

[Monitoring and Evaluation of Brazilian South-South and Trilateral Cooperation \(SSTC\) on capacity development and social protection: learnings from the field](#)

24 October 2019

Questions and comments from the audience

**#1** Is your M/E framework linked to MIS so that data is automated? *(From Samuel Ochieng)*

This question was addressed live. Watch the Q&A session [here](#).

**#2** Very useful examples and discussion! Thank you all for organizing this. *(From Ana Maria Graziano)*

**#3** Regarding SSC as add on for Government, has there been any lessons learned on what motivating factors can be put in place to ensure the active engagement of government staff working on the SSC project? From my experience in evaluating a development projects executed by government units in different countries, most of the staff view the projects as an add on, only when the project budget did not provide incentives to staff supporting the project. Also, does this argument mean the SSC project was not aligned with the programmes of the Ministry such that they consider it as an add on? *(From Fidelis Eyoh Ukume)*

This question was addressed live. Watch the Q&A session [here](#).

**#4** *(From Melissa Pomeroy - Articulação SUL):* Since resources (human and financial) are a constraint for SSC - Looking forward - what could be possible efforts to improve M&E systems without overloading teams and partners?

This question was addressed live. Watch the Q&A session [here](#).

**#5** *(From Melissa Pomeroy - Articulação SUL for ABC):* Guilherme, could you give us more details on how ABC plans to move the SSC M&E agenda forward, considering ABC's coordination role?

The SSC has a complex agenda in ABC, for it is the major strategy of the Brazilian government to international technical cooperation. This [manual](#) specifies most of what is done in regards to SSC M&E and other subjects. Regarding trilateral SSC with UNICEF, as I mentioned in the debate, we are in the process of planning a new approach, through

developing what we have been calling the MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) system. This will involve a work methodology and a computer system to help manage the work. We have already had a consultancy to help us understand our necessities and we have still more work to move forward. That's a project to be finished in 2020.

**#6** Could ABC kindly share the Brazilian Government SSC indicators? Many thanks. *(From Martha Santos - UNICEF NY)*

I ask you please to send us a request, specifying a little more what indicators you want, so we can prepare the information.

**#7** How to really adapt or to link the UNEG criteria and SSC principles? Is there any initiative from UNICEF and WFP to discuss with them this issue? *(From Marina Caixeta)*

The UNICEF Evaluation Policy is directly aligned to the UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation, which means that such norms and standards need to apply also to UNICEF evaluations that concern SSC.

As SSC is still a rather new area within UNICEF and – as mentioned in the Webinar – considered an implementing strategy rather than a programme as such, there are indeed issues that need to be further addressed and thought through, including on how to harmonize the UNICEF programming and evaluation policies to the principles and dynamics of SSC.

As also mentioned in the Webinar, UNICEF is currently carrying out its first external evaluation around SSC, looking at eight years of implementation of the Trilateral South-South Programme of UNICEF Brazil and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. The final report of this evaluation is due to be finalized by the end of this year. Expectations are that the outcomes of this evaluation will help inform the future SSC agenda of UNICEF, in Brazil as well as globally, including with regards to the issue raised in the question above, being that this very evaluation seeks to bring the UNEG criteria and SSC principles together within its overall design and methodological framework

**#8** Hi, my name is Michelle Lessa, part-time researcher from Germany and currently writing my thesis on SSC in the field of social protection based on the policy learning experience btw Brazil and Ghana. I am wondering if Guilherme could answer if there are public reports on the SSTC's results and if there is any particular cooperation with an African country that has been evaluated as successful.

There are public reports on our activities, yes. They can be found on [ABC's website](#) and, in what relates to TSSC, information is normally also published by international organisations (UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, etc.). A good example of our cooperation with Africa is the TSSC BR-UNICEF cooperation with Ethiopia.

**#9** Is there a unique platform for M&E of projects developed in South - South cooperation? Is it possible? (*From Adriana Ferrer*)

ABC has a management system in which all information is stored, including M&E, but that's probably not a platform as you're referring to. Technically, it is possible to develop whatever type of system, if they respect the Brazilian regulations.

**#10** My name is Melissa Andrade Costa, I work with evaluation at Nikê Consultoria and worked with Plan to help design the MEL Framework for UNICEF.

Question: Considering what Niklas mentioned on the need of 'Understanding Capacity building', I believe there is a great gap of designing a Theory of Change for ABC on that topic that can actually give guidance for future evaluations and help design new projects. Could please Guilherme tell us how this debate is within ABC? Also, how is the Agency envisioning to allocate resources for this agenda inside? As Mariana has mentioned, human and financial resources need to be deployed to make the agenda move forward.

Cooperation is planned in line with Brazilian interests and its strategic vision towards international relations. All the work done is planned considering that. Regarding TSSC, we have work plans with international organisms in which priorities are defined. A lot of work is put into that. In our collaboration with UNICEF, we use the theory of change methodology, but other approaches can be put in place.

**#11** "Hi, this is Ama Brandford-Arthur in IFAD, Rome. With the other Rome-based agencies, we are working on a Methodology for Monitoring and Evaluation to assess the contribution of SSTC to our areas of operation - food security, nutrition and agriculture. We would be interested in particular on how ABC/other agencies have addressed the issue of attribution, given that SSTC is mostly a component to a project and SSTC is largely seen as a means to an end, not an end in itself.

In the case of the evaluation of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, the focus was on identifying the contribution, rather than attribution. More details [here](#). ABC thinks of TSSC as a strategy to do international technical cooperation – specifically SSC. Projects can be planned in their completion in a TSSC format and are, therefore, implemented together, in partnership, horizontally, with an international organisation and all other countries involved. Management is shared and so is the work.

**#12** (*From Thibaut ACKONDJO*) Host government often doesn't pay much attention in SP even if they're involved or interested to the implementation. Is there any way to motivate them to pay more attention? Communicating with government on SP, what is the best way and to whom share data collected to get directly their attention and how?

This question was addressed live. Watch the Q&A session [here](#).