Political and technical challenges in evaluating South-South Cooperation

Silvia López Cabana

Conference on South-South Cooperation

New Delhi, India. March 11th
Overview: South-South Cooperation in the International Fora

Source: Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2015
The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

- 22 Countries
  - 19 Latin America
  - 3 Iberian Peninsula
- Regional political fora
- Since 1991, 25th presidential summits
- The Secretariat began operating in 2005

Core Activities:
  - Summits support
  - Boost Regional Cooperation Programs.

Highlighting the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of SSC (PIFCSS)
The Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America

- 8 editions since 2007
- Systematizes the SSC of the Region
- Concepts & variables defined by the countries
- Based on the information provided by the countries
- Currently implementing the SIDICSS, an online registration platform
The countries register in the system their own information
- They validate the partners’ information (crosscheck process between the countries)
- Quality information
- Information available for the countries
- Hosted in SEGIB

SIDICSS: The Ibero-American Integrated Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
SIDICSS: The Ibero-American Integrated Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Generates graphic resources
SIDICSS: The Ibero-American Integrated Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Cooperation with other developing regions
What does it include?

Technical Cooperation

- Capacity Building
- Knowledge exchange
- Regional projects
- Scientific cooperation
- Scholarships
Contents of the Report

2 Blocks

Heads of Ibero-American Cooperation

South-South Cooperation systematization

4 Chapters

CHAPTER I
Political reflection about SSC in Ibero-America.

CHAPTER II
Bilateral HSSC

CHAPTER III
Triangular SSC

CHAPTER IV
Regional HSSC

3 Modalities
Some data

PROVIDERS
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

90%

576 Projects

14 provider countries
Some data

RECIPIENTS
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

52%

19 recipient countries

576 Projects

El Salvador
Bolivia
Ecuador
Uruguay
Peru
Cuba
Colombia
Mexico
Argentina
Costa Rica
Honduras
Paraguay
Nicaragua
Dominican Rep.
Guatemala
Venezuela
Chile
Panama
Brazil
Main actors: the countries.
Two levels: Political and Technical.
Technical Work and Political consensus
What to evaluate?

**Political decision**

- Desirable

**Technical work**

- Feasible

- Lack of data
  - Political willingness
  - Technical capacities at the country level
Evolution of records on Bilateral SSC in the region

It’s not a decrease on SSC but methodological improvement.

Data quality improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evolution of records of Triangular Cooperation in the region

Qualitative analysis in SSC in the Report

- Not project evaluation
- How the principles of SSC are reflected
- Articulation of the initiatives
- Participation of the partners
E.g. Is Triangular Cooperation demand-driven?

- Identified 6 different ways → 2 more representative
- **86.9%** Projects initiated by the request of the recipient

Source: Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2015
E.g. is South-South Cooperation horizontal?

- Modest progress analyzing how countries get involved in the initiatives

**Participation by the recipient in the phases of Triangular Cooperation Projects**

- **80%** Identification
- **90%** Formulation & Negotiation
- **100%** Implementation
- **71%** Follow-up & Evaluation

Source: Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2015
Preliminary analysis

576 PROJECTS

Health & Education

Inequality

Inclusive societies, justice for all, effective institutions

Food security & Agriculture

Economic Growth & Industrialization
Contributions and challenges of the Report

- Improve national information systems
- Worldwide and regional visibility to the SSC
- Boosted political debates within LAC
- Important input for SSC Research
- Technical quality
  - Quantification of SSC
  - Information available
  - Visibility

...POTENTIALITY FOR A GLOBAL SSC REPORT?
Thank you

Silvia López Cabana
Researcher and Data Analyst. Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation Area
consultora.slopez@segib.org

www.cooperacionsursur.org

www.segib.org