

## CHAPTER III

# Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America

REPORT ON SOUTH-SOUTH  
AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION  
IN IBERO-AMERICA 2020

**southsouth**

## CHAPTER III

# Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America

Ibero-America's firm commitment to Triangular Cooperation (TC), modality to which this chapter is dedicated, has been evident since the first edition of this report, when the first initiatives started to be systematized. Since that year, more than 1,200 experiences have been registered. Its increasing importance, in line with what is happening at the global level, is also reflected in its recent addition to the title of this publication which, as of 2020, is called *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America*.

## III.1 Introduction

In recent years, Triangular Cooperation has been internationally consolidating as an innovative instrument in which partners add efforts to find solutions to development problems. In 2015, this modality was recognized as a means for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This acknowledgement was reaffirmed in 2019 in the framework of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, also known as BAPA+40. In its outcome document, it is also stated that "triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities" (UN, 2019, p.2).

In line with the above, being aware of this modality's added value and of its potential as an instrument to unite regions and contribute to development "leaving no one behind", SEGIB and the European Union (EU), taking advantage of their accumulated experience, decided to associate and work together to build an innovative Triangular Cooperation model. Box III.1 summarizes this SEGIB-EU project, launched at the end of 2018. It specially stresses the purpose that justifies its origin and the way in which its implementation, as a technical-political exercise, will enable to take advantage of the strong complementarity of both region's accumulated experiences. In this sense, the project will contribute to strengthen Triangular Cooperation between Europe and Latin-America, as well as facilitate to advance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

## BOX III.1

## The Agreement between SEGIB and the EU for an innovative Triangular Cooperation

In November 2019, in the framework of the meeting of Ministries of Foreign Affairs held in Andorra to prepare the 27<sup>th</sup> Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) and the European Union (EU) —the latter through its Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)— signed an agreement which goal is to promote “An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for the new Development Agenda”.

Through this agreement, SEGIB and the EU join efforts and their experience in Triangular Cooperation, a modality through which, for many years, European and Latin-American countries have been working together to search for shared solutions to development problems. In this sense, although both regions’ experiences in the matter differ, their expertise is strongly complementary, as reflected in the specific content of this agreement, and is based on a shared vision in terms of triangular cooperation and its potential to contribute to advance towards sustainable development.

On the one hand, SEGIB has an expertise of more than one decade in the systematization of Triangular Cooperation information and its management. This experience is key in any decision-making process and, in the context of the crisis caused by COVID-19, has proved to be essential. Indeed, the Ibero-American space also counts with the only existing online data platform on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in a developing region (SIDICSS by its

Spanish acronym), and the results of the systematization of this data have been materializing for over a decade in this Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America, first published in 2007.

On the other hand, for more than a decade, the European Union has made an effort to promote joint work with Latin-America and the Caribbean through Triangular Cooperation. Experiences in the framework of other European programs of technical assistance to countries, which replicate the same collaboration scheme between both regions such as *EuroSocial* (social cohesion), *Paccto* (the fight against transnational organized crime) and *Euroclima* (mitigation and adaptation to climate change), among others, are evidence of part of these efforts. The bet, however, was doubled only four years ago, when the EU launched what would be its flagship program for Triangular Cooperation with Latin-America and the Caribbean, the *Adelante* Program, which has dedicated more than 10 million Euros to co-finance 8 Triangular Cooperation projects between 2016 and 2020.

In this context, the project “An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for the new Development Agenda”, which is expected to last 2 years, aims to bring SEGIB’s and the EU’s experience and efforts together to contribute to build an innovative model for Triangular Cooperation between the EU and Latin-America. This model, in line with the 2030 Agenda and based on a multidimensional, comprehensive and dynamic concept of development processes, will contribute to the generation of

innovative instruments to improve cooperation management in general and of triangular projects in particular, with the conviction that working at both levels will result in a more efficient Triangular Cooperation, as a means for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, a collective construction strategy is implemented, combining research and knowledge management with action, and technical dialogue with political discussion and negotiation. In fact, the project is structured on the basis of two pillars on which it simultaneously works:

1. The first one, called *More and better triangular cooperation*, is focused on investigation and analysis to better understand Triangular Cooperation’s characteristics and its potential. In this sense, it focuses on knowledge generation and on translating that knowledge into concrete instruments that can be applied, for example, to the generation of TC by cities, or to the implementation of this modality to improve indigenous peoples’ development processes.
2. The second one, called *Towards a triangular cooperation innovative model*, refers to the generation of policy-relevant knowledge that will be synthesized in a final document and will include all triangular cooperation stakeholders’ experiences and visions, regardless of their role. In addition, this document will be prepared on the basis of political and technical dialogue, a working method that will ensure the



resulting conceptualizations and proposals are based on consensus and appropriation, two principles that will in turn contribute to their effective translation into practice. For example, the identification of the necessary institutional transformations to effectively adapt to the new context will be one of the aspects on which this pillar will focus, since this type of cooperation's dynamism will continue to demand innovative responses from national and

regional institutions responsible for development cooperation, in terms of institutional designs.

Finally, this agreement becomes a key instrument at the global level, bringing different but complementary experiences together to help strengthen Triangular Cooperation to advance sustainable development. In this sense, today and in the context of the pandemic, SEGIB and the EU renew their commitment and

reaffirm Triangular Cooperation's potential as an instrument to contribute to overcome the crisis, bringing everyone together and reinforcing the path towards development's sustainability.

Source: SEGIB and DEVCO (EU).

The SEGIB-EU project is aligned with the Development Agenda and with the recommendations of BAPA+40 outcome document. Likewise, this chapter aims to contribute to advance the implementation of this declaration, especially in terms of the objective outlined in article 28 (d), which recognizes "the need to better understand triangular cooperation and to provide more evidence and rigorous information on its scale, scope and impact" (p.9), as a premise to improve its contribution to development. Consequently, this chapter, as it has been the case since its first edition in 2007, will analyze those aspects that contribute to a better understanding of this modality, stressing the evolution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, the participation of the different stakeholders, strengthened capacities and the SDGs with which they are aligned. Additionally, specific cases will be detailed to enable a more comprehensive understanding of this modality.

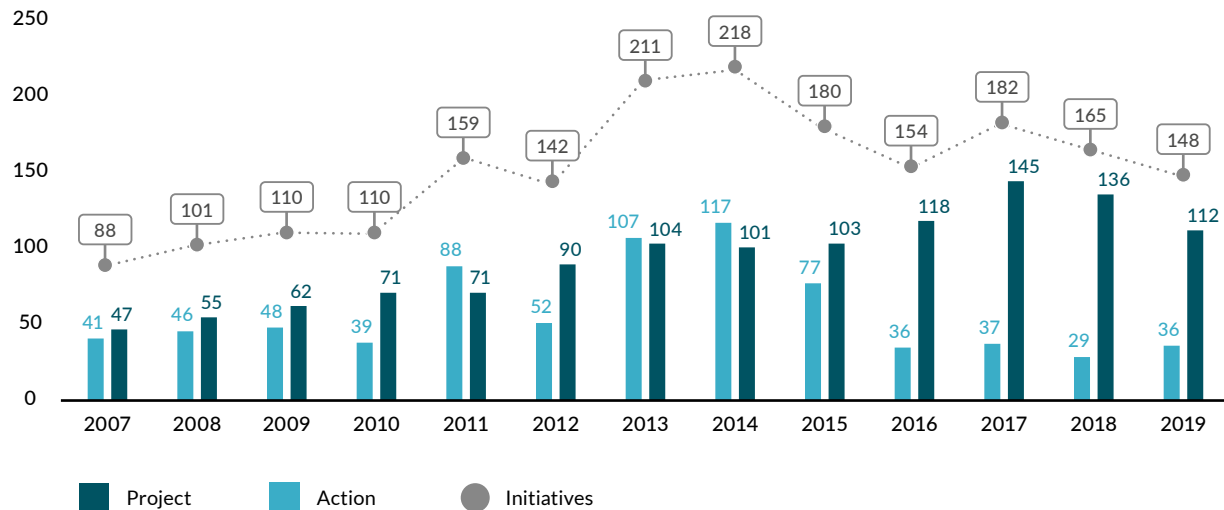
## III.2 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2019

Between 2007 and 2019, Ibero-American countries participated in 1,250 Triangular Cooperation initiatives (520 projects and 730 actions). In Graph III.1, these initiatives are distributed according to the execution year. This graph shows how this modality has undergone two very different growth stages: the first one, from 2007 until 2014, with a remarkably strong average increase, higher than 15.0%, multiplying the number of initiatives from 88 up to a maximum close to 220; and the second one, in which the annual average fall of -6.7% pushed the final figure to 148, in 2019.

**GRAPH III.1**

**Evolution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives with all partners. 2007-2019**

In units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

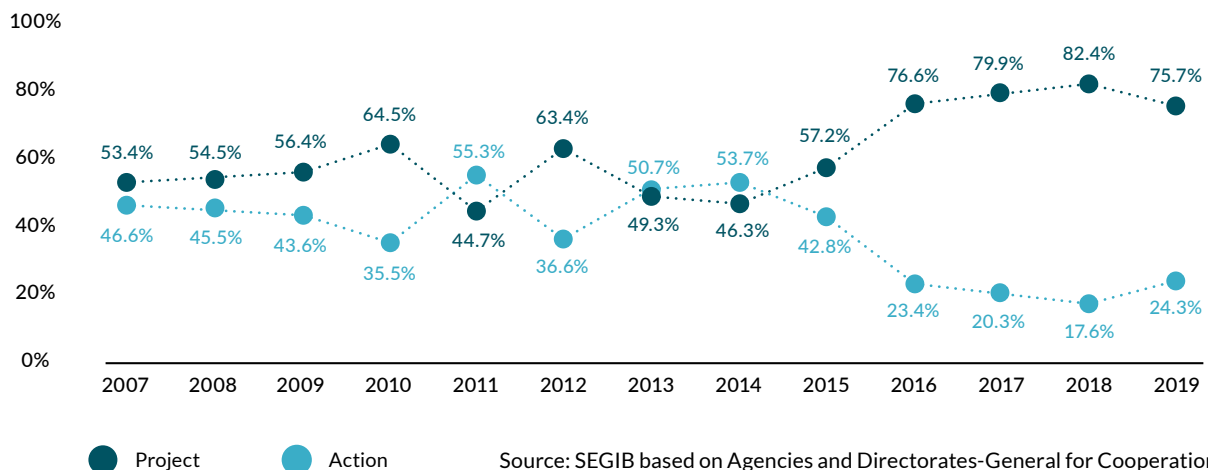
However, Graph III.2 completes the analysis by portraying the evolution of projects' and actions' share in the total of Triangular Cooperation initiatives. As shown in the graph, between 2007 and 2014, it is possible to identify some oscillations in the proportion between actions and projects. However, both at the beginning and at the end of that period, this ratio remained around 50-50. Between 2015 and

2019, though, the scenario substantially changed and a progressive shift of actions in favor of projects can be noticed. This dynamic explains that for each of the actions that were carried out in 2019 (36), three times more projects were being executed (112).

**GRAPH III.2**

**Evolution of projects' and actions' share in the total number of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners. 2007-2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

Therefore, as has been pointed out in previous editions of this report, the above suggests that the fall in the total number of initiatives registered between 2014 and 2019 is completely compatible with a process to strengthen Triangular Cooperation, since it is possible to identify countries' growing commitment to a more robust cooperation based on larger projects, to the detriment of specific and isolated activities.<sup>1</sup> In fact, between 2007 and 2017, projects have almost constantly increased. The only significant fall is actually associated with the 2018-2019 period. However, it is still too early to conclude this could respond to a change in trend, but rather to circumstantial aspects also influenced by possible under-reporting, since it must be taken into account that 2020 was the first time data collection corresponded to the immediate previous year and that it was developed under difficult circumstances due to the health crisis.

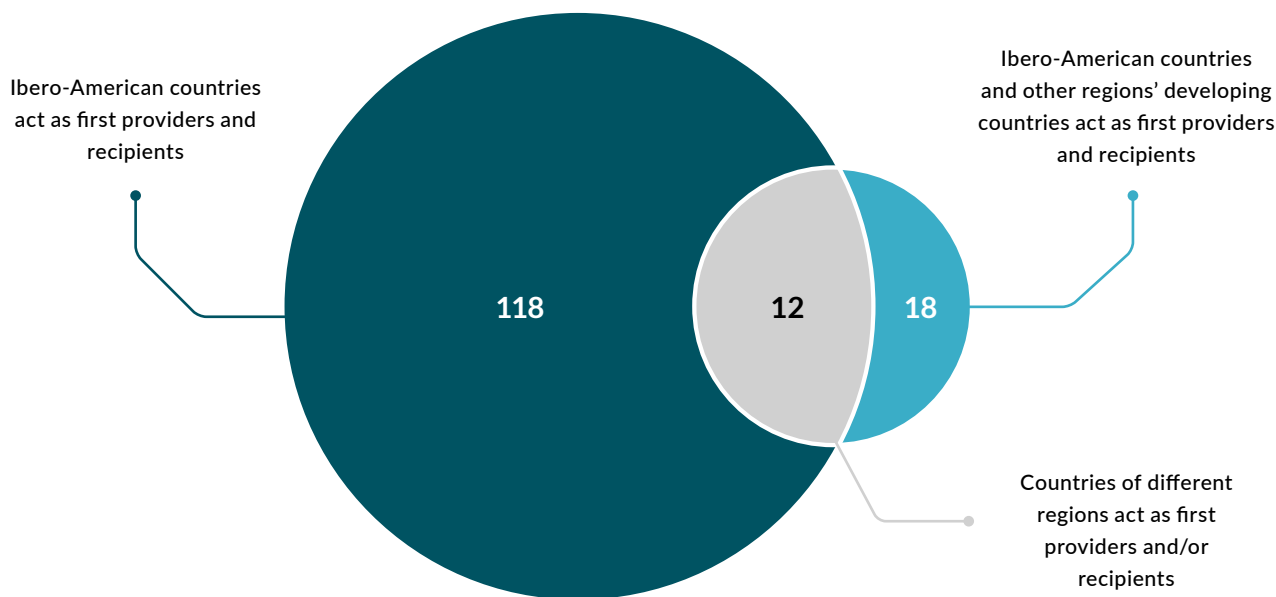
Finally, a methodological remark that affects the analysis of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which this chapter concentrates must be mentioned: the different sections will analyze Triangular Cooperation that took place mainly in 2019 and, specifically, *within* Ibero-America. In other words, this chapter will not detail all the initiatives in which Ibero-America participates (148), but only those (130) in which the exchange of capacities is carried out by countries of the region, under the first provider and recipient roles.

This criterion is used to differentiate the analysis from other cases that will be addressed in Chapter IV, part of which is dedicated to cooperation with other regions. That chapter will include the 30 initiatives shown in Graph III.3 in which, in addition to Ibero-American countries, other regions' developing countries participate. This definition is key to understand *how* these initiatives add up and *what* is being considered in each case.

GRAPH III.3

**Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged in Ibero-America and together with developing countries of other regions. 2019**

In units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

<sup>1</sup> One way to illustrate the different scope of each type of initiative is by comparing the time they tend to remain under execution. In this sense, it can be stated that projects that were under execution at some moment in 2019 had an average duration of two years and four months, while actions were executed in an average time of only 22 days.

# III.3

## Countries' and partners' participation in Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America

As BAPA+40 outcome document recognizes in article 28, Triangular Cooperation “is a modality that builds partnerships and trust, between all partners, and that combines diverse resources and capacities”. In addition, the document states that:

It provides added value by leveraging and mobilizing additional technical and financial resources, sharing a wider range of experiences, promoting new areas of cooperation, and combining affordable and context-based development solutions (UN, 2019, p.12).

Based on that spirit, this section focuses, on the one hand, on identifying the protagonists of Triangular Cooperation that took place *within* Ibero-America in 2019 and, on the other hand, on the type of partnerships that were established among them to combine resources and capacities that enable the region to make further progress to achieve sustainable development.

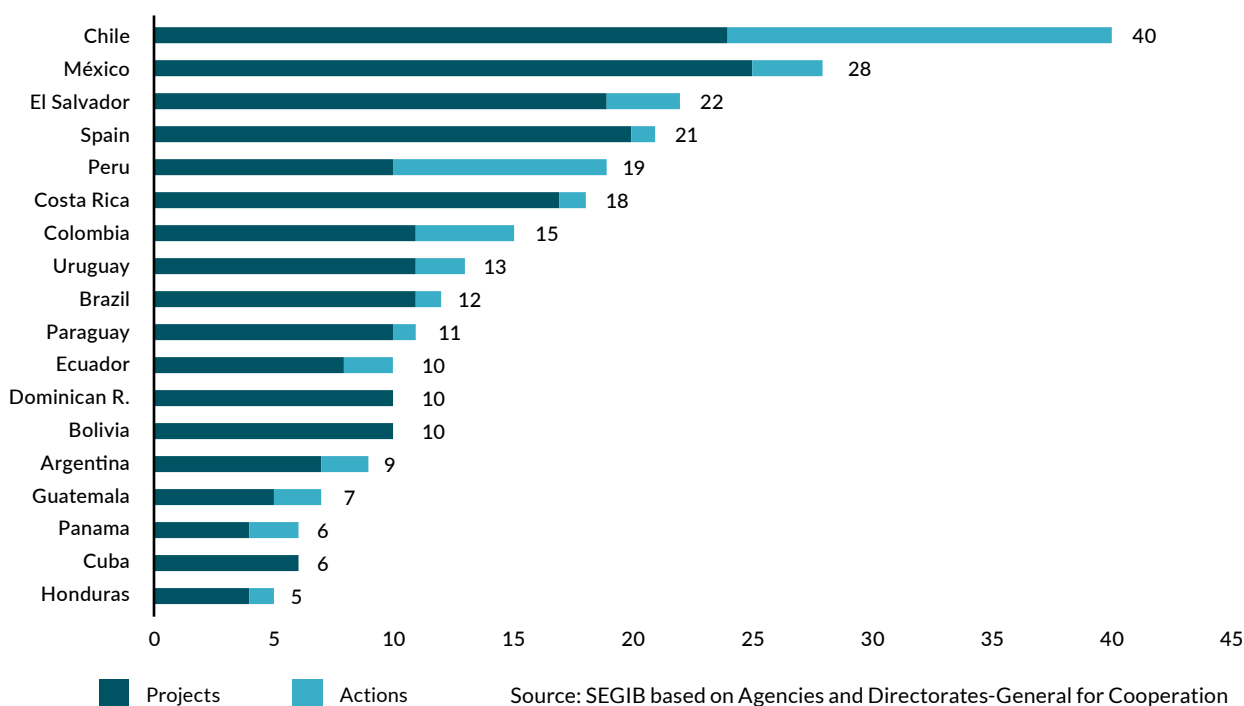
### III.3.1 Countries, organizations and roles

Graph III.4 shows Ibero-American countries' participation in the total of Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives that were under execution at some moment in 2019.<sup>2</sup> As portrayed, Chile stands out first, with 40 initiatives. This figure reveals the strong commitment this country has sustained, for more than two decades, to this cooperation modality.

GRAPH III.4

Ibero-American countries' participation in Triangular Cooperation, by actions and projects. 2019

In units



<sup>2</sup> In methodological terms, it must be highlighted that initiatives are considered if countries participate under the same role either individually or with a maximum of one other partner. Initiatives are not considered if they coincide with more than two countries, a very common case when they exercise, for example, the recipient role, and for which the term “more than one country” is used.

Mexico follows, participating in almost 30 Triangular Cooperation initiatives. As it will be later detailed, part of Mexico’s participation is explained, in fact, by its partnership with Chile itself, through the Mixed Cooperation Fund promoted by both countries in the framework of the Strategic Association Agreement signed in 2006, and through which Chile and Mexico are able to finance and execute both bilateral projects and actions as well as triangular initiatives between them and a third developing country.

*Chile, Mexico and Brazil have been the top three first providers in Ibero-America for over a decade*

Meanwhile, in 2019, Spain and El Salvador participated in more than 20 initiatives. Peru and Costa Rica closely followed, each of them involved in 19 and 18 projects and actions.

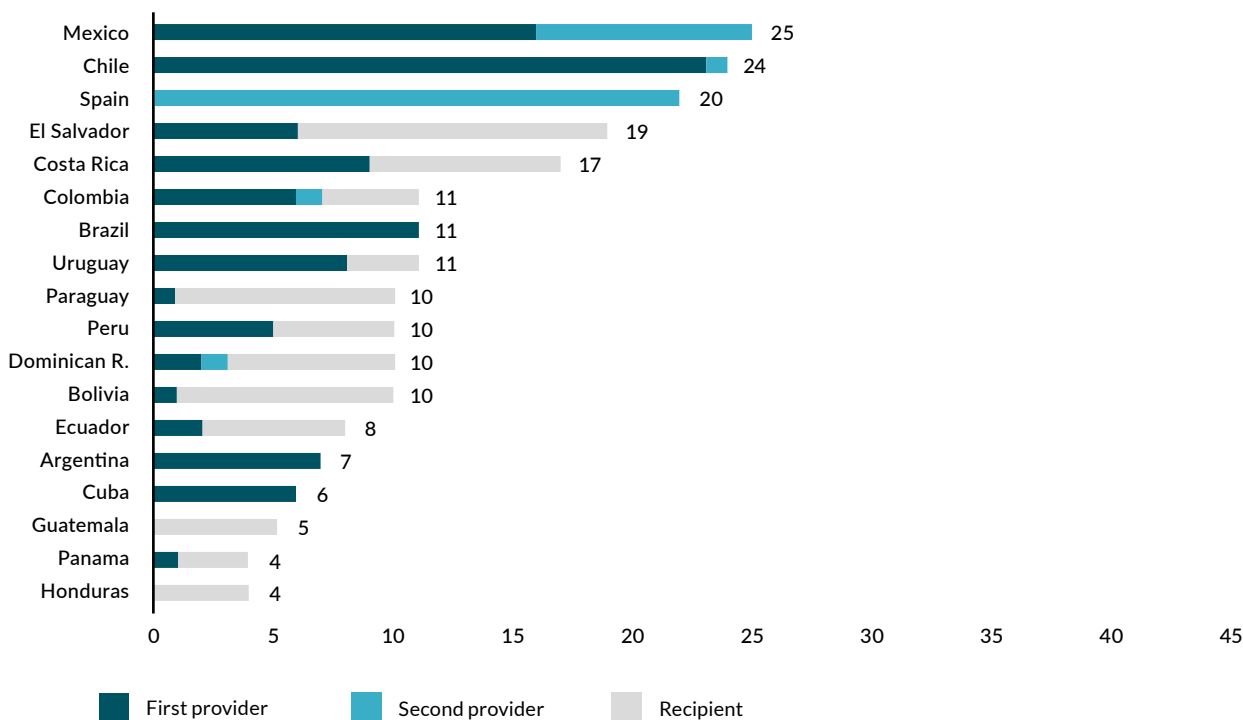
The implementation of projects rather than actions prevails in these 6 countries’ cooperation pattern, actions being a basically occasional instrument. Chile and Peru are the only exceptions: for the former, the execution of 24 projects is combined with 16 actions; and, for the latter, the ratio is close to 1, combining 10 projects with 9 actions.

Other 12 countries complete the analysis, the implementation of projects also prevailing in their pattern. One half of these (Colombia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador) contribute, from the South of the American continent, with between 10 and 15 TC initiatives. The other half is comprised of Argentina, together with Panama, Honduras and Guatemala in Central-America and Cuba and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, which were participating in between 5 and 9 triangular initiatives, respectively.

GRAPH III.5

**Ibero-American countries’ participation in Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by role (first provider, second provider and recipient). 2019**

In units



Note: the number of initiatives associated with each country includes those in which the country individually exercises any of the roles and those in which they participate with a maximum of one other partner (this case is most common when exercising the first provider role). However, initiatives in which 3 or more countries are exercising the same role are not considered (this case is common when exercising the recipient role). Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



Graph III.5, in turn, complements the above by showing the combination of roles (first provider, second provider and recipient) under which Ibero-American countries participated in Triangular Cooperation projects exchanged in 2019. In this sense and in a first approach, countries that participated in more than 15 initiatives tend to display a predominantly “provider” profile which contrasts with those that were active in less than 10 actions and projects, where the recipient role prevailed. Meanwhile, countries that executed around 10 initiatives were associated with any of the possible patterns (predominantly provider, recipient or with both roles). The details and the exceptions, however, are analyzed in terms of their participation in each specific role.

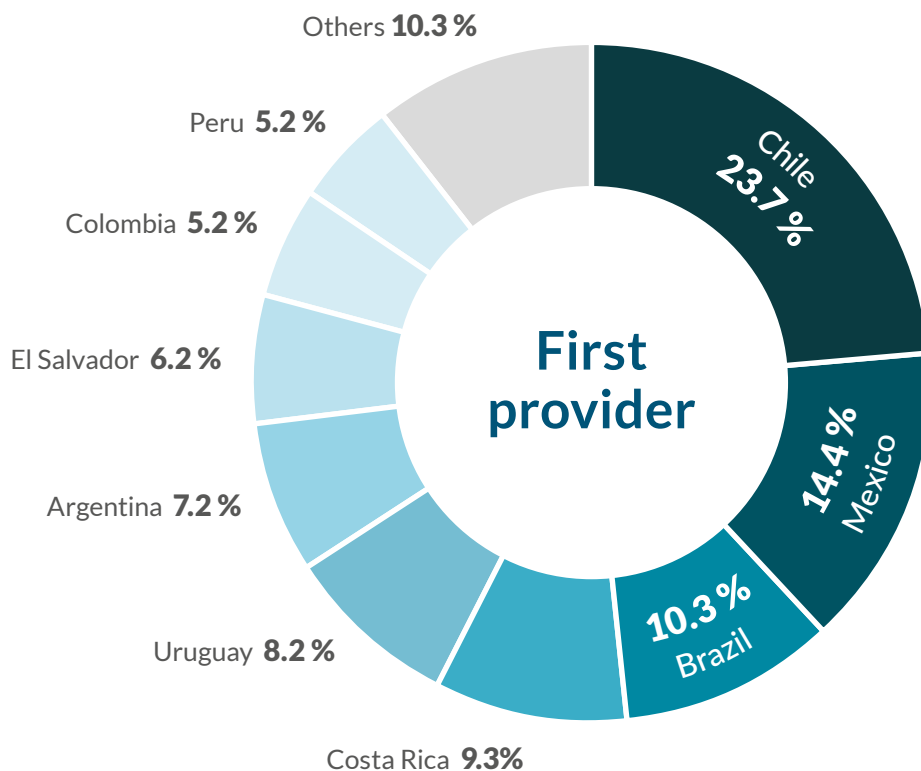
Indeed, Graph III.6 portrays the countries that most frequently participated as first providers in the almost 100 Triangular Cooperation projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019. As shown, as first providers, Chile, Mexico and Brazil explained almost one half of the 97 projects that were registered in 2019, Chile standing out as it performed the first provider role in almost 1 out of 4 of the final projects.

Three countries have led the participation as first providers for more than a decade. However, Graph III.7 suggests that the relative importance of these three stakeholders in the total number of triangular projects executed each year has tended to decrease substantially: thus, in 2007, Chile, Mexico and Brazil accounted for almost 9 out of 10 of the projects under execution, while in 2019 this proportion dropped to 1 out of 2.

**GRAPH III.6**

**Distribution of Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by first provider. 2019**

In percentage

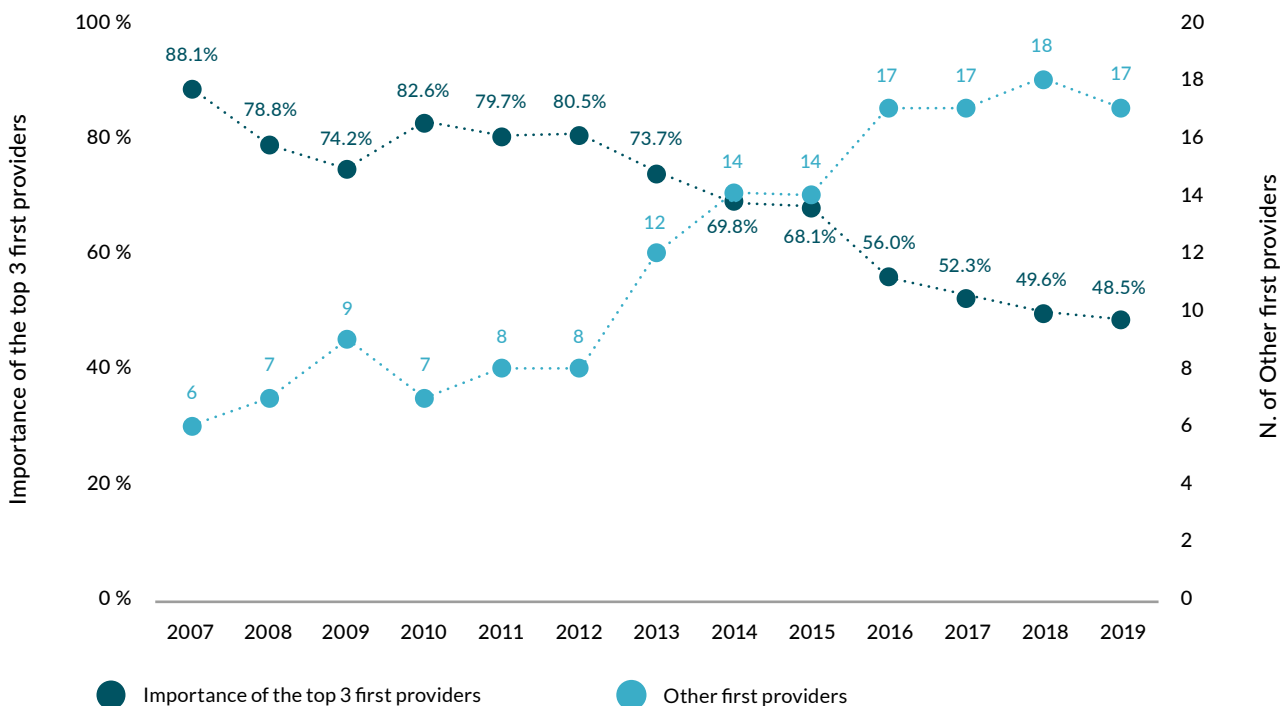


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

GRAPH III.7

### Evolution of first providers' participation in Triangular Cooperation projects. 2007-2019

Importance of the top three, in percentage; number of other first providers, in units



Note: The category “Other first providers” includes both the countries that individually exercise that role as well as partnerships that take place between two of these (the case, for example, of Mexico and Colombia).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation.

Graph III.7 also shows how this fall of the top three first providers in the total participation coincides with the increasing appearance of countries that, individually or associated with others, exercise this role: indeed, in 2007, only three other Ibero-American countries joined Chile, Mexico and Brazil as TC first providers, while, slightly more than a decade later, in 2019, these countries were more than 10.

Therefore, in 2019 and as shown in Graph III.6, up to 6 countries (Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador and Peru) explained, in each case, between 5% and 10% of the total of the nearly one hundred projects that were under execution that year. The remaining 10% is explained by the specific but very significant participation of traditionally recipient countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. A good example is precisely that of this Caribbean country, which special approach as Triangular Cooperation provider is detailed in Box III.2.

## BOX III.2

## The Dominican Republic takes its first steps as Triangular Cooperation provider by transferring its experience in public procurement

One of the most important activities within government administration is public procurement. This is defined as “the process of acquiring goods, services and infrastructure for public purposes” (IISD, 2015). Part of the efficiency and transparency in the use of public resources depends on its good management. Additionally, it is a key instrument for the implementation of public policies. For example, according to the definition of sustainable public procurement “governments attempt to procure on the best possible social, economic and environmental terms, and in support of national development strategies” (IISD, 2015).

According to the IDB (Izquierdo, Pessino and Vuletín, 2018, pp. 55-56): “In 2016, Latin-American and Caribbean governments spent approximately 450 billion dollars on public procurement including the purchase of goods and services and capital equipment (...) On average, public procurement represented 32.5% of general government expenditure in OECD countries (14% of GDP) and 29.8% in Latin-American and Caribbean countries (8.6% of GDP)”.

In this regard, the triangular project *Support for the implementation of a triangular cooperation pilot initiative of the Dominican Republic as provider to support the national public procurement systems of El Salvador and Costa Rica*, began its execution in 2019, with Spain as second provider. This project has great potential for innovative public procurement management

and for other public policies by incorporating two important elements: the support to MSMEs and the gender approach.

In fact, this initiative originates in the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between the Dominican Republic and Spain and is part of the process to strengthen the Vice-Ministry for International Cooperation, and of Spanish cooperation’s support to the implementation of the International Cooperation for Development Policy of the Dominican Republic (MEPYD, 2020). Indeed, in 2018 and in this framework, Spain and the Dominican Republic promoted activities to identify the potential of the Caribbean country’s cooperation and to contribute to systematize its capacities as cooperation provider (Dominican Republic’s Directorate-General for Public Procurement, 2019 - DG CPRD by its Spanish acronym).

One of the identified strengths refers to the way in which the Dominican Republic includes the gender perspective in its public procurement policy. Thus, for example, at the institutional level, the Directorate-General for Public Procurement has generated an updated information catalog of 11,235 women and companies led by these, registered in the State’s Suppliers’ Registry. This catalog provides information that facilitates progress towards the effective compliance of gender quotas mandated by Law No. 488-08, which states that 15% of purchasing budgets

must be allocated to MSMEs, percentage that increases to 20% when these are presided or led by women (DG CPRD, 2019).

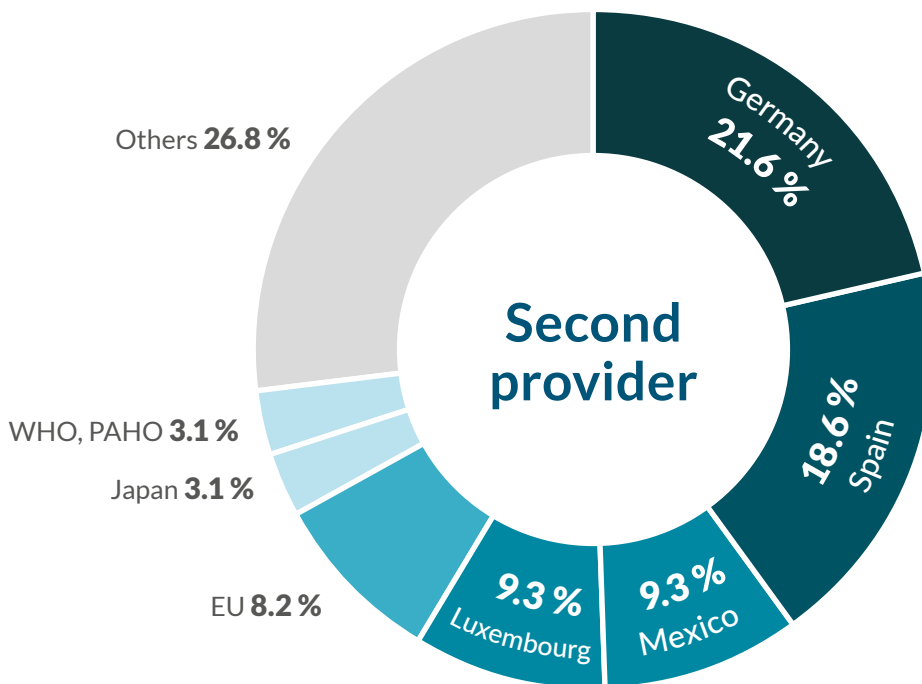
Indeed, the project is inspired on a previous experience executed during 2017, in which the Dominican Republic itself, also with Spain’s support, shared its experience with El Salvador, for the promotion of public procurement policies with a gender perspective in micro and small enterprises. The final project broadens the scope of this action and adds Costa Rica as recipient.

Based on this formula, capacity strengthening through this project will deliver important results: on the one hand, as it will enable the Dominican Republic’s projection as TC provider, diversifying its profile within Ibero-American cooperation and, on the other hand, since it will contribute to the social and economic inclusion of women in state processes and to their greater incidence in the public sphere.

GRAPH III.8

**Distribution of Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by second provider. 2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

Furthermore, Graph III.8 portrays the participation of the different stakeholders which, given their nature (Ibero-American country, non-Ibero-American country and multilateral organization), performed the second provider role in Ibero-America’s Triangular Cooperation in 2019. In this case, Germany’s and Spain’s participation stands out (around 1 out of 5 projects, respectively), in addition to Mexico (one out of 10). Altogether, these three countries explained basically one half of 2019’s projects. Germany and Spain also led this role in 2017, reference year of the previous edition of this Report. However, Mexico’s behavior, strongly standing out as a new feature, cannot be dissociated from what has already been pointed out with respect to the Mixed Cooperation Fund with Chile. This would also explain the fact that the Andean country was precisely the first provider in the 9 projects registered by the North-American country under the second provider role.

In terms of relative importance, Luxembourg, the European Union, Japan and the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization, follow, accounting for another fourth of 2019’s projects. Luxembourg’s participation is associated with projects this country supports and finances through the Salvadorean Fund for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (FOSAL by its Spanish acronym), and in which the Central-American country acts as first provider. As for the European Union, almost all the projects in which it acts as provider are executed in the framework of the *Adelante Program*, already mentioned in Box III.1.

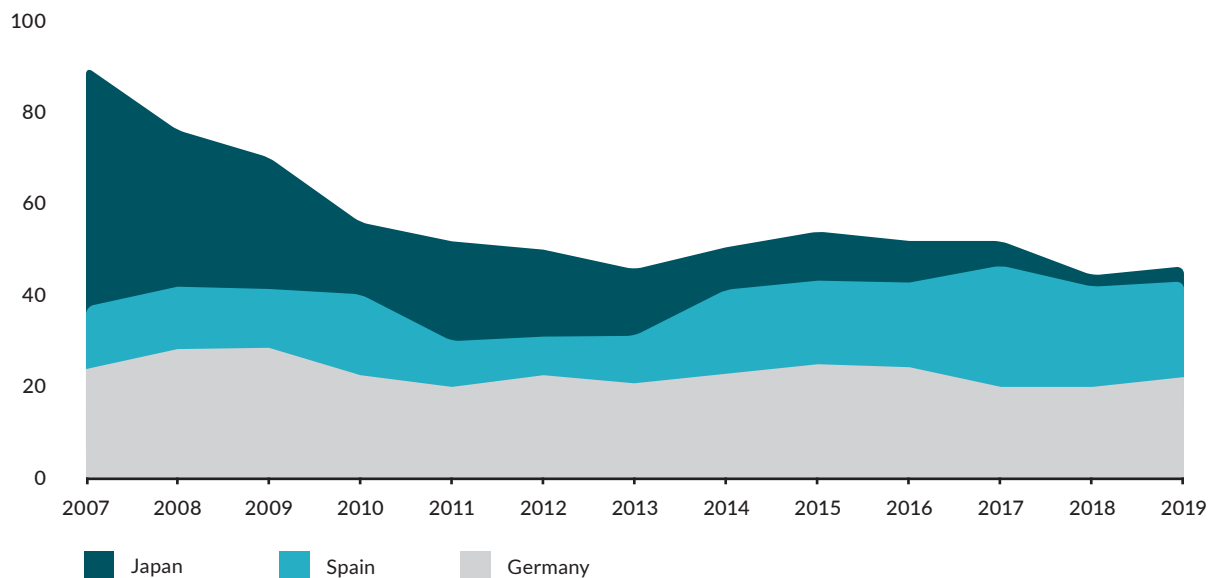
Japan’s case deserves special attention. Graph III.9 shows the evolution of this country’s relative share, together with the two leading countries in 2019 (Germany and Spain), in the total number of TC projects between 2007 and 2019. Thus, and as portrayed in the graph, while in 2007 the three countries altogether accounted for 90.5% of the projects, in 2019 this figure has dropped to less

than 50%. This fall is precisely explained by Japan, which relative share decreased from 52.4% to 3.1%. Germany’s behavior presents some fluctuations but is still stable around 23%, while Spain increases its relative importance (from 14.3% to 20.6%). In addition, the fall in Japan’s participation is not replaced by these two European countries, but by those which are increasingly performing this role.

**GRAPH III.9**

**Evolution of Germany’s, Spain’s and Japan’s relative importance as second providers in the total number of Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America. 2007-2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

The above is combined with another relevant feature in terms of Japan’s behavior: this country promoted the highest number of actions as second provider in 2019, participating in more than one half (17) of the 33 actions that were under execution. As first providers, Chile, Argentina and Mexico joined Japan in these actions, countries with which it has subscribed strategic cooperation agreements to develop training activities and workshops with third countries. The combination of these two aspects supports the theory that Japan’s participation in Ibero-America’s Triangular Cooperation is not *decreasing*, but rather changing from supporting projects to accompanying training actions.

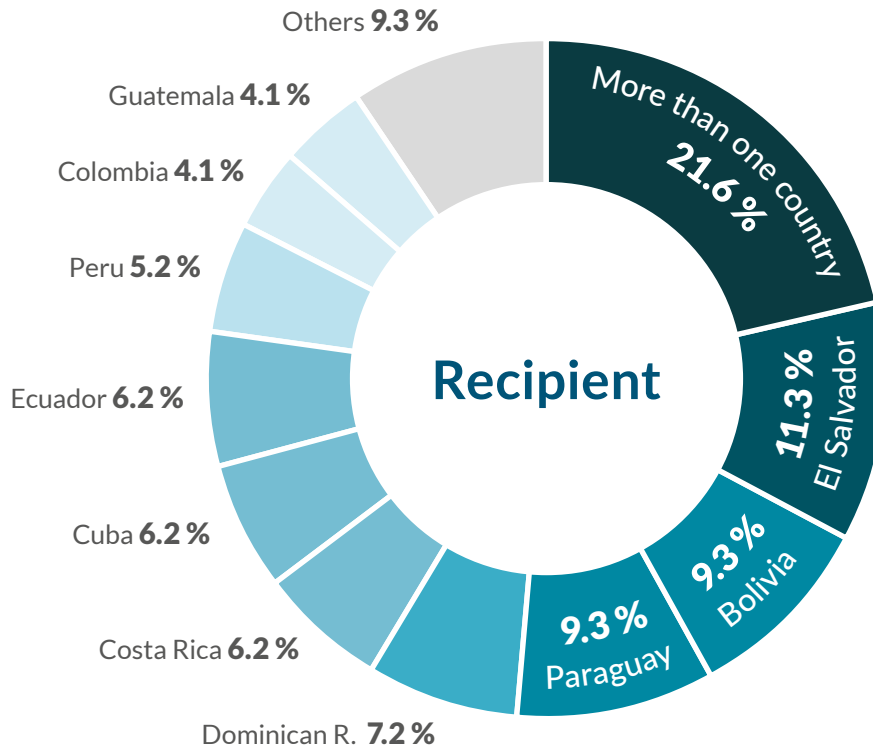
Finally, Graph III.10 distributes the 97 Triangular Cooperation projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019 by recipient countries. As

has been the case in the past, the most common situation was that several countries simultaneously exercised that role: in fact, these type of partnerships explained at least 1 out of 5 projects but also more than one half of the actions (18 out of 33). Almost all the countries in the region can be associated with this pattern. As for individual participations under the recipient role, El Salvador, Bolivia and Paraguay were the most active countries, each of them participating in around one tenth of the projects, corresponding to 30% of the total. Arranged by relative importance, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Guatemala stood out with lower relative shares but still higher than 4%. The remaining 9.3% was explained by the aggregated contribution of Honduras, Panama and Uruguay.

GRAPH III.10

**Distribution of Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by recipient. 2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

**III.3.2 Partnerships for Triangular Cooperation**

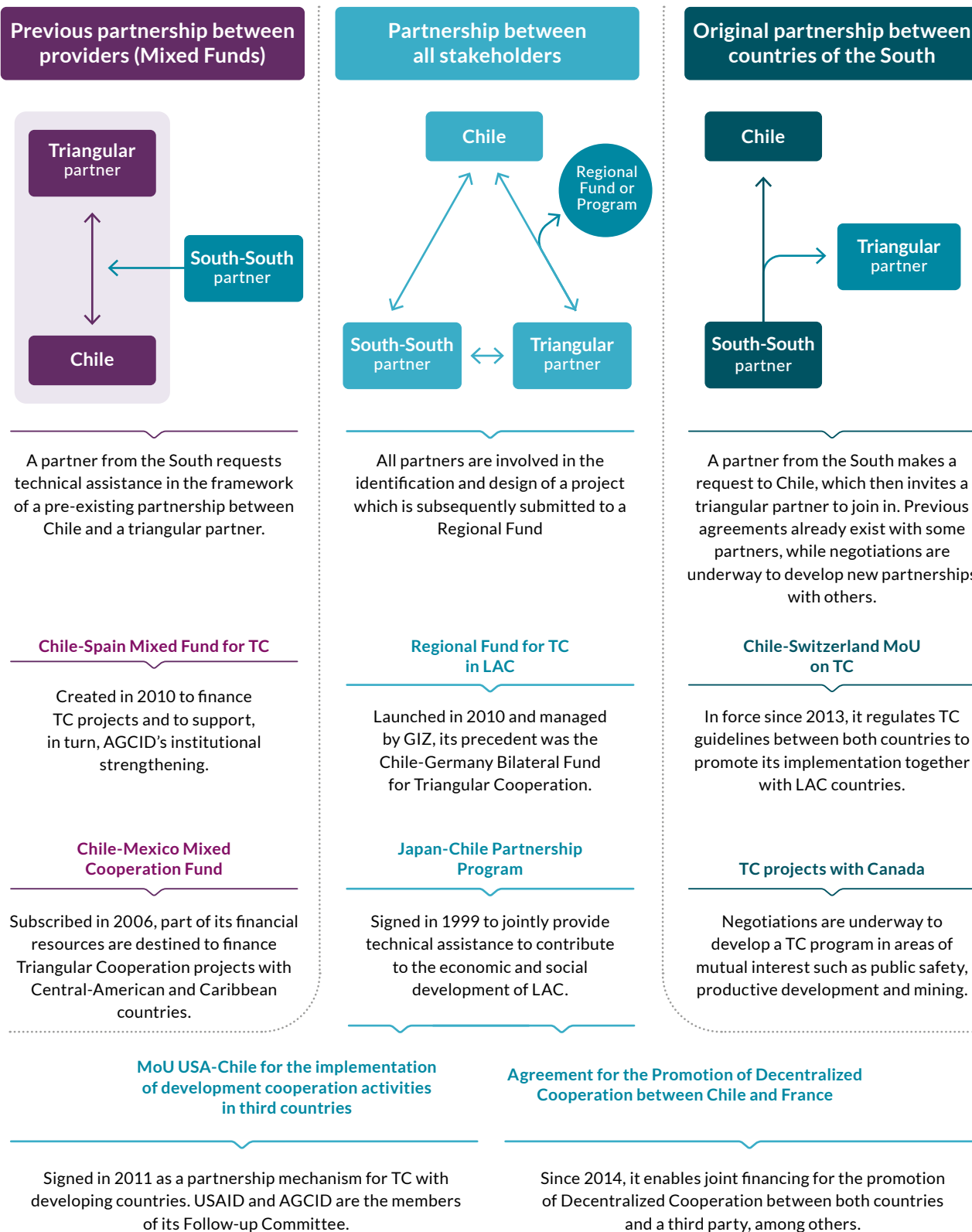
Up to 103 different combination of partnerships between first providers, second providers and recipients made the execution of the 130 Triangular Cooperation initiatives registered in Ibero-America throughout 2019 possible. This figure alone reflects how diverse partnerships for development can be.

In many cases, however, these more than one hundred different combinations of 3 stakeholders may have the association of 2 parties in common. These tend to coincide with partnerships established between first and second providers. The predominance of this type of partnerships is not usually coincidental, but tends to be institutionalized and developed in the framework of strategic partnership agreements precisely designed between the involved partners to promote and boost TC initiatives towards third countries.

In order to illustrate the aforementioned, the analysis focuses on the case of Chile, the most active country in 2019, with 40 initiatives that involve more than 30 different stakeholders, including almost all Ibero-American countries. This country understands Triangular Cooperation as an instrument through which it “reaffirms and deepens its commitment to all its strategic partners” (International Studies, 2020, p.163). In order to enhance its implementation throughout these years, Chile has subscribed a series of agreements which have enabled the development of an institutional architecture to foster Triangular Cooperation together with strategic partners and towards third countries.

GRAPH III.11

Mechanisms for Triangular Partnerships: the case of Chile



Source: SEGIB based on AGCID (2015).

Graph III.11 illustrates this institutional architecture according to the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID by its Spanish acronym). For this purpose, it describes the three types of mechanisms through which Chile associates with other stakeholders which take part in Triangular Cooperation, as well as specific examples of these agreements.

To summarize, three partnership mechanisms are identified:

- a) Through the first one, a developing country requests technical assistance from Chile, which is provided in the framework of a pre-existing agreement, usually subscribed between those stakeholders which will act as first and second providers (Chile itself and another stakeholder). Mixed Funds that Chile has been promoting for over a decade, with Mexico and Spain, respond to this dynamic.
- b) In the second modality, all partners are involved in the identification and design of a project which is subsequently submitted to a Regional Fund that finances its final implementation. Triangular initiatives in which Chile participates together with Germany and Japan, with which it has the most emblematic agreements, are developed in this framework. However, some are also implemented through other more recent agreements with the United States and France.
- c) The third dynamic originates in a request of a country of the South to Chile, which, in turn, and considering the project's characteristics, invites a third partner to join in. In this case, two alternatives are also possible: the first one, when Chile has already signed an agreement with countries and/or organizations (for example, Switzerland or the World Food Program – WFP); and the second one, with partners with which the agreement has not yet been subscribed, but with which some experiences have already been shared (Australia, Canada, South Korea and Singapore, to name a few).

Having identified these possibilities, it is easier to understand the partnerships through which Chile participated in 2019's Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation. For this purpose, Graph III.12 portrays, through two flow diagrams, the stakeholders that implemented, together with Chile (to the left), the 16 actions (III.12.A) and 24 projects (III.12.B), exercising the second provider (center) and the recipient roles (to the right).

***/// Chile has subscribed a series of agreements which have enabled the development of an institutional architecture to foster Triangular Cooperation together with strategic partners and towards third countries ///***

In this sense, and as shown in part A of Graph III.12, two out of three of the 16 actions in which Chile participated in 2019 were developed in the framework of the Partnership Program with Japan as second provider, conceived to promote simultaneous training in various Latin-American and Caribbean countries, these countries sharing the recipient role. Indeed, one of the most remarkable instruments in this framework is the Kizuna Project, which focuses on matters related to disaster management that will be referred to in Box III.4. The remaining exchanges are explained by Chile's specific association with multilateral organizations which contribute to strengthen various recipients simultaneously (IIHR and UNEP) or only one country (Honduras and Peru in the framework of Triangular Cooperation with IDB, WB and OECD).

Regarding the 24 Triangular Cooperation projects, Graph III.12.B suggests that Chile's main partners as second providers were Mexico (up to 9 projects), Spain (5) and Germany (4). Cooperation together with Mexico focuses on Central-American and Caribbean countries, while initiatives developed with Germany and Spain tends to focus on only one recipient, Peru, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic standing out. Box III.3 describes one of the interesting experiences that take place in the framework of these kind of partnerships: a Triangular Cooperation project between Chile, Spain and Paraguay to improve coexistence.

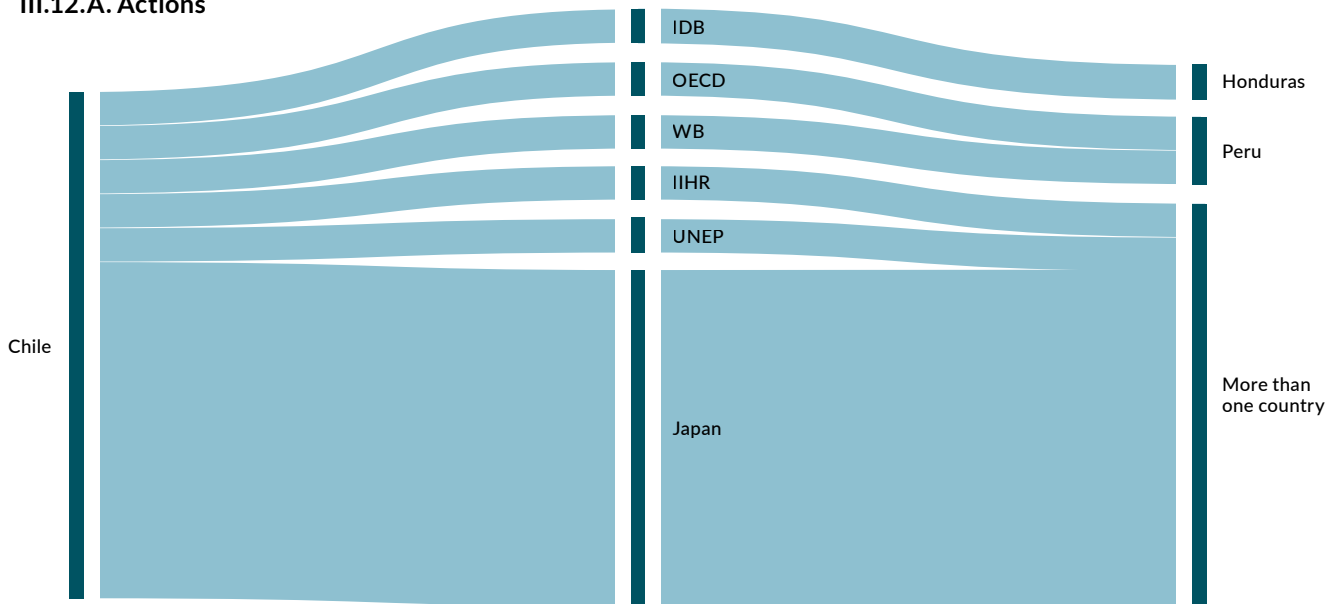


**GRAPH III.12**

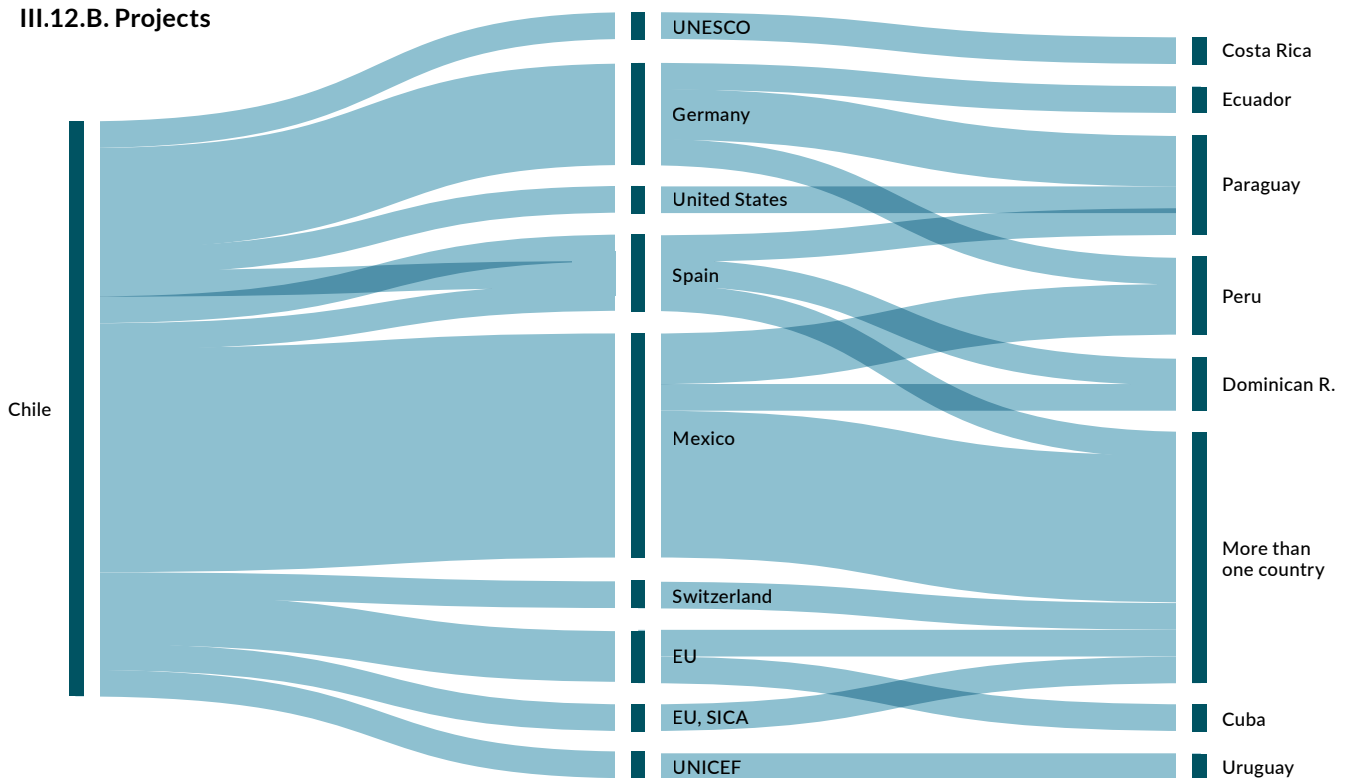
**Distribution of Chile's Triangular Cooperation initiatives as first provider, by second provider and recipient. 2019**

In units

**III.12.A. Actions**



**III.12.B. Projects**



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

In addition, data above confirms that basically 7 out of 10 of Chile's partnerships to promote Triangular Cooperation are developed in the framework of one of the mechanisms (Regional Funds and/or Mixed Funds) established with Germany, Spain and Mexico, detailed in Graph III.11. If projects executed together with the United States and Switzerland are also considered in the analysis, it is possible to conclude that 80% of Chile's Triangular Cooperation in 2019 was developed and promoted under the

institutional mechanisms this country has strategically developed over the years. The remaining 20% of the projects are explained by specific associations with other stakeholders. Among these, partnerships with organizations within the United Nations (UNESCO and UNICEF) and with the European Union, through the Facility promoted by the latter since 2014, stand out.

### BOX III.3

## Chile, Spain and Paraguay: football as an instrument to strengthen coexistence

The role of sport as an instrument to achieve individuals' physical and mental health is widely known. However, in recent years, its recognition as a tool for social intervention to improve coexistence and the achievement of peace has become more widespread. For example, the 2030 Agenda makes a specific reference to the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, stressing the role of this discipline for these purposes:

We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives. (UN, 2015, p. 11)

There are worldwide examples of the use of sport as an instrument for social change in fragile contexts, among which the experiences of Colombia, Brazil, Haiti, South-Africa or India should be highlighted (Badia, 2017), as well as in the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

In this sense, the project "Strengthening healthy coexistence processes in *San Francisco* neighborhood". between Chile (first provider), Spain (second provider) and Paraguay (recipient), aimed at preventing violence and at strengthening coexistence among children and adolescents of between 6 and 15 years through football, began in 2019. This initiative is implemented in the framework of Phase II of the Mixed Fund for Triangular Cooperation between Spain and Chile, created in 2009 to strengthen technical cooperation between these two countries and to promote development in Latin-America and the Caribbean.

The project responds to the need to assist families affected by the floods that took place in *Bañados de Asunción* in 2014, one of the largest floods Paraguay has suffered in recent years, affecting more than 6,000 families which settled in the most vulnerable areas of the Paraguayan capital. Shortly thereafter, problems associated with resettlement and adaptability arose, occasionally resulting in conflicts among inhabitants.

The project aims to foster the resilience of its beneficiaries, a fundamental process both among the neighborhood's residents and within schools. In this framework, efforts are carried out so that children and adolescents can be trained to have tools to promote healthy coexistence and community leadership. Key stakeholders such as parents, teachers, community youth and others are also involved in the process through socio-sports workshops, facilitated by teams of professionals in sports and social sciences.

*Fútbol Más*, a foundation that has been carrying out training and coexistence processes for more than 10 years, promoting the welfare of children and adolescents living in socially vulnerable contexts or who have been affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises (*Fútbol Más*, 2020), also takes part in this initiative. In this sense, the initiative's key driving force is sport as an educational tool, but also as a suitable space for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and controversies.

# III.4

## Sectoral analysis of Triangular Cooperation in 2019

Analyzing Triangular Cooperation from a sectoral perspective sheds light on how the region contributed to strengthen its capacities and deepen its knowledge. The analysis is developed, first, by identifying the sectors to which the 97 projects and the 33 actions that were under execution in 2019 were related; and, second, by studying the sectoral profile of some of the stakeholders which most actively participated in this cooperation modality.

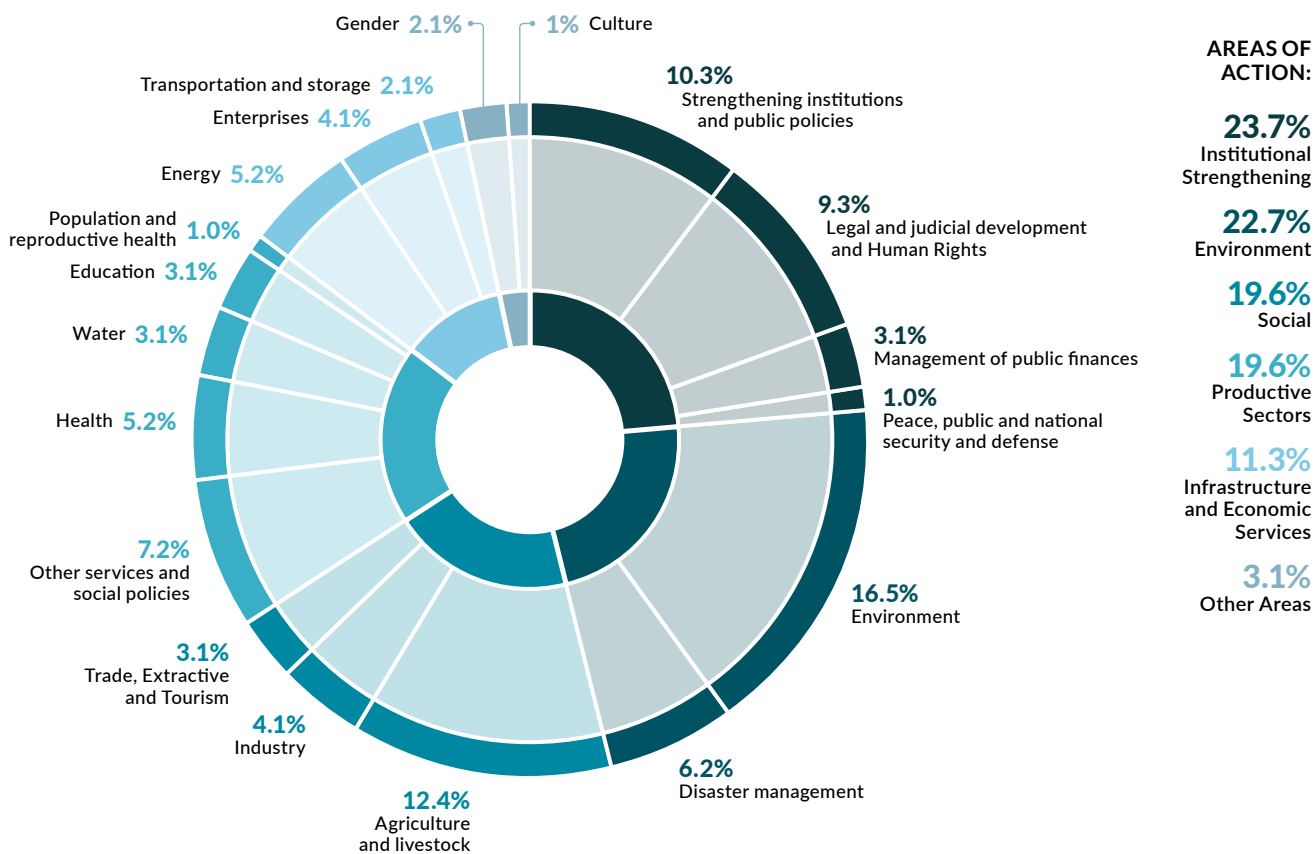
### III.4.1. Strengthened capacities

Graph III.13 distributes the almost 100 Triangular Cooperation projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019, by activity sector and area of action. At a first approach, it is possible to identify that a large part of the cooperation (more than 45%) was focused on strengthening capacities related to Institutional Strengthening (23.7% of the projects) and Environment (22.7%). A very close proportion of basically another 40%, was explained by exchanges aimed at improving the development of the Social and Productive Sectors areas, both with similar shares of around 20% in each case. Triangular Cooperation destined to the promotion of Infrastructure and Economic Services (11.3%) and to Other areas (3.1%) was less relevant.

GRAPH III.13

Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by activity sector and area of action. 2019

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

With further detail, in 2019, Triangular Cooperation projects aimed at strengthening the *Environment* (16.5% of the total) and *Agriculture and livestock* (12.4%) sectors, stood out. In this sense, the region's cooperation was committed to improve countries' capacities to fight against climate change, to protect biodiversity and to reduce environmental degradation and pollution through projects that strengthened different types of waste's management. In addition, Ibero-America focused on family agriculture through projects that improved small peasants' access to financing, as well as the management of the different components of the value chain of traditional products such as avocado, cotton, sesame and cocoa, among others.

**/// In 2019, Triangular Cooperation projects aimed at strengthening the Environment (16.5% of the total) and Agriculture and livestock (12.4%) sectors, stood out ///**

In terms of relative importance, TC projects focused on *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* followed, accounting for 20% of the total. In this sense, exchanges to support territorial planning, the modernization of administrative processes, the generation of statistical data, and the institutional framework of the international cooperation system itself, stood out. Projects dedicated to protect migrant population and especially unaccompanied minors within this, as well as those aimed at promoting racial equity, with a particular focus on the rights of people of African descent, were particularly relevant.

Six out of 10 of the Triangular Cooperation projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019 are explained when the contributions of the *Other services and social policies* (7.2%) and *Health* (5.2%) sectors are added to the aforementioned. Projects dedicated to the protection and care of the most vulnerable population (older adults and homeless people), the promotion of coexistence and the intervention in slums, pediatric care in children's cardiology, the fight against malnutrition, and the support to drug regulatory authorities, are included in those which address these matters.

In addition, four activity sectors explained another 20% of Triangular Cooperation projects registered in 2019. On the one hand, these exchanges tackled capacity strengthening in terms of *Disaster management*. On the other hand, they addressed economic areas such as *Energy, Enterprises and Industry*. In this sense, the priority given to *Disaster management* is not only demonstrated through the implementation of up to 6 Triangular Cooperation projects, but is also complemented with the execution of 8 actions that account for the largest part (up to 25%) of the total actions carried out in 2019. In the current context, and given the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had in 2020, these kind of initiatives may prove particularly relevant, as they affect the management of a health emergency that also has a global scope. In this regard, Box III.4 was prepared to provide more detailed information on all TC experiences in this sector.

**BOX III.4**

**Disaster management to build a more resilient region to face the COVID-19 crisis**

National disaster risk management systems and experienced organizations have much to contribute to develop answers to face the new coronavirus crisis, as they are prepared to analyze risk in a multidimensional manner, and to identify the different sectors' weaknesses and capacities (Burón, 2020). Their accumulated experience strengthens resilience and crisis preparedness. WHO itself, in its COVID-19 strategy (2020), states that "to provide coordinated management of COVID-19 preparedness and response, national public health emergency management mechanisms should be activated" adding that "in certain contexts, this may be through the support of National Disaster Management or other crisis management authorities."

In line with the above, the analysis of the World Bank (2020) regarding the experience of East Asia and Pacific in response to COVID-19 identifies three major inter-governmental coordination modalities: direct leadership of the highest government authority, of the Ministry of Health or of the National Disaster Management

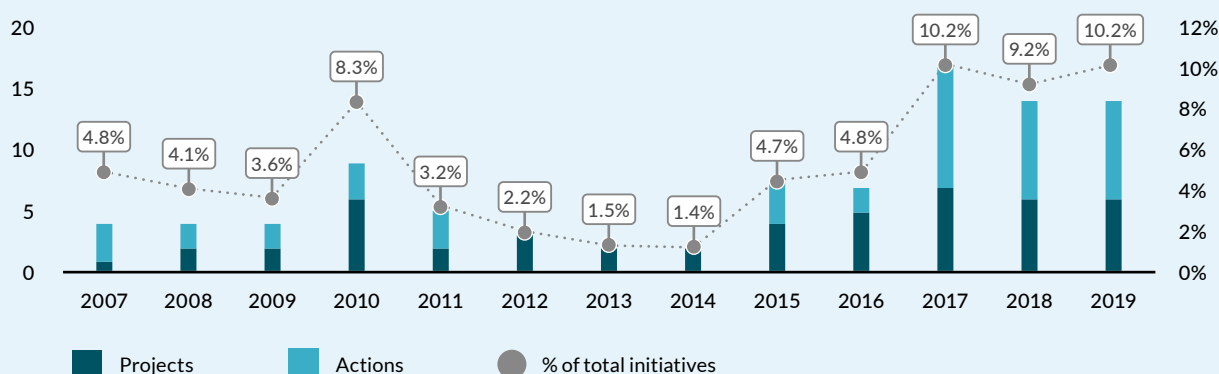
System (SNGD by its Spanish acronym). While each of these have comparative advantages, the report reveals that responses led or coordinated by the SNGD can lead to the rapid adjustment of preparedness measures that consider different types of risks.

In fact, the importance of these experiences is key, not only in the first phase, coinciding with the necessary attention to the emergency, but also in later stages to face recovery, and even to prevent and anticipate future pandemics. In addition, natural disasters risks are combined with the health emergency, a complexity that must be addressed by focusing on people, especially on the most vulnerable groups. Hurricanes Eta and Iota's devastating hit on the Central-American and Caribbean region in November 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, illustrates the aforementioned. In line with this, the Red Cross EU Office (2020) alerts that, in the current context, good disaster risk governance is more important than ever to ensure no one is left behind, as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development claims.

In this context, it is worth stressing the increasing importance that Triangular Cooperation initiatives to strengthen capacities associated with *Disaster management* have had. Indeed, and as suggested in the following graph, the number of triangular actions and projects dedicated to *Disaster management* has gained ground in recent years and has increased both in relative and in absolute terms, especially from 2014 to 2019, period in which these kind of initiatives quadrupled. In fact, in 2019, 8 actions and 6 projects focused on *Disaster management*, corresponding to almost the tenth part of the total initiatives that were under execution during that year.

**Evolution of projects and actions in the *Disaster management* sector. 2007-2019**

In units and as a percentage of total initiatives under execution each year



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



In order take a closer look at the details of the region's TC in *Disaster management*, some of 2019's projects and actions implemented in this sector will be described below.

On the one hand, actions in the framework of Kizuna Project must be highlighted, an initiative through which Japan and Chile enhance their experience and lessons learnt in disaster risk reduction and take advantage of more than thirty years of joint work to strengthen Latin-American and Caribbean officials' technical capacities. Since 2015, this project has been tackling issues such as tsunamis, earthquakes, and forest fires through courses, seminars, master's degrees and diploma courses, in order to build a more

resilient region, and to improve the population's preparedness, response times and reconstruction processes, among other aspects. Furthermore, Kizuna Project especially focuses on the creation of a regional network on disaster risk reduction. (AGCID, 2020)

As for 2019's projects, partnerships are much diverse and so are the topics addressed. Brazil and OAS act as providers in two of these projects, in the framework of the *Brazilian Cooperation Fund at OAS* (FBC/OEA by its Spanish acronym): one is related to the rescue of people and the other one to urban fires. In addition, the *German Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean* supports another two projects. Specifically, one of these

seeks to strengthen the Dominican Republic's Early Warning System (EWS), especially in terms of inter-institutional communication and warnings issuance in case of hydrometeorological events.

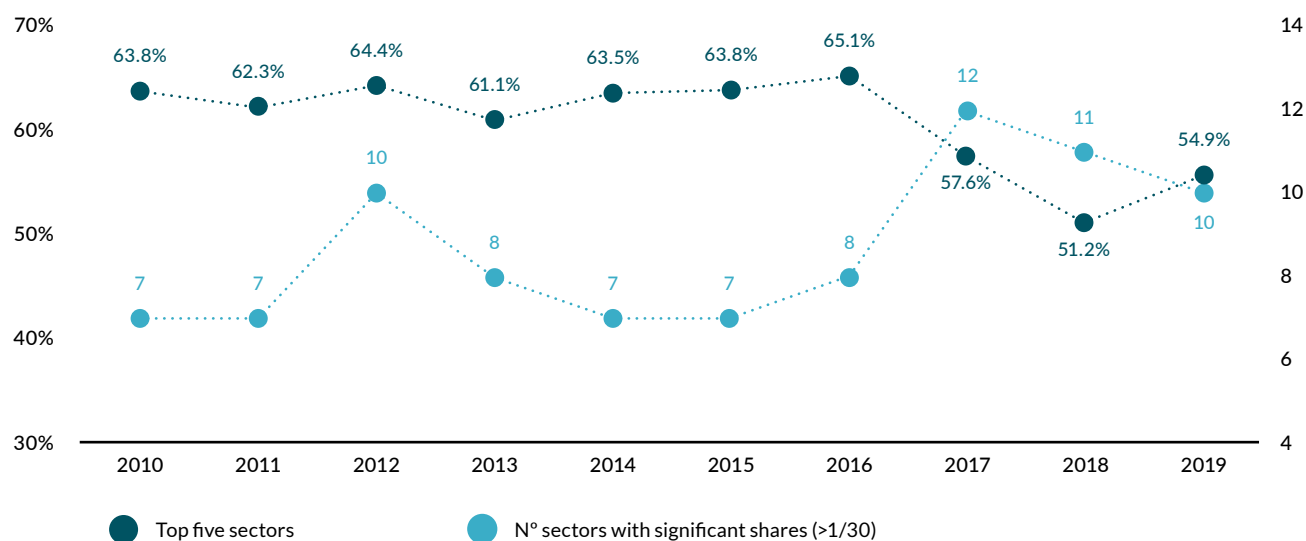
This project illustrates how, in recent years and through Triangular Cooperation, countries have shared capacities in *Disaster management* that may have also strengthened our region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, since many key aspects such as intersectoral coordination and adequate communication mechanisms are common to natural disasters and health emergencies.

Source: SEGIB based on Burón (2020), Red Cross EU Office (2020), WHO (2020), World Bank (2020) and AGCID website (2020).

GRAPH III.14

### Evolution of activity sectors' share in Triangular Cooperation projects. 2010-2019

Importance of the top five, in percentage; N° sectors with significant shares, in units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

In order to complete the sectoral analysis of strengthened capacities, it is necessary to consider the remaining 20% of TC projects implemented in the region throughout 2019. These projects tackled very different matters, related to up to 11 activity sectors. This data suggests there is a trend towards Triangular Cooperation's sectoral diversification, based on the progressive strengthening of new types of capacities. Graph III.14 was prepared to illustrate the above by combining two different types of information related to the 2010-2019 period: the first one refers to the top five sectors and the percentages of their annually accumulated shares; the second one refers to the number of sectors that, each year, have a fairly significant importance in Triangular Cooperation as a whole.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the graph shows how, indeed, in these 10 years, the top five sectors' share decreased

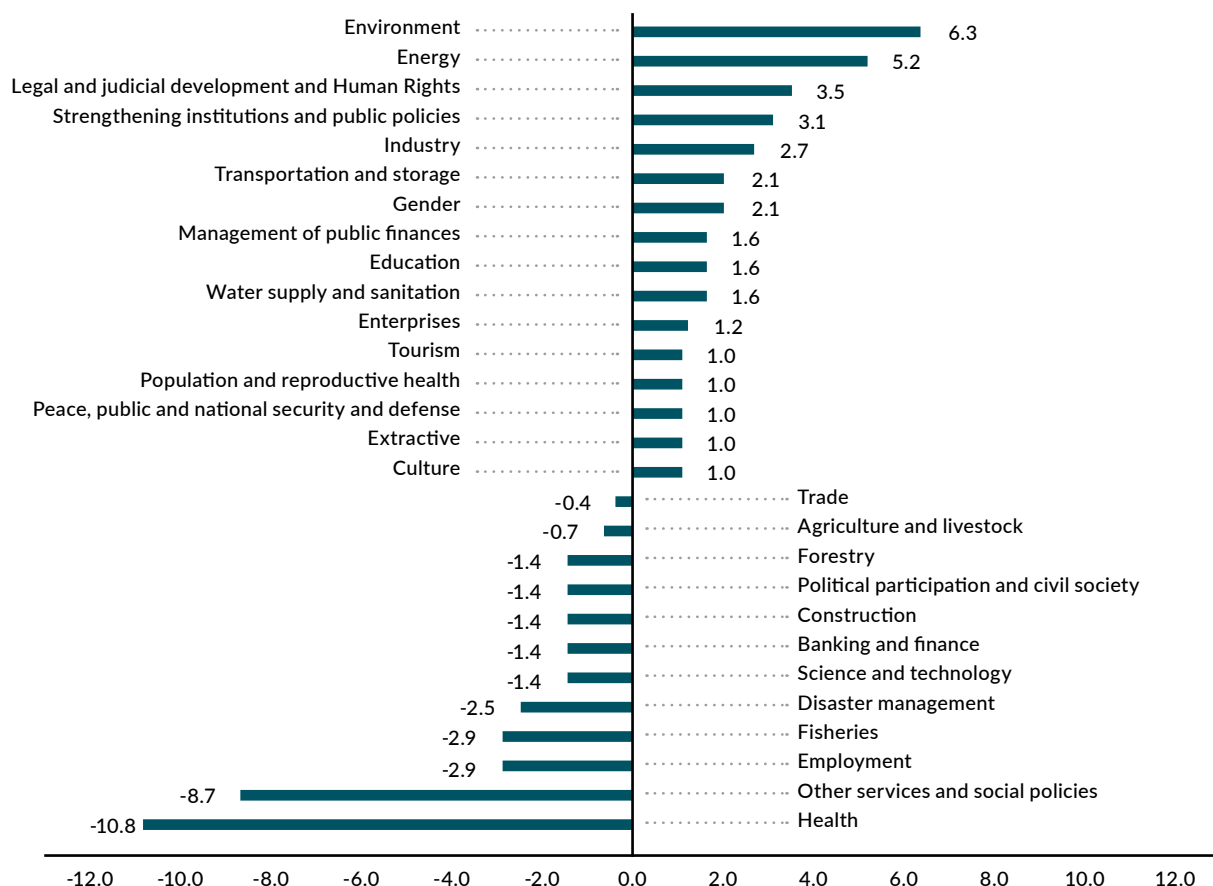
in almost 10 percentage points (from 64% to 55%), while sectors participating in TC with a significant number of projects increased from 7 to 10.

However, changes that have taken place in the last decade are not limited to the diversification of strengthened capacities, but also to a change of priorities. In fact, Graph III.15 compares the relative importance of each activity sector in the total of Triangular Cooperation projects under execution in 2010 and 2019, as well as the absolute variation in that period. In addition, Graph III.16 presents the same analysis in terms of the areas of action with which those two years' projects were associated.

GRAPH III.15

### Change in activity sectors' share in the total number of Triangular Cooperation projects. 2010-2019

In percentage points



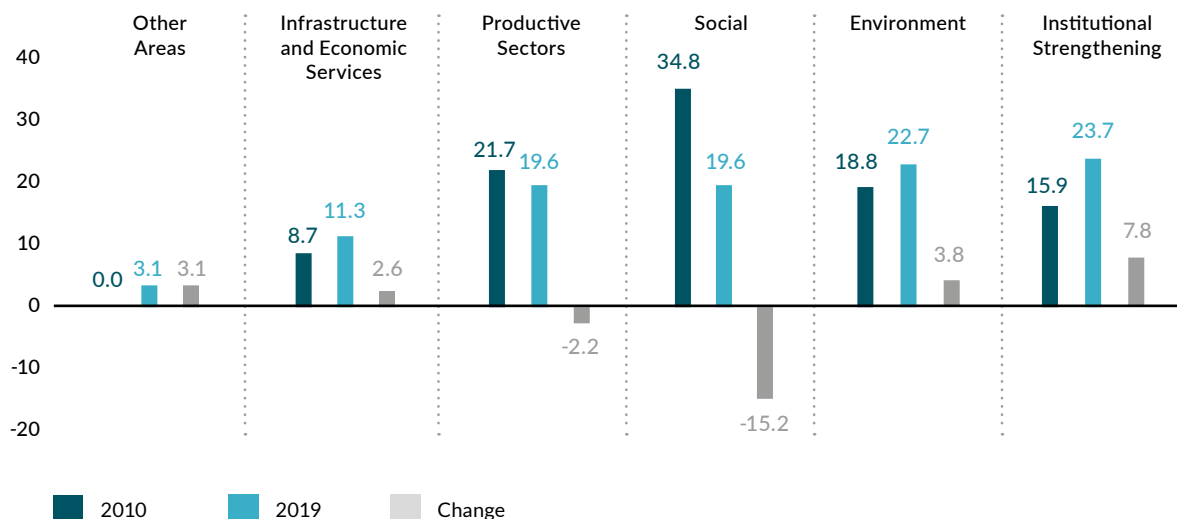
Note: Sectors such as *Other* and *Communications* are not included since they did not register associated projects in the two years considered in the analysis. Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation.

<sup>3</sup> Each sector's relative share in the total number of projects under execution each year is calculated as an indicator and the analysis considers those sectors which share is higher than 3.33%. In a completely even distribution, each project would be associated with 1 of the 30 sectors that are recognized in the Ibero-American space (1/30); for this reason, the percentage limit is established in 3.33. Consequently, a sector is considered to be fairly significant in TC as a whole when the participation of its associated projects results in a value higher than 1/30. However, if the number is situated below this figure, the analysis considers the participation as specific and non-significant.

GRAPH III.16

### Change in areas of action’s share in the total number of Triangular Cooperation projects. 2010-2019

Share, in percentage; change, in percentage points



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

In this sense, the significant change registered in the last decade is confirmed when the analysis of Graph III.15 focuses on 2019’s top six activity sectors. Thus, *Environment, Strengthening institutions and public policies and Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* have significantly increased its share in the total number of projects in around 3 to 6 percentage points, in each case, in only one decade. Such increase has occurred at the expense of an important fall of the *Other services and social policies and Health* sectors, which shares are 9 and 11 percentage points lower, respectively. *Agriculture and livestock* is the only relevant sector that remains stable throughout the whole period (-0.7 points). These changes take place while the region is also placing greater priority on capacity building in the *Energy* sector, which importance has increased 5 points.

In this scenario, the analysis in terms of the areas of action is certainly understandable. In fact, between 2010 and 2019, Triangular Cooperation projects focused on strengthening the Social area lost 15 percentage points. This is a significant drop in terms of the region’s priorities, which is compensated with the emerging increase of cooperation destined

to Institutional Strengthening (almost 8 points), Environment (approximately 4) and, to a less extent, to the generation of Infrastructure and Economic Services (2.6).

#### III.4.2. Profile of the main stakeholders

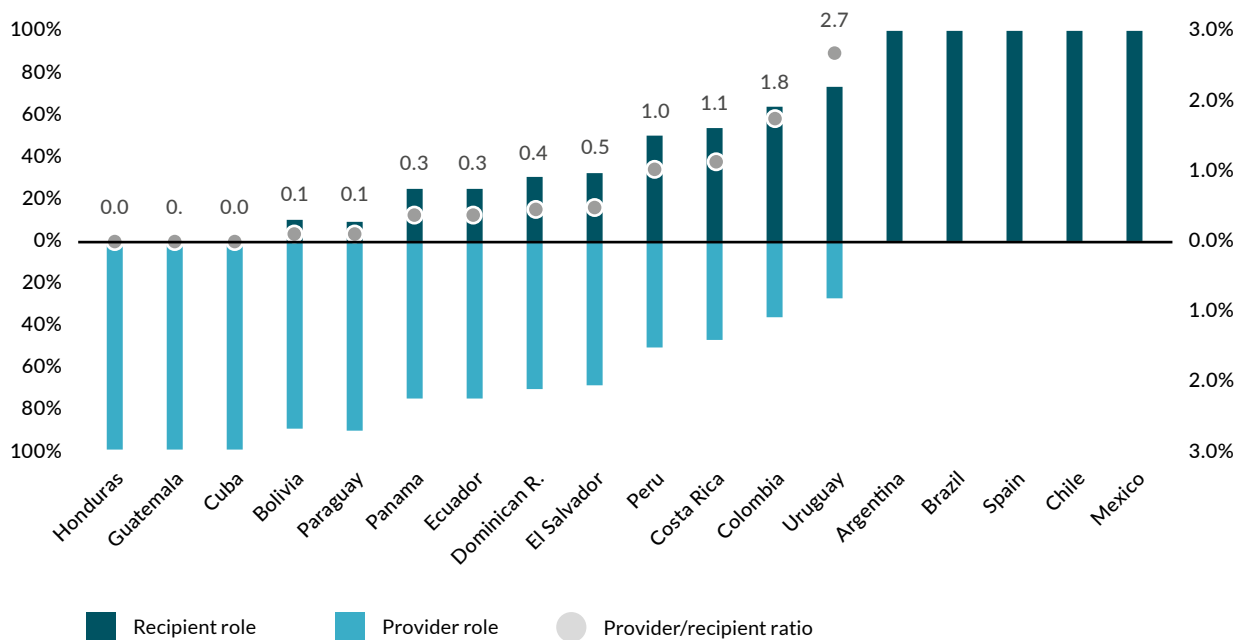
Another analysis of how Triangular Cooperation has contributed to capacity strengthening can be developed by studying countries’ sectoral profiles, which differ according to their role. To this end, Graph III.17 distributes each country according to their relative contribution in the total number of TC projects considering their participation as recipients and as first and second providers, aggregately. In addition, the graph includes each country’s provider/recipient ratio.



GRAPH III.17

Country profiles, by their participation as providers and recipients. 2019

Relative contribution of each role, in percentage; ratio, in units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

After a close examination of the graph, it is possible to identify up to three groups of countries with different profiles. First, Central-American, Caribbean and Andean countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and El Salvador, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, Bolivia and Ecuador), together with Paraguay, with a predominantly recipient role in 2019's TC. A second group, comprised by Mexico, together with South-American countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, together with Spain, which mainly acted as providers, transferring capacities and/or supporting this transfer. Most of them (with the exception of Colombia, Uruguay and, Spain, given its nature) limited their participation as recipients to projects in which they shared this role with several other partners. Peru and Costa Rica deserve a special mention, as they combined the two roles in almost identical proportions, as suggested by its respective provider-recipient ratios, both close to 1.

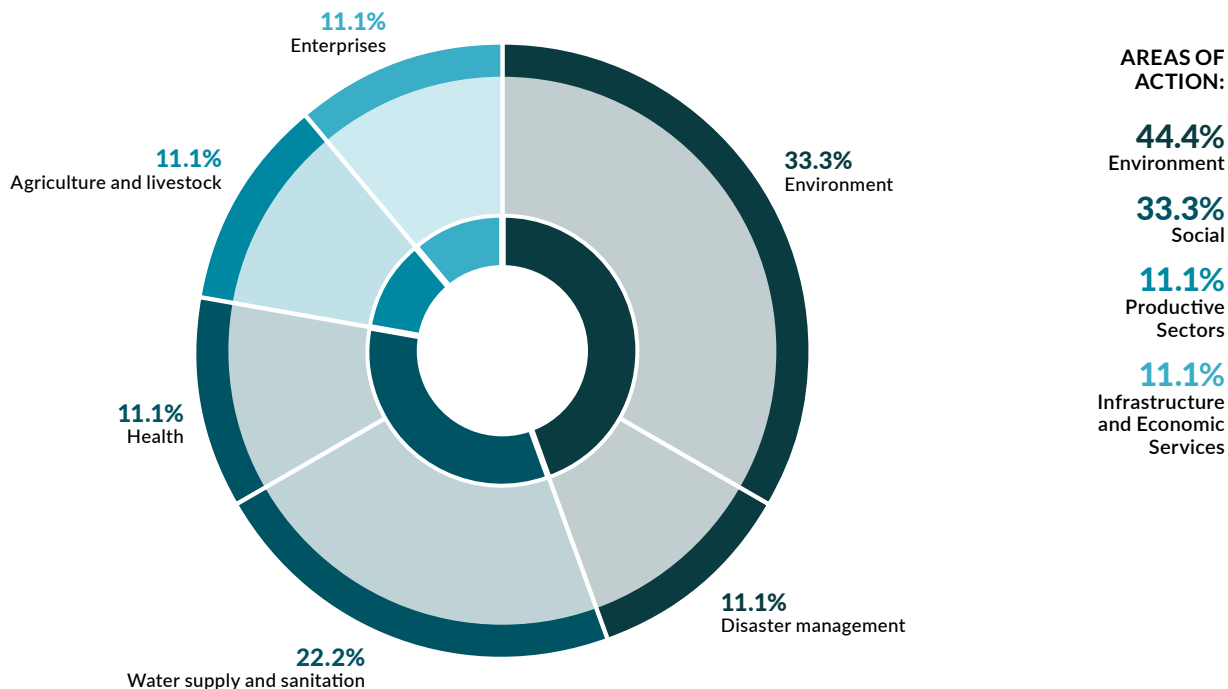
the projects addressed *Environment* strengthening (management of different waste and glacier monitoring). Furthermore, when cooperation related to *Disaster management* (threat prediction) is added to the analysis, the same area of action explains almost one half of all exchanges. Another third is focused on the Social area, and capacity strengthening in terms of *Water supply and sanitation* (provision of services, especially in rural areas, and professional training) stands out.

Two of the countries that participated in the largest number of exchanges, Bolivia and Paraguay, each with 9 projects, are selected to illustrate the type of capacities countries tend to strengthen when acting as recipients. Graphs III.18 and III.19 distribute the respective projects according to the activity sector and area of action. As they portray, both profiles are different. In Bolivia's case (III.18), one third of

**GRAPH III.18**

**Distribution of TC projects in which Bolivia participated as recipient, by activity sector and area of action. 2019**

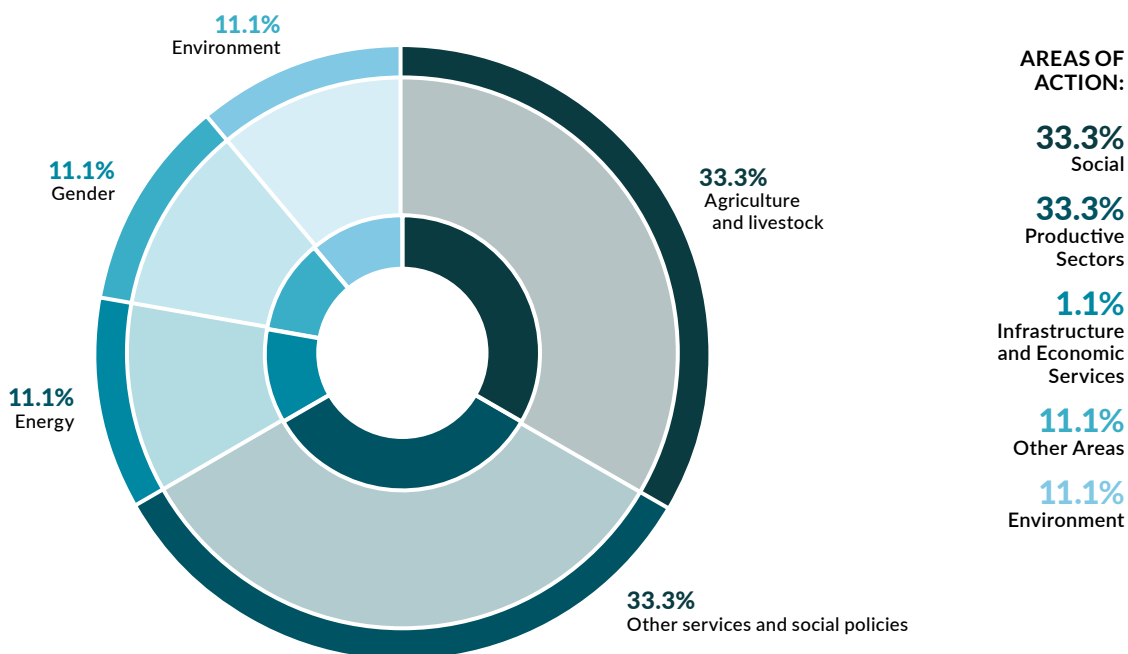
In percentage



**GRAPH III.19**

**Graph III.19. Distribution of TC projects in which Paraguay participated as recipient, by activity sector and area of action. 2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

**/// Cooperation implemented by the remaining countries which had a predominantly recipient profile was much diversified, affecting even El Salvador (2019's top recipient), which 13 TC projects were distributed in almost ten different sectors ///**

Meanwhile, two thirds of the projects in which Paraguay acted as recipient (Graph III.19) focused on supporting the Social and Productive Sectors areas, in equal proportions. Experiences to strengthen *Other services and social policies*, through the support to family care systems, interventions in precarious settlements and the promotion of improved coexistence, as detailed in Box III.3, stood out. Likewise, initiatives related to *Agriculture and livestock*, dedicated to promote the financial inclusion of rural producers, as well as training in cultivation and hydroponic vegetable production techniques are also worthy of mention.

Cooperation implemented by the remaining countries which had a predominantly recipient profile was much diversified, affecting even El Salvador (2019's top recipient), which 13 TC projects were distributed in almost ten different sectors. Ecuador focused more than one half of the projects (4 over 6) on *Environment*, especially through capacity strengthening in fire management for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation. The largest part of the cooperation received by Cuba (5 over 6) was destined to support economic matters. In this sense, the project to promote the use of sustainable energy, in which the Dominican Republic also participated as recipient and which, as detailed in Box III.5, included Mexico and Germany as first and second providers, stands out.

#### BOX III.5

### Renewable energy and Quality Infrastructure: the case of Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Transition towards the use of more sustainable energy is a mandate for all countries. To effectively fight against climate change, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must be reduced at a rate similar to that at which they increased over the last half-century and a transformation of the energy model must be promoted.

One of the instruments countries' count with for this transformation is Quality Infrastructure (QI). The concept refers to the set of legal regulations and institutions that a State creates to certify, in accordance with internationally

established standards, the quality of its industry's production. As it is based on comparable standards, QI becomes an essential element to guarantee the quality of a country's products and services and their insertion in national and international markets. Although its purpose is broader, QI can contribute to the transformation of the energy model underlying the production of goods and services.

These two elements, energy transition and QI, are combined in the project *Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Renewable Energy*

*and Energy Efficiency*, a Triangular Cooperation experience between Mexico and Germany as providers and Cuba and the Dominican Republic as recipients. This project, launched in 2018, is based on a bilateral collaboration program between Germany and Mexico called Sustainable Energy that has been in force since 2013. Through various technical cooperation exchanges, the German National Metrology Institute (PTB by its German acronym) and several Mexican institutions are working to advance Mexico's transition to more sustainable energy.

This purpose is aligned with the Mexican National Electric System Development Program (PRODESEN by its Spanish acronym) and its Energy Transition Law (LTE by its Spanish acronym), passed in 2015, which establish the commitment to reach a minimum share of clean energies in electricity generation of 30% by 2021 and of 35% by 2024 (Chamber of Deputies, H. Congress of the Union, 2015, p. 37).

The introduction of the triangular element to the original project is based on the aim to transfer existing capacities in Quality Infrastructure to Cuba and the Dominican Republic in order to support their energy transition. Both countries also have a clear road map: specifically, Cuba aims at increasing the percentage of renewable energy in its energy

matrix from 4.3% in 2014 to 24% by 2030 (Council of State, Republic of Cuba, 2019, p.1) and, according to the Dominican Republic's International Renewable Energies Agency (IRENA, 2017), the country aims to increase the renewable energy's quota in its energy matrix from 9% to 27%, by 2030.

In this sense, the Triangular Cooperation project which Mexico and Germany are promoting in Cuba and the Dominican Republic facilitates the introduction and the increasing use of solar photovoltaic and thermoelectric energies in both countries to provide hot water to their population. For this purpose, the project develops metrological traceability mechanisms and instruments, products' and systems' certification

and the strengthening of testing laboratories and of institutions that evaluate solar heaters' quality.

Source: SEGIB based on IRENA (2017), the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cuba (2019) and the General Congress of the United Mexican States (2015).

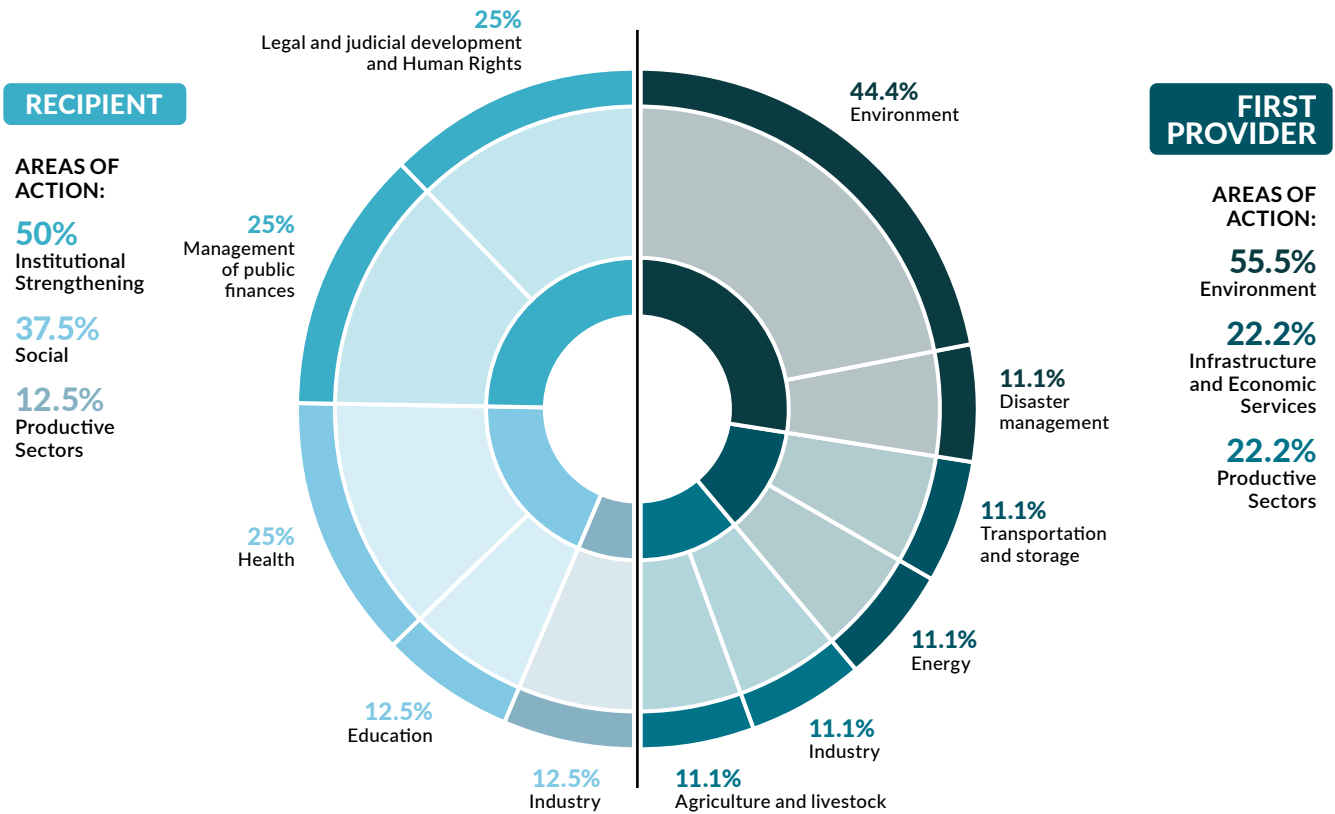
**// Public policy management, especially at the local level, would be one of Uruguayan cooperation's strengths, while Colombia would have supported economy-related capacity transfer in entrepreneurship and enterprises //**

Cuba and Costa Rica, in turn, were the two countries with the most proportional combination of the provider and the recipient roles: 5-5 in Peru's case and 9-8 in Costa Rica's. In this sense, Peru's participation in 2019's Triangular Cooperation enabled the country to strengthen its capacities in terms of *Environment* (4 out of 5 dedicated to sustainable consumption and environmental services payment) as well as to transfer its experience in the *Social* area (in *Education*, specifically in rural areas, and in *Water supply and sanitation*), and in the *Gender* sector, in this case through an entirely Ibero-American project, detailed in Box III.6, in which Peru and Spain supported El Salvador in the institutionalization of an information system that contributes to analyze and stop violence against women.

GRAPH III.20

**Distribution of TC projects in which Costa Rica participated as recipient and as first provider, by activity sector and area of action. 2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

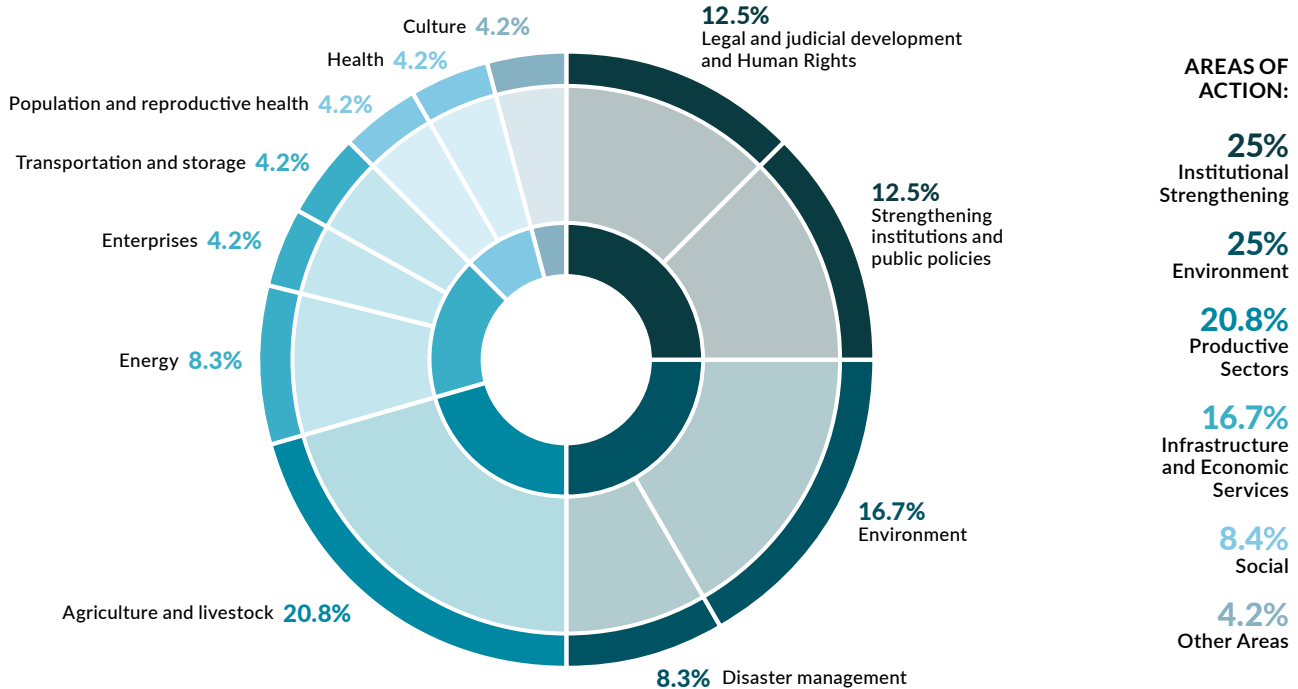
As in the case of Peru, Costa Rica's profile also shows a strong complementarity, as suggested in Graph III.20, which distributes the projects in which the latter participated in 2019 both as recipient and as first provider, by activity sector and area of action. Thus, as recipient, Costa Rica took advantage of TC to predominantly strengthen its public policies in legal, judicial and Human Rights matters (the adoption of the Recommendations Monitoring System –SIMORE PLUS by its Spanish acronym– and the strengthening of Restorative Justice) and in the *Management of public finances*, as well as other Social areas such *Health* (donation and transplant, medicines and sanitary technologies regulation processes) and

*Education* (pedagogic guidelines for early childhood). In turn, this country acted as first provider in projects which enabled it to share its renowned experience in sectors such as *Environment* (reef and natural heritage conservation) and *Disaster management* (comprehensive management of fire in natural areas), as well as in other areas of an economic nature, combining cooperation in the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Industry*, *Energy* and *Transportation and storage* sectors.

GRAPH III.21

**Distribution of TC projects in which Mexico participated as first and/or second provider, by activity sector and area of action. 2019**

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

With reference to countries with a predominantly provider profile, Graph III.21 illustrates Mexico’s case, which alternated the roles of first and second provider in 25 TC projects. In this case, 70% of the exchanges enabled this country to transfer capacities related to three areas of action: Institutional Strengthening (25% of the projects), Environment (another 25%) and Productive Sectors (20% exclusively explained by the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, the most relevant in 2019). Specifically, Mexico shared its experience to strengthen the value chain of traditional products such as sesame, cactus, cocoa and avocado, through initiatives that addressed the entire production cycle, from harvesting to merchandizing, in addition to specifically supporting the processes of Electronic Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Certification. In terms of *Environment* and *Disaster management*, this country contributed to the diagnosis of urban solid waste recyclers’ conditions, the promotion of sustainable consumption and the management of Big Data applied to ecosystems’ conservation, in addition to sharing its experience in risk prevention and Early Warning Systems (EWS). Finally, Mexico focused part of its interventions on supporting the progress of its partners’ public policies, mainly those related to Human Rights and the improvement of migrant population conditions and, especially, of unaccompanied minors.

The frequent partnership between Chile and Mexico, alternating the first and second provider roles, explains why both countries’ sectoral profile has many aspects in common. In the Chilean case, the distinctive feature would be associated with the importance of TC projects in the Social area, as a result of Chile’s partnerships with Germany and Spain as second providers. Projects for inclusive development, for the implementation of methodologies for the intervention in precarious settlements and the improvement of coexistence, as well as those that, in the *Health* sector, focused on reducing chronic malnutrition and advancing food security, stand out.

The profile of the remaining countries which predominantly acted as providers would be more diversified; however, it is possible to highlight some sectoral features. In fact, projects tackling environmental matters would have a relevant participation in Spain’s TC, as well as those relative to *Water supply and sanitation* and the *Management of public finances* (procurement and fiscal practices) and to *Gender*, as detailed in Box III.6. Meanwhile, projects in the *Environment* sector, dedicated to biodiversity conservation, the fight against desertification and climate change, as well as fire management to preserve natural heritage, would be associated with cooperation

provided by Brazil. Argentinean TC would have transferred capacities in the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Industry* sectors, with a strong focus on livestock, in both cases; and in *Other services and social policies*, with special emphasis on older adults' care. Finally, public policy management, especially at the local level, would

be one of Uruguayan cooperation's strengths, while Colombia would have supported economy-related capacity transfer in entrepreneurship and enterprises.

### BOX III.6

## The experience of Peru, Spain and El Salvador to fight violence against women

The violent death of women for gender-based reasons is the most extreme form of violence against women. Although particularities depend on the different socio-cultural contexts, femicide<sup>1</sup> or feminicide<sup>2</sup> is a global phenomenon that has reached alarming proportions worldwide. According to the most recent data from ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory for Latin-America and the Caribbean (2020), which has official information from 15 Latin-American and 4 Caribbean countries, 4,555 women were victims of femicide or feminicide in 2019. However, real dimensions could be much larger, due to the under-registration of cases that are not adequately typified, among other reasons.

In this sense, preventing and reducing impunity related to femicidal violence requires both the correct classification of feminicide cases and an information system that allows for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the phenomenon, providing reliable data to design, implement and evaluate the most appropriate public policies.

In this context, the project *Institutionalization of an information system that contributes to the qualitative and quantitative analysis of femicidal violence in El Salvador, based on the experience of Peru and Spain*, is especially relevant. The initiative precisely originates in the need to generate a Unique Registry of Victims of Femicidal Violence in El Salvador that has standardized data to contribute to improve decision-making in terms of public policies for the prevention, care, protection and punishment of violence against women, as well as in related institutions and services.

In order to face this challenge, in 2018, the Salvadorean Institute for Women's Development (ISDEMU by its Spanish acronym) launched a project to focus on the institutionalization of an information system that contributes to the qualitative and quantitative analysis of femicidal violence and provides statistical information for the National System of Data and Statistics on Violence against Women. Accordingly, the project has been implemented on the basis of two lines of action:

- a) The first one is related to the generation of information, providing the unique registry of victims of feminicide with official and reliable data. For this purpose, the project promoted coordination and cooperation between the three institutions that, until 2018, registered homicide cases without standardized criteria, which made it difficult to count with reliable data. These institutions were the General Prosecution Office (FGR by its Spanish acronym), the Institute of Legal Medicine (IML by its Spanish acronym) and the National Civilian Police (PNC by its Spanish acronym).
- b) The second one addresses the applied analysis of the resulting information to improve public policy design. In fact, the project aims to design a methodological model for criminological analysis that will allow the monitoring of cases of women's violent deaths, and the design of specific policies that contribute to stop this phenomenon.

<sup>1</sup> According to Diana Russell's definition, who first used the term in the 1970s, femicide refers to all forms of sexist murder. Subsequently, and to further develop the previous concept, Marcela Lagarde coined the term feminicide, giving the act of killing a woman for being a female a political meaning, adding the lack of response by the State in these cases and the failure of the State to fulfill its obligations to investigate and punish, to her definition. For Lagarde, feminicide is therefore a State crime. However, in many cases, both terms are used as synonyms (Atencio and Laporta, 2012).

## III.5 Triangular Cooperation and Sustainable Development Goals

Ever since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Ibero-American countries have been strongly committed to advance towards the achievement of sustainable development. In 2019, the region reaffirmed this commitment as well as its bid to contribute to sustainable development through SS and Triangular Cooperation. Consequently, Ibero-American countries subscribed the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, also known as BAPA+40), which recognizes the contribution of both cooperation modalities to “the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions”, in Article 6 (UN, 2019, p.2).

This commitment is reflected in the way in which Triangular Cooperation has been aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the years. Graph III.22 was prepared to shed light on the above, as it distributes the 97 Triangular Cooperation projects according to the main and second SDG with which they are potentially aligned, using, to this end, the methodology designed and agreed upon within the Ibero-American space and already referenced in chapter two. In this sense, it should be noted that each of the 97 projects was associated with one main SDG, while a second SDG was identified in slightly more than one half (49).

As the graph portrays, 3 out of 10 projects could potentially be aligned with the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger). Furthermore, almost one half of those 97 projects are explained when adding the cooperation focused on the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (Climate action). With relatively lower but still relevant contributions (of 5 and 7 initiatives), it is possible to identify projects which tackle SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), where the social dimension of development prevails; SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), of a more economic nature; and

SDG 15 (Life on land), from the environmental perspective. The complementarity between all these SDGs suggests the region’s effective commitment to move towards a more comprehensive development.

SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) also stands out the most when focusing on projects’ alignment with a second SDG. This is a frequent case, for example, in those exchanges designed to strengthen the international cooperation system and related institutions, which main aim is aligned with the purposes addressed by SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) and is also destined, secondarily, to improve institutions’ performance and soundness (SDG 16).

*/// 3 out of 10 projects could potentially be aligned with the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger) ///*

SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 10 (Reduced inequalities), of a more mainstreaming nature, should also be highlighted when analyzing projects’ alignment with a second SDG. In general, they can be associated with, in the first case, projects that address economic matters, which, in turn, strengthen production and employment generation processes; and, in the second case, with cooperation of a more social nature that simultaneously favors, for example, the implementation of policies for racial equity.

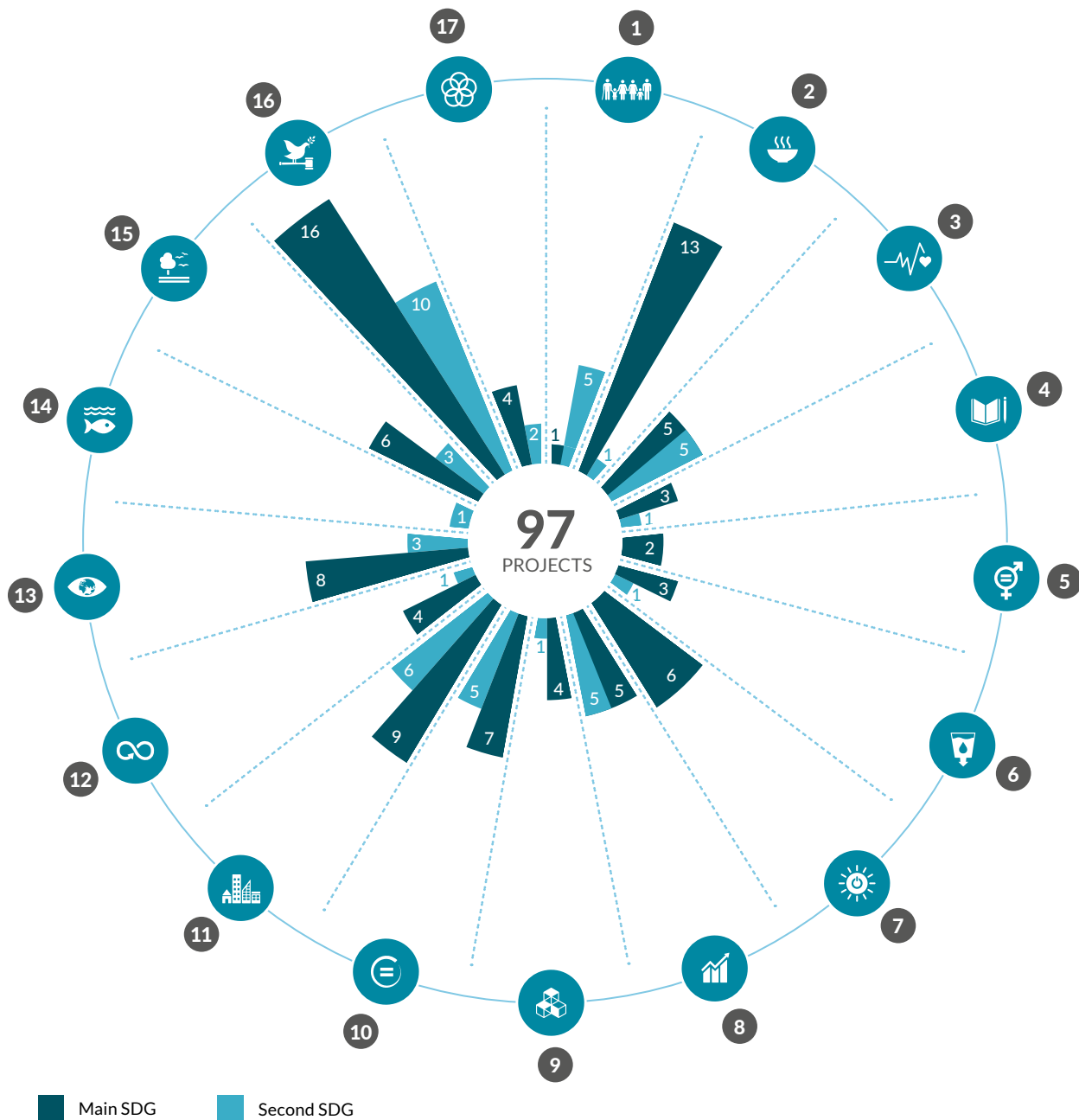
The case of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) is similar. As for SDG 3, it is possible to identify TC projects developed to ensure food security and water sanitation and potabilization (the main source of viral diseases), mainly associated with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), but which implementation has clear positive effects on health determinants. Regarding SDG 11, projects’ main contribution would be aligned with SDG 15 (Life on land), but they would also contribute to the conservation of natural heritage, a purpose explicitly stated in Target 11.4 (“protect and safeguard”) of SDG 11.



GRAPH III.22

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation projects in Ibero-America, by the main and the second SDG with which they are potentially aligned. 2019

In units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

SDG 1 (No poverty) deserves a special mention. As Graph III.22 shows, when analyzing the main SDGs with which projects would be aligned, this SDG hardly appears. However, it explains 10% of the 49 projects which are aligned with a second SDG. In this case, it is possible to identify projects which main aim is the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10) but that also have an impact on the protection of

groups that are especially vulnerable to poverty (for example, projects dedicated to assist people living on the streets); as well as those that, by targeting family agriculture (SDG 2), aim to promote the financial inclusion of small producers, favoring access to resources and preventing their impoverishment.