

Promoting Youth Employment through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States

Doha, 19 February 2013

Gianni Rosas
ILO Youth Employment Unit Coordinator

Characteristics of SSTC

ILO's outlook on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

SSTC is a manifestation of solidarity among the countries and peoples of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

It is not a substitute but, rather, a complement to, North-South cooperation. From this stems the concept of "triangular cooperation" which is defined as South-South cooperation supported by a Northern partner.

Key to SSTC is the concept of "solidarity" which is defined as the feeling of loyalty and mutual support between people of the South. It is a feeling of solidarity that is based on the shared experience of the South and the shared commitment to the common good of the South.



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ILO, 2012, *South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward*

Characteristics of SSTC

ILO

SSTC addresses a vast array of initiatives in areas such as:

- employment
- health
- education
- infrastructure
- agriculture

SSTC involves initiatives in the social, economic, environmental, technical and political fields. SSTC embraces a multi-stakeholder approach. The ILO has a comparative advantage in this regard, due to its tripartite nature, and social partners can play a key role in promoting SSTC.

According to the UN High Level Committee on SSC, "South-South cooperation is a common endeavor of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity, and guided by, inter-alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionality. SSC should not be seen as official development assistance. It is a partnership among equals based on solidarity"

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South-South and triangular cooperation fostered by the ILO Knowledge Management Facility on Youth Employment and Migration

The ILO Resolution *Youth employment crisis: A call for action* adopted at the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in May 2012 seeks to establish mechanisms to review and disseminate good practices on youth employment interventions, including through mutual learning and South–South cooperation.

Why is SSTC important in order to tackle the youth employment crisis?

SSTC strengthens national and regional response capacities and coordination mechanisms, as well as the commitment of social partners thus ensuring the sustainability of actions for tackling the youth employment crisis.

The Knowledge Management Facility



The thematic window on youth, employment and migration (YEM) of the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) is an excellent example of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Since 2010, the ILO through its Youth Employment Programme has been assisting knowledge development and sharing in the framework of the Knowledge Management Facility.

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The YEM thematic window consisted of fifteen Joint Programmes (JPs) that span countries in Africa, Asia, South-East Europe and Latin America. They involved partnerships between international organizations and national actors at both national and local levels.



The Knowledge Management Facility forstered SSTC through the use of



Cross-country Peer Assist

Knowledge-sharing activity where countries had the opportunity to present the challenges facing their JPs and receive peer support by other members of the group in finding viable solutions and discussing lessons learnt



Teamworks platform

Knowledge management platform used for the collection and sharing of information such as terms of reference, technical specifications and other documents that are useful for the daily running of the JP.



E-helpdesk

Technical assistance facility which include most of the recurrent JP topics, from productive use of remittances, to design, monitoring and evaluation of youth employment programmes, to fiscal policies and incentives to expand labour demand.



Workshops

The workshops allowed the participants to share their overall experience throughout all the JP process, including implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The participants also discussed on good practices and lessons learned, and exchanged views on how to ensure the sustainability of achievements and maintain the YEM global community of practices.



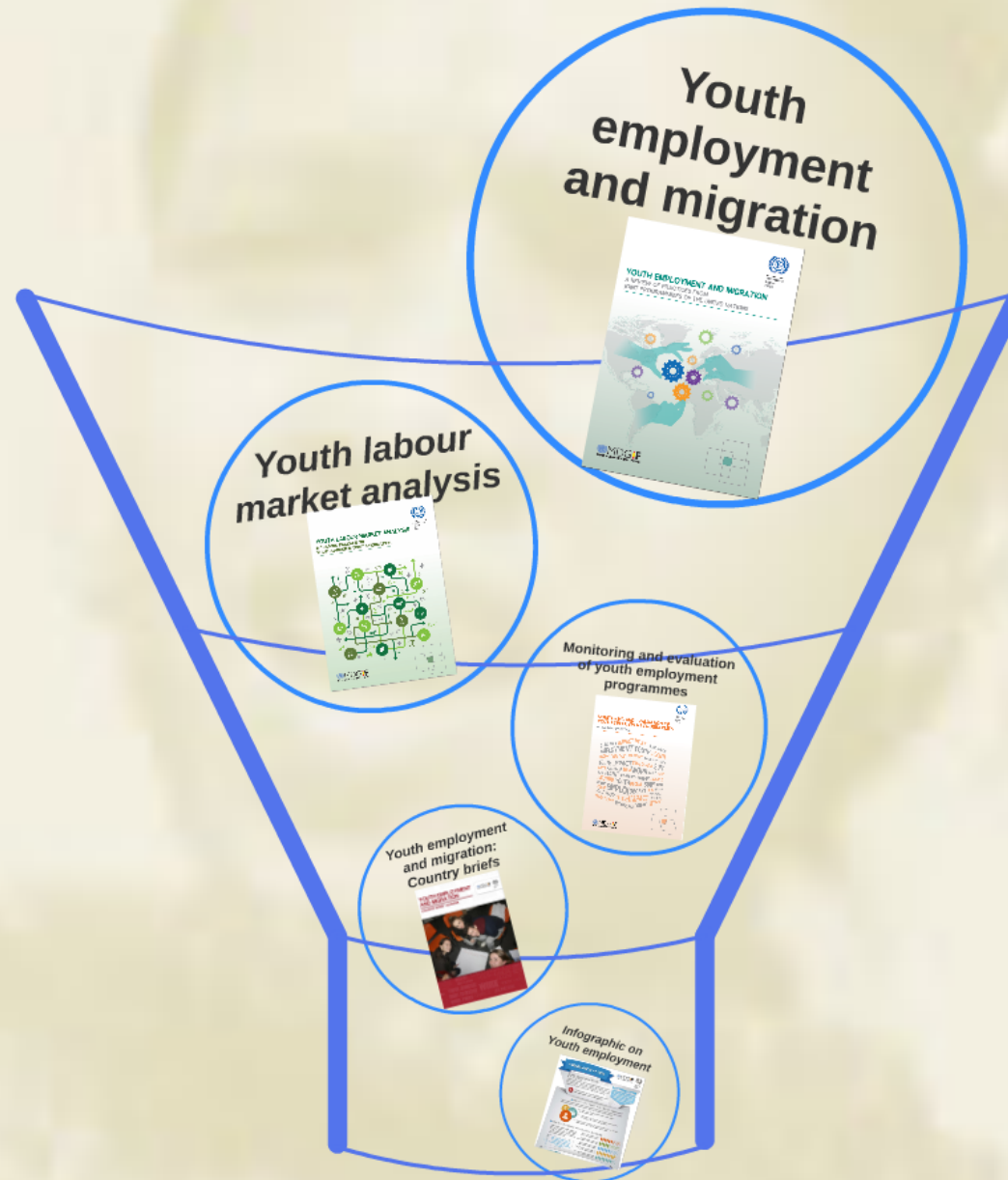
Examples of South-South cooperation generated by the Knowledge Management Facility

In **Ecuador** and **Paraguay**, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms were set up to increase policy coherence and minimize the duplication of efforts.

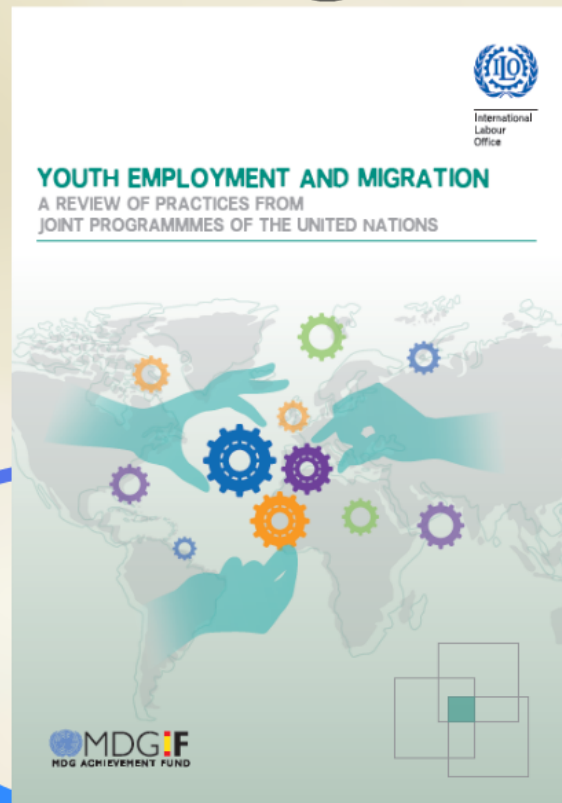
Cooperation agreement between **Ecuador** and **Peru** in the field of youth migration.

In **Albania** and **Tunisia**, public-private partnerships pooled resources to increase employment and self-employment opportunities for young people

In terms of knowledge development, the Facility systematised and facilitated the collection and dissemination of data, information and tools



Youth employment and migration



Youth labour market analysis





Youth employment and migration: Country briefs



Infographic on Youth employment



Final Remarks: Relevance of the ILO and the KMF in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The ILO assists governments, employers' and workers' organizations from the global South to establish sound labour relations, adapt labour laws to changing economic and social circumstances, and to improve labour administration. In so doing, the ILO supports the creation of conditions for **effective dialogue between social partners**.

In this context, The KMF helps governments engage in South-South cooperation by **providing a platform** for sharing their experience in promoting decent work values, while building up their capacity to engage effectively in socio-economic development.



Questions?



 **MDG F**
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International
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Organization



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