States can benefit from shared knowledge, fostering

innovative approaches to issues like sustainability, climate change, and technology integration. The peer learning highlighted not only diverse applications but also the shared value of inclusive, labour-based infrastructure development.

- Crisis and climate responses are more effective and sustainable when employment is deliberately integrated, and employment must be central early on in any crisis response.
- Continued regional and inter-regional cooperation is crucial. It is essential to strengthen partnerships with several national, local, and international partners involved in crisis response and mitigation, through joint programming and resource mobilization for collective outcomes.

Contact details	Tomas Stenstrom Senior EIIP Specialist ILO, New Delhi stenstrom@ilo.org
Funding Sources	ILO PARTNERSHIPS-SSTC, EMPINVEST, ROAP, ROAS, ITC-ILO
Materials and Web-links	ILO PARTNERSHIPS South-South Platform: https://southsouthpoint.net/2025/04/14/strengthening-regional-partnerships-through-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-eiip-forum-unites-asia-and-arab-states/ ILO EIIP Website: Employment-intensive Investment Programme Inter-regional forum for Asia and the Arab States International Labour Organization • Session Input Papers and Briefs (4) • EIIP SSTC Peer Learning Guide • Forum Proceedings

► EUROPE & CIS Title of South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: Promotion a gender-responsive just transition through knowledge-sharing and peer learning for COP29 (Azerbaijan) & COP30 (Brazil)

Author's name: Cristina Martinez, Anastasiia Pavlova, ILO

Institution: ILO – DWT/CO Moscow

Countries involved: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, with international partners from the United Kingdom, China, Arab States, Brazil, and the Santiago Network.

South-South Objective (s)

The initiative intended to strengthen cooperation among Europe and Central Asia countries and partners from the Global South to respond to climate change challenges. It aimed to promote gender-responsive just transition policies, increase resilience, and enhance decent work opportunities by sharing knowledge and building capacity on renewable energy, green jobs, and sustainable enterprise development.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The cooperation connected ministries of labour, ecology, and economy, employers' and workers' organizations, local communities, academia, and social dialogue institutions across the region. International partners such as the UK (Glasgow Dialogue), China (BRI low-carbon energy development), Brazil (Amazon bioeconomy), Arab States, and the Santiago Network participated. They interacted through regional workshops, peer-learning platforms, and technical working groups facilitated by the ILO offices in Moscow and Budapest.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The project used peer learning and scenario analysis as its main methodologies. Countries shared experiences, discussed energy transition and just transition scenarios, and validated recommendations in participatory workshops. Social dialogue institutions and tripartite committees exchanged good practices and challenges, which created an inclusive peer-to-peer process and strengthened regional solidarity.

Innovation

The initiative introduced a regional enterprise and just transition network that linked climate action with decent work and gender equality. It innovated by combining knowledge-sharing on green jobs, renewable energy, and water ecosystems with international experiences such as the Amazon bioeconomy and China's BRI. The integration of gender-responsive analysis into just transition planning also made the practice relevant for broader contexts.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was ensured by embedding the practice within ILO's regional strategy, the Just Transition Action Plan (2024–2025), and ongoing COP processes. Regional workshops, technical groups, and integration into national social dialogue mechanisms allowed the cooperation to last beyond individual activities. The approach aligned with long-term UNSDCF commitments of participating countries.

South-South Adaptability

The practice could be adapted in other regions where countries faced similar climate and labour challenges. Conditions included political commitment to a just transition, functioning social dialogue institutions, and the willingness of partners to share knowledge. The triangular modality also allowed flexibility to replicate the model in Asia, Latin America, or Africa.

South-South Results

- Raised awareness and capacity of national constituents on just transition and gender equality.
- Developed and validated comparative studies and recommendations on green jobs and energy transition in 2–3 countries.
- Promoted regional knowledge-sharing through a major workshop before COP29 in Baku and continuous engagement towards COP30 in Brazil.
- Enhanced cooperation between European and Central Asian countries and international partners such as the UK, China, Brazil, and the Santiago Network.
- Strengthened institutional capacity of employers' and workers' organizations in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Contact details	Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARTNERSHIPS) partnerships@ilo.org www.ilo.org/partnerships ILO DWT/CO-Moscow https://www.ilo.org/ilo-office-eastern-europe-and-central-asia
Funding Sources	SSTC-RBTC funds managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department
Materials and Web-links	https://southsouthpoint.net/2024/07/09/knowledge-sharing-and-peer-learning-under-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-towards-cop29-in-baku-azerbaijan/ https://southsouthpoint.net/2024/07/25/promoting-a-gender-responsive-just-transition-through-knowledge-sharing-and-peer-learning-under-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-sstc-for-cop29-azerbaijan-and-cop30-brazil/ https://southsouthpoint.net/2024/07/31/future-leaders-in-the-world-of-work-south-south-university-tackle-green-jobs-and-climate-change-in-south-south-cooperation-a-roadmap-to-cop29-and-a-bridge-to-cop30/ https://southsouthpoint.net/2024/08/27/tripartite-constituents-and-national-stakeholders-are-getting-prepared-for-cop29-and-extensively-discussing-the-just-energy-transition-agenda/ 

► EUROPE & CIS Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Peer-to-peer mechanisms and triangular cooperation elevated the employment dimensions of Just Transition discussions in CEE

Author's name: Daniela Zampini, Anastasiia Pavlova

Institution: ILO – DWT/CO Budapest, ILO PARTNERSHIPS

Countries involved: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, with participation of EU member States

South-South Objective (s)

The initiative intended to strengthen the employment dimension of just transition debates in Western Balkan non-EU countries. It aimed to support ministries in charge of labour, social partners, and other institutions in playing a stronger role in the NDC frameworks and climate policy negotiations, so that job creation, social protection, and labour market policies can be integrated into just transition strategies.

South-South Cooperation objectives

The cooperation brought together ministries, employers' and workers' organizations, public employment services, SMEs, statistical offices, and value chain actors from the Western Balkans economies. Peer learning happened especially between North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. Triangular cooperation was developed with EU institutions and social partner organizations from the EU.

Effectiveness of the South-South/ peer learning methodological approach

The methodology relied on small peer-to-peer working groups for the formulation of position papers, research and analysis, joint workshops, and regional learning events. Knowledge-sharing on green jobs definitions, national diagnostics, and employment implications of climate policies created a shared understanding. Peer review and validation processes made the approach participatory, while triangular exchanges with EU actors enriched the discussions by highlighting good practices and potential stumbling blocks with respect to the accession process.

Innovation

The initiative introduced employment-focused diagnostics and other assessments and reviews to strengthen the position of social partners and ministries in charge of labour in just transition debates, NDC frameworks, and climate policy negotiations. These debates were often dominated only by environmental perspectives. Empowered with new evidence and a better understanding of the linkages between decent work and climate policies, ministries in charge of labour and social partners in North Macedonia and Montenegro were invited to join the existing working groups, led by ministries in charge of environment and energy, with responsibility for NDC and climate negotiations. Additionally, the initiative innovated by mapping the E-waste sector in selected countries. These sectoral pilots demonstrated how just transition policies could be linked with value chains and SME support.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was ensured by anchoring the practice within EU accession processes (such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and joint programmes with other entities, such as GIZ, in North Macedonia and Montenegro. Capacity building of social partners and ministries in charge of labour enables their active participation in the working groups established by the ministries of energy and environment, allowing the practice to continue beyond the funding period.

South-South Adaptability

The good practice could be extended to other EU accession countries or regions facing similar gaps in employment-oriented climate strategies. The necessary conditions included functioning social dialogue mechanisms, institutional readiness to engage in climate negotiations, and regional value chain cooperation (as with E-waste). The triangular modality with EU partners made it adaptable to other regions with strong EU trade linkages.

South-South Results

- Created peer-learning mechanisms among Western Balkan economies and triangular cooperation with EU member States.
- Piloted green employment diagnostics.
- Strengthened the role of social partners in climate negotiations, including with regard to the NDC framework.
- Mapped E-waste value chains in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, laying foundations for regional job-creating partnerships.
- Enabled cross-country learning and set up a nucleus for a sub-regional network of practitioners on Just Transition.

Contact details	Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARTNERSHIPS) – partnerships@ilo.org – www.ilo.org/partnerships ILO DWT/CO-Budapest https://www.ilo.org/regions-and-countries/europe-and-central-asia/ilo-office-central-and-eastern-europe A just transition that works for business is up for discussion in the Western Balkans International Labour Organization
Funding Sources	SSTC-RBTC funds, managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department, which catalyzed additional development cooperation funding.
Materials and Web-links.	 Photo @ILO: Peer Learning Activity led by ILO Budapest

► GLOBAL: South-South and triangular cooperation good practice: BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Country Studies: Brazil, China & South Africa

Author's name: ILO PARTERSHIPS and ILO ENTERPRISES

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Countries involved: Brazil, China and South Africa

South-South Objective (s)

The initiative aims to document and promote policies, programmes and practices that strengthen the nexus between productivity growth and decent work in BRICS countries. It responds to the shared challenge of boosting inclusive, sustainable economic growth while ensuring quality jobs, better working conditions, and social justice. By developing a knowledge base and policy recommendations, the initiative supports BRICS in designing systemic approaches that integrate macroeconomic, sectoral and enterprise-level drivers of productivity and decent work.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work initiative is a joint effort led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and BRICS labour ministries to strengthen the link between productivity and decent work through research, dialogue, and peer learning.

It builds on the outcomes of the 9th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (Durban, 2023), where the ministers endorsed a platform for South-South cooperation on productivity and decent work, and on Brazil's 2025 BRICS Presidency theme, "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."

The initiative mobilizes research teams from Brazil, China, and South Africa, each mapping their national productivity ecosystems—policies, institutions, and practices—to identify how inclusive productivity growth can be aligned with social justice and sustainable development.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

The studies take a common Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work lens to enable comparative learning across the BRICS. This horizontal approach allows for wider participation of multiple stakeholders—governments, employers, workers, academia—at macro, meso, and micro levels. Peer-to-peer engagement occurs through shared methodologies, national consultations, and a high-level BRICS seminar for exchanging findings and best practices. The process enhances collective ownership and reinforces South-South learning by embedding national realities into a common analytical framework.

Innovation

The initiative introduces a systemic, ecosystem-based approach that integrates productivity and decent work across three levels: enterprise, sector, and macroeconomic policy. It is innovative in linking productivity growth with social dialogue, labour standards, and structural transformation, rather than treating them separately. By combining research with policy dialogue, it generates actionable recommendations tailored to each country while allowing cross-country comparability. The approach emphasizes inclusiveness, coherence between economic and social policies, and the use of productivity data for evidence-based reforms.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability is ensured through institutional ownership by BRICS governments and research institutions, alignment with national priorities, and embedding in the emerging BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Platform. The platform will continue knowledge-sharing beyond the studies, supporting ongoing peer learning, policy coherence, and dialogue among social partners. The integration of research findings into BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' processes will strengthen political commitment.

Brazil's study shows that productivity growth is constrained by informality, uneven technological adoption, and regional inequality. Yet, the country's National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, along with digitalization strategies and skills training for MSMEs, has shown progress. The study highlights social dialogue, industrial policy coherence, and green jobs initiatives as key levers for inclusive productivity growth.

China's research focuses on the transition from quantity-driven to quality-driven growth. The country's success in combining technological upgrading, human capital investment, and industrial diversification offers valuable lessons for other BRICS. However, challenges remain in addressing labour market segmentation and ensuring that productivity gains translate into higher job quality and social protection.

South Africa's report identifies persistent productivity and employment challenges linked to inequality, infrastructure deficits, and skills mismatches. Despite this, its strong institutional and legal frameworks—such as the Labour Relations Act, National Development Plan, and social dialogue mechanisms—provide a solid foundation. The study emphasizes coordinated action among government, employers, and workers to implement productivity-enhancing and job-creating reforms through South-South partnerships.

Across all three countries, findings underline that productivity and decent work must evolve together—requiring ecosystem-wide approaches that integrate economic, social, and technological dimensions. The studies provide evidence-based recommendations and a comparative framework for peer learning under the emerging BRICS Productivity Ecosystems Platform.

South-South Adaptability

The approach is adaptable to other regional or national contexts, especially the rest of the BRICS members, where productivity and decent work are central to development goals. Its flexible, demand-driven methodology—identifying trends, analysing barriers, and co-designing policy solutions—allows adaptation across different economies. Conditions for transferability include strong stakeholder engagement, government commitment, functioning social dialogue, and reliable productivity data systems. The ecosystem lens ensures that lessons learned in BRICS can be tailored and scaled to other regions, including Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

South-South Results

Some of the results include: a) the establishment of the first evidence base on productivity–decent work linkages across BRICS. Three country studies (Brazil, China, South Africa) identifying good practices and policy recommendations. Strengthened South-South cooperation through joint research and dialogue; b) the preparation for the creation of the BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Platform as a permanent knowledge-sharing mechanism. c) The support to strengthened institutional cooperation among labour ministries, national research institutions, and the ILO, including peer review workshops and policy dialogues. d) Enhanced capacity for evidence-based policymaking, particularly in skills development, MSME productivity, digital transformation, and social protection. Finally, the project contributed to the drafting of elements for the BRICS Declaration (2025) on inclusive and sustainable governance, with productivity ecosystems, and South-South and triangular cooperation recognized as a strategic pillar for joint action.

Contact details	ILO PARTNERSHIPS, ILO ENTERPRISES, ILO Pretoria, ILO Brasilia, ILO Beijing, ITCILO
Funding Sources	RBTC-SSTC (Contribution from ILO's regular budget)
Materials and Web-links	BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work: Internal Peer Review Workshop – South-South Meeting Point Decent Work and Productivity in the BRICS: the Case of Brazil – South-South Meeting Point BRICS Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Country Studies: an analysis from China – South-South Meeting Point BRICS & Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work: The Case of South Africa – South-South Meeting Point  

► GLOBAL South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Future Leaders for the World of Work – South-South University (FLSSU) and BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS “Emerging Technologies and New Frontiers for Employment for Just Transitions” Knowledge-Sharing Event during BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting (LEMM)

Author’s name: ILO International Training Center. ILO Multilateral Cooperation and Partnerships Department: Anita Amorim, Feixia Li, Joel Alcocer & Carlotta Clivio

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

Countries involved: BRICS+ countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates)

South-South Objective (s)

Within the framework of the “*Future of Work*” South-South and Triangular Cooperation University Network, the activities mentioned herewith had two distinct, yet interrelated, South-South objectives.

The FLSSU empowers young leaders from BRICS+ and the Global South to co-create knowledge, exchange experiences, and devise proposals on the future of work. It responds to urgent challenges of youth unemployment, inequalities, climate change, and digital transformation by fostering structured South-South learning. Through training, foresight methodologies, and peer-to-peer collaboration, participants develop innovative solutions and recommendations for major UN meetings, seeing the involvement of the ILO – e.g., the UN Summit of the Future for 2024, and the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025.

The BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event instead brings together representatives from ministries of agriculture and just transitions, international development practitioners (e.g., consultants, independent researchers) and academics (e.g., university-affiliated researchers, associate professors, full professors) from the Global South, with particular attention paid to BRICS+ countries. Together, invited stakeholders exchanged good practices, knowledge, experiences, and methodologies applied in (and applicable to) the Global South to improve the livelihoods and create employment opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized populations, with a special focus on innovative and digital solutions reshaping rural economies. In 2025, this latter event was organized for participants to meet with BRICS LEMM representatives at the closing of their learning journey.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

Led by ITCILO (Turin School of Development, DEVINVEST Programme) in collaboration with the ILO Partnerships Department, both initiatives engage universities, social partners, and research institutions from BRICS+ countries. Support came from ITCILO’s Learning Innovation Programme, CATALYST Initiative, and the INTEGRŌ global competence facility.

For FLSSU, the first edition (2024) involved 108 participants from 15 Global South countries, supported by expert contributions from ILO HQ, South Centre, and academic partners, reinforcing SSTC and South-South youth dialogue. The second edition (2025) reached 31 participants from 7 countries, with supported contributions

from the ITCILO, a visit to ILO HQ, and academic partners in preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

For the BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event, the 2025 edition brought together 20 participants with support from ILO PARTNERSHIPS and with design and facilitation from ILO HQ, ILO Brazil and the ITCILO Development Investment (DEVINVEST) Programme.

Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach

Both the FLSSU and the BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event applied the Turin Learning Approach based on relevance, quality, and impact.

For the FLSSU, peer-to-peer learning was fostered through project-based group work, foresight “envisioning sessions,” and collaborative SSTC project design. The methodology combined experiential, collaborative and mentoring-based learning, ensuring youth voices shaped outputs such as policy recommendations and SSTC project proposals. A study visit to ILO Geneva (hosted for both editions of FLSSU, 2024–2025) deepened exchanges with UN experts, while the blended format (webinars, residential training, coaching) ensured sustained engagement and participatory ownership.

For the BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event, the 3-day event was entirely designed around discussion questions each building upon the previous one, guiding participants onto a learning journey from introduction, exploration and conclusions. The knowledge produced was co-created, guaranteeing shared ownership of it amongst participants. Key findings on fostering just transitions and digital solutions reshaping rural economies were shared with leaders of the BRICS LEMM from ILO HQ, the Ministry of Labour and Employment of Brazil, and individual government delegations.

Innovation

The FLSSU is the first global South-South University network on the future of work. It innovatively combines academic training, foresight tools, and SSTC project design into a youth-led policy process. The curriculum integrated cutting-edge topics—emerging technologies, inclusion, climate change, data, supply chains, and demographic transitions—framed through SSTC lenses. Students produced forward-looking “Fundamental Considerations” for ILO and UN policy fora. The initiative links capacity development with concrete contributions to global governance debates, offering a replicable model of structured youth engagement in multilateralism.

The BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event enabled participants to end the three-day Knowledge-Sharing Event to engender processes for the creation of human-centred, technologically-driven initiatives favouring rural economies; (b) engaged participants in a thorough exploration of their imagined future for just transitions; of factors identified as disruptive to said development; and of potential solutions existing; (d) motivated participants to create South-South twinning arrangements in conclusion to the Event or in its aftermath to bring about the employment changes they wish to see in their respective rural economies.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability is ensured through the establishment of the “Future of Work” South-South and Triangular Cooperation University Network, with its secretariat hosted at ITCILO Turin School of Development. The network offers yearly flagship programmes, either for youth (FLSSU) or for faculty (BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event), complemented through webinars, online platforms, and integration into ILO’s Global Coalition for Social Justice. Embedding the initiative within BRICS+ and ILO strategic frameworks guarantees political backing, institutional ownership, and continuity. Universities engaged as knowledge partners will continue research, training, and youth and faculty dialogue on decent work and social justice

South-South Adaptability

The approach is adaptable to other regional or national contexts, especially the rest of the BRICS members, where productivity and decent work are central to development goals. Its flexible, demand-driven methodology—identifying trends, analysing barriers, and co-designing policy solutions—allows adaptation across different

economies. Conditions for transferability include strong stakeholder engagement, government commitment, functioning social dialogue, and reliable productivity data systems. The ecosystem lens ensures that lessons learned in BRICS can be tailored and scaled to other regions, including Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

South-South Results

Established the Future of Work South-South University Network. For FLSSU, 108 youth leaders from 15 countries (2024) and 31 from 7 countries (2025) trained in Turin, Geneva, and online. Produced a total of 16 SSTC project proposals and 6 “Fundamental Considerations” policy papers feeding into ILO and UN Summit of the Future (2024) and the Second World Summit for Social Development (2025). Strengthened youth engagement in BRICS+ social dialogue and ILO’s Global Coalition for Social Justice. Enhanced inter-university and South-South collaboration across BRICS+ nations.

For the BRICS DEVTECH/PARTNERSHIPS Knowledge-Sharing Event, 5 distinct proposals for twinning arrangements emerged from the audience of invited stakeholders, bringing together Brazil with China, UN agencies operating in Latin America (e.g., Panama, Mexico) with innovative private sector enterprises active in Brazil and Ecuador, and South Africa, Panama and Egypt.

Contact details	Joel Alcocer Programme Manager (DEVINVEST, ITCILO), Anita Amorim Head ESPU, ILO Organization: International Training Centre of the ILO, ILO Email: future.leaders@itcilo.org; devinvest@itcilo.org; amorim@ilo.org
Funding Sources	ILO Regular Budget contribution for SSTC
Materials and Web-links	Website: https://www.itcilo.org/courses/future-leaders-world-work 

► GLOBAL of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: South-South Collaboration on Climate Change, Human Mobility and Just Transitions (Caribbean–Pacific SIDS Cooperation)

Author's name: ITC-ILO Training Center

Institution: International Labour Organization (ILO)

Countries involved: Caribbean Island States, Pacific Island States (SIDS-SIDS cooperation)

South-South Objective (s)

This initiative responded to the urgent challenge of climate-induced human mobility in vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It aimed to strengthen resilience, ensure decent work, and embed just transition principles into climate and migration policies. By fostering inter-regional cooperation, the project enhanced knowledge, developed action plans, and created a community of practice among tripartite constituents in the Caribbean and Pacific. The ultimate goal was to reduce vulnerabilities, promote fair migration governance, and ensure no one was left behind in the transition to climate-resilient economies. Aligned with the 2025 SIDS–SIDS Emerging Practices report, this initiative sought to operationalize interregional learning between Caribbean and Pacific SIDS through the joint development of regional climate mobility frameworks. The objective was to pilot policy coherence across migration, labour, and climate portfolios, resulting in at least three joint regional or national action plans by 2025.

South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives

The initiative was co-led by ITCILO's SPGT and SEE programmes in coordination with ILO field specialists on migration and just transition. Partners included CARICOM, Pacific governments, ILO regional offices, and the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) Programme. Knowledge-sharing built on previous SSTC exchanges between CARICOM and ECOWAS, expanding to SIDS. Through joint workshops, online clinics, and knowledge platforms, Pacific and Caribbean tripartite constituents collaborated to design policies, action plans, and peer-to-peer exchanges, reinforcing SSTC as a mechanism for shared learning and joint advocacy in global fora. Building on mechanisms identified in the 2025 Emerging Practices report, cooperation was facilitated through the South-South Meeting Point digital hub and the creation of interregional technical working groups on climate mobility and just transition. These platforms enabled real-time exchange of both scientific data and traditional knowledge, ensuring policy and practice were locally grounded yet regionally coherent.

Effectiveness of the South-South/ peer learning methodological approach

The methodology integrated peer-to-peer exchanges, South-South learning clinics, and high-level knowledge-sharing sessions. Constituents jointly identified priorities, co-designed action plans, and validated outputs through interactive workshops and online platforms. A community of practice on climate-induced mobility was launched, supported by research and case studies. The approach ensured inclusivity by engaging governments, employers, workers, and civil society, with a strong emphasis on gender-sensitive perspectives. This participatory design strengthened ownership, ensured relevance to SIDS realities, and enabled effective horizontal learning across regions with similar vulnerabilities. In line with the 2025 report's emphasis on digital transformation in SSTC, the approach combined in-person and virtual peer learning through the South-South Meeting Point platform, enabling

continuous engagement across time zones. Effectiveness was measured through post-exchange surveys, policy tracking dashboards, and the co-creation of South-South Practice Briefs that captured replicable lessons.

Innovation

This was the first SIDS-to-SIDS South-South initiative explicitly addressing the nexus of climate change, migration, and just transition. It innovated by linking climate-induced mobility with decent work policies, including fair recruitment, labour rights, entrepreneurship, and women's engagement. The approach moved beyond crisis response, positioning mobility as an opportunity for resilience and sustainable development. By integrating Just Transition Guidelines with migration governance, the initiative pioneered a holistic model that combined adaptation strategies, social justice, and decent work in contexts of climate displacement and planned relocation. Echoing the 2025 Emerging Practices findings, innovation lay in linking just transition principles with local adaptation knowledge. The initiative introduced youth-led innovation labs on climate-resilient livelihoods and piloted participatory relocation planning tools co-designed with affected communities, bridging social dialogue and local empowerment.

South-South Sustainability

Sustainability was embedded through the creation of a Community of Practice on Climate Mobility and Just Transition by 2025, linking Caribbean and Pacific tripartite constituents. Institutional anchoring via CARICOM, PCCMHS, and ILO ensured continuity, while national action plans provided pathways for longer-term policy integration. Alignment with ILO's Priority Action Programme on Just Transition and global agendas (SDGs, Paris Agreement) ensured continued support. Political buy-in, shared vulnerabilities, and the pooling of resources among SIDS strengthened ownership and ensured that cooperation continued beyond project funding. As emphasized in the 2025 report, sustainability was reinforced through institutional embedding of climate-mobility frameworks in national development and NDC strategies. Ongoing collaboration with CARICOM and the Pacific Community (SPC) ensured continuity, while resource mobilization through regional adaptation funds and monitoring via the South-South Climate Knowledge Hub provided a foundation for long-term impact.

South-South Adaptability

The model can be adapted to other climate-vulnerable regions such as coastal Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. Its flexibility lies in combining research, policy dialogue, and community-building through SSTC platforms. Key conditions for adaptation include: government commitment, social partner engagement, access to climate-migration data, and alignment with just transition strategies. The thematic tracks (labour migration agreements, fair recruitment, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship for displaced persons) can be tailored to diverse contexts. By building regional communities of practice, the initiative's lessons can be scaled globally. Following the adaptability guidance of the 2025 SIDS-SIDS report, the model integrates a training-of-trainers approach, enabling replication in coastal Africa and South Asia. Through partnerships with IOM, UNDP, and FAO, the initiative's digital tools and policy templates are shared via the South-South Meeting Point, promoting cross-regional uptake.

South-South Results

The initiative strengthened Caribbean-Pacific dialogue on climate change, mobility, and just transition. It launched peer-learning workshops and online knowledge-sharing platforms (2024–2025), and developed national and regional action plans on climate-induced mobility with a gender focus. A Community of Practice on climate-induced migration was created by 2025. The initiative disseminated good practices and policy recommendations through high-level events and global outreach. By late 2025, the initiative had engaged at least eight SIDS governments and 60 tripartite representatives in policy dialogues. Results included the integration of climate mobility into national labour strategies in three pilot countries, gender-responsive policy recommendations, and the establishment of a regional online repository of just transition practices hosted by the South-South Meeting Point.

Contact details	Michela Albertazzi , ITC-ILO Anita Amorim , ILO PARTNERSHIPS Email: m.albertazzi@itcilo.org; partnerships@ilo.org
Funding Sources	RBTC-SSTC managed by ILO Emerging, Special and South-South Unit of ILO PARTNERSHIPS department
Materials and Web-links	Report: Emerging practices in climate change, human mobility and a just transition: a South-South perspective – South-South Meeting Point  

Contact details:
Emerging and South-South
Partnerships Unit (ESPU)
PARTNERSHIPS Department

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

T: +41 795931355
E: partnerships@ilo.org