

Sustainability Initiative of South-South Cooperation and East Africa Countries

Ali Salum Haji*

Abstract: This paper discusses the impact of South-South Cooperation in African Countries in the matter of development in sectors of education, digital economy and opportunity for health cooperation. South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration and exchange among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. Apart from examples of the positive effects of South-South and East-South collaboration on several aspects of African development, the studies illustrate the achievements of some East African nations. Some case studies highlight the existing cooperation between East African countries and South-South cooperation countries such as Tanzania and Brazil cooperation with the ILO, Kenya and India and Uganda and China.

Keywords: South-South Cooperation, East Africa, development assistance.

Introduction

The value of South-South Cooperation (SSC) is that it encourages nations to find their own solutions to development issues rather than waiting for outside help. SSC has promoted a large number of knowledge and expertise exchanges through programmes, projects and initiatives that have helped solve specific problems in the countries of the Global South. The global development landscape has fundamentally changed

allowing for new forms of partnership and cooperation to flourish. Traditionally aid flowed from the developed North to the developing South. Now developing countries are building economic and other cooperation relationships with each other at an unprecedented rate. South-South Cooperation represents the exchange of knowledge and resources between governments, organisations and individuals in developing countries or those from what is known as the Global South (UNDP, 2009). This

* Assistance Inspector, Immigration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs Tanzania

may be based on individual or shared development objectives. North-South-South Cooperation or Triangular Cooperation describes two or more developing countries collaborating with a third developed country which contributes knowledge, technology and resources.

South-South Cooperation in Education

The needs for the strong and effective education systems to help stabilize and boost economic growth by relying on native skilled man powers produced within the Nations are far from being neglect. The cooperation has offered extensive skill sharing to ensure that the aforementioned growth persists and flourishes (UNESCO, 2017).

Digital Economy, South-South Cooperation and Sustainable Development

It is important that developing nations, and particularly extremely underdeveloped countries, should not be ignored in programmes that prioritise technological collaboration. So, what is and what will be the impact of the digital economy on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Economic development is a cornerstone of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It may well be deeply facilitated by the developing world's burgeoning technology sector, particularly by small- and medium-sized enterprises engaging in the platform economy and digital trade. The digitalization of services, including

via smart contract and blockchain, a distributed ledger technology, equally offers an opportunity for underprivileged populations to access and participate in the global (digital) economy.

To enhance the provision of both, hard and soft infrastructures are key to increase the pace of development and attain sustainable growth. These systems are targeting the preservation of economic patterns against harsh economic conditions by responding to the impacts of climate change on economic systems and enhancing the resilience and effective flow of finance.

Opportunity for Health Cooperation in South-South Cooperation

South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we move towards a post-pandemic reality and recovery, South-South cooperation will contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty, instability and development inequalities while promoting national development strategies (WHO, 2019).

The urgent need for solutions to COVID-19 has opened a window of opportunity for a South-South cooperation initiative in health and related areas. Within a regional health initiative, collective research and development efforts in medicine should

be the top priority in the coming years. Any medicines or medical discoveries which are important for the survival of people need to be shared widely and its access made available to all, especially to the most vulnerable countries and communities.

Case Study of Tanzania

Creating good working conditions is a must if a country is seeking to elevate the level of production and value additions. All forms of employment creation sections being manufacturing, or services provisions are required to be well equipped at policy level to create a conducive and protect the rights of workers as this will stimulate productivity.

ILO supports South-South Cooperation to promote decent work in the cotton sector in Tanzania ILO, Brazil and Tanzania teamed up to share experiences and best practices to enhance the national capacity to better respond to challenges in the cotton sector (ILO, 2016). SSC initiative strengthens cooperation among the countries and paves the way for articulating several successful Brazilian experiences of eradication of child labour, productive inclusion and promotion of youth employment in the cotton production sector.

Factors impeding the cotton sector from achieving its full potential include decent work deficits. Cotton growing is labour intensive and many cotton growers employ children in their farms thus, contributing to the Tanzania's high child labour rate, I which is currently 28.8 per cent with nearly 92 per cent of

them working in the agriculture sector. In Tanzania, the agricultural sector employs over 66 per cent of the labour force but its contribution to GDP declined from 50 per cent in 1987 to 28 per cent in 2010. Therefore, there is a need to invest in the sector to stimulate the creation of decent & quality jobs and boost productivity. The sector, however, is foreseen to experience growth of nearly 10 per cent by the year 2030 (ILO,2016).

Moreover, China and Tanzania have formed an agreement that aimed at stimulating the growth of the agricultural sector through the establishment of an agricultural Centre. As currently, the centre plays a significant role in connecting the platform of Chinese agricultural enterprises and makes it a global opportunity with the moto "Go Global". This is said to be attracting many of Chinese enterprises to invest in the agriculture sector in Tanzania. Also, the company has established "China Agricultural Products Tanzania Exhibition Centre" to help Chinese enterprises build African markets and establish an integrated service platform for Tanzanian agricultural development.

South-South Cooperation Project between Uganda and China

A highly successful South-South Cooperation (SSC) project between China and Uganda, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, moved towards its latest stage today as a Chinese expert team prepared to deploy to Uganda to provide technical support for

the implementation of Phase III, which is now being launched. Phases I and II were carried out under a cost-sharing arrangement between the Governments of China and Uganda and FAO. China provided financial resources and technical support, such as hands-on trainings and on-site demonstrations that enabled farmers in Uganda to improve the technologies used to produce rice, foxtail millet, maize, grapes, apples and cherry tomatoes as well as for animal reproduction (e.g. goats, pigs, sheep and fish). Uganda provided in-kind contributions, including lodging, transportation, medical services and health insurance for the visiting experts, while FAO provided technical support and backstopping, as well as project supervision and monitoring.

This new three-year phase comes after an agreement signed in June of this year, under which Uganda agreed to provide nearly USD10 million for the project. It is one of the most significant contributions of its kind by a Least Developed Country beneficiary nation for an SSC project to be implemented under the FAO-China SSC Programme. The first two phases – focused on crop and animal production – yielded dramatic results, including a quadrupling of rice production per hectare in the project areas, as well as increased milk production. This marked a break with years of low productivity, affecting the food security and livelihoods of more than 70 per cent of Ugandans who depend on subsistence agriculture.

Cultural Cooperation between India and Kenya

The cultural cooperation Agreement between India and Kenya was signed in 1981. Since 2016, under the sponsorship of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Indian artists are participating as adjudicators for the Kenya Music Festival. Mission distributed grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Culture of India to Kenyan organizations promoting Indian culture. To showcase our rich cultural heritage, South Indian Cultural Festival was organized in May 2019. International Day of Yoga was celebrated across ten counties in collaboration with County Governments. There are about a thousand Kenyan students currently studying in fifty Institutions throughout India. In 2018-2019, over 400 Kenyan nationals availed of training and scholarship programmes in various fields under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme; India-Africa Forum Summit and Aid to Africa Programme. An MoU on the establishment of an ICCR Chair on Indian studies between ICCR and the University of Nairobi was signed in March 2015.

India's Development Assistance to Kenya

In addition, that India offers development assistance to Kenya in the form of loans and credit. This included a loan of Rs. 50 million to the Government of Kenya in 1982 and Lines of Credit by EXIM Bank to Industrial Development Bank

Capital Ltd. An Agreement on extension of a Line of Credit of US\$ 61.6 million by EXIM Bank of India to Kenya for utilization in the power transmission sector was signed during the visit of PM Raila Odinga to India in November 2010. A loan agreement to extend lines of credit of US\$ 15 million (as the first tranche out of US\$ 30 million) to IDB Capital Limited for the development of SMEs was signed in July 2016.

Conclusion

The question of what constitutes SSC is central to bilateral cooperation agreements. For instance, what be direct commerce between Kenyan and Ugandan enterprises should be considered as SSC, or bilateral trade. UN agencies or other donors filled the shortfall, undermining the SSC spirit. In the past, higher education in East Africa was based on a reciprocal system, shared across three countries. Makerere University College in Uganda offered courses in education, medicine and forestry. Nairobi Royal College in Kenya focused on engineering, architecture and sciences. Dar es Salaam College in Tanzania offered courses in law and social sciences. Students from across the region could apply to any college. Fees and allowances were the same.

The paper also highlights the importance of India's development cooperation with Kenya. India's development cooperation is under the framework of development cooperation (grant, concessional finance, capacity

building, trade and technology). ITEC programme is one of the major activities. The professionals and people from developing countries are offered unique training courses, both civilian and defence, in different centres of excellence in India which empower them with not just professional skills, but prepare them for an increasingly globalized world. Therefore, there is a need for enhanced South-South cooperation should be increased in the education sector.

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