

SOUTH-SOUTH *in Action* Winter 2011



**Social Protection
Floor for a Fair and
Inclusive Globalization
Global South-South
Development Expo
in Rome, 2011**

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Brazil's Contribution to the ILO's South South Cooperation Strategy

By Anita Amorim, Ramiro Pizzaro and Helmut Schwarzer

South-South Cooperation has been an active force in the ILO since the 1970s through a modality called “technical cooperation among developing countries” (TCDC), based on solidarity among countries of the South supporting each other in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals in a spirit of non-conditionality, equality, and sharing. The ILO has been facilitating knowledge sharing and technical advisory assistance among countries in the South for several decades. In 1987 the ILO signed an agreement with the government of Brazil to undertake technical cooperation with other countries in Latin America and Africa.

The concept evolved after 2000 into “South-South” Cooperation (SSC), which basically shares TCDC principles, but takes on a more geopolitical dimension. Thus, the “explicit” involvement of the ILO with South-South Cooperation started in 2005 with an exchange of letters between the ILO and the government of Brazil on support combating child labour in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. Since then the areas of cooperation have diversified and the resources increased substantially under all strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda (from a \$200,000 portfolio to close to \$8 million at present).

In December 2007 and in March 2008, memoranda of understanding were signed on South-South Cooperation to combat child labour and to promote social protection in several regions, but with a special focus on Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. These memoranda outline the need to identify needs and process technical cooperation requests from developing countries, and to include commitments to provide support for the mobilization of financial resources.

The most recent and overarching framework agreement was signed in June 2009, the “Complementary Agreement on Technical

Cooperation with Latin American and African countries for the Implementation of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation.” As a follow up to this agreement, Brazil prioritized the elaboration of cooperation programmes regarding fundamental principles and rights at work, with a strong focus on child labour, social protection, and extending social security.

In 2010, during the Fourth Annual Meeting of the ILO with Brazil, new programme agreements were signed that extended cooperation to the fields of forced labour and green jobs, the expansion of Brazilian models of social security to Timor Leste, as well as horizontal cooperation between labour unions of the Americas and Africa. At the same meeting, a triangular (South-South-North) cooperation agreement was finalized between the governments of the United States, Brazil, and Haiti to combat child labour in the construction sector.

In 2010 Brazil and the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, also embarked on an agreement concerning capacity building in the field of humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

Brazil also showed major leadership in the establishment of an India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) dialogue with the ILO and the signing of an IBSA Declaration of Intent (2010) in the field of Decent Work. This was a direct consequence of the 2010 IBSA Heads of State meeting in Brasilia that reaffirmed the Decent Work Agenda as the path to future work between the three countries.

Finally, mention should be made of the prominent role played by the government at the South-South Expo of the United Nations, held at ILO headquarters in November 2010.

Progress in combating child labour through South-South Cooperation

Angola and Mozambique

Angola and Mozambique were the two first partners in Brazil's ILO South-South

Cooperation programme. Nowadays, thanks to the joint efforts of all involved and the ILO, combating child labour has been mainstreamed into the National Development Agendas of both countries.



TOT teachers SCREAM Activity June 2009 Luanda



Girls and boys in education at Xai Xai and Maputa.

Angola has a new constitution today, guaranteeing the rights of children, and in Mozambique the Decent Work Country Programme mandates combating child labour as a priority. In both countries, workers' organizations have played a key role in the enhancement of social dialogue. In addition, study tours by tripartite delegations from Angola and Mozambique (jointly funded by the United States and Brazil) have promoted a joint learning opportunity.

Working in the provinces at greater risk was a priority in Angola, where more than 1,600 children benefited from child labour prevention programmes. In the case of Mozambique, nearly 1,000 girls and boys benefited from educational materials and training through the SCREAM methodology (Supporting Child Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media). Teachers' unions were extremely active in both cases. The viability of the project in both countries has been reinforced by new financing mobilized by the ILO, including the European Commission (Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) project).

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ON THE COVER...

The President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, received on 15 December from the Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, the Portuguese version of the report ‘Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization’. The report calls for the implementation of a social protection floor in order to stimulate economic growth and increase social cohesion in light of the economic crisis.

Workers' organizations have been extremely supportive of this SSC project and an in-depth subregional workplan created specially to combat child labour was finalized in Angola in 2010.

Haiti

The original project of 2007 was reorganized following Haiti's 2010 earthquake, and workers' organizations are the main ILO partners in its implementation. The priorities of the project include child labour and the strengthening of national legislation regarding fundamental principles and rights at work. The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas and its national counterpart in Haiti agreed to develop a programme of action targeting youth employment and combating child labour in Haiti. Under this programme 88 young people were trained in the food industry and food preparation, and also in the textile and garment production sectors. Relevant outputs included the production of educational materials and the promotion of a media campaign to raise visibility. A sectoral approach was also mainstreamed into the project. Specific training programmes for young people in construction are planned as a way to insert them into the labour market and prevent accidents and occupational hazards.

The project was also the inspiration for a triangular cooperation initiative between Haiti, Brazil, and the United States in the field of child labour and sectoral activities.

Programme of South-South Cooperation in the Americas

The ILO and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) have established working relations with the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay to develop national cooperation programmes. In addition, a series of activities of a regional nature made it possible to develop synergies between countries and to incorporate the SSC modality for combating child labour into other MERCOSUR countries. The good practices being reviewed at this level include three areas: a) the incorporation of the public health system as an institutional actor in combating child labour and monitoring results; b) conditional cash transfer programmes, such as "the Bolsa Família, c) strengthening labour inspection and occupational health and safety. The national programmes share a crosscutting component related to social security. This innovative mechanism was recognized by the South-South Expo 2010 Jury and received the **2010 South-South Cooperation Award for Innovation**. It was presented as a solution on "Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes and Labour Inspection."

In **Paraguay**, an integrated approach to the provision of services is being developed through the coordination of two programmes targeted at the most vulnerable population – "Abrazo" and "Tekopora." These programmes focused on combating the worst forms of child labour, including children living and working in the

streets. Another priority has been the improvement of the operational capacity of a hotline for the victims of sexual abuse ("Fonoayuda").

In **Ecuador** the project is collaborating with the reorganization of the labour inspection system and with the training of new inspectors. The operational capacity of the labour inspectorate has been increased by the purchase of three vehicles to be used exclusively for field monitoring.

The project has also adapted and translated the Brazilian "**Self-Learning Manual on Health and Safety for Child and Youth Labour**," which will be important in introducing the child labour theme in the public health system and the child protection network of Paraguay.

In **Bolivia**, the priority is to strengthen the "Bono Juancito Pinto" programme which provides educational materials to vulnerable girls and boys, extending it to a conditional cash transfer scheme. The goal is to prevent the worst forms of child labour. This programme will constitute a building block for a database reporting progress in the prevention and elimination of child labour.

In **Timor Leste**, the project has successfully helped prepare a list of hazardous forms child labour. A proposal has been written up to reformulate legislation, and a tripartite committee has been set up to monitor its implementation. An intensive campaign has also been conducted to raise awareness of the worst forms of child labour, largely supported by Brazilian institutions, including the judiciary, the media, employers' and workers' organizations, celebrities (former Minister of Culture and singer Gilberto Gil) and civil society.

Progress in the extension of social protection for all in Timor Leste

In **Timor Leste**, the promotion of South-South Cooperation in the area of social security is enabling the construction of the country's first social security system. The priority defined by the Timorese government is to design a scheme of pensions for public servants. The second stage of the project will expand coverage to the private sector. This is being done in the context of the ILO's support to the drafting of a new Labour Code in Timor Leste, and the project is building on the good practices developed for tripartite negotiations during the revision of the Labour Code. In May 2011, the Council of Ministers of Timor Leste revised the proposals prepared under

the project, and approved the first stage of the social security system.

The basic principle of cooperation in the area of social security is that each country must develop its own solutions and expand on the lessons learned from past experience, tailored to its own needs. One major good practice is that employers' and workers' organizations are involved in the discussion of all stages of the project through a tripartite commission that meets regularly. The local administration and the tripartite group have taken note of the proposals by the ILO. The social security system proposed is currently awaiting approval by Congress.

The second stage of the social security system is now being elaborated, and the experience of various municipalities in Brazil is being studied.

Following a request by the Ministry of Justice of **Paraguay**, Brazil and the ILO are reviewing the experience of MERCOSUR countries in the field of unemployment insurance schemes. In Paraguay, the South-South cooperation project is also compiling an inventory of social protection policies that will serve as a basis to formulate strategies for the expansion of coverage. Study tours are foreseen for an in-depth exchange of working modalities in the field of social security.

The programme is also supporting the process of ratification of the ILO's Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) with an accompanying study on social security legislation, comparing it with the minimum standards established by C.102, and observing the ratification processes followed by Brazil (2009), Uruguay (2010), and Argentina (2011). The diversity of experiences of countries of the South is providing the government of Paraguay with more alternatives to design its own solutions.

ILO-supported capacity building for civil servants in Brazil (offices of Secretaries of State, Directors, Coordinators) has been enhanced to improve their expertise in South South Cooperation for the promotion and implementation of a Social Protection Floor.

South-South Cooperation initiatives in the area of social security have identified good practices in Brazil that are helpful to other countries. These include the "Bolsa Família" and pensions programme; the social security programme for rural workers; and educational programmes on social protection. This experience will be transformed into publications for the project.

The ILO and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) have established working relations with the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Paraguay to develop national cooperation programmes.

ILO Brings to South South Cooperation its Mandate

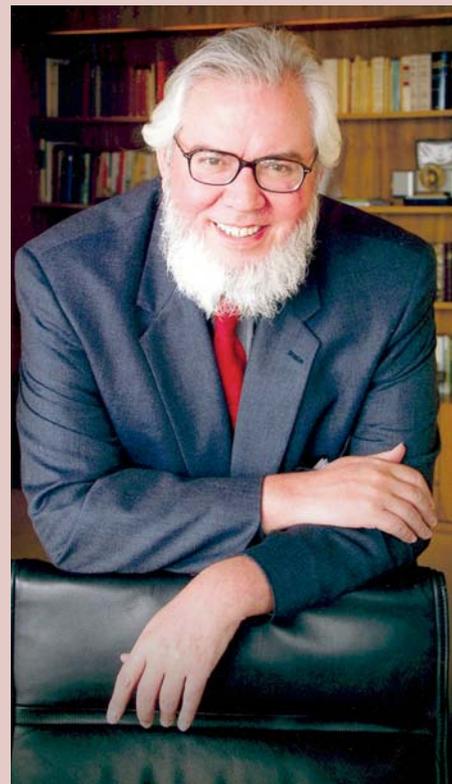
“Developing and emerging countries are increasingly insisting on development solutions tailored to their contexts. There is a strong demand for relevant knowledge and experience.

Such knowledge is all the more critical as the impact of the global economic crisis, food and fuel price volatility, and climate related disasters compounds the task of realizing new patterns of growth with social justice and redressing the imbalances of the global economy.

In the present scenario, experience is not homogenous. It is not surprising that South-South cooperation is growing. International organizations must be able to give effective support with a clear understanding of the nature of the demand and a capacity to respond to national specificity guided by certain universal fundamentals.

The ILO brings to South South Cooperation its mandate, is knowledge and experience in promoting opportunities for decent and productive work. Universally applicable, the Decent Work Agenda responds to national specificity in upholding the dignity of work at all levels of development. It informs a working out of poverty approach and is central to policies for sustainable development. The ILO looks forward to deepening and expanding its engagement in South South partnerships for decent work.”

— ILO Director - General Juan Somavia
Geneva, November 2011



ILO Director - General Juan Somavia



Mr. Renato Bignami, Deputy Secretary of Labour Inspection, Brazil

Impact of South-South Cooperation in Curbing Forced Labour

Interview with Mr. Renato Bignami, Deputy Secretary of Labour Inspection, Brazil, on Forced Labour and South-South Cooperation

Could you let us know more about the involvement of the Secretariat of Labour Inspection in South-South Cooperation actions, especially MERCOSUR?

The Brazilian Labour Inspectorate is keen to provide future cooperation and assistance to any national inspectorate, according to ILO priorities and decisions. Brazil has bilateral agreements that do not necessarily involve the

ILO or other international organisations. This occurs when governments contact the Brazilian government directly. For example, the Brazilian Labour Inspectorate has provided technical cooperation for Latin America countries, Lusophone African countries (PALOP), IBSA and BRICS for the past ten to fifteen years.

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Rescue of forced labourers, Pará following action of labour inspectors.
(Photo by J Ripper. Copyright: ILO, 2004)

Which “good practices” from Brazilian labour inspection would you highlight as worth “replicating” or “adapting” for other regions?

The Brazilian Labour Inspectorate combats child labour, forced labour, and also offers good expertise in agricultural regions. Brazil is also an agro business country and inspectors are oriented towards this field to improve and tackle labour standard enforcement. Brazil also deals with the maritime sector in terms of inspection of harbours, platforms, fisheries, and waterways. Brazil has been pursuing the ILO’s ideal model of labour inspection that calls for a central authority and one common status for the inspectorate.

Let us turn to other regions of the world: does Brazil have agreements with other regions (apart for the Americas) that would facilitate horizontal cooperation between developing countries?

Agreements are more related to the international arena. Brazil has projects with many different countries and organizations such as Colombia, Peru, MERCOSUR, East Timor and India. The MERCOSUR project tackles child labour and the Brazilian agency for cooperation (ABC) has released funds for this campaign to combat child labour and for common bilateral inspections with four countries in MERCOSUR. The project we have started is the bilateral and bilingual (Spanish and Portuguese) campaign to combat child labour near the borders and at inspection zones. The ILO-IPEC team in Brazil is also

providing consultants to draw a map of child labour instances and to draw a table to compare legal systems. This campaign was approved in regional meetings held by MERCOSUR.

Recently some of the actions under your Secretariat have identified as cases of forced labour in multinationals, with migrant workers coming from South American countries. What are the specific actions to combat forced labour and human trafficking? Would any of these benefit from horizontal cooperation actions?

Brazil has a model to combat forced labour. We rescue workers from forced labour situations and take administrative remedies to make the employer responsible. Upon rescuing forced labourers, the Brazilian government gives workers three months of ‘paid leave’ to help them recover and return to the workforce in a better state. The Brazilian government also offers free transfers back to their region of origin. This model has been adapted to migrant workers and the Palermo protocol was revised so that the government helps some migrants to

rebuild their lives. If someone is trafficked into Brazil, they have the right to a permanent visa.

Who do you hold accountable for this situation?

The Brazilian government rescues these workers and places them in shelters, and companies caught with forced labourers are given fines to cover damages, termination of the workers’ employment, and for having forced labourers. Every six months, the Brazilian Labour Minister publishes a ‘dirty list’ of companies that are caught with these violations. There is an agreement among the banking system where they do not lend to companies on the ‘dirty list’. This is harsh punishment for companies as some particularly need banks’ lending support. Companies will remain on the list for two years and will only be removed after two years if all previous violations are cleared and not repeated, and that all fines and compensations are paid in full.

How do you see the next steps for enhanced regional and inter regional cooperation in the field of labour inspection?

The next steps should involve triangular cooperation. There are many things to exchange among developed and developing countries. There is a need to exchange, learn and improve. Some countries still need to learn and set labour inspection networks that really work, in the same way as multinational corporations work across borders. Labour inspections in Europe are more advance and countries have more agreements regarding this. Agreements are needed to push for investments in common labour systems and to integrate all labour systems. Presently, some systems work, some do not, and some have room for improvement. We should foster this cooperation in our own regions but at the same time, we are also headed in the right direction.

...the Brazilian Labour Inspectorate has provided technical cooperation for Latin America countries, Lusophone African countries (PALOP), IBSA and BRICS for the past ten to fifteen years.

Brazil and Africa South-South Cooperation



**ILO Executive Director
for Social Protection -
Assane Diop**

By Assane Diop

ILO Executive Director for Social Protection

Brazil and Africa share common forms of social protection. A cooperation agenda is hence both feasible and necessary. The concept of decent work offers a bridge between the two continents as the basis of a common framework for social development. It is a bridge over the troubled waters of the economic crisis.

Two years ago I gave a presentation in Salvador de Bahia on possible avenues for such cooperation. In this historic place, where Brazil meets Africa, the people, their cultures, their traditions, their religions, their economies, and their societies, can all be seen at in each corner of this wonderful city. South-South cooperation is an opportunity to build a new bridge between the two continents. Bahia was symbolically the first state to adopt a state decent work plan. Decent work should be placed at the heart of the new partnership between Brazil and Africa.

Who are the Africans? What are their social needs?

Africa's population reached 1 billion in 2009, spread over across 54 countries. The largest share live in sub-Saharan Africa and in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of income.

The region has the world's highest fertility rate, 4.7 for Africa as a whole; the youngest population – around 41% are 0-14 years old; and the lowest life expectancy at birth – an average of 56 years for all Africa. If it were not for AIDS, life expectancy would be 62 years. This means that, on average, HIV/AIDS is taking 10 years off the lifespan of every woman and man in sub-Saharan Africa.

Poverty is still high: approximately 40% of the population live on less than one US dollar a day and more than 70% on less than two dollars. Between 1990 and 2005 some progress was made towards achieving the first Millennium Development Goal on poverty reduction. But more than half of African countries show deteriorating poverty trends or progress that is insufficient to reverse the trend.

Hunger is still one of the most important problems in some countries but remarkable efforts have been made: between 1990 and 2005 the proportion of the population that is undernourished fell from 32% to 28%. But the food crisis may well reverse these results.

Sub-Saharan Africa presents very high child mortality rates – 74 deaths for every 1,000 live births – as well as the world's highest maternal mortality rate – 640 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia also accounted for 87% (313,000) of global maternal deaths. Notwithstanding the progress, only 13 developing countries are on track to achieve MDG 5 by 2015. In sub-Saharan Africa the situation is made even worse, mainly by measles, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region increased from 2.1% in 1990 to 4.9% in 2009. In southern Africa 20% of the population are infected with the virus. In Africa as a whole some 30 million are infected (72% of the world's cases), 18 million of them working people. In

some countries the pandemic has killed almost an entire generation of workers. Approximately 11 million children have become AIDS orphans.

There are 50 million African migrant workers, accounting for 30% of the world's migrant population. By 2025 some 10% of Africa's workforce will live and work outside their country of origin. Conflict and war have resulted in 6 million refugees and 22 million displaced persons.

The regional urban unemployment rate is around 10.3%. In some countries youth unemployment represents 80% of that total.

The informal economy absorbs 90 to 95% of new labour market entrants and accounts for around 90% of the current labour force. Some 70% of non-agricultural jobs are informal. These account for 84% of female and 63% of male non-agricultural employment.

Social security schemes (pensions, disability, maternity, survivors) cover around 10% of the economically active population, but coverage indicators are lower for women and young workers. Traditional contributory schemes for public and formal sector workers have not been able to meet the challenge of extending coverage.

Social Protection and Social Development are at the top of Africa's political agenda.

In September 2004, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union addressed social development, poverty alleviation and employment creation in a coherent and integrated manner, and launched the first declaration on employment and poverty alleviation in Africa.

The Livingstone Conference, held in March 2006, was yet another turning point in African governments' commitment to promoting social protection as an urgent response to people's increasing vulnerability to crisis. A call for action was adopted at the meeting, now known as the Livingstone Call for Action on Social Protection in Africa.

At the 11th ILO African Regional Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2007, representatives of workers and employers endorsed the African Union's emerging social protection agenda. Adopting the *Decent Work Agenda in Africa, 2007-2015*, they agreed on the strategic objective of extending social protection coverage.

In Namibia in 2008 African social development ministers agreed on a very detailed social policy framework for Africa, covering 18 policy areas. The Minister of Social Development and Fight against Hunger of Brazil, H.E. Patrus Ananias, was a special guest at this event, where he shared the experience of Brazil's Bolsa Família and other Brazilian social inclusion programmes.

Three years after the 11th ILO African Regional meeting in Ethiopia, in October 2010, the same countries adopted the "Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor" reiterating the objective of extending social protection coverage. With a view to build a coalition to support the implementation of social protection floors, the African members states called upon the ILO to promote south-

south cooperation to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise.

The Ouagadougou Declaration on

Employment and Poverty Alleviation calls for the development of integrated economic and social policies and makes employment creation a central objective of economic policy with a view to alleviating poverty and improving living conditions.

The Declaration expresses the commitment to promote the Decent Work Agenda and to support the recommendations of the Report of the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, entitled: "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All".

It also calls for efforts to empower poor and vulnerable groups (women, young workers, migrant workers, people with disabilities), particularly in rural communities and the informal urban economy, by enhancing capacities through education, skills, vocational training, access to financial resources and markets, and ensuring equal opportunities and protection.

The Livingston Call for Action represents a rights-based approach. Social protection is a basic human right established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The guarantee of basic social protection strengthens the social contract between the State and citizens, enhancing social cohesion.

It is also an economic need. Considerable evidence exists that social transfers and services have played a key role in reducing poverty and inequality, promoting growth, increasing human capital and supporting HIV/AIDS-affected families.

A sustainable basic package of social transfers is affordable within the current resources of governments and international development partners, including a social pension for families with vulnerable children, older persons, pregnant and nursing women and people with disabilities.

Decent work provides the basis for a response to the economic crisis – the *Global Jobs Pact*, unanimously adopted by national representatives of governments, employers and trade unions of ILO Member States at the International Labour Conference in 2009. The Pact was endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), by Heads of State and Government of the G8 in L'Aquila, and by the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh.

The Global Jobs Pact is an urgent call to put employment and social protection at the heart of recovery policies. It is a portfolio of practical, operational policy options – tried and tested policies that have worked well in many countries – not a single recipe or a one-size-fits-all solution. These are measures that can be tailored to national situations. The Global Jobs Pact is a productive response by the actors in the real economy to the excesses and mismanagement of the financial economy that underlies this crisis.

During the 2nd African Decent Work Symposium on “Building a social protection floor with the Global Jobs Pact”, held in Yaoundé in October 2010, the 83 African members states reiterated their support and explicitly adopted the “Yaoundé Tripartite Declaration on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor” in full recognition of the urgent need for all African member States and social partners to start its effective and rapid implementation.

A priority at this time must be to act with the greatest urgency to ensure a social protection floor for those who are struggling just to survive. The aim of extending coverage to as many as possible and as quickly as possible is to prevent women and men and their families from falling into destitution, to help them overcome poverty and move up the ladder of opportunity. The floor must be more than a safety net – a beginning not an end; an instrument to help the unprotected reach higher, not to pull others down.

While the social protection floor concept has benefitted from increased regional and international recognition, must be nationally shaped as part of a progressively comprehensive social security system guaranteeing basic income security and access to essential health care, while respecting rights, voice and organization. An effective social protection floor underscores the importance of policy coherence around goals and target groups. Social transfers in support of children, for example, must connect not only with health and education but also with employment policies and other support for parents, including childcare services.

Experience has shown that it is feasible to implement some basic elements of social security even in low-income countries. In times of crisis they can also serve as forms of responses and can act as stabilizing mechanisms. *Oportunidades* in Mexico, *Bolsa Familia* in Brazil, and the Child Support, Old Age, and Disability Grant system as well as the *Expanded Public Works Programme* in South Africa are examples of initiatives to provide protection in different circumstances. In particular, the EPWP involves job creation in early childhood development and home- and community-based care for people with AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This approach combines social transfers with employment opportunities and capacity building for individuals.

Experiences from Brazil

Bolsa Familia is the largest conditional cash transfer programme in the world. By the end of 2008 it had reached around 11.3 million families, 46 million people, corresponding to a quarter of Brazil's population at an annual cost of US\$ 4.5 billion (0.4 per cent of the GDP).

Launched in 2003, the programme provides income support to poor families, subject to their fulfilling certain human development requirements, such as child school attendance including participation in supplementary socio-educational activities, vaccinations, nutritional monitoring, prenatal and postnatal testing and health care. Since its creation coverage has expanded rapidly. The number of beneficiaries tripled in four years, rising from 3.6 million in 2003 to 11.1 million in 2006, reaching around 75 per cent of the estimated number of poor families.

The Government recently announced a further extension of the programme as one of the core measures of its anti-crisis package. This counter-cyclical initiative is expected to include 1.3 million additional families and to help mitigate the impact of the crisis among the most vulnerable and to stimulate consumption. Since low-income families have a high propensity to consume, this

measure can help boost demand for food and basic consumer goods produced mostly locally.

Bolsa Familia has contributed strongly to the improvement of income distribution and to poverty reduction in Brazil. Until the late 1990s the country remained persistently in the group of five countries with the world's most unequal distributions of income, having a Gini coefficient close to 0.6. Since 2001, this indicator has declined steadily, reaching the level of 0.55 in 2007, which is the lowest rate in the country's recent history.¹

The country was able, moreover, to celebrate the achievement of the millennium development goal on poverty reduction ten years before the 2015 UN deadline. Compared to 1990, the number of people living on one US\$ a day was more than halved, declining from 8.8 per cent in 1990 to 4.2 per cent in 2005.

Given its multidimensional and integrated approach, the Brazilian experience in relation to its cash transfer programme can be seen as a strong reflection of a national Decent Work Agenda.

I offer the following suggestions for areas for cooperation between Brazil and Africa. The keywords here are **protecting and empowering**.

As we have seen, the implementation of a social protection floor is a fundamental aspiration and top priority on the African agenda. Brazil's experience of the extension of social protection through cash transfers can be an inspiration and an encouragement. The Brazilian example shows it is possible to carry out a massive and rapid social inclusion process at relatively low cost. Brazil has proved that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved at an affordable cost if there is political will and the right priorities. This is a clear path for cooperation. We do not propose to replicate this experience in African countries, but rather to adapt it to African needs and constraints.

The establishment of a social protection floor should be strictly linked to employment promotion. Since 70% of the African population lives in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of income for 90% of the population, most efforts to promote employment promotion will be done in the agriculture sector and rural employment. Work there is generally heavy, working hours can be very long, workers are often exposed to difficult climatic conditions, and many are exposed to hazardous chemicals, especially pesticides. These problems are compounded by poverty: living conditions are often extremely poor, and many have limited access to clean water, fuel and power, adequate shelter and nutrition. Literacy is often low. The organization of workers is minimal.

The social protection floor is also a core issue in the Decent Work Agenda, and the ILO has developed a set of tools and facilities to support countries in its implementation. As stated above, we believe the decent work framework can be a bridge for cooperation.

In 2009 the first South-South triangular cooperation project on the extension of social protection coverage was signed between the ILO and the Government of Brazil. This is a joint commitment by the ILO and Brazil to put decent work at the heart of South-South cooperation on social protection. The project will support countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America in designing cash transfer programmes as part of a general strategy to set up a social protection floor.

The ILO has also developed programmes such as Work Improvement in Small Enterprises (WISE), aimed at assisting small and medium-sized enterprises in improving working conditions and productivity using

simple, effective and affordable techniques that provide direct benefits to owners and workers. For agricultural workers there is a specific training package called Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND), which promotes practical improvements in agricultural households through the initiatives of village families. The methodology of the programme lies in improving both working and living conditions as interrelated aspects of rural life, ensuring the equal involvement of village women and men in planning and implementing improvements, and it has close links with community development and the empowerment of agricultural workers and farmers.

These are just some examples of the tools available in the ILO's technical cooperation portfolio to boost South-South cooperation. Many others are also at your disposal. Further information can be found on the ILO website² and the Office will be pleased to provide any additional information needed.

Brazil has demonstrated that it is possible at reasonable cost to implement policies that make a real difference to people's lives. Africa is committed to change and to the extension of social protection. The ILO is ready to be part of this winning approach through South-South triangular cooperation.

Recent events and developments have demonstrated the timeliness and relevance of the messages and intentions revealed in this presentation given two years ago.

Last year, the International Labour Conference – the governments, employers and workers of the ILO's 183 member States -, came out with strong conclusions regarding the extension of social security to all through nationally defined social protection floors within progressively comprehensive social security systems. In June next year, the International Labour Conference will discuss a possible Recommendation, which would provide helpful guidance to countries in building their social protection floors.

The social protection floor further benefitted from substantial support throughout the French presidency of the G20. The G-20 meeting of labour-employment Ministers in held in Paris in September 2011 welcomed the conclusion of the 100th ILC and endorsed the SPF concept explicitly.

At the Summit in Cannes, G20 Leaders recognized the importance of investing in social protection and progressively implement nationally-designed social protection floors.

Another key landmark has been the launch of the ‘Bachelet report’ of the SPF Advisory Group end of 2011, to further enhance global advocacy and provide guidance on the conceptual and policy aspects of the SPF.

At the national level, the pace of events has contributed to the efforts of various countries, including several African countries, to extend social security coverage and establish or reinforce their social protection floors. By tapping into the wealth of experience available in numerous countries in the South, this window of opportunity can be further catalyzed into concrete actions to mainstream decent work for all women and men.

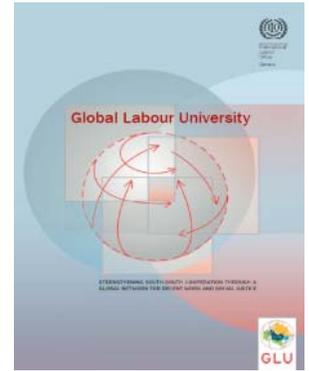
¹All figures here are from FTKMC, *Markets in Motion*: Social Engineering in Brazil, Vol 1, No. 31, October 18, 2010: <http://www.ftkmc.com/newsletter/Vol1-31-oct18-2010.pdf>

²<http://www.ilo.org>

(adapted from a presentation to Brazil's and Africa's Economic and Social Development Councils, Bahia, 2009)

“India Plays a Major Role in Promoting South-South Cooperation”

100th Session of the International Labour Conference



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and South African President Jacob Zuma at the IBSA Dialogue Summit, Brasilia, Brazil, 15 April 2010. During the 2010 South-South Expo, IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) signed an agreement to promote the Decent Work Agenda through the ILO. (Photo: Elmond Jiyane)

By *Natasha Fernando*



On 14 June 2011, the ILO hosted a panel on South-South Cooperation, ‘A New Path for Social Development?’ during the International Labour Conference. **Ms. Maria Angelica Ducci** (Executive

Director, Office of the Director General, ILO) welcomed everyone to the event. She said solidarity was the key to SSC, and the ILO was keen to play its full role in this and facilitate global knowledge for local solutions.

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)



Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge (Minister of Labour and Employment, India) highlighted the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) forum that had forged a strong bond on common ideas, and the ILO concept

of Decent Work was key to achieving the common goal. India, through the IBSA forum and also directly, could provide institutional support in the areas of labour inspection, the right to education, mine safety, HIV/AIDS, and skills development.

The government of India had launched a ‘safety in the workplace’ policy, and a national policy on HIV/AIDS and the world of work which was based on a policy of non-discrimination. He recalled the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Act, which guaranteed 100 days of work to rural workers, the Right to Education for children aged 6 to 14, together with a system of mid-day meals, a health insurance scheme which catered to below-the-poverty-line workers, and a national child labour policy scheme to provide education for child labourers rescued from hazardous labour.

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Experiences, Challenges, and the Way Forward with China

Role of UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation Lauded

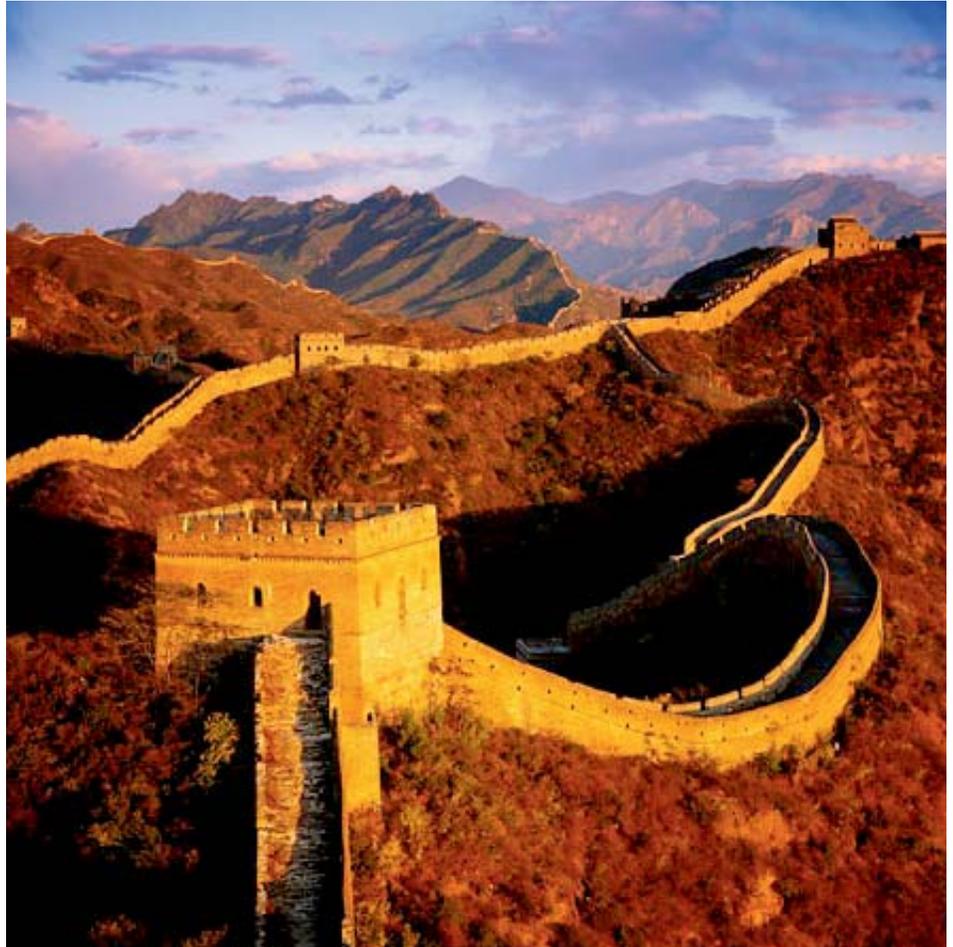
China is now the second largest economy in the world, having overtaken Japan in 2010. In 2009, China recorded a GDP of \$4.99 trillion and a population of around 1.3 billion. (Source: World Bank) China has weathered the global financial crisis remarkably well. Effective and timely government stimulus measures resulted in a stronger recovery than expected. (Source: ADB)

In the midst of this strong recovery, China has acted in favour of developing countries. Statistics compiled by the *Financial Times* newspaper showed that in 2009 and 2010, the China Development Bank and China Export-Import Bank agreed on a total of \$110 billion in loans to governments and companies in developing countries. This demonstrates China's continued strong solidarity with other countries, and its intent to enrich South-South Cooperation. It is because of this that the ILO sees China as having an important role to play in the achievement of international development goals including on labour issues and in contributing to social justice on a global scale.

China is dedicated to South-South Cooperation as evidenced by the fact that China is the biggest donor of the United Nations Fund for South South Cooperation with \$6 million. This brings the UNFSSC total to \$13 million. China already has established strong leadership in South-South Cooperation thanks to the work of Yiping Zhou, Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP who spoke at the opening of the 2010 Global South-South Development EXPO at ILO Headquarters Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. Furthermore, during the Shanghai EXPO 2010 'Better Cities, Better life', there was a panel presentation on Social Protection attended also by the South South Unit.

At a side event on South-South Cooperation at the 2011 International Labour Conference, His Excellency He Yafei, Ambassador of China, shared China's experience in South-South Cooperation and an expression of political and financial commitment to support ILO South-South Cooperation at the ILC Side Event on 14 June 2011. Mr He Yafei described some of China's involvement in promoting decent work and he announced that China would donate \$1 million to the ILO in support of technical cooperation in the field of employment.

Thus far, China has given generous assistance in the form of investment, health programmes, no interest loans, dispatching experts and medical



Great Wall of China

teams, and human resource training. The ILO and the Chinese government have been negotiating a publication with current and future best practices of China in the field of South-South Cooperation

under areas of skills development, social protection, green jobs, employment intensive investment, and wages.



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Innovations in Public Employment Programmes –

A south-south learning experience bridging employment and social protection

By Mito Tsukamoto, Senior Specialist of the Employment Intensive Investment Programme, International Labour Office

The important and effective role that the state can play in generating productive employment has been extensively debated and in a way has become more widely accepted following the financial crisis. In many international fora the need for sharing and documenting these global experiences – what has worked and why – has been stressed. The International Labour Organization (ILO), as with other institutions, has been contributing to the assessments of various public policy and fiscal space interventions worldwide.

The ILO, through its Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) has highlighted many of the innovative approaches in public employment programmes around the world through its policy paper, “Towards a Right to Work - Innovations in Public Employment Programmes (IPEP)”¹ and an international south-south learning package. IPEP highlights the range of options from public works programmes to employment guarantees, and provides policy insights and practical design tools to inform decision making at policy and programme level.

Since 2009, several workshops were hosted at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy. Last year, a seven-day IPEP workshop² was also organized for key government officials and implementing agents of the South African Community Works Programme (CWP) in Mpumalanga, South Africa 17-23 July 2011. Invited by the Department of Cooperative Governance &



Traditional Affairs (COGTA) of South Africa, the ILO, encouraged CWP decision makers and practitioners to look at different innovative labour-based approaches in South Africa and in other countries, including the Indian Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme where the keynote speaker was from, and also learning from the experiences of the South African Expanded Public Works Programme and the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme.

The South African Community Works Programme offers a minimum level (2 days per week) of regular and predictable work opportunities for those who need it, targeting areas of high unemployment, where sustainable alternatives are likely to remain limited due to inherent structural problems in the South African economy. It aimed to supplement existing livelihood strategies without disrupting or displacing them. The CWP scaled up significantly between April 2010 to March 2011 with a total number of 89,689 work opportunities created in 56

sites spread throughout all the nine provinces across 45 Municipalities and covering 417 wards. Shortly after the IPEP workshop in Mpumalanga, the South Africa Cabinet endorsed the proposal to scale up the CWP to up to a million participants by 2014, and is part of their 12 point implementation plan on job creation as part of the New Growth Path. Given the centrality of infrastructure development and job creation in dealing

with poverty and inequality, their Cabinet resolved to elevate the management of these two priorities to the Presidency by establishing an Infrastructure Commission to be chaired by the President and a Job Creation Commission to be chaired by the Deputy President.

In response to the growing demand for knowledge development and to contribute to the wide range of policy choices on public employment creation – whether as part of a recovery package, employment policy or as a component of a wider social protection scheme – the EIIP has worked closely with national and international experts to document the innovations and to facilitate the dissemination and to learn from these good practices.

Thirty years of experience in over seventy countries, linking employment with infrastructure development, the Employment Intensive Investment Programme has been endowed with a unique and vast portfolio of experiences with productive employment creation for economic development and social safety nets, allowing for south-south exchanges and facilitating further south-south encounters.

¹ http://www.ilo.org/emppolicy/pubs/WCMS_158483/lang-en/index.htm

² http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/insight/WCMS_160220/lang-en/index.htm
<http://www.ftkmc.com/newsletter/Vol1-31-oct18-2010.pdf>

The CWP course was based on the international course on “Innovations in Public Employment Programmes”, developed and run by the Employment Intensive Investment Programme of the ILO (EIIP) in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO). The next international open course is planned 1-12 October (1-5 October distance learning / 8 – 12 October in ITC-Turin, Italy). For further information, please contact s.ouine@iticilo.org.

More information: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/insight/WCMS_160220/lang-en/index.htm
http://7thspace.com/headlines/390510/south_africa_statement_on_the_cabinet_lekgotta_26_28_july_2011_pretoria.html

Global Labour University

A good example of workers organisations' engagement in Triangular Cooperation

By Claire Hobden, ILO, Bureau for Workers' Activities

The Global Labour University (GLU) is an effort at triangular cooperation designed to build the knowledge and research capacity of trade unionists from around the world, with a particular emphasis on South-South exchange. Funded primarily by the German government, the GLU represents a network of universities and social partners in Brazil, India, South Africa and Germany working in cooperation to provide trade unionists with opportunities at advanced education. The GLU currently offers Masters'

programmes as well as research workshops and conferences on each of the four campuses, and regularly publishes the research produced by GLU students, alumni and network members.

Building the research and knowledge capacity of trade unions in the South.

The GLU is the only network worldwide that offers a global cooperation between trade unions and academic institutions with a strong focus on South-South cooperation. Over the past five years it has strengthened the voice of the South in global debates, and many of its alumni have taken up new responsibilities and

leadership functions in their organisations. The network creates new channels for trade

unionists and researchers from the South, bringing a confident southern voice to a global labour discourse.

Trade unions are a vital proponent of social justice in many countries and a key element of civil society. As global production and manufacturing capacity moves to the South, workers in the Global South are increasing their organizing to meet the challenge of globalization



Claire Hobden, ILO, Bureau for Workers' Activities

Continued on page 15

Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization

The President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, received on 15 December from the Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, the Portuguese version of the report “Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization”. The report calls for the implementation of a social protection floor in order to stimulate economic growth and increase social cohesion in light of the economic crisis.

“Today, we are undergoing very difficult time in the international arena. The economic situation in developed countries is very dramatic and, to a certain point, detrimental to their populations. We are concerned that the process of adjustment does not represent a reduction or loss of rights and guarantees”, said President Rousseff, citing the high unemployment rates recorded by these countries, particularly among young people.

“Today, we are seeing unemployment levels that lead to dramatic loss of quality of life; governments need to break the growing dissonance between the voice of the streets and the voice of the markets,” President Dilma said during a ceremony at the Presidential Palace, seat of the Brazilian government. “We know from experience, developed since 2003 in Brazil, that investing in social protection is an extremely effective way to fight poverty, to reduce inequalities, to improve living standards, and to foster social cohesion and stability”.

The concept of a social protection floor adopted by the United Nations and the G20 represents an integrated and coordinated policy of income transfer combined with access to basic essential health services, education, sanitation, nutrition, employment, housing among others. The ILO, in cooperation with other UN agencies, is working with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty worldwide through programs that combine transfers of resources, access to basic services and productive inclusion in the form of social floors – the program Brazil without Poverty constitutes an example of such a policy.

Mrs. Bachelet, the former President of Chile also heads the Advisory Group on Social Protection Floor, which prepared the report, published by the ILO. “During the preparation of this report, we had the opportunity to demonstrate how social protection policies have avoided the worst of the economic crisis, especially among the most vulnerable, supported demand and boosted economic recovery in Brazil and several other emerging countries,” said Mrs. Bachelet said.

The report notes that of the 7 billion people worldwide, 5.1 billion lack access to adequate

social protection, while only just above 15 percent of the unemployed worldwide receive some form of unemployment benefits.

During the ceremony, Executive Director of the ILO, María Angélica Ducci, and the Minister of Social Development of Brazil, Tereza Campelo, signed a protocol of intent to cooperate in the areas of social protection, poverty eradication and productive inclusion for decent work.

In her speech at the Presidential Palace, Mrs. Bachelet highlighted some points of the report:

- 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day.
- 925 million people suffer from chronic hunger.
- 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water, while 2.6 billion lack access to sanitation.
- 796 million adults are illiterate.
- About 75 percent of the world’s population still has no adequate social security coverage.



A woman in India harvesting on her farmland. (ILO Photo)

Social protection – and, in particular, the concept of social protection floor – is increasingly regarded as a fundamental tool for development in various international fora, as happened recently at the G20 Summit in Cannes and on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in September.

The UN has designated the social protection floor as one of its nine initiatives in response to the crisis. Led by the ILO and the World Health Organization, it aims to promote a set of basic rights and social transfers, as well as essential services in the areas of employment, health, water and sanitation, nutrition, education and family support, to protect and empower the poorest and most vulnerable so they can escape poverty.

Social Protection and Food Security



The ILO Solution Exchange Forum on social protection, decent work and food security took place on December 6, 2011 during the Global South-South Development Expo at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Forum panellists included Alette van Leur, Director of the ILO Sectoral Activities Department; Sammy Nyambari, Labour Commissioner of Kenya; Renato Bignami, Deputy Labour Inspector of Brazil; Vicenta Trotman, representing an indigenous community in Panama; Mr. Guiherme Delgado, IPEC Researcher from Brazil; and, Anita Amorim from the ILO, on behalf of Say Sam On (Coordinator, Cambodian Trade Unions).

By Mami Yamada, Anita Amorim and Elvis Beytullayev report on the Solution Forum Seminar in Rome held on 6 December this year

Alette van Leur, the Director of the ILO sectoral activities department started the forum by introducing the panelists and regretting the absence of the union coordinator from Cambodia (who despite having valid visa and invitation letters from ILO was denied entrance in Italy). She mentioned this as an example of the concrete challenges of South-South cooperation networking at the international level. She began the session by recalling target 1B of MDG 1 (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger) and highlighted the linkage between food security and decent work. Furthermore, she said that social protection is at the heart of the ILO. If people can effectively sustain themselves, hunger can be reduced. Ms van Leur mentioned the programme “Decent work for food security” which targets decent work challenges in sectors of the entire food value chain, including agriculture, food processing, storage, transport, roads, catering services and commerce.



Sammy Nyambari

efficiency and effectiveness in labour markets. He mentioned that the food and nutrition policy in Kenya was partly initiated by the Brazilian Food and Nutrition Security Programme through South-South cooperation. Adequate nourishment is a basic human right, however only 13% of the population has some form of social protection. Therefore, there is a need to cover the rest of the population, especially the vulnerable people. Another overarching policy and strategy which was developed by the government was made possible through the triangular SSC and funded by DFID.

Sammy Nyambari, Labour Commissioner from Kenya stated that South-South cooperation should be done in an integrated and holistic approach in which social partners and different ministries and other stakeholders work together to foster

The Brazilian experience is based on three pillars that include social security, social health insurance and social assistance. A central lesson learned from Brazil is that the labour dimension is an indispensable part of food security policies. The Kenyan government has adopted a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary process for the establishment of a policy and strategy for protection. It's in the process of implementing a single management and registry system and an integrated policy for social protection. Successful social protection initiatives include decentralization of social protection programmes, intensive and comprehensive training of civil servants, strategic investment in social protection programmes and most importantly leadership skills. All this must be anchored on political will.

In the East African region, the EAC Protocol on the free movement of goods and labour looks at labour markets especially social security and has influenced practices in the five east African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda) and consolidated the horizontal

Continued on next page

exchanges. A bilateral agreement between Kenya and South Sudan has led to capacity development of personnel in the public sector. There are a few dimensions: 1) Public servants of South Sudan are trained in Kenya; 2) Public servants and experts from Kenya have been going to South Sudan to support them with training; 3) the Kenyan government, in a partnership with the ILO and the World Bank, have support the reconstruction of the South Sudan labour administration system.

The development of a labour migration policy, inspired from the Philippines, led to bilateral agreements with middle eastern countries which have established bench marks and standards. This can be used to address labour migration issues in a holistic and integrated manner so as to protect and regularize vulnerable migrants as well as harmonize diaspora remittances which are a major boost to the Kenyan economy. Realization is that South-South as well as Triangular cooperation adds more value to labour markets when premised on an integrated approach.



Renata Bignami

Renato Bignami, deputy labour inspector of Brazil, shared the Workers Feeding Program (PAT) whose objective is to improve workers nutritional conditions with positive repercussions to their lives. Developed by the Ministry of Labour's

Safety Health at the Work Department, it is voluntary and targets workers with low income. Accountability is provided by the PAT Commission which is composed of government workers and employers. It proposes regulation improvement and revises regulation, improves nutritional patterns, registering firms providing food. The programme costs less, is easily accessible and controlled by the labour inspectorate, generates opportunities, fosters social dialogue because it is based on tripartite consultations. Advantages to the employer include a discount of up to 4% in the Revenue Tax, including the productive effects, such as lesser absenteeism, less accidents at work and reduction in occupational diseases. He also highlighted that this model had some South-South cooperation potential, especially in MERCOSUR countries. He concluded that in the context of this programme "food security means decent work".



Vicenta Troutman

Vicenta Troutman, an indigenous Ngäbe-Bouglé leader from an indigenous community in Panama shared the experience of the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) which was implemented in 9

indigenous communities. This was a good example of an UN-ILO Triangular cooperation initiative, supported by the MDG Fund on water and sanitation. She mentioned this could be replicated in Paraguay, where she addressed the Guaraní Communities from the Chaco region, encouraging gender empowerment and access of women to productive resources. The goal is to strengthen equity and overcome the gaps (safe water and sanitation, empowerment the local population). Strategies are adapted to the political social and economic conditions and the approach is one of mutual sharing of knowledge, establishment of focal points and good management. One aspect is ownership, greater participation of the community, knowledge sharing and awareness.

There was a drastic reduction in poverty because of to access to water, participation of women, investment at the local level, and training of community guards to strengthen the work of the local community. Also there was an increase in the number of organized communities, 350 entrepreneurs were involved and there was exchange of knowledge between the communities through the network. For example the experience was shared with ethnic groups from Paraguay's Chaco's region because of the importance of horizontal approaches to managing water and sanitation.



Anita Amorim

Anita Amorim, ILO's UN and SSC team manager in the Partnerships department, presented on behalf of Say Sam On (Coordinator of Cambodia trade unions) the involvement of trade union in Cambodia combating child labour

in fishing, which could be replicated through SSC. ILO has implemented a variety of policy frameworks at the national level that will impact child labour such as the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals and the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Various stakeholder groups were specifically targeted to participate in capacity building efforts and various agencies have implanted various parts of the programme. For instance, the Provincial Department of Planning identified target children through individual household interviews. Employers' Associations collaborates with the community to remove hazardous working conditions for children above the minimum working age. Trade unions have been established and sensitized, established codes of conduct and disseminated information resources to all members. The aim here is to achieve child labor free provinces. Trade unions will continue to monitor the activities in the region and share their lessons learned through regional trade union meetings to encourage South-South cooperation. Another similar

opportunity is twinning the "child labour free provinces" with different countries of the Global South. As one of the objectives of the project, supported by the unions, is creating a child labour free zone.

Guiherme Delgado, who has worked for the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) in Brazil for 30 years, discussed the Social Rural Pension system of 1988, a successful Brazilian experience illustrating the virtuous connection between social security and food security based on important and empirically verifiable outcomes. The experience is particularly relevant for other countries in the South facing the challenge of extending coverage to a large rural population including non-wage labour relations such as small farmers working in their family business, while also providing additional protection to women. The Social Rural Pension system is a semi-contributory subsidized system that can be understood as a social right safeguarded by constitutional arrangements. It is the main income distribution initiative in Brazilian social policy covering 95 per cent of the rural economically active population and it costs about 1 per cent of GDP. The system positively affects the purchase power of the targeted population and it plays a role in fostering the production of food, thus combating nutritional risks and food insecurity.



Alette van Leur

The last part of the panel included the launch of the "FAO-ILO Good practices guide for Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Policy and Practice".

Alette van Leur said that even though the child labour Conventions (182 and 138) are among the best ratified conventions of the ILO, many children are still working in the fishing sector. Coherence is necessary at the national level especially the ministries of the various countries. They need to eliminate child labor that still continues in the various sectors of the economy. ILO together with FAO is working together to bring experts to share experiences and complete the document so that it can be implemented.

Rolf Willmann, FAO, said that child labour is high where migration is widespread. The consequences are a vicious cycle of poverty, act as a substitute for adult labour and reduce labour costs. The FAO-ILO good practice guidance for addressing this problem is bringing together various ministries dealing with children such as labour and education. The next step is a national workshop in Cambodia in 2012 and in Malawi.

South-South Cooperation for LDCs

The ILO Experience

Interview with Mr. Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of PARDEV

The International Labour Organization (ILO) actively participated in the roundtable on "Building Productive Capacities of Least Developed Countries through South-South, Triangular and Public-Private Partnerships" during the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2011.

South-South in Action interviews Mr. Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department, on key features of South-South Cooperation in the ILO.

The ILO was represented at a South-South Cooperation event during the LDC-IV. How can the SSC modality help LDCs to reduce poverty?

Jürgen Schwettmann: Let me begin by stating that the ILO has always been an advocate of the cause of the Least Developed Countries, because we firmly believe that universal, lasting peace can only be established if it is based on social justice. The LDCs have much to offer in international cooperation. While a certain country may need support in one area, it may also have good practices to share in another. Each LDC can be a "solution-provider" and a "solution-seeker" at the same time. The LDCs may need support in their efforts to identify and assess their good practices as well as their capacity gaps. The UN agencies are helping in this mapping exercise, in matching and exchanging successful experiences, and in seeking partners to help kick-off South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Could you give us an example of South-South Cooperation involving LDCs in each of the ILO main sectors of activity?

Yes! In the field of **Green Jobs**, an agreement has been signed with the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) fund. In 2010, there was a Partnership Programme agreement between ILO and Brazil for the promotion of South-South Cooperation on Forced Labour and Green Jobs. The direct relation between the workplace and the environment is the essence of green jobs which is defined as work that contributes to the preservation or restoration of environmental quality while meeting labour demands, adequate remuneration, safe conditions at work and respect to workers' rights. In its efforts to integrate green jobs into decent work dimensions, the ILO's Green Jobs department has grown rapidly and performs activities in ten countries, including Brazil. In an agreement between Green Jobs and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), the development objective is to stimulate the creation of decent work and green jobs in the forestry sector of Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries involved in this Cooperation, providing a socially just transition to an economy of low carbon emissions, both regionally and globally. This is very relevant in this time of climate change issues. Furthermore, it is relevant in light of the upcoming Rio +20 meeting which is the UN Conference



Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (extreme right) seen with former UN secretary-General Kofi Annan (second from left).

on Sustainable Development. This conference has the intent to secure renewed political commitments for sustainable development, assess progress thus far, and address the remaining gaps and challenges.

In the field of **Social Protection**, it is worth mentioning the implementation of gender sensitive social protection floors by means of South-South cooperation. Countries from the South (Brazil, Mexico, India, South Korea, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Thailand) that have acquired expertise in a particular area, cooperate with LDCS (Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Zambia, Cambodia, Lao PDR) that are currently seeking assistance.

In the area of **Social Dialogue**, the ILO is partnering with national and international trade unions and universities, to strengthen the intellectual and strategic capacity of workers organisations through an academic institution called the Global Labour University (GLU). The GLU offers tailor-made Master's programmes and short-term postgraduate courses on labour and globalization for trade unionists at partner universities in Brazil, Germany, India, and South Africa. The objective is to help trade unions build their competence, expertise and capacity in the field of economic and social policy. The programmes are open to trade unionists of any nationality provided they meet the formal requirements for a postgraduate university programme and have support from their trade union. Many trade unions from LDCs send students to those campuses.

In the domain of **Labour Standards**, the ILO has partnered with Brazil to support the efforts of Portuguese-Speaking countries in Africa – most of which are LDCs – to eliminate child labour. The ILO worked closely with Trade Unions from these countries on raising the awareness of teachers through a project called SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media). Trade unions from these countries agreed to continue the implementation of the SCREAM "Training of Trainers" module in schools in their respective countries.

What is the added-value of the ILO for SSC and what can the ILO bring to the table for LDCs?

The specific value-added of countries from the Global South is their intimate knowledge and familiarity of the living and working conditions in situation in the informal and rural economy – which until today dominate the economies of the majority of developing countries. The ILO, with its long experience in technical cooperation can contribute its expertise and facilitate cooperation. However, successful SSC lies in the political will of countries to take a look at good practices and adapt them to their specific context.

How does the ILO formally engage with a country in South-South Cooperation?

We begin with informal discussions with interested countries which may then lead to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding; that is, a kind of umbrella agreement under which we can later develop programmes and areas of collaboration, as well as design and implement specific projects. It is quite interesting to see that some countries that used to benefit from traditional forms of development cooperation are now sharing their experiences and technical knowledge with other countries of the South. One good example is Brazil, which is now sharing its experiences with countries such as Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Cape Verde and Timor Leste. Brazil is, in fact, the first ILO constituent from the South to formalize its development cooperation under many agreements - the first of which dates back to 1987.

Is the ILO participating in any events related to South-South Cooperation in the near future?

In fact, yes! The ILO will be represented at the upcoming 2011 Global South-South Expo in Rome. This event will be from 5-9 December at the FAO headquarters. The ILO will be offering solutions on social protection and food security with the angle of South-South Cooperation.

“India Plays a Major Role in Promoting South-South Cooperation”

Continued from page 8

Mr. Carlos Lupi (Minister of Labour, Brazil) emphasized that setting up the IBSA Forum in the ILO was of fundamental importance to take societies forward on a more equal footing. The IBSA common commitment was strengthened in 2010, when the three Heads of State had reiterated their total support for the Global Jobs Pact. He also said that now a proposal in the area of Decent Work and SSC was being evaluated by IBSA, and he believed that this would be approved soon by the IBSA fund, based in New York. The Minister said that the IBSA fund is not only a financial mechanism for developing countries, but above all, an instrument for promoting the dignity of people in need and of a new model of international cooperation, based in solidarity.



Mr. Ndimeni (Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to UNOG) said South Africa had embarked on several policy interventions to address those needs within the boundaries of realistic

resource limitations. Some sociopolitical interventions included the provision of grants, such as child support grants and community projects based on subsistence farming, especially in child- or grandparent-headed households. Collaboration was occurring on various issues with different countries, such as agricultural cooperation projects with Viet Nam, employment

generation programmes with Guinea Bissau, Cuban/South African cooperation on a medical brigade in Mali and Sierra Leone, and development projects in Central Africa. South Africa was also supporting training and capacity building in Sudan as part of institutional support to the country. Through IBSA, South Africa funded joint projects in several countries, including Laos and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Mr. Ntshalintshali (Confederation of South African Trade Unions – COSATU) speaking on behalf of the trade unions of all IBSA countries, said that trade unions in the global South had pioneered how to organize millions of informal workers. The Brazilian trade union movement was instrumental in this, and the social dialogue forum there had managed to build social progress and invest in substantial social changes in the country. He described the Global Labour University (GLU), which was a network of universities and trade unions and civil society organizations, which the ILO had created for international knowledge management.

Least developed countries and good initiatives on poverty reduction through tourism



H.E. Mr. Bhattarai, Ambassador of Nepal to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), drew attention to the importance of tourism as a recognized tool for employment creation and development.

Tourism accounted for 35% of world export

services and was normally labour-intensive, which led to higher employment and acted as a stimulus to the national economy. Nepal has put policies in place for the development of sustainable tourism, which included ecotourism, and rural, educational and research tourism. Rural tourism was expected to play a large role in poverty reduction. Nepal has encouraged public-private partnerships and investment in tourism industries.



China’s experience in South-South Cooperation

HE Mr. He Yafei, Ambassador of China, said it was a great honour to participate in the event and

announced that China would donate \$1 million USD to the ILO in support of technical cooperation in the field of employment. China has given assistance in the form of investment, health programmes, no interest loans, dispatched experts and medical teams, and human resource training. China is still regarded as a developing country according to International Monetary Fund statistics. China would continue to strengthen solidarity with other countries, and would continue to enrich South-South Cooperation in the framework of other international organizations.

Global Labour University

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and to achieve decent work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity for all. Improved international knowledge networks of trade unions, research institutions and universities are instrumental for creating the competence and capacity to address the needs for a social dimension of globalization. Trade unions need to strengthen not only their organizational but also their analytical capacity at both the national and global levels. Solutions cannot be found through a North-South knowledge transfer but only through joint global research and deliberation. The active role of labour organizations in Brazil, India and South Africa in shaping the future of their societies is an inspirational source for new ideas far beyond their own countries.

South meets South: Examples of how the structure is implemented

South-South Cooperation is exercised from project design to implementation. The Master’s programmes are developed jointly by universities, the Global Unions, the ILOs’ Bureau for Workers’ activities, and workers organisations primarily from Brazil, South Africa, India and Germany. To bring added dialogue within the South, GLU Master’s students have the

opportunity to study for a semester at one of the other GLU campuses, or to conduct an internship with a trade union in another country. Professors also travel to the other campuses as guest lecturers and visiting professors, sharing knowledge and expertise across the network. For those who cannot commit to a full year Master’s programme, the GLU also offers a short term, policy-focused Diploma Course on Labour Policies and Globalisation that integrates practice with theory by including an 8 week internship with a trade union. Finally, the GLU became a key partner in the newly established International Research Centre on Development and Decent Work (ICDD), which aims to strengthen the debate and research around the social dimension of globalization and the Decent Work agenda by offering an international PhD programme located within 6 universities in the developing world and the University of Kassel in Germany.

Theoretical knowledge is put into practice when participants have the opportunity to attend international workshops with global unions to develop policy projects. Whether they are back with their trade unions, continuing their studies, or aiding the labour movement in other ways, GLU alumni continue to develop their skills and knowledge through ongoing research projects on issues ranging from local labour rights at the occasion of global sporting events, to minimum wage policy, gender and trade unions, domestic worker

empowerment strategies, and international framework agreements.

GLU conferences and workshops provide GLU members, alumni and students with the opportunity to meet to debate new ideas, present their research, strengthen networks, and increase horizontal communication within the growing community of labour activists and researchers from the developing world. The Annual GLU Conference chooses a cutting edge topic and takes place at each GLU campus on a rotating basis. Regional and global GLU Alumni Workshops and an annual Alumni Applied Research Summer School provide a platform for further research and collaboration.

Results Achieved

Trade unions recognise the need to look beyond national borders and beyond institutional barriers in order to be vital actors within national and international civil society. Partnerships with academic institutions outside the labour movement and sharing experiences with people from other countries facing similar challenges has not only helped participants to understand complex realities, but also has already generated new ideas and answers. For a full listing of GLU publications, please visit www.global-labour-university.org

“Developing Nations Offer Creative Solutions for Tackling Hunger”

Says Assembly President at the Global South-South Development Expo



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President of the General Assembly lauded the Global South-South Development Expo held in Rome as a strong testimony to the creativity of developing countries to achieve global food security.

“This year’s Expo has demonstrated the power of the Global South to respond quickly to development challenges and meet global needs for adequate food and nutrition,” he stated in remarks to the closing ceremony that were delivered by his Deputy Chef de Cabinet, Tariq Ali Al-Ansari.

“We can leave here today, knowing that the South-South spirit of striving for collective self-reliance is stronger than ever before,” he stated, noting that there have been many “dynamic” examples of successful solutions on display to address the pressing demand for food security.

“Documenting, showcasing and exchanging these solutions and lessons learned will allow for their scaling up and easy replication across the globe,” said Mr. Al-Nasser. “This is imperative for us to truly energise the agenda for South-South and triangular cooperation.”

South-South cooperation is based on solidarity among developing countries and links countries that have development solutions to share, with countries in need of expertise.

Representatives of countries, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies came together at the week-long Expo, hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, to share success stories from past and ongoing South-South partnerships, and explore new ideas and solutions for long-term and sustainable food security.

“During our time together, we have been reminded of the tremendous number of hungry people in the world, but we have also been encouraged by success stories shared from all over the world,” stated Mr. Al-Nasser.

“In many Southern countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, these solutions and innovative partnerships have captured our interest and ignited our imagination.

“As we now prepare to go back to our homes and offices, it is also time to plan for the years ahead, envisioning how best we might translate the knowledge and experiences shared here into real, sustainable solutions,” he said.

“Achieving food security is our collective purpose moving on from this Expo.”

“This year’s Expo has demonstrated the power of the Global South to respond quickly to development challenges and meet global needs for adequate food and nutrition.”

—NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER



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