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

southsouth

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Note:
With reference to the inclusion of the term Triangular in the title of the Report, Brazil *"understands 'Trilateral Cooperation' is the most appropriate expression to refer to the type of cooperation that is executed between 3 international stakeholders"*.

Front cover photo: Triangular Cooperation project *"Strengthening processes to achieve a good coexistence in San Francisco neighborhood (Asunción, Paraguay)"*, implemented together with Chile and Spain.
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FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a global crisis of devastating effects, but it has also taught multiple lessons. One of these refers to our vulnerability and interdependence, even more evident in the face of a multidimensional crisis which impacts health, economic and social matters. This experience makes us recognize, once again, that the answers to overcome this crisis must also be multidimensional and collective, since only joint action will lead us to the desired outcome.

In this sense, multilateralism and truly horizontal cooperation must be the backbone of global collaborative efforts. This spirit is the essence of one of the instruments we count with to achieve this goal: South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Therefore, exercises such as the **Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020**, which we are hereby presenting, enable us to learn from accumulated experience and understand to what extent our countries have already been cooperating, both in form and in substance, with the aim to generate and strengthen shared capacities which are now critical to face the pandemic.

As a result of this edition's coincidence with the outbreak of the pandemic and due to the way in which the information is processed to prepare the Report, the data analyzed in this edition refers to 2018 and 2019. This 2020 Report does not yet include cooperation initiatives developed in response to COVID-19. However, it does analyze and especially highlight, for example, the significant number of projects (close to 300) which, in those two years, were dedicated to add efforts in health-related matters, sector on which most South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives are annually concentrated. These projects focused on topics that have proven key to fight the pandemic, such as the strengthening of national health systems or the control of communicable diseases and even of other epidemics.

This **Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020** systematizes and analyzes the almost 1,600 initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated during 2018 and 2019. This cooperation is implemented among the countries of the region but also between Ibero-America and other regions' developing countries. This figure also includes 300 Triangular Cooperation actions and projects, developed together with multiple organizations and different countries around the world.

Since this is also a collective exercise, we would like to congratulate Ibero-American countries' enormous efforts: on the one hand, to keep up the dynamism that has characterized this cooperation for more than a decade and, on the other hand, to be able to register and report the information this 13th edition required. Likewise, to do so under such adverse conditions is even more praiseworthy. It is an honor for SEGIB to accompany the region in this effort, to systematize and analyze this information and to be able to prepare and present this 2020 Report.

Year after year we strive to honor constant innovation as one of our Report's main assets, of which we are very proud. As part of this commitment, the title of this year's Report has indeed a relevant new feature. This is the first edition in which Ibero-American countries have officially decided to explicitly mention Triangular Cooperation in the title of the Report, although the document has included analyses in terms of this modality for more than a decade. In addition, SEGIB has developed a new online platform to access the world's largest regional South-South and Triangular Cooperation database, with more than 9,000 records. These information is available to all its member states and to the entire international community.

Finally, during this last year characterized by confinements, we have participated in different international fora in order to contribute to reflect on the global scope and nature of the pandemic, and on the fact that we were all equally exposed to the same level of adversity. In this framework, we have once again confirmed that South-South and Triangular Cooperation our region has been able to collectively develop throughout these years is one of our greatest strengths and a vehicle to bring us together in the search for a solution to a problem that has also done so.

Rebeca Grynspan
IBERO-AMERICAN SECRETARY GENERAL

María Andrea Albán
SECRETARY FOR IBERO-AMERICAN COOPERATION

HEADS OF COOPERATION

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

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BY FEBRUARY 28TH, 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The *Report of South-South and Triangular Cooperation 2020* is probably presented in one of the moments of greatest global uncertainty in recent times, in a context marked by the severe crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much has been already written about the way this crisis, in its threefold health, economic and social dimensions, has changed daily life worldwide, and on how it has transformed public policy priorities in general and development strategies in particular. In this sense, the crisis has affected us all, but it has had a greater impact on the most vulnerable, putting efforts made since 2015 to advance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at risk.

In spite of the above, the COVID-19 pandemic has also taught a great lesson, revealing the need to add efforts and strengthen international cooperation as one of the available instruments to improve global capacities to respond to this crisis. In this context, the *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020* and what it represents, have a renewed value, as they enable us to better understand the progress made so far, to learn from accumulated experience and contribute to this response.

Accordingly, the need to identify these potential lessons certainly determines the way in which the information included in this *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020* has been analyzed. In this sense, and more than ever, this edition focuses on those capacities that were strengthened through cooperation, and on the identification of those experiences that, in very diverse matters, contribute to improve the region's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. All this analysis is carried out based on a comprehensive perspective, which includes not only the emergency response, but also the adoption of public policy measures to address the crisis in all its dimensions (health, economic and social), and to contribute to diagnosis, prevention and warning in the face of potential new crises.

This approach cuts across all the contents of this 2020 Report and mainly those related to chapters II, III and IV, dedicated to the systematization and analysis of South-South and Triangular Cooperation implemented in Ibero-America in recent years, especially in 2019. In this search for lessons learnt, reviewing experiences in *Health*-related matters (those with the greatest relative importance in overall Ibero-American SS and Triangular Cooperation) will be particularly relevant. However, exchanges in other areas related to the emergency itself and its management, such as the care and protection of older adults (especially vulnerable in this crisis), the application of communication technologies to healthcare and education, and even phytosanitary and zoosanitary research, a field in which the region has accumulated enormous experience and that is key to prevent the transmission of diseases from animals to human beings, to name a few, are also worthy of mention.

The pandemic also determines the content of **CHAPTER I** of this *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020*, prepared since 2009 by Ibero-American countries' Heads of Cooperation. This chapter has historically outlined the region's political vision on different current issues related to SSC and the development agenda. In line with the above, in 2020 and almost inevitably, Chapter I analyzes the impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on the development of the countries of the region; it assesses the extent to which progress made in recent years related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda may suffer setbacks; and it stresses the potential role multilateralism and cooperation can have in a solid and long-term recovery.

However, COVID-19 has not only determined the different contents of this 2020 Report. Its impact has also been evident during its preparation, as it put the effective registration of SS and Triangular Cooperation data at risk. In fact, the outbreak of the pandemic, together with worldwide confinements, interfered with the process countries annually carry out to update information in our online data platform, the Ibero-American Integrated Data System on

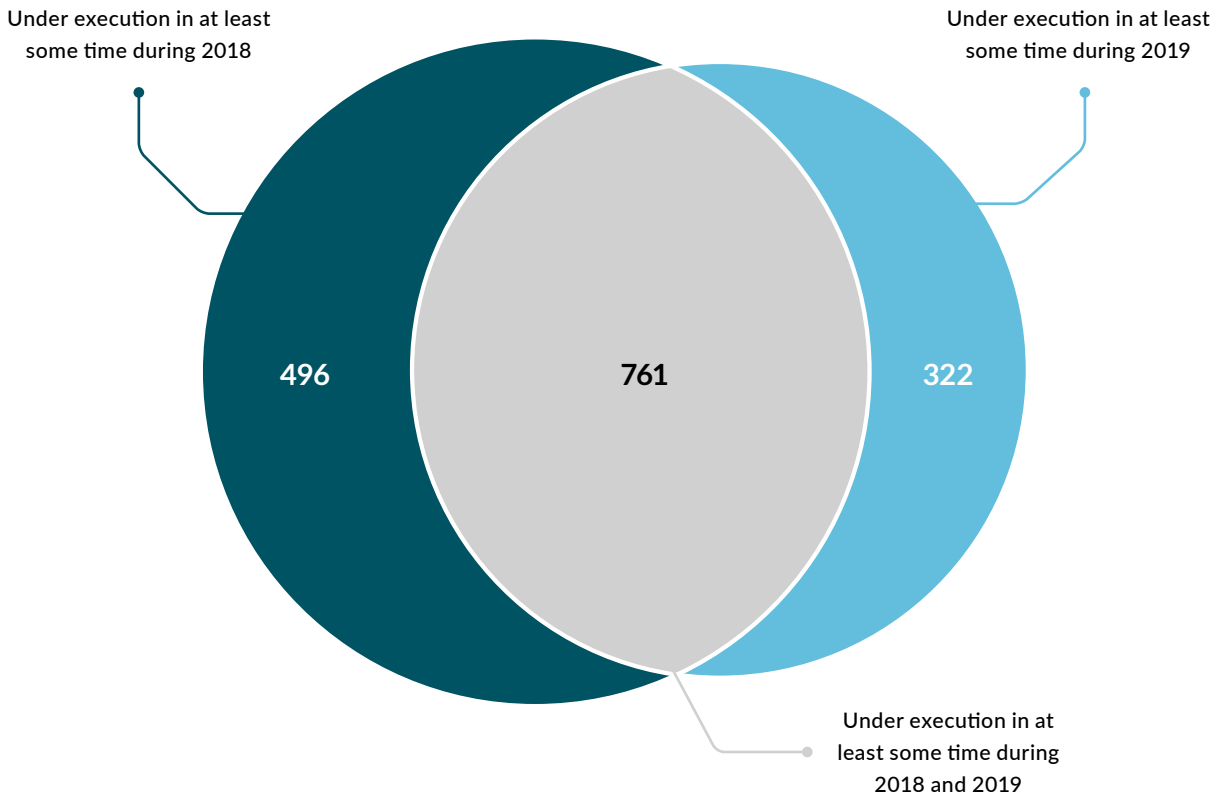
South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS by its Spanish acronym). Nevertheless, Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation and their technical teams in the different Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, once again reaffirmed their strong commitment to this project and, even in such adverse circumstances, successfully completed this task.

These efforts went even further. Countries also achieved a pre-pandemic goal and narrowed the gap between the year in which the Report is published and the year to which data refers, to just one year. Indeed, and due to the complexity of these processes, previous editions of this Report referred to cooperation implemented two years before. For example, the 2019 Report focused on data related to 2017. In order to narrow this gap to a single year, the preparation of the 2020 Report had already set the aim to broaden the collection and registration of SS and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America executed both in 2018 and in 2019. Despite 2020's adverse circumstances, and at the risk of possible under-reporting, countries completed this task and registered the almost 1,580 initiatives that were under execution in 2018 and/or 2019 in SIDICSS. This data is illustrated in Graph A.

GRAPH A

SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America participated (all modalities), by the year in which they were executed. 2018 and/or 2019

In units



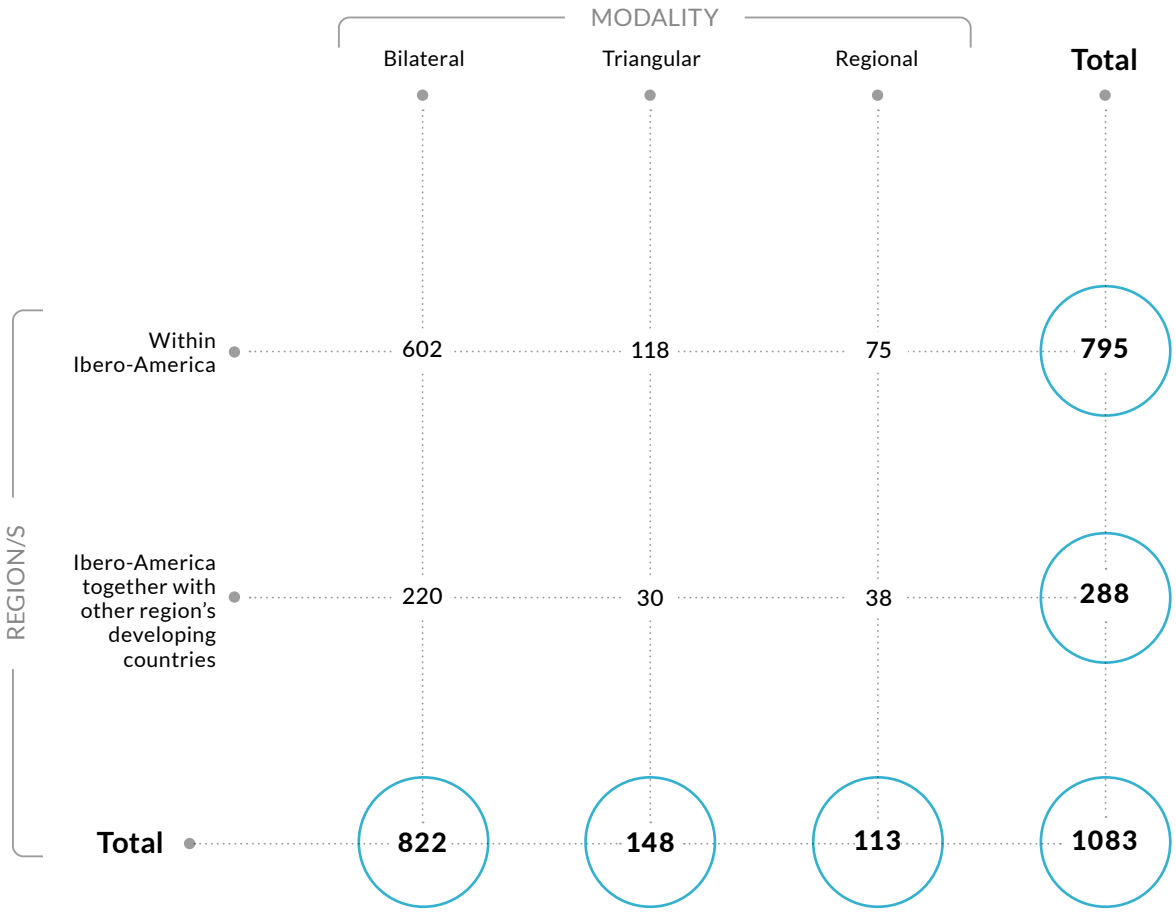
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

Thus, **CHAPTERS II**, **III** and **IV** and **COUNTRY FACTSHEETS**, are based on the systematization and analysis of the information registered, focusing on the 1,083 South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-America participated in 2019. Graph B distributes this total according to the modality (Bilateral, Triangular, Regional) and the region with which Ibero-America associated, differentiating between intra-regional (among Ibero-American countries) and interregional SSC (together with other regions' developing countries).

GRAPH B

SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America participated, by region with which they were exchanged and by modality. 2019

In units



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

The different combinations by modalities and by regions with which initiatives are exchanged, in turn, define each chapter's main contents. In addition, it should be pointed out that accumulated data related to the 2006-2019 period, which includes up to 9,119 SSC initiatives, provides added value as it enables to carry out a trend analysis that would not be possible without these historical series.

Specifically, **CHAPTER II** is dedicated to the more than 600 Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged in Ibero-America in 2019. Although each of the 19 Latin-American and Caribbean countries participated in this modality, their behavior was uneven, Chile and Mexico standing out with a maximum of 185 and 160 initiatives respectively. It is also possible to identify a greater dynamism in terms of the way in which countries related, which resulted in a process to broaden and diversify the partners with which each of them exchanged. This trend is accompanied by an increase in the number of initiatives in which countries simultaneously act as providers and as recipients, very common, for example, in Uruguay's case.

Other trends referred to the type of capacities that were strengthened through Bilateral SSC exchanged in Ibero-America throughout 2019, are also worthy of mention. The area on which most efforts continue to be concentrated is related to Social matters (more than one third of the total number of initiatives) and, within this, the most important sector is *Health* (almost one hundred projects). As it was previously mentioned, this data is particularly relevant in the context of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. Likewise, cooperation aimed at preserving the *Environment* continued to gain ground, consolidating as the third sector with the highest relative importance in overall bilateral initiatives in 2019, closely following the second sector, *Agriculture and livestock*.

CHAPTER III is dedicated to the systematization and analysis of the 130 Triangular Cooperation initiatives promoted in Ibero-America during 2019. As highlighted in this chapter's introduction, its increasing importance, especially based on the renewed recognition the international community has given to TC as an instrument for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the framework of BAPA+40, has led to its inclusion in the title of this *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020*.

In line with the above, 2019's data suggests Ibero-America's commitment to an increasingly stronger Triangular Cooperation. This greater strength does not result in a higher number of initiatives (which show a relatively stable overall figure), but in a change in terms of their implementation, with a progressive shift from specific and isolated actions to projects of a larger scope. In this sense, and as first providers, Chile, Mexico and Brazil stood out; Spain and Germany were the most active stakeholders as second providers; and, El Salvador, Bolivia and Paraguay should be highlighted as the main recipients. However, and as has been the case in the past, the most common situation still was that several countries simultaneously exercised this role.

As for the capacities that were strengthened through Triangular Cooperation, it is possible to identify a change in trend, between 2010 and 2019, in terms of the region's sectoral priorities, which focused on contributing to the preservation of the *Environment* (16.5% of the initiatives). TC dedicated to Institutional strengthening also gained ground, especially in matters related to *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*. However, these changes did not impact the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, which continued to be the one with the second highest relative importance in 2019. From another perspective, the above is consistent with the fact that one half of this cooperation focused on contributing to advance SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (Climate action).

CHAPTER IV adopts an innovative approach and merges the fourth and the fifth chapter of the previous editions of this Report (*Ibero-America and Regional SSC* and *Ibero-America and SSC with other regions*, respectively). The aim of this change is to focus on the region as a key stakeholder for development, stressing its role as a whole, and to highlight how the region's cooperation can strengthen and enhance the collective response to global and cross-border problems and challenges.

For this purpose, Chapter IV addresses data from a double perspective: the first continues the analysis developed so far and still refers to intra-regional SSC, however, with an emphasis on initiatives Ibero-America implements as a whole, through the Regional SSC modality; the second perspective analyzes interregional interventions, focusing on the exchange of experiences between Ibero-America and other developing regions.

Thus, in 2019, Ibero-America participated in more than 110 Regional SSC initiatives, most of them of a long-term nature. More than 40 organizations joined Ibero-American countries in the implementation of this cooperation and institutionally supported it, those of the Ibero-American and Central-American Systems standing out. The significance of these types of organizations, as well as the importance of shared features which bring countries of these regions together, is consistent with the fact that SSC predominantly focused on strengthening *Culture* (14.4% of the initiatives), as well as *Environment* and *Disaster Management* (20%). This also explains why SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (Climate action) are two of the Goals to which this Regional SSC mainly contributes.

On the other hand, also in 2019, Ibero-America executed 288 initiatives with other regions' developing countries, mostly under the Bilateral SSC modality. One half of this cooperation is explained by the participation of the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, followed by Africa (27.1% of the initiatives) and Asia (15.6%), the participation of the Middle East and Oceania being more specific. This cooperation mainly focused on addressing Social problems and, above all, on the *Health* sector (3 out of 10 initiatives). In this sense, efforts made to strengthen many developing countries' public health systems can be an essential contribution to increase their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020* ends with the **COUNTRY FACTSHEETS**, which summarize information regarding the cooperation of each of the 22 members of this space. Its review sheds light not only on the total number of initiatives in which each country participated in 2019, but also on how these were distributed by modalities and roles, the capacities that were strengthened, the SDGs with which they were potentially aligned and the main partners with which countries associated.

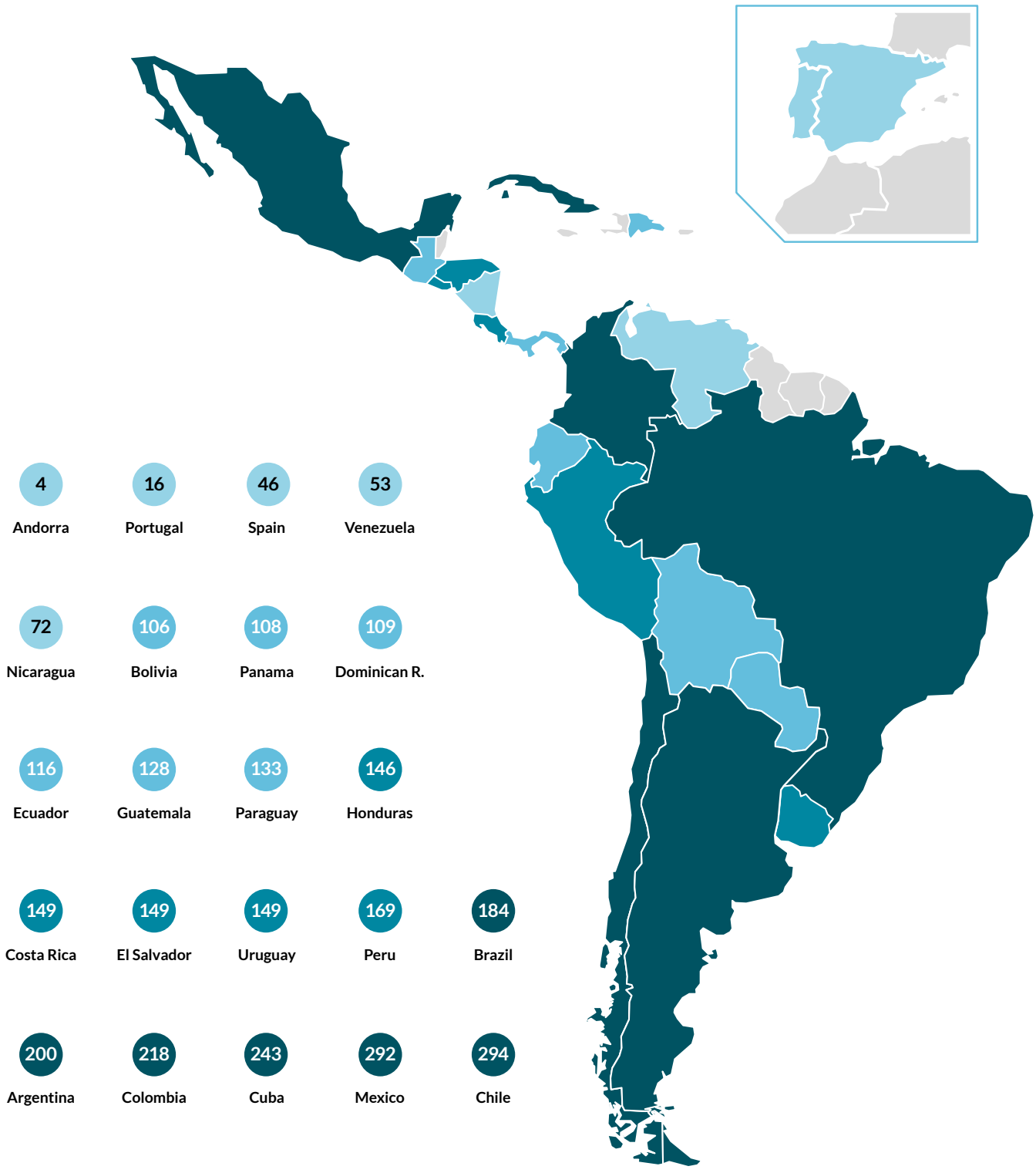
In 2019, Ibero-America participated in 1,083 SS and Triangular Cooperation initiatives, 288 of which were carried out with other regions' developing countries

Graph C is based on these Country Factsheets and it distributes the 1,083 SSC initiatives that were under execution in 2019 according to the intensity of Ibero-American countries' participation. As the graph shows, different dynamics coexisted. On the one hand, countries such as Mexico and Chile participated in more than 290 initiatives. Argentina, Colombia and Cuba closely followed (with more than 200), together with Brazil (184). On the other hand, and consistent with their nature —which limits their participation to the Triangular and Regional modalities— Spain, Portugal and Andorra should be highlighted, all of them participating in less than 50 initiatives. Meanwhile, most Central-American (Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador) and Andean (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru) countries, together with the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay participated, to a more or less extent, in between 80 and 180 initiatives. Venezuela and Nicaragua completed the analysis, each of them being active in between 50 and 75 exchanges.

GRAPH C

Ibero-American participation in the total number of SSC initiatives executed in 2019, by country.

In units



Legend: number of initiatives in which each country participated in 2019

Up to 80 | Between 81 and 140 | Between 141 and 180 | Between 181 and 300

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

ACRONYMS

Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
AGCID (by its Spanish acronym)	Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development
ALBA-TCP (by its Spanish acronym)	Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Treaty
ANA (by its Portuguese acronym)	National Water Agency of Brazil
BAPA+40	Buenos Aires Plan of Action + 40
CAF (by its former acronym)	Latin-America Development Bank
CAFMA (by its Spanish acronym)	Argentine Chamber of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers
CAST	Center for Applied Special Technology
CELAC (by its Spanish acronym)	Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States
CIDETER (by its Spanish acronym)	Research and Technological Development Center
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPLP (by its Portuguese acronym)	Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries
CPPS (by its Spanish acronym)	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
CRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
DGCPRD (by its Spanish acronym)	Directorate-General for Public Procurement of the Dominican Republic
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean
ELAM (by its Spanish acronym)	Latin-American School of Medicine
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization

FBC/OEA (by its Spanish acronym)	Brazilian Cooperation Fund at OAS
FGR (by its Spanish acronym)	General Prosecution Office of El Salvador
FILAC (by its Spanish acronym)	Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin-America and the Caribbean
FO.AR (by its Spanish acronym)	Argentine Fund for International Cooperation
FOCEM (by its Spanish acronym)	MERCOSUR's Structural Convergence Fund
FOSAL (by its Spanish acronym)	Salvadorean Fund for South-South and Triangular Cooperation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HR	Human Rights
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA (by its Spanish acronym)	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IIHR	Inter-American Institute of Human Rights
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IML (by its Spanish acronym)	Institute of Legal Medicine of El Salvador
INTA (by its Spanish acronym)	National Agricultural Technology Institute
INTI (by its Spanish acronym)	National Institute of Industrial Technology
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISDEMU (by its Spanish acronym)	Salvadorean Institute for Women's Development
LTE (by its Spanish acronym)	Energy Transition Law
MECSS (by its Spanish acronym)	Structured Mechanism for the Exchange of Experiences of South-South Cooperation

MEPYD (by its Spanish acronym)	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic
MERCOSUR (by its Spanish acronym)	Southern Common Market
MINSAP (by its Spanish acronym)	Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Cuba
MONDIACULT	Mexico Declaration on Cultural Policies of 1982
MRECIC (by its Spanish acronym)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEI (by its Spanish acronym)	Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture
OISS (by its Spanish acronym)	Ibero-American Organization for Social Security
OLADE (by its Spanish acronym)	Latin-American Energy Organization
ONCE (by its Spanish acronym)	Spanish National Organization of the Blind
PA	Pacific Alliance
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PHEIC	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
PIFCSS (by its Spanish acronym)	Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation
PNC (by its Spanish acronym)	National Civilian Police of El Salvador
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRODESEN (by its Spanish acronym)	Mexican National Electric System Development Program
PTB (by its German acronym)	German National Metrology Institute
QI	Quality Infrastructure
RAE (by its Spanish acronym)	Royal Spanish Academy
REDLACEH (by its Spanish acronym)	Latin-American and Caribbean Network for the Right to Education of Inpatient Children
SAP	Strategic Action Program

SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEGIB (by its Spanish acronym)	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SICA (by its Spanish acronym)	Central-American Integration System
SICI (by its Spanish acronym)	Information System for International Cooperation
SIDICSS (by its Spanish acronym)	Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
SII (by its Spanish acronym)	Integrated Information System
SIMORE (by its Spanish acronym)	Recommendations Monitoring System
SNGD (by its Spanish acronym)	National Disaster Management System
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TC	Triangular Cooperation
TDA	Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UDL	Universal Design for Learning
UN	United Nations Organization
UNASUR (by its Spanish acronym)	Union of South-American Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNS	United Nations System
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER I

Multilateralism as an answer to current challenges: the experience of Ibero-American countries in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

CHAPTER I

Multilateralism as an answer to current challenges: the experience of Ibero-American countries in South-South and Triangular Cooperation*

I.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ibero-America; post-pandemic actions

The 2020 Report refers to South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented in Ibero-America in the 2018-2019 period. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the enormous challenge it represents for Ibero-American countries' cooperation are also analyzed in this chapter.

The world is currently facing an extraordinary and unprecedented juncture. We are witnesses to the speed with which the international scenario can be abruptly shaken by a global threat like the COVID-19 pandemic. Its rapid spread has posed an enormous challenge to countries' response capacity, exposing the structural weaknesses of our health, food security, social protection, economic, education and trade systems, among others.

In addition, the impact of the pandemic threatens the achievements made on the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals, and it deepens persistent inequalities that have not yet been overcome despite progress made in the last two decades. As Ibero-America, we have an opportunity to strengthen our collaborative work as a region, so as to honor this commitment by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge we are currently facing. In light of this systemic crisis, our countries' priorities and efforts are destined to contain its spread, mitigate its effects, guarantee an effective and equitable access to the vaccine and work towards a rapid economic recovery.

* This chapter was prepared and agreed by the Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation of the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) member countries. It is based on an original version prepared by Peru, together with Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Guatemala.

Specialized international organizations such as ECLAC indicate that the effects of this crisis place developing countries, including most of the countries of our region, in a situation of greater vulnerability. According to projections, the Latin-America and Caribbean region will experience a -9.1% fall in GDP and the unemployment rate would reach 13.5%.[1] In addition, the number of people living in poverty will increase by 45.4 million in 2020, raising the total number from 185.5 million in 2019 to 230.9 million in 2020, which represents 37.3% of the Latin-American population.[2] These figures imply an unprecedented contraction of GDP, deepening poverty, extreme poverty and inequality, increasing labor informality and unemployment, among other aspects that have an impact on regional development. Recovery will take time and effort.

The impact of the pandemic threatens the achievements made on the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals, and it deepens persistent inequalities that have not yet been overcome

In light of this emergency, there is a renewed need to increase international cooperation and multilateral initiatives that support State-led efforts in the implementation of intersectoral contingency plans and strategies to strengthen health and social protection public policies and their specific necessities, according to the new post-pandemic context.

In this sense, solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation, including South-South (SS) and Triangular Cooperation (TC), are essential to reduce the impact on vulnerable sectors and to support medium and long-term measures that contribute to resume economic growth and improve social indicators.

In the current context, Ibero-American countries and global development stakeholders have demonstrated their ability to adapt in areas such as health, education and social services, among others. However, it is necessary to continue promoting innovative, comprehensive and relevant initiatives in these difficult times. This requires coordinated work between the states and global development stakeholders so as to increase the levels of social inclusion which contribute to consolidate democracy, strengthen the rule of law and safeguard human rights.

In this sense, and in the framework of Ibero-American countries' cooperation, it is time to increase our supportive and inclusive action, focused on the sustainable and resilient recovery of our societies, rethinking our development models and the mechanisms to fight against poverty and inequality, paying special attention to the promotion of digital innovation and transformation, with the purpose to keep contributing to design effective public policies in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I.2
The role of multilateralism: a perspective from the Ibero-American space

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most serious, complex and urgent challenge our countries are facing. This demands for unconventional answers from a multilateral system that needs to be adapted and strengthened to face these contingencies in a more effective manner and, in addition, be prepared for similar situations that might arise in the future. States must strengthen multilateralism and international organizations to make them more effective in order to implement initiatives in line with the post-COVID-19 context.

1 Special report COVID-19 N 5 "Addressing the growing impact of COVID-19 with a view to reactivation with equality: new projections" (ECLAC, July 2020). Available in: https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/contraccion-la-actividad-economica-la-region-se-profundiza-causa-la-pandemia-caera-91

2 Idem.

Dialogue between multiple stakeholders and regional and multilateral organizations' joint work is currently crucial to contain and counteract the pandemic's severe impacts on the population, and to guarantee the fundamental right to life. This means the response to the pandemic should be coordinated among governments and the different global development stakeholders, addressing the crisis from a humanitarian, social and even environmental dimension, safeguarding the principles of democracy and the rule of law. It is equally important that this response contemplates local actions and the participation of sub-national institutions.

> *It is necessary to sustain and broaden international funding for our countries, together with innovative initiatives and mechanisms that contribute to the recovery of the region's growth, in a sustainable and inclusive manner*

In line with the aforementioned, it is necessary to continue encouraging and empowering regional institutions with clear mandates and strong commitments. This will bring confidence to a multilateral cooperation order that promotes initiatives to support Ibero-American countries' efforts to develop more productive, inclusive and resilient societies that can overcome the effects of the crisis. In this sense, it will be crucial to strengthen dialogue in the different regional spaces, fora and platforms. Among these, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) stands out as an important space to agree on actions, share experiences and adopt measures that can contribute to find the necessary health, social, economic and environmental solutions for the current context.

Multilateral answers must include developing countries in general, which are facing structural limitations that are worsened by this pandemic. Therefore, it is necessary to sustain and broaden international funding for our countries, together with innovative initiatives and mechanisms that contribute to the recovery of the region's growth, in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

This multilateral effort is even more relevant in the Ibero-American space given its commitment to implement the recommendations of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) outcome document. This declaration acknowledges the voluntary, participative and demand driven nature of SS and TC, and its ability to strengthen capacities, reduce asymmetries, promote sustainable and inclusive development, and design public policies that contribute to the region's positioning in the international political and economic scenario, thus reaffirming Ibero-America's multilateral calling.

In line with this, it is essential to keep strengthening SS and TC's institutional frameworks from within the Ibero-American space. Ibero-American Cooperation Agencies and Institutions are, in turn, called upon to play a key role as dialogue coordinators and facilitators in their respective countries, promoting reflection and collective action among all global development stakeholders.

Likewise, it is necessary to promote dialogue and increase the exchange of experiences, good practices and capacity building in sectors which impact on sustainable post-pandemic recovery is higher, such as agriculture, industry, trade, health and education, among others. It is also crucial to promote the participation of the private sector, academia, civil society and local governments through SS and TC; to boost decentralized cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, coordinated by the respective governments; to share data and evidence on best practices and innovations, and to strengthen cooperation for mutual benefit.

I.3
Convergence between Ibero-American Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Ibero-American space is a place for horizontal and peer-to-peer collaboration. SS and TC's promotion and management are therefore an example of our region's commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sharing common positions within the Ibero-American space enables the search for concrete and joint solutions. On this path, Ibero-American countries have supported improvements in SS and TC's quality and its positive impact, hence effectively contributing to development. To this end, it will be important to continue strengthening institutional frameworks and SS and TC's coordination and promotion at the regional and global levels.

Knowledge, experience and good practices registered and exchanged in recent years among Ibero-American countries and between them and other regions' developing countries, stand out for the diversification of the areas of action. These areas account for the region's strengths and its potential to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Three main sectors can be highlighted according to what has been reported by Ibero-American countries. Health, where Bilateral SSC is mainly concentrated; agriculture and livestock, and all matters related to institutional, government and public policy strengthening. In this sense, Ibero-American cooperation has been specially focused on SDG 3, SDG 8 and SDG 16. Meanwhile, areas related to environment, the fight against climate change and the management of natural disasters were those with a highest share in terms of TC.

This cooperation must continue strengthening joint work to protect our societies' most vulnerable, under the principle of leaving no one behind. It must deepen cooperation ties between our countries and it must advance innovation and integration, safeguard and protect human rights, as well as implement measures that support socially inclusive economic growth, always based on each country's strategies and priorities.

New international contexts and dynamics call for the redefinition of a new international cooperation architecture and of multidimensional and inclusive criteria to access development assistance, considering countries' particular and complex development processes, regardless of their income levels.

It will be necessary to address issues such as multidimensional poverty, the mobilization of national, international, public and private resources (monetary and non-monetary), and the access to funding on favorable conditions for developing countries, especially for the countries of our region, as well as the support to the region's trade and its productive recovery.

> *International cooperation must continue to strengthen its role as dialogue coordinator and facilitator, promoting all global development stakeholders' collective action. It must also, and especially, consolidate SS and TC's role*

Ibero-American cooperation in the framework of SEGIB is firmly committed to continue contributing to SS and TC's strengthening, through capacity development, the definition of conceptual frameworks, the exchange of experiences and the design of methodologies, reports and systems, among other instruments, for which it has the support of the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym).

In addition, regional cooperation will continue to be effectively coordinated through the joint development of instruments such as the Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS by its Spanish acronym), as well as through the implementation of the Ibero-American methodology to identify SS and TC's possible alignment with the SDGs, making both modalities' contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development visible.

The annual Report on SSC is an example of the convergence between Ibero-American countries' cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it is an effective instrument that enhances the importance of systematizing our region's SS and TC actions, projects and programs, as well as the participation of the different stakeholders, the diversification of the areas of action and the contribution to the SDGs.

The Ibero-American community is committed to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Through its various actions to strengthen SS and TC, our region is a global reference for the creation of new partnerships and alliances that boost international cooperation for inclusive development.

I.4

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic: challenges for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

As it was previously mentioned, the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) has demonstrated that, more than four decades after the first conference, SS and TC have made great progress to gain a foothold as valuable instruments for sustainable development, generating tangible results and always calling for the participation of our societies' multiple stakeholders.

In addition, Ibero-American countries, mostly under a dual role, have been undertaking commitments to go beyond the traditional paradigm of North-South cooperation. In this sense, Ibero-American cooperation's progress confirms that multilateralism is key to continue addressing countries' priorities and regional and global challenges that impact on development.

The current context sets new horizons for international cooperation and it represents an important opportunity to join efforts and share capacities, knowledge and experiences to support countries' efforts to address the crisis generated by this pandemic.

This situation raises a series of challenges for this space's cooperation. These challenges must be translated into actions aimed at reinforcing our national policies to promote SS and TC, and at strengthening coordination mechanisms with public and private stakeholders both at the national and sub-national levels. Our efforts should also be focused on strengthening information and data collection systems at the national level so as to promote the development and exchange of methodologies and statistics to assess the quality and impact of SS and TC programs, as well as their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In light of this, international cooperation must continue to strengthen its role as dialogue coordinator and facilitator, promoting all global development stakeholders' collective action. It must also, and especially, consolidate SS and TC's role, not as a substitute but as a complement to North-South cooperation, and it must include these modalities in technology facilitation mechanisms on mutually agreed terms.

Therefore, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems and national processes' digitalization should be promoted, mainly in matters related to health, education, food, overcoming poverty, decent work, the strengthening of value chains, the development of science and technology and environmental protection, among others.

Ibero-American countries' cooperation will continue to strengthen SS and TC's effectiveness and its scope through results-oriented management and by promoting solidarity and strategic actions among the different global development stakeholders, in coordination with the governments of the countries of the region. It will also continue mobilizing monetary and non-monetary resources in a coordinated, coherent, inclusive and transparent manner.

This will contribute to enhance SS and TC's comparative advantages, fostering comprehensive initiatives, innovative solutions and coordinated mechanisms for multi-stakeholder partnerships which promote the exchange of knowledge, experiences, technologies, and that mobilize both public and private resources to complement our governments' efforts to face common challenges, including those related to the pandemic.

Ibero-American countries agree that multilateralism, based on consensus, coordination and joint work among all global development stakeholders is an appropriate answer to address development challenges.

The key to overcome the current crisis lies not only in the design and implementation of policies or concrete actions, but also in jointly analyzing and addressing pre-pandemic systemic problems to build cohesive societies with solid democratic institutional pillars at the service of our citizens.

> *The current context sets new horizons for international cooperation and it represents an important opportunity to join efforts and share capacities, knowledge and experiences to support countries' efforts to address the crisis generated by this pandemic*

Tackling the pandemic's impacts is a great challenge for the region and for the cooperation that is implemented between Ibero-American countries. This challenge must be faced through reinforced multilateralism to continue consolidating international cooperation; highlighting SS and TC's contributions to complement countries' efforts to reactivate sectors which have been most affected or that require special attention; and implementing the necessary reforms to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CHAPTER II

Ibero-America and **Bilateral South-South Cooperation**

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Ibero-America and **Bilateral South-South Cooperation**

This chapter is dedicated to the analysis of Bilateral South-South Cooperation, modality through which Ibero-American countries have executed more than 80% of the 9,120 exchanges that have been registered since 2007. The chapter focuses on 2019 and it studies how Bilateral Cooperation has evolved throughout these years, the most relevant changes and trends, countries' roles and strengthened capacities to contribute, in turn, to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to all the above, an aspect cross-cuts the entire analysis: how the exercise of Bilateral South-South Cooperation can contribute to the region's necessary response to the COVID-19 crisis.

II.1 Bilateral South-South Cooperation initiatives in 2019

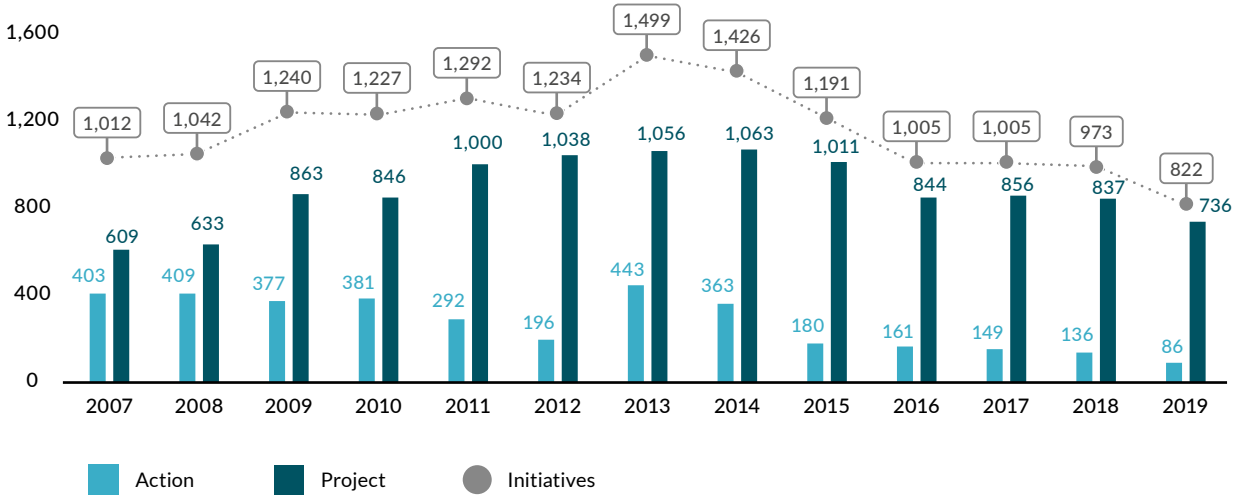
In slightly more than one decade, between 2007 and 2019, Ibero-American countries participated in almost 7,400 Bilateral SSC initiatives. Graph II.1 displays data regarding that period and distributes those initiatives according to the year in which they were under execution, also differentiating whether they were implemented through actions or through projects.

The analysis of the total number of initiatives and their behavior, at a first approach, suggests three very different stages: an intense growth between 2007 and 2013; an intense fall, from 2014 to 2016; and a certain stabilization, this stage ending, however, with another descent, between 2017 and 2019. Indeed, the 1,000 initiatives registered in 2007 grew at an average annual rate of 7.2%, which pushed the final figure to a historical maximum in 2013, close to 1,500 initiatives. From that moment until 2016, as a result of a very sharp drop, the total number of initiatives was close to one thousand once again. Finally, the period of stability that started in 2017 seems to end in 2019, when a new fall takes the total number of initiatives to the lowest value of the entire period (822). However, there is still no evidence to conclude this latest reduction responds to a change in trend. Data should be interpreted with caution, since the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have hindered countries' ability to gather 2019's information, which may have led to possible under-reporting.

GRAPH II.1

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

In units

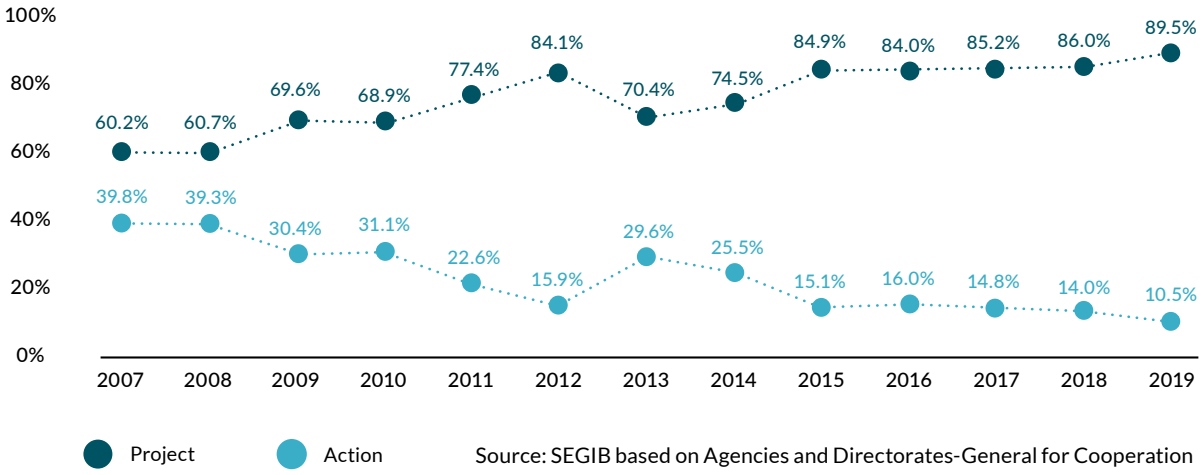


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

GRAPH II.2

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

In percentage



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

Graph II.1 itself also suggests a different (and even opposite) behavior in terms of actions and projects. Graph II.2 was prepared to verify and to better understand how different the evolution of each type of initiative was. Through its analysis, it is possible to compare, for each year of the 2007-2019 period, actions' and projects' relative share in the total number of initiatives.

As shown, both modalities clearly follow opposite trajectories, suggesting a progressive shift of actions in favor of projects. Indeed, in 2007, actions (more specific, of a smaller dimension and, consequently, easier to execute when countries begin to promote cooperation) explained basically 4 out of 10 initiatives. However, in 2019, more than a decade after, they accounted for 1 out of 10. In this sense, actions are still being executed as they prove to be very necessary for many countries' incipient participation in Bilateral SSC; nevertheless, countries are increasingly showing a greater capacity to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of projects, an instrument through which the region implements 90% of the exchanges in which it participates.

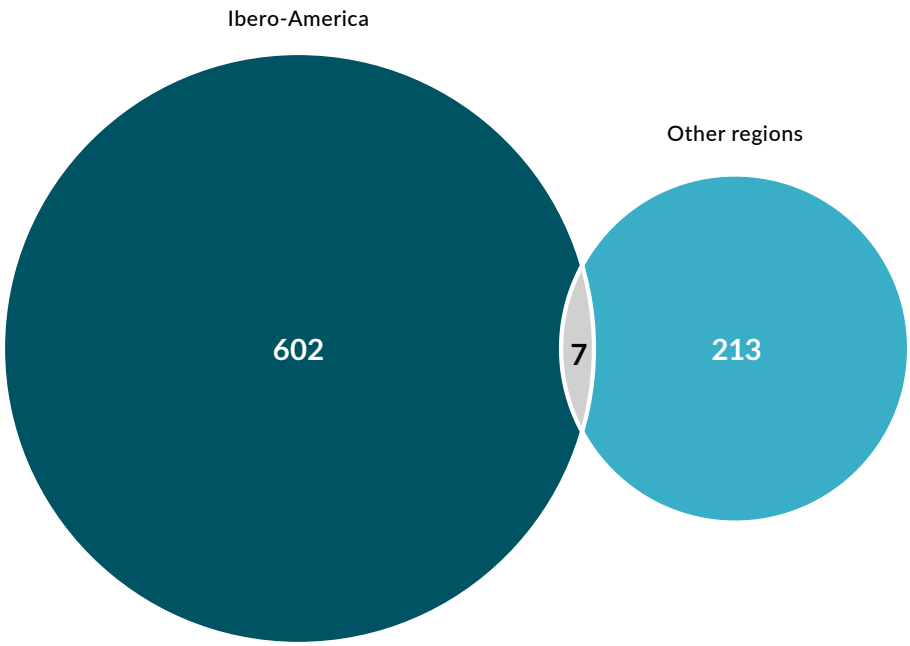
Finally, a methodological remark must be pointed out. The 822 Bilateral SSC initiatives that were under execution throughout 2019 can, in turn, be divided into two groups according to the geographical area with which they were exchanged: in fact, Graph II.3 shows how basically 75% of the exchanges take place among Ibero-American countries, while the remaining 25% is promoted together with other regions' developing countries. In this sense, this chapter is dedicated to the more than 600 initiatives that were exchanged within the Ibero-American region; while the remaining more than 200 are analyzed in the fourth chapter of this Report.

In slightly more than one decade, between 2007 and 2019, Ibero-American countries participated in almost 7,400 Bilateral SSC initiatives

GRAPH II.3

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives by the region with which they were exchanged. 2019

In units



Note: When initiatives are exchanged "within Ibero-America", both the provider and the recipient roles are exercised by one or more than one Ibero-American country. When initiatives are exchanged with "Other regions", the roles are exercised by Ibero-American countries, on the one hand, and by other regions' developing countries, on the other hand. In the 7 initiatives where the two circles overlap, at least one of the roles (generally, that of the recipient) is simultaneously exercised by countries of different regions.

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

II.2
Countries' participation in Bilateral SSC in Ibero-America

In 2019, Ibero-American countries bilaterally exchanged a total of 609 South-South Cooperation initiatives between each other: 544 were implemented through projects and 65, through actions. This section analyzes the way in which countries participated in this cooperation, from two broad perspectives: the first one focuses on the intensity with which countries participated in the total number of exchanges, as well as the roles they exercised; meanwhile, the second analysis sheds light on the type of partnerships countries developed to execute this modality.

II.2.1 Countries and roles

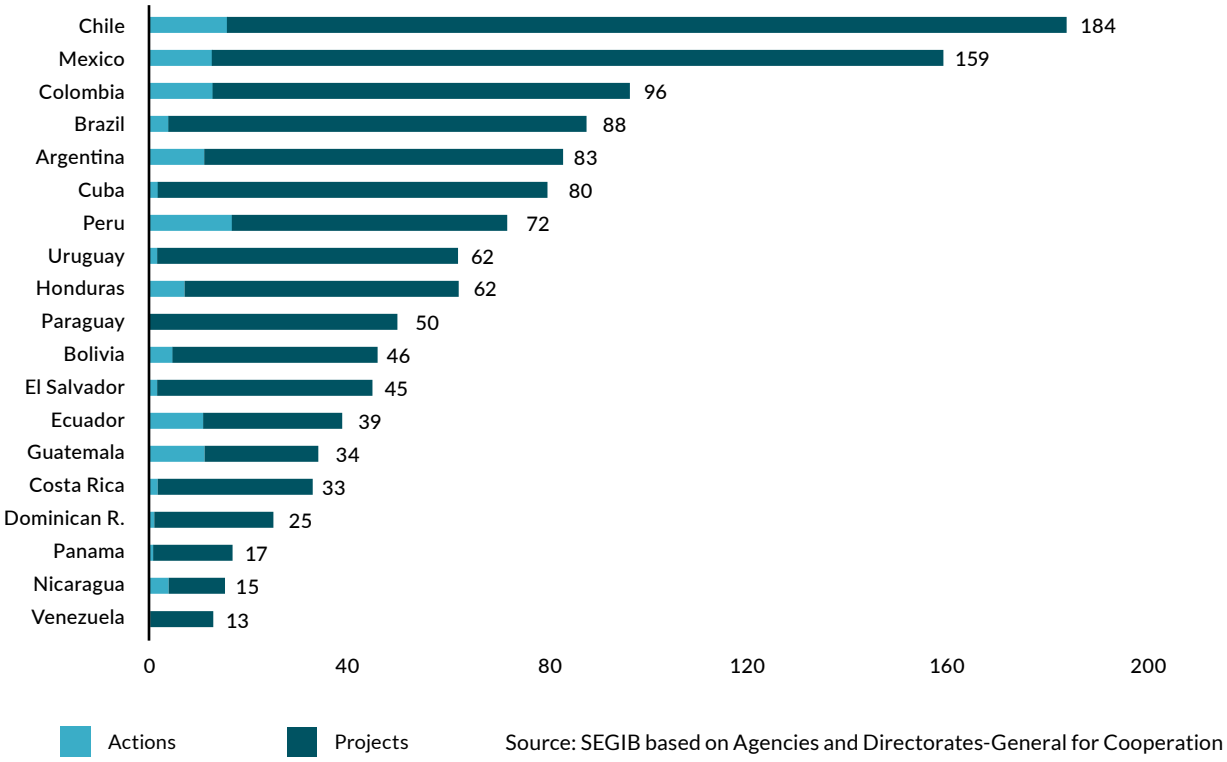
Graph II.4 portrays the 19 Latin-American countries, according to the total number of Bilateral South-South Cooperation actions and projects in which they participated throughout 2019. Through its analysis, it is possible to group countries in terms of their different participation patterns. In fact, Chile and Mexico stood out first, in the South and the North of the continent, these two countries participating in basically 185 and 160 initiatives, respectively. Cuba, Colombia, Brazil and Argentina followed, at a certain distance, all of them participating in a high number of initiatives, between 80 and 100.

On the other hand, Peru, Uruguay, Honduras and Paraguay were also significantly active, participating in between 50 and 72 initiatives, depending on the case. The remaining countries (all of them situated in the Andean, Central-American and Caribbean sub-regions) are part of two groups which accounted for around 25 initiatives: thus, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic participated in an equal or higher number of exchanges, while Panama, Nicaragua and Venezuela were less active.

GRAPH II.4

Countries' participation in Bilateral SSC in Ibero-America, by actions and projects. 2019

In units



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

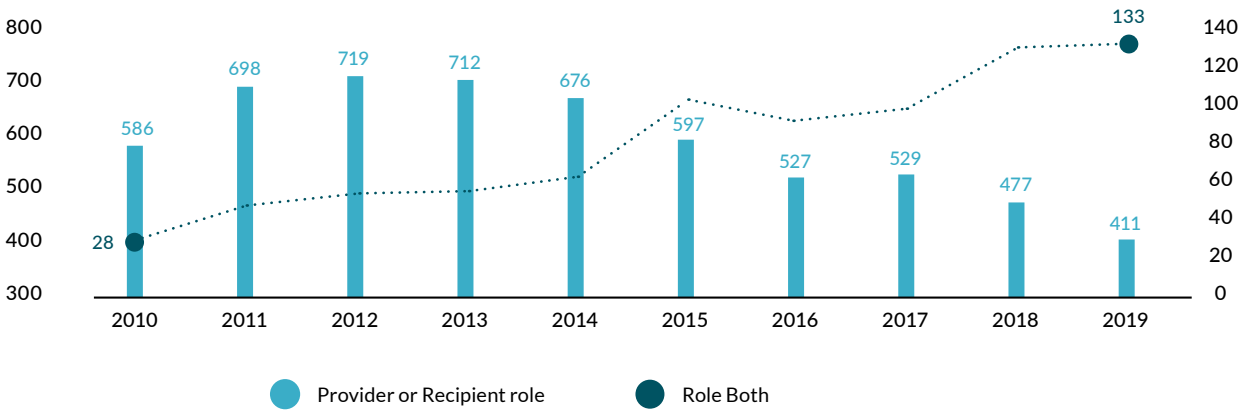
Graph II.4 also confirms another aspect that has already been mentioned: the increasing implementation of projects to the detriment of actions, which are losing relative importance both in terms of overall exchanges and of each country's bilateral cooperation. In this sense, in the overall Bilateral SSC promoted in Ibero-America in 2019, the projects-actions ratio is 8 to 1. Countries like Chile and Mexico have a slightly higher ratio (10:1), Uruguay's and Cuba's cases being more extreme (30:1 and 40:1, respectively). However, actions are still a very important instrument for countries such as Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador and Peru, which ratio is 2-3:1.

Another interesting perspective to complement the analysis is that related to countries' roles. In general, Bilateral SSC initiatives are developed between two partners. Historically, the most common situation is that one of these partners acts as provider while the other executes the recipient role. In recent years, however, the tradition has changed and initiatives in which the two partners execute both the provider and the recipient roles have strongly increased. In these cases, and in order to simplify the analysis, countries are considered to play the role "both". This feature's increasing importance is reflected in Graph II.5, which compares the evolution of Bilateral SSC projects in which countries have participated performing a single role (main vertical axis, to the left) or performing the role "both" (secondary axis, to the right), in the 2010-2019 period.

GRAPH II.5

Bilateral SSC projects, by the role under which countries participate. 2010-2019

In units



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

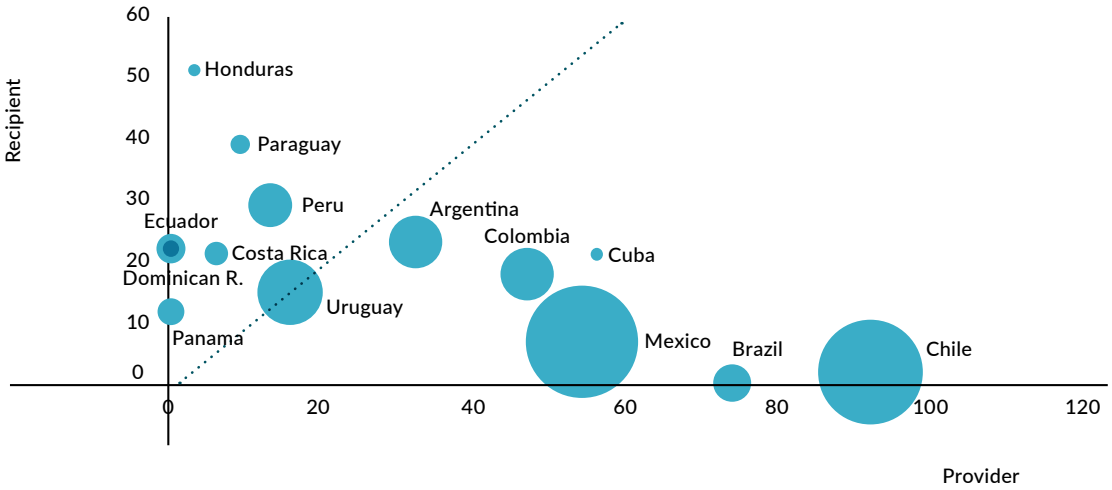
As the graph shows, between 2010 and 2012, the number of projects in which countries performed only one role increased more than 20%: from 586 to almost 720. From that moment on, however, it is possible to identify a turning point when the number of projects begins to significantly drop, at an average annual rate of -7.5%, pushing the final figure down to 411 in 2019. This progressive decline mainly responds to a shift in favor of projects in which countries perform the role "both": thus, during the decade between 2010 and 2019, this type of participation annually increases an average of 21%, this growth rate basically multiplying these projects' final figure by five (from 28 to 133).

SAs has been pointed out, this pattern is strongly gaining ground; moreover, it seems to be related (although not exclusively) to countries that have traditionally acted as "providers". At least that is what Graph II.6 suggests, which combines, for each of the Latin-American countries that have participated in the 544 Bilateral SSC projects in

GRAPH II.6

Bilateral SSC projects in Ibero-America, by country and role (recipient, provider, both). 2019

In units, projects as recipients (vertical axis); projects as providers (horizontal axis); projects with the role "both" (size of the bubble)



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

2019, three types of information: the number of projects in which they participated as "recipients" (vertical axis), as "providers" (horizontal axis) and the projects in which they participated under the role "both" (data associated with the size of the bubble).

As the graph shows, the bubbles of a larger size tend to be situated below the diagonal line, coinciding with the part of the graph in which those countries that participate in Bilateral SSC with a predominantly "provider" profile are placed. Two of the most illustrative cases are Mexico and Chile, which exercised the role "both" in up to 85 and 74 projects, respectively. Countries as Colombia, Argentina and Brazil, each of them participating under the role "both" in 18, 17 and 10 projects, are also worthy of mention.

Meanwhile, countries as Peru, Ecuador and Costa Rica, which have a predominantly "recipient" profile but also performed the role "both" on a fairly significant number of occasions, are situated in the upper side of the diagonal, with 13, 6 and 4 projects, respectively. Uruguay, however, deserves a special mention as it has a very balanced profile, almost "dual", as suggested by its position on the diagonal line. In this sense, in 2019, Uruguay participated in 16 Bilateral SSC projects as "recipient" and in 15 projects under the "provider" role, simultaneously combining both roles in around 30, figure that was only higher in Chile's and Mexico's cases.

II.2.2. Exchange relations

Another way to characterize how Ibero-American countries participated in Bilateral SSC that was under execution in 2019, is to analyze the profile of the exchanges that were implemented, which essentially means to understand countries' interactions, the intensity or frequency with which they associated with each other and the combination of roles under which they exchanged.

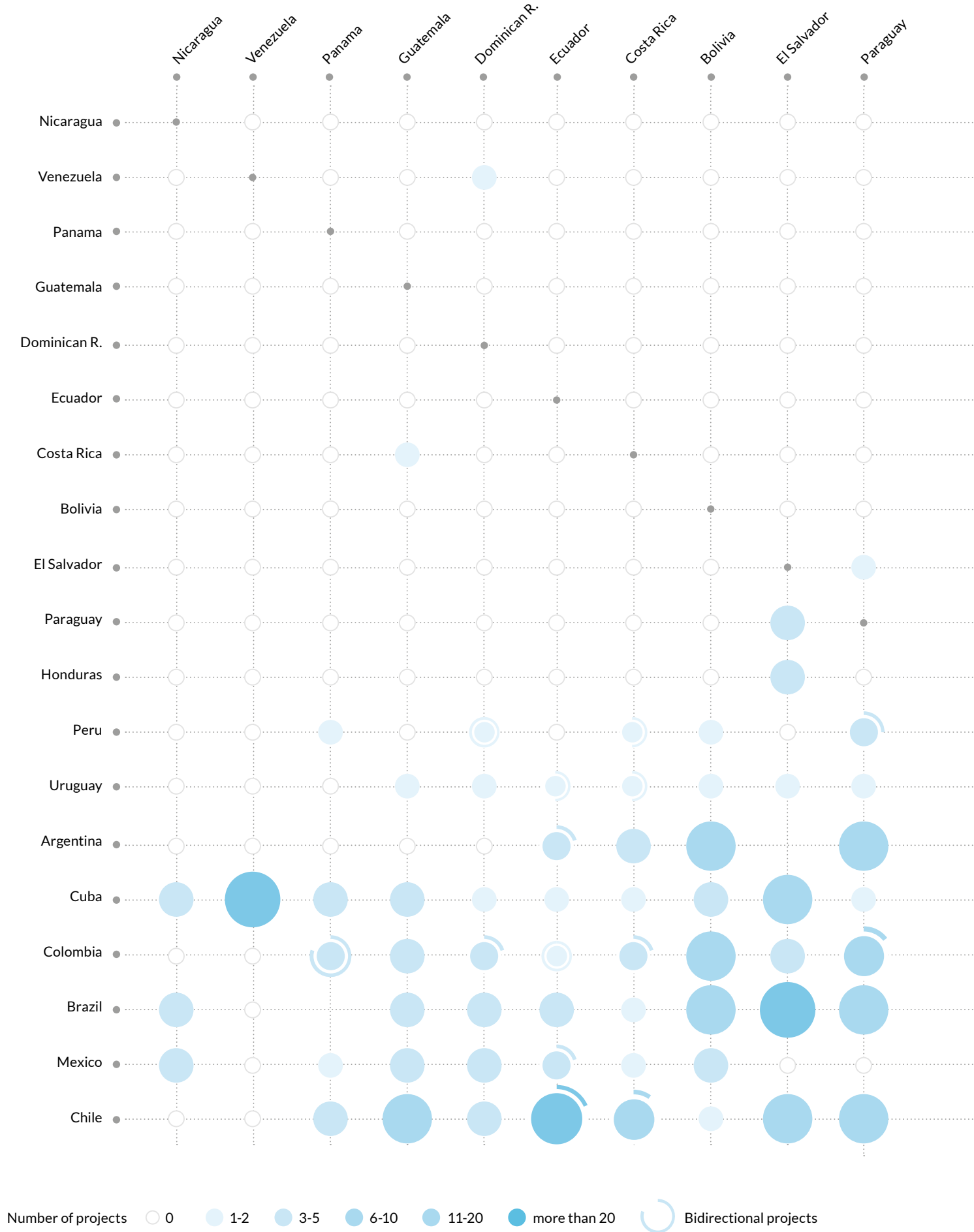
Graph II.7, which resembles a matrix, was prepared for this purpose, arranging the 19 Ibero-American countries that participate in Bilateral SSC according to their role (recipients in the upper horizontal line; providers in the vertical line to the left). Countries are sorted as the total number of projects in which they participated increases (data always refers to cooperation executed throughout 2019, within Ibero-America). According to this criterion, Nicaragua is the first country in the list (11 projects) and Chile is the last one (168 projects).

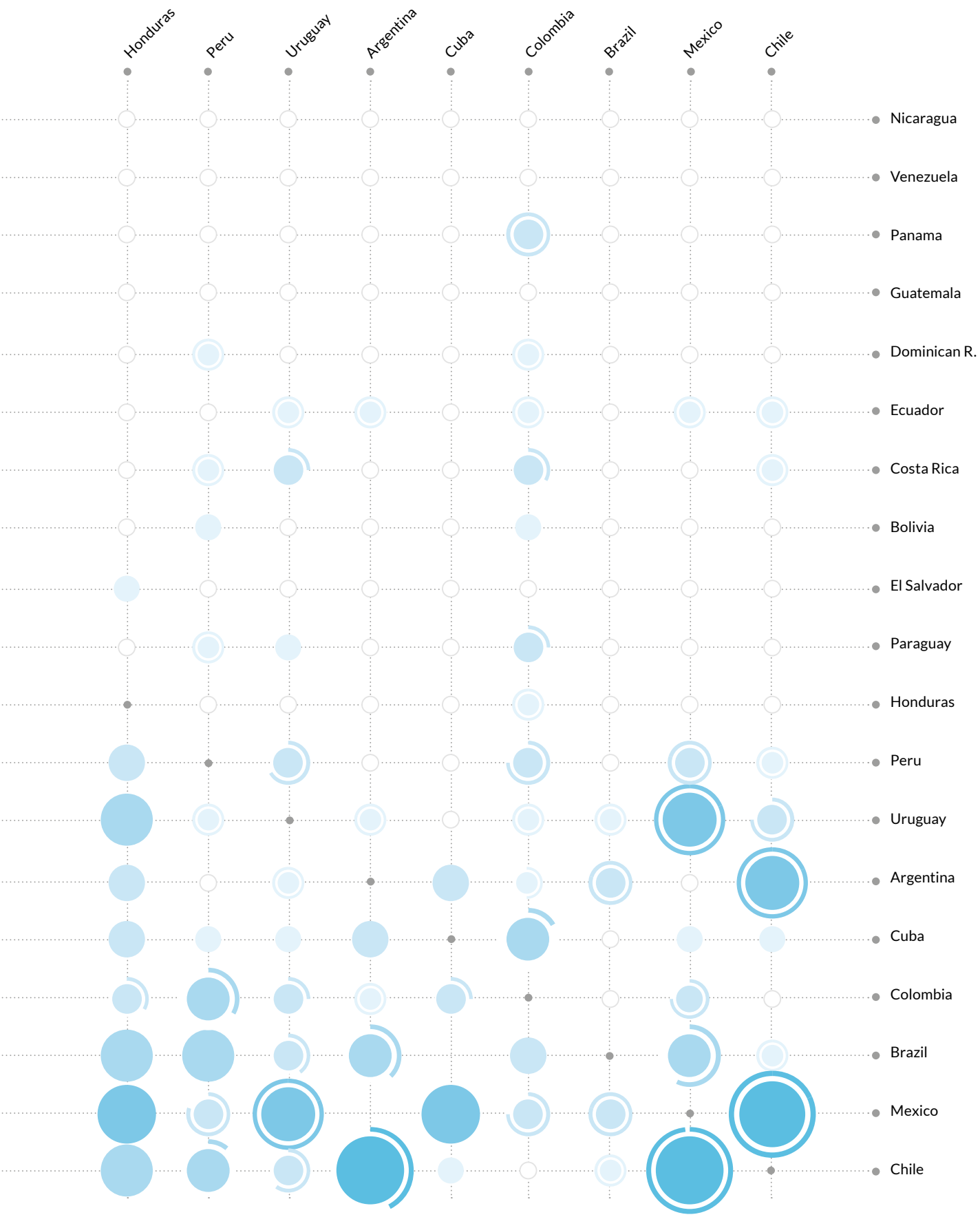
A bubble is plotted in each of the intersection points where two countries coincide. The bubbles' size and color (as referred in the legend) indicate whether or not projects were exchanged and, if so, how intense the exchange was. Additionally, it is possible to identify the role in which each partner participated by linking each bubble with the vertical or horizontal line in which each of the

GRAPH II.7

Intensity of the exchanges by countries' partners, by number of projects. 2019

In units





Note: Countries are sorted as the total number of projects in which they participated increases, considering the total number of Bilateral SSC projects executed in 2019 in Ibero-America. Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

two partners is situated. Finally, the frequency with which the two countries simultaneously exercised "both" roles is revealed by the size of the outer circle that surrounds the corresponding bubbles.

The first conclusion that can be drawn is that of an extremely dynamic scenario in which countries display great capacities to take advantage of the multiple possibilities to develop partnerships. Thus, considering that 19 Ibero-American countries participate in Bilateral SSC and that all of them can act as providers and recipients, each exchange of initiatives can be explained by 342 possible combinations of partners and roles.[1] In 2019, 133 combinations of countries and roles were developed, which means that almost 40% of the partnerships that could potentially take place, were finally implemented. This figure contrasts, for example, with that of 2010, when only 1 out of 10 partnerships were executed.

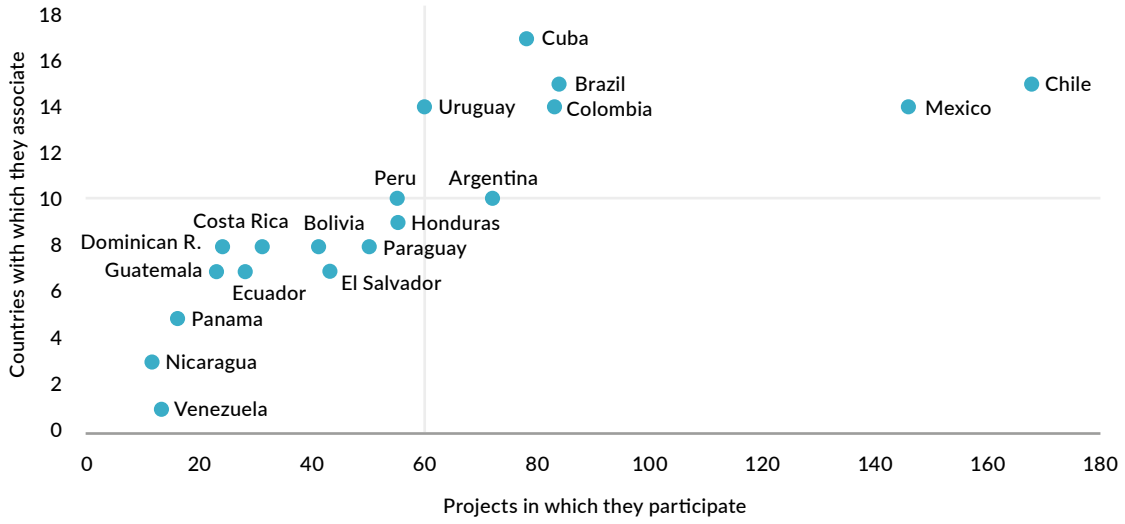
The possibility to develop more, new and different partnerships responds to a process through which countries are also broadening and diversifying the number of partners with which they interact. In Graph II.7, this aspect is determined by the area in which the bubbles tend to be concentrated: the two southern and eastern quadrants. These quadrants precisely portray data associated with countries that participate in a larger number of projects, and which, consequently, also have the possibility to diversify their cooperation with a higher number of different stakeholders.

Graph II.8 reaffirms this concept, as well as it enables the identification of a general pattern. In this sense, each country is placed in the graph according to the total number of Bilateral SSC projects in which it participated in 2019 (horizontal axis) and the total number of other Ibero-American countries with which it associated to promote exchanges (vertical axis), 18 being the maximum. As a result of the positive correlation between the two variables, the dots take an upward trend according to which: countries that participate in less than 20 projects tend to associate with a maximum of 5 different partners; those which participate in between 20 and 60 projects, with other 7 and 10 partners; while the most dynamic countries, with a higher number of exchanges, and even with some exceptions, interact with about 15 partners.

GRAPH II.8

Countries' participation in Bilateral SSC in Ibero-America, by the total number of projects in which each country participated and the number of partners with which it associated. 2019

In units



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

1 The total of 342 is calculated by multiplying 19 by 19, and then subtracting the 19 combinations in which the country would associate with itself.

The first conclusion that can be drawn is that of an extremely dynamic scenario in which countries display great capacities to take advantage of the multiple possibilities to develop partnerships

In this scenario, the distribution of the 544 Bilateral SSC projects countries exchanged in Ibero-America throughout 2019 by pair of partners is very uneven. Hence, as Graph II.7 portrays, the exchange values are very irregular and oscillate within a remarkably wide range (minimums of 1 and 2 projects and maximums above 50). In fact, most frequently (in almost two thirds of the exchanges), the total number of executed projects is no higher than 5. In the second most frequent case (almost 30% of the occasions) exchanges are implemented through the execution of up to 15 projects. Higher numbers of exchanges of between 15 and 56 projects are less common (in less than 5% of the cases, tending to be visually concentrated in the southeast quadrant of the graph).

In this sense, the possibility to associate with more or less countries and to distribute the total number of projects in which each country participates in a more or less concentrated or diversified manner, determines each country's exchange pattern. However, it is possible to identify an extra element that has a special influence on this: the importance "bidirectional" projects have in the total number of exchanges (projects in which countries simultaneously act as provider and recipient). Two cases illustrate the difference: Cuba, which associated with 17 of the 18 possible partners) and Mexico (the second country with the highest number of exchanges in 2019). Their respective behaviors are detailed in Graphs II.9.A and II.9.B which distribute (through a flow diagram) the total number of projects in which each of these countries participated, situating recipients to the left and providers to the right.

Thus, Cuba, which participated in 78 Bilateral SSC projects in 2019, shows a predominantly provider role, through which it implemented more than 90% of its exchanges. Under this role alone, Cuba associated with 17 other countries in the region (all countries excluding Brazil), which suggests a diversified distribution of its cooperation. This perception is confirmed by the fact that its two main partners, Mexico and Venezuela, barely account for around 15% of its projects, in each case.

Mexico, in turn, the second most dynamic country in 2019's Bilateral SSC (146 projects), developed its cooperation together with other 14 partners, two of which (Chile and Uruguay) especially stand out due to two reasons: on the one hand, Mexico shares 56 and 18 projects with these two countries which, altogether, account for one half of its cooperation; on the other hand, in almost all these projects, the two participating countries simultaneously perform the role "both".[2] In fact, exchanges with Chile and Uruguay were promoted in the framework of one instrument: the Mixed Cooperation Funds which, since 2008 and 2009, Mexico has signed with these two countries (SEGIB, 2020). As a result, Mexico shows a more dual or balanced profile between the two roles. This feature is reinforced, mainly but not exclusively, by the development of other "bidirectional" exchanges, those with Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru standing out.

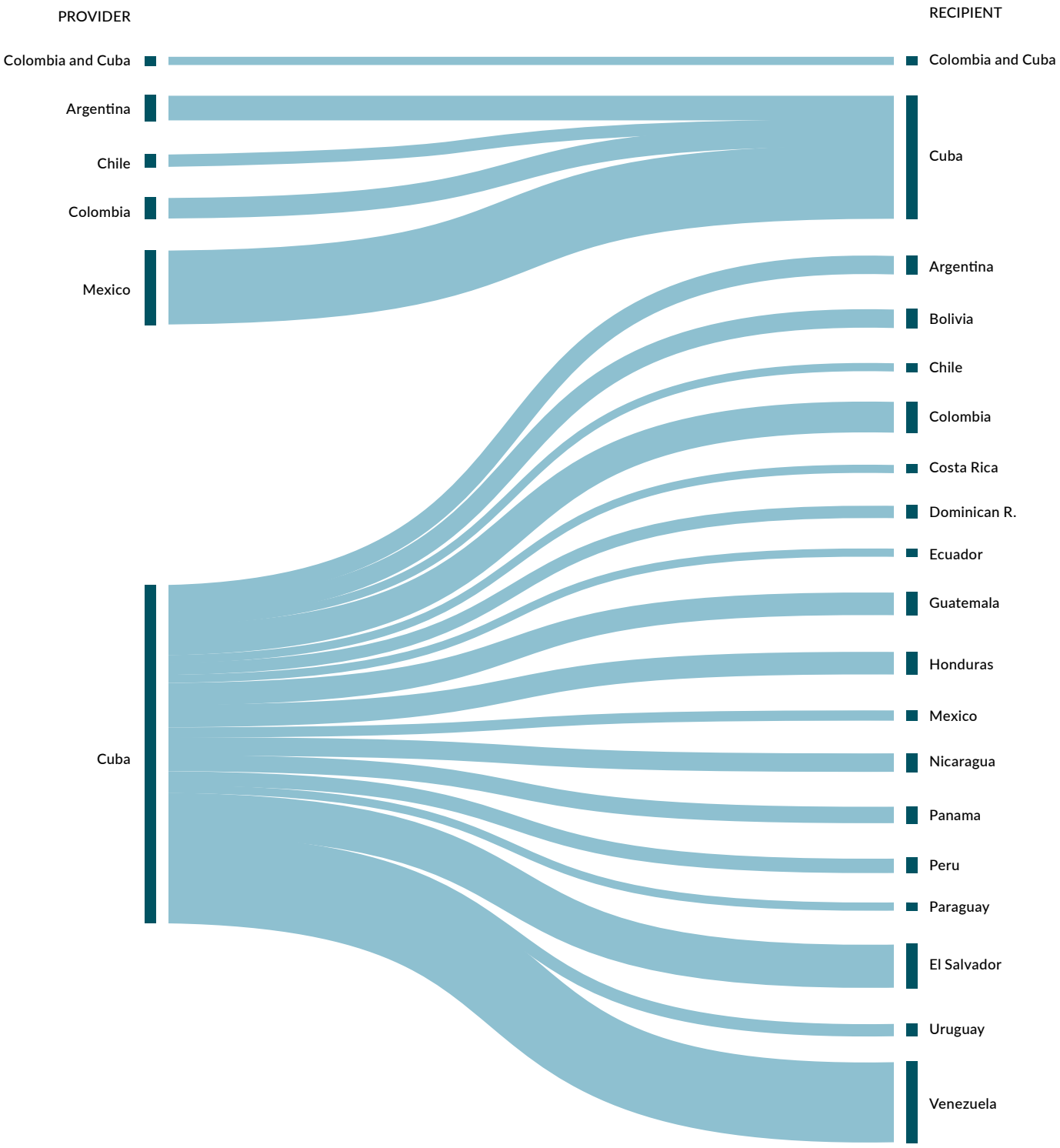
2 In order to identify the exercise of this role in the flow diagram, the names of the two participating countries were included both in the left flow (when acting as provider) as well as in the right flow (when acting as recipient).

GRAPH II.9

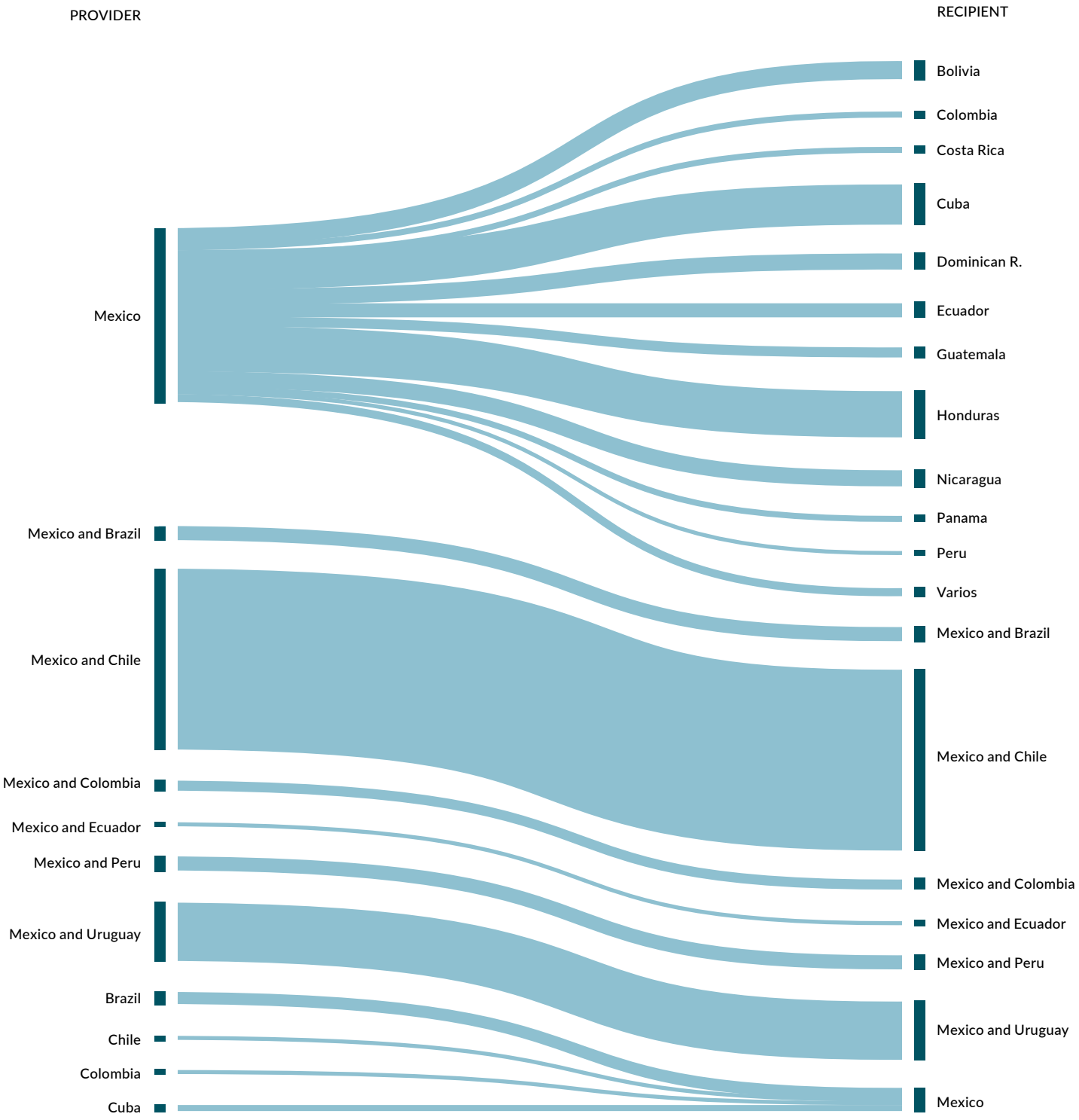
Distribution of Cuba's and Mexico's Bilateral SSC projects with Ibero-American partners, by role. 2019

In units

II.9.A. Cuba



II.9.B. Mexico



Note: When projects are "bidirectional" and both countries simultaneously perform the role "both", the names of the two participating countries are included both in the left flow (when acting as provider) as well as in the right flow (when acting as recipient).
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

II.3
Sectoral analysis of Bilateral South-South Cooperation in 2019

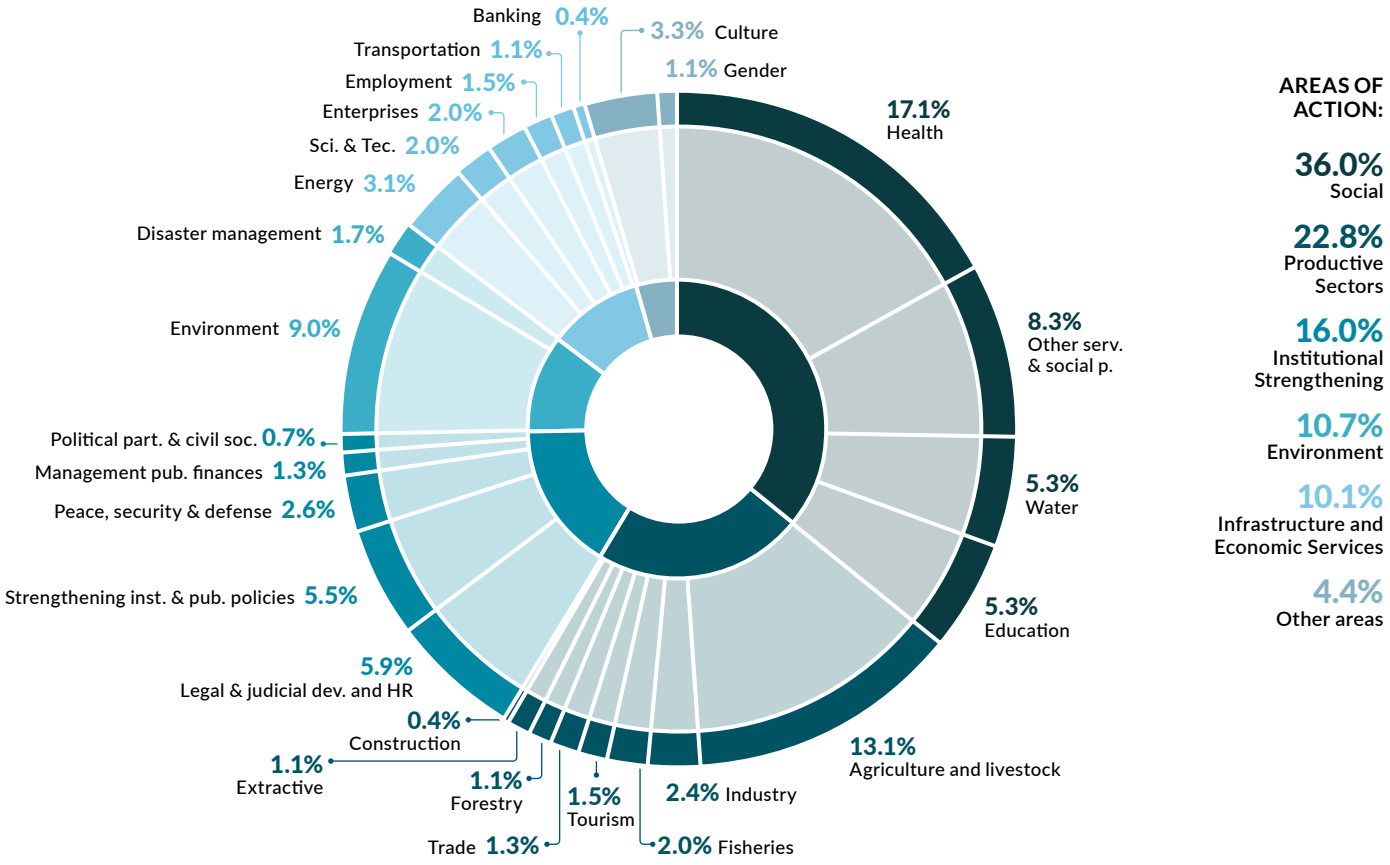
This section focuses on the capacities that were strengthened through Bilateral SSC, from a double perspective: the first has a regional scope and the second approaches to countries' behavior. This analysis sheds light on the strengths countries shared when acting as providers; the necessities that were tackled or the gaps they tried to close when participating as recipients. In short, it studies how the region strengthened as a whole. In order to organize this exercise, 2019's Bilateral SSC is analyzed from a sectoral perspective and in terms of areas of action, according to the classification that has been defined and agreed within the Ibero-American space and that is detailed in the Methodological Note.

In addition, and in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, understanding the capacities that were strengthened through Bilateral SSC is also essential to learn from previous experiences and assess how cooperation can contribute to the health, economic and social response that Ibero-America needs to promote in the face of this enormous challenge.

GRAPH II.10

Bilateral SSC projects, by activity sector and area of action. 2019

In percentage



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

II.3.1. Strengthened capacities

Graph II.10 distributes the 544 Bilateral SSC projects that were under execution in Ibero-America throughout 2019, according to the activity sector and area of action they mainly addressed. Sectors are situated in the outer concentric ring and the areas of action in which they are grouped are displayed in the inner ring.

At a first approach by areas of action, Graph II.10 portrays how, as has been the case in the past, most projects (more than one third) were dedicated to strengthen capacities in the Social area. Seventy-five percent (75%) of 2019's projects are explained when adding 22.8% and 16.0% of the exchanges that respectively tackled Productive Sectors and Institutional Strengthening. The remaining 25% is explained by projects which focused on Environment (10.7%), Infrastructure and Economic Services (10.1%) and, occasionally, on Other areas (4.4%).

This distribution is, in turn, determined by the relative importance of the different sectors. In this sense, throughout 2019, and as has been the case in previous years, the activity that concentrated the largest number of projects (more than 90, corresponding to 17.1% of the total) was, once again, *Health*. This data is more than relevant when considering the severe health crisis that, since the beginning of 2020, has been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this sense, it is currently essential to focus on the details of the topics these projects specifically address. This will

Most projects (more than one third) were dedicated to strengthen capacities in the Social area

BOX II.1

Ibero-American South-South Cooperation in the face of the COVID-19 health crisis

On January 30th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the outbreak of pneumonia initially detected in Wuhan (China), from which cases are beginning to appear in other countries around the world, constitutes what is known as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). A month and a half later, on March 11th, 2020, and due to the alarming levels of the disease's spread and severity, WHO itself determines that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic (WHO, 2020).

Another month later, on April 14th, 2020, WHO published an update of its "COVID-19 Strategy". This guideline document is based on the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan that was presented to the international community on February 3rd, 2020, as well as on lessons learnt and on other technical recommendations that were outlined as the pandemic progressed. The main lines of the proposed response strategy, which was updated in April 2020, are detailed in the first figure, both in terms of their global and national dimensions.

As the figure illustrates, according to WHO and with respect to international action, it is key to strengthen epidemiological surveillance, based on crucial data generation for decision making and to design measures, technical guidelines and strategies to respond to COVID-19. International coordination and collaboration to advance on research and to develop therapeutics and vaccines that can cure and immunize the world's population are also essential, as well as coordination to ensure a stable and safe delivery of medicines and of any essential health care supply, including therapeutics and vaccines among these. In addition, the protection and provision of resources for health care professionals, as well as the strengthening of health systems are essential to better respond to current challenges and to face any future challenge.

WHO's global and national strategy to respond to COVID-19: main lines of action

GLOBAL STRATEGY

Epidemiological analysis and risk assessment

Ongoing, comprehensive and verified global surveillance data on COVID-19 is crucial for the response at the global, national, and local levels.

It is key to strengthen epidemiological surveillance and global data architecture on public health.

Coordinated global supply chain management

Essential health commodities (including vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics) are a global good. The pandemic has led to an acute shortage of essential supplies. It is important to promote, together with the UN and other International Organizations, mechanisms to ensure countries are provided with essential supplies.

Technical expertise and health workforce

Operational, technical and research networks have been activated. All available evidence to develop and update technical guidance for countries to prepare and respond has been reviewed. However, there remain significant knowledge gaps that must be filled by ongoing surveillance and research activities.

Research, innovation and knowledge sharing

There is an urgent need to research and develop medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

Resource mobilization and investment prioritization, as well as medical monitoring and oversight are crucial.

Strengthening pandemic preparedness for the future

Opportunity to emerge with stronger health systems, and improved global collaboration to face the next health threat.

As we focus on the immediate response, it is important to learn the lessons and advance a lasting positive legacy.

Source: SEGIB based on WHO (2020)

shed light on our region's capacities in the matter in order to learn from previous experiences to contribute to Ibero-America's immediate, but also medium- and long-term, response to this unprecedented challenge. Box II.1 was prepared for this purpose as it reviews the past experience based on a more comprehensive concept of health (which complements the analysis by including issues that are not only classified under this sector)[3], especially focusing on 2018 and 2019. It also analyzes the way in which SSC can contribute to respond to this serious crisis, in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.

3 As Box II.1 shows, a more comprehensive concept of health is applied, as that used by the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization (WHO and PAHO, respectively). When using this definition, the analysis can be complemented by adding other issues related to this matter that are very relevant to fight against COVID-19 and that were initially classified under other sectors, such as initiatives related to older adults (generally classified under *Other services and social policies*) or to food safety (under *Agriculture and livestock*).

NATIONAL STRATEGY

Coordination of national and subnational response

Activate national public health emergency management mechanisms; operational plans with capacity assessments and risk analyses for vulnerable populations; national plans for the prevention and mitigation of the social impacts (especially on women and girls).

Participation and mobilization of at-risk and affected communities

Identify the right channels and community-based networks and influencers to promote scientific and public health messages.

Public health measures to stop transmission and control isolated cases

Increase capacities to identify suspected cases.

Strengthen surveillance networks.

Scale up workforces and use innovative technologies (online applications).

Identify and trace contacts and ensure the satisfaction of basic necessities during quarantines.

Health system preparedness and maintenance of other health services

Provide the health system with human and technical resources.

Ensure continuation of essential health services.

Consider the use of technological solutions such as telemedicine to monitor patients and for remote consultations.

Strengthen mechanisms to mitigate system failures.

Contingency planning and strategies based on risk, capacity and vulnerability

Promote innovative solutions to increase clinical care and other services' capacities with a focus on primary care.

It is essential to have real-time, accurate data, as well as a good surveillance system to early detect cases.

Source: SEGIB based on WHO (2020)

In addition to the *Health* sector, and still within the Social area, it is necessary to highlight 45 projects dedicated to strengthen *Other services and social policies*, which explain up to 8.3% of the total number of exchanges that took place in Ibero-America in 2019. In this sense, it is possible to mention cooperation that promoted sport as an instrument for a greater social inclusion, especially that of young people; initiatives dedicated to promote social housing and comprehensive neighborhood rehabilitation; as well as initiatives that focus on vulnerable groups, including early childhood, older adults, people with disabilities (specific projects on national sign language programs for people with hearing loss or deafness) and indigenous communities.

Ten percent (10%) of the projects, which, in equal proportions, were dedicated to promoting *Education* and *Water supply and sanitation*, complete the analysis of the Social area. On the one hand, it is possible to identify projects which address literacy, training of professionals, the promotion of digitalization and curricular adaptation to guarantee quality education for children under four years of age, as well as for those who need inpatient treatment. On the other hand, some projects were dedicated to improve water

In order to complement the above, it is suggested that the national response involves and coordinates all government levels, that it includes emergency management mechanisms and combines contingency plans with other medium- and long-term plans. With the purpose to stop transmission and control cases, WHO recommends having real-time, accurate data, as well as a good surveillance system for early detection. All parties' commitment is key: on the one hand, the population must have access to information and must receive clear messages that contribute to the proper exercise of personal responsibility; and, on the other hand, health systems must be strengthened so as to comply both with the pandemic response and the normal exercise of its routine practice. To this end, it is necessary to provide the health system with more resources and enhance its capacities, especially in terms of primary health care services, by using innovative solutions which, based on technology, contribute to broaden its response capacities (tracing apps, remote consultations, telemedicine, among others).

In this scenario, it is interesting to identify how South-South Cooperation can contribute to the immediate, but also medium- and long-term, response to this severe crisis. The region has a remarkable accumulated experience in this matter: indeed, between 2006 and 2019, the total number of Bilateral SSC actions and projects which addressed the *Health* sector reaches 835. Likewise, year after year, *Health* is the sector on which most bilateral exchanges tend to focus: thus, only in 2018 and 2019, around one hundred projects, corresponding to 18% and 17% of the total executed each year, addressed the strengthening of health matters.

However, the experience becomes even richer if a more comprehensive concept of health, as that used by WHO and PAHO, is applied. In this sense, the range of projects is widened as it is possible to include initiatives that, although classified under other sectors, also address problems related to this area: for example, comprehensive health care projects associated with *Other services and social policies*, which are multi-sectoral, but have health-related characteristics, or those that address broader aspects of public health, such as those related to food safety, categorized under the *Agriculture and livestock* or *Industry* sectors.

The impact of SSC is more significant when the analysis is developed from this new perspective. In this sense, about a third (29,6%) of the 766 Bilateral SSC projects that were under execution at some moment in 2018 and 2019 contributed, to a certain extent, to strengthen regional capacities in the Health sector. The second figure distributes these 227 projects according to WHO's and PAHO's classification by program areas in order to differentiate the specific objectives they address: reduction and even eradication of communicable diseases (1 out of 10 projects); prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (15%); promotion of health determinants and health conditions throughout the entire life course (basically 4 out of 10); strengthening health systems (one fourth); and all interventions related to risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery from epidemics, disasters, conflicts or environmental emergencies (12.3%).

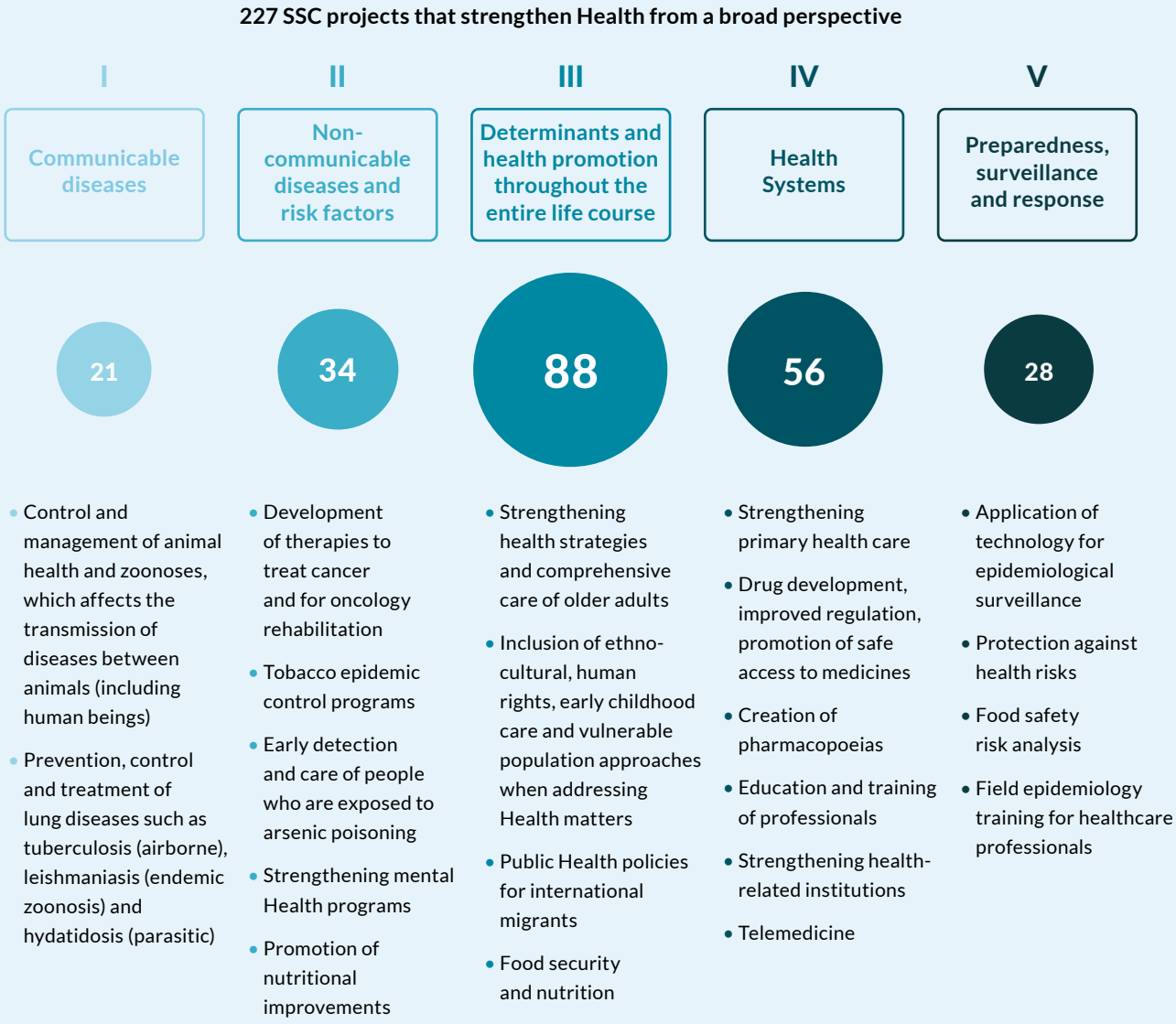
→

resources' management, aquifers' recharge and tariff and price management, especially for ecosystem services, in order to progress not only towards a better preservation of resources, but also towards models that universalize the access to them. It is important to highlight that, most of these experiences will also be very valuable to identify lessons to apply in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, not only to respond to the health crisis (Box II.1) but also to overcome the economic and social crisis, addressed in greater detail in Box II.2, at the end of this section.

In line with the above, it is possible to identify 70 projects which aim was to strengthen the *Agriculture*

Bilateral SSC projects (2018-2019) classified according to their contribution to a more comprehensive concept of health and from which to learn to address the health crisis

In units



Note: Project classification according to WHO's and PAHO's program areas.
Source: SEGIB based on PAHO-SEGIB (2017), WHO (2019) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

and livestock sector. With a relative importance of 13%, this sector is the second most important in 2019 and the first within the Productive sectors area, diversified around 7 other sectors, all of them with specific shares in no case higher than 2.4%. As has been the case in the past, numerous exchanges were promoted to strengthen the value chain of some of the region's typical products, such as cocoa, coffee, potato and quinoa; as well as to support livestock and dairy chains; and those conceived to adapt agricultural practices to face climate change and for harvest protection. However, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and, as referred in Box II.1, it is possible to identify a set of Bilateral SSC

In addition, after a detailed analysis of the projects that are included in each of these new categories, it is also possible to identify experiences aligned with the strategy proposed by WHO and to learn how to strengthen essential capacities to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of the immediate response as well as of its long-term aspects.

Specifically, it is possible to refer to projects related to the control and management of animal health and zoonoses and their transmission to human beings, aspect which is certainly important in terms of the origin of the current pandemic, but which can also especially contribute to prevent future crises. In addition, the region has experience in addressing other communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, which, as COVID-19, is an airborne disease and part of its serious impact is concentrated on the lungs and the respiratory system.

Other experiences to learn from are those related to the development of therapies and immunological treatments, in this case, against cancer. In this respect, it is also possible to refer to the strengthening of early detection and care techniques applied to specific diseases, which could also be useful for COVID cases. Furthermore, given the psychological impact that social distancing and confinement measures are having on part of the population, experiences related to the strengthening of mental health programs are key.

The region's experience to strengthen health strategies and older adults' comprehensive care can also be important, as this is one of the population groups which are most certainly affected by COVID-19. Health and social protection measures for the most vulnerable populations is precisely one of the aspects recommended in WHO's strategy. Latin-America also has accumulated experience in this sense, as suggested by projects which are dedicated to the inclusion of ethno-cultural, Human Rights, early childhood care and international migrant approaches, among others, when addressing Health public policies.

In addition, it is essential to take advantage of all cooperation that in recent years has been dedicated to the institutional strengthening of the health sector, to the training of its professionals and to the reinforcement of a critical service to this pandemic, such as primary health care. The progress already made in terms of telemedicine is also relevant, as it contributes to increase the system's response capacities in situations of unusual pressure. Cooperation to contribute to the development of new drugs, as well as to advance towards improved regulation to promote and guarantee safe access to them, should also be considered.

Finally, it is also possible to identify regional experiences in terms of preparedness, surveillance and response to health risks, including emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In this sense, projects that have promoted technology for epidemiological surveillance, those dedicated to health risks management and others which have contributed to train health professionals in field epidemiology, should be highlighted.

Source: SEGIB based on WHO (2020), WHO (2019), PAHO-SEGIB (2017), WHO website (www.who.int) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

experiences associated with agriculture and livestock which are particularly relevant: initiatives dedicated to food safety, epidemiological surveillance and the management of phytosanitary and zoosanitary matters, key in a crisis which origin is considered to be precisely related to the transmission of diseases of animal origin to human beings.

In terms of Institutional Strengthening, projects dedicated to *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, to *Strengthening institutions and public policies* (around 30 initiatives in each case), and, to a less extent, to *Peace, public and national security and defense* (14 exchanges), stood out. In this case, cooperation was predominantly destined

Basically around 50 projects addressed matters related to Environment, the third sector with the highest relative importance in Ibero-America in 2019

to improve judicial and prison systems, especially focusing on guarantees and on the promotion of young adults' and adolescents' social reintegration; as well as to address issues related to Human Rights, among which, initiatives associated with Memory, Truth and Justice, and the eradication of the worst forms of child labor, are worthy of mention. It is also possible to identify projects to support countries' territorial planning, providing them with planning instruments based, in many occasions, on the use of geospatial data; the professionalization of public officials through the application of performance evaluation techniques, for example; and projects to promote the use of information technologies for government document management.

Meanwhile, basically around 50 projects addressed matters related to *Environment*, the third sector with the highest relative importance in Ibero-America in 2019. In this sense, very diverse experiences coexisted and should be highlighted. For example, those dedicated to the conservation of different types of ecosystems, especially, marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as those of certain regions (High-Andes and the Amazon). Initiatives that addressed the conservation of specific animal species such as red-and-green macaws, which survival is threatened by the progressive deforestation of their natural habitats, are also worthy of mention. Indeed, the fight against deforestation and climate change was another of these projects' aims, in line with the region's commitments in the framework of the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, cooperation was destined to adopt techniques for environmental assessment and greenhouse gas measurement, as well as to develop forest monitoring systems, some of these based on the use of satellite data. Solid waste management, especially of microplastics, was also prioritized. Within this same area of action, around ten projects were dedicated to *Disaster management*, through the development of warning and risk prevention systems, especially for earthquakes, floods, fires and droughts, with a special focus on urban areas.

BOX II.2

Ibero-American South-South Cooperation in the face of the COVID-19 economic and social crisis

The health crisis caused by COVID-19 has driven the world economy into a new recession. The necessary emergency response to protect citizens' health and lives with social distancing measures, activity lockdowns and mobility restrictions, among others, has led to a paralysis of the world economy which, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) last forecasts (IMF, 2021), has resulted in a fall of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of -3.5% in 2020.

The IMF itself, as well as other multilateral organizations such as the OECD, the World Bank and ECLAC, agree that the contraction of the economic activity has been even more severe in the so-called emerging and/or developing economies, among which, the Latin-American region as a whole is included. Indeed, if forecasts are confirmed, in 2020 according to ECLAC, Latin-America's GDP would have suffered a fall of -8%.

→

The crisis' severity is increased by the impact that hypothetically exogenous factors have on an open economy such Latin-America's. The way in which trade and financial flows with the rest of the world are affected —especially with China and the United States— as well as the abrupt collapse and the subsequent slow reactivation of tourism, stand out among these factors. In addition, the economic crisis multiplies the underlying social crisis of a region that, prior to COVID-19, was already facing enormous challenges.

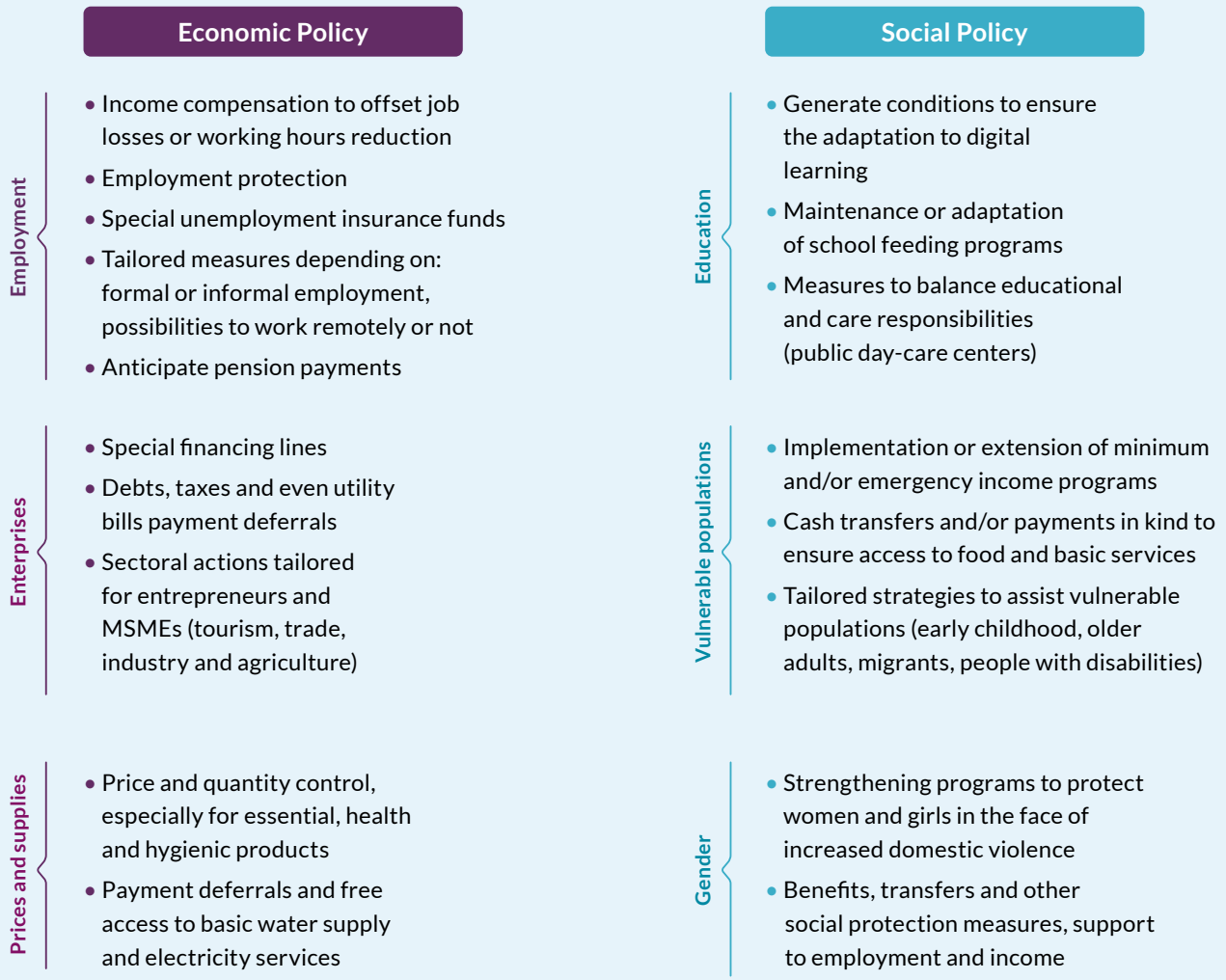
According to the OECD (2020), several features make Latin-America particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. Among these, it is possible to identify the following: structural informality in the labor market (with rates fluctuating, depending on the country, between 30% and 80%); the lack of universal social security networks (with assistance programs becoming more widespread, but still barely covering 62% of formal workers and their families); persisting income inequality, which also currently impacts on the ability to comply with social distancing and/or confinement measures, and even to access health services; and the existence of important indigenous and migrant communities (the former, particularly affected by other communicable diseases' high prevalence rates such as hepatitis B, tuberculosis, malaria and dengue; the latter, especially vulnerable and sometimes living in precarious households and poor health conditions, not having access to essential services or social protection).

WHO already pointed out the special vulnerability of regions such as Latin-America on March 31st, 2020. Through a statement, its Director General warned that the COVID-19 pandemic would hit developing economies hardest and recommended governments to implement a set of social policies to protect their most vulnerable populations (WHO, 2020). Accordingly, and with the aim to "*leave no one behind*", the countries of the region promoted a set of economic and social measures.

As the figure shows, and according to ECLAC and OECD (2020), these are, on the one hand, economic policy measures that, through fiscal and monetary resources, aim to preserve employment and/or incomes, as well as business activity, especially of small entrepreneurs and MSMEs, and to regulate prices and supplies to decouple income from the access to basic products and services. On the other hand, social policy measures focus on protection, with emphasis on income and/or in-kind transfers to the most vulnerable groups, especially to women and girls (victims of a context that has led to greater domestic violence), and on guaranteed access to an education that was forced to digitalize and reinvent itself in order to reach everyone.

A total of 55 projects were associated with the Infrastructure and Economic Services area. These were distributed, in turn, around 6 activity sectors. *Energy* stood out, in the framework of which experiences were promoted to transit towards a more efficient and sustainable use of clean sources, for example, by investing in hydraulic and geothermal energy. Initiatives classified under the *Science and technology*, *Enterprises* and *Employment* sectors are also worthy of mention. In fact, experiences in the framework of these activities become especially relevant in a context in which the necessary response to the health crisis caused by COVID-19 has led to a worldwide paralysis of the economic activity plunging countries into a deep economic and social crisis. Box II.2 was precisely prepared to address these other dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis, to shed light on the response countries of the region have been promoting and, once again, to try to learn from previous experiences in order to assess how Bilateral SSC can contribute to respond to this challenge.

Latin-American countries' economic and social measures to fight COVID-19



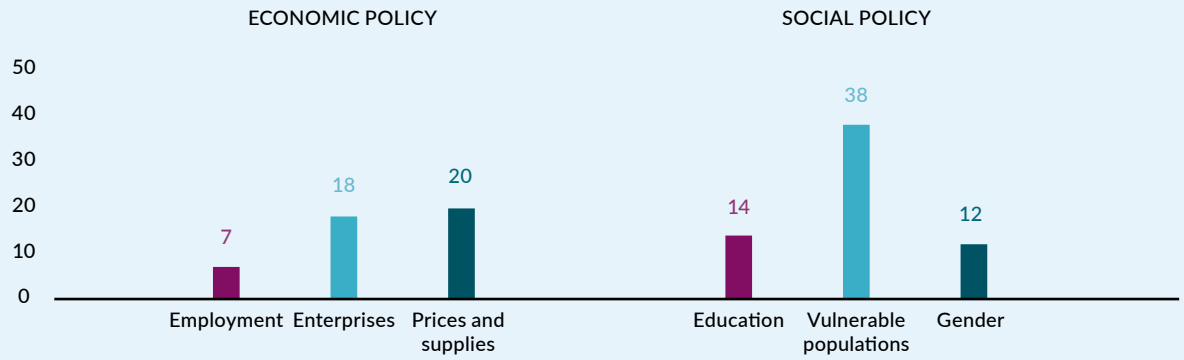
Source: SEGIB based on ECLAC (2020) and OECD (2020)

The remaining 24 projects that were under execution in Ibero-America throughout 2019 were distributed in two activity sectors: *Culture* and *Gender*, with a 3:1 ratio. Specifically, Ibero-American countries worked to strengthen policies for the conservation of cultural heritage through the restoration of murals and document digitalization, among others. Other experiences focused on the promotion of creative industries, the recovery of indigenous and Afro-descendant cultures' value and the use of a performing art (theater) as an instrument to promote social inclusion, especially that of young people. Meanwhile, several projects aimed to provide care for victims of violence against women, to promote greater gender equality and their economic empowerment.

Taking these measures as a reference, a recategorization of the 766 Bilateral SSC projects Ibero-American countries had under execution in 2018 and 2019, suggests that about 15% of that total (109 initiatives) was based on experiences that can contribute to promote and strengthen the economic and social policies the region needs to respond to and address COVID-19.

SSC projects (2018-2019) that can contribute to the economic and social response to the pandemic

In units



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

Thus, and as the second graph shows, 4 out of 10 of these more than one hundred identified projects refer to experiences in economic policies that can provide lessons related to three of the main groups of considered measures: those which protect employment and income (7); those which stimulate the continuity of productive activity, especially of small enterprises (18); and those which set price and quantity controls that guarantee the access to essential supplies and services (20).

In order to illustrate the above, it is possible to identify projects countries exchanged to better understand and strengthen employment programs, especially those dedicated to young people, in a context that demands specific interventions which consider →

Finally, and to complete this section (related to capacity strengthening from a regional perspective), it should be noted that this scenario is dynamic and that, in recent years, significant changes in trends have been registered. Indeed, Graphs II.11 and II.12 respectively portray the variation of the different areas of action's and activity sectors' share in the total number of projects in 2010 and 2019.

A combined analysis of both graphs shows a significant change of priorities in the last decade: the Social area falls from 48% to 36% and loses more than 12 percentage points, while cooperation in which experiences related to Institutional Strengthening and Environment, two areas which relative importance increased, in each case, more than 5.5 percentage points, leading to a combined growth of nearly 12 points, increasingly prevails. If this dynamic is analyzed in terms of the activity

vulnerabilities such as age or labor informality. Other experiences have been addressing, over the years, the promotion of micro-entrepreneurial fabrics and encouraging entrepreneurship among particularly vulnerable groups, which may be crucial in the current context of the pandemic. Likewise, it is important to learn from the accumulated experience in the management of tariff systems to ensure the provision of and the access to water and electricity, as well as the expertise related to the regulation of the provision of these essential services.

In addition, basically 60% of the identified Bilateral SSC projects address social policy measures which are key to countries' management of the pandemic. In this sense, and in a context in which guaranteeing the right to education is determined by, among other aspects, the digitalization of the education system for distance learning, it is essential to consider 14 projects which have promoted the progressive use of technologies, the development of the so-called digital classrooms, technical assistance to promote educational television, as well as the adoption of flexible education strategies that allow curriculum and format adaptation to circumstances that affect traditional education methods, as is currently happening during the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, and to complement the above, it is necessary to mention SSC experiences that are also associated with education but that have a different objective: cooperation related to school gardens and canteens, which must be reinvented and replaced by alternatives that, compatible with distance learning, guarantee families' access to food.

Finally, the required social policy measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis are also related to the more than ten experiences in gender programs, mainly conceived to fight violence against women and to promote their economic inclusion. However, the most important group of measures could refer to the almost 40 projects which, to a certain extent, promote the effective protection of the most vulnerable groups. In this respect, it is possible to consider cooperation associated with poverty reduction programs; comprehensive care policies for early childhood, older adults, people with disabilities, indigenous communities or international migrants; projects that strengthened and contributed to the expansion of social security systems; as well as experiences in the digital management of cash transfer programs or housing vouchers, to name a few.

Source: SEGIB based on ECLAC (2020) (2021), IMF (2021), OECD (2020), ECLAC website and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

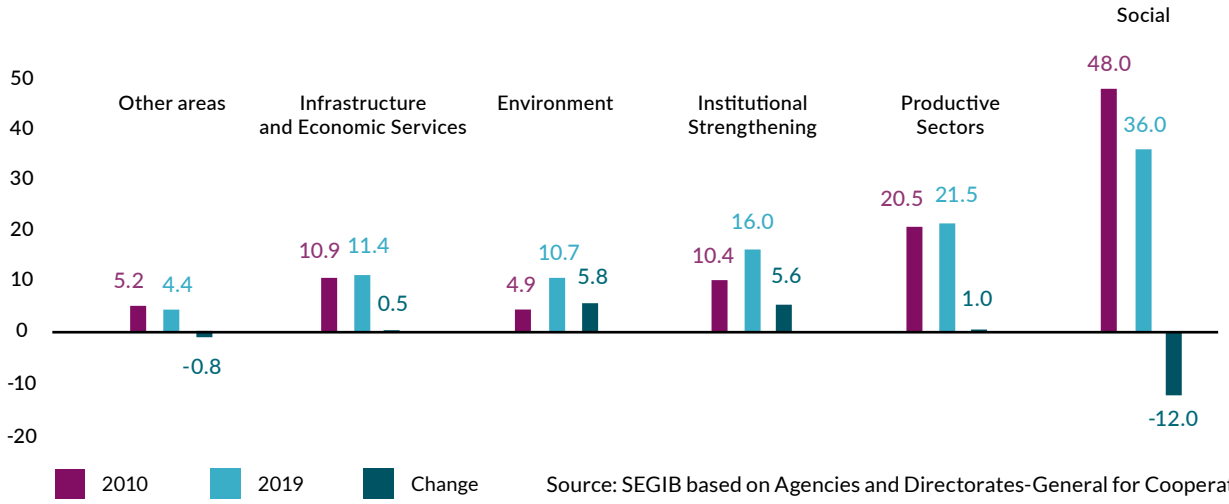
sectors, it is possible to identify, on the one hand, a shift from projects associated with *Education* and *Health* (that fall 7.5 and 6.7 percentage points, respectively), to the *Water supply and sanitation* sector (which increases 3.1 points, slightly offsetting the overall fall of the Social area). On the other hand, the shift to *Environment* and *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, two sectors which, in the last decade, gain more than 5 and 3 percentage points respectively, should also be noted.

Several projects aimed to provide care for victims of violence against women, to promote greater gender equality and their economic empowerment

GRAPH II.11

Change in areas of action's share in the total number of Bilateral SSC projects. 2010-2019

In percentage points

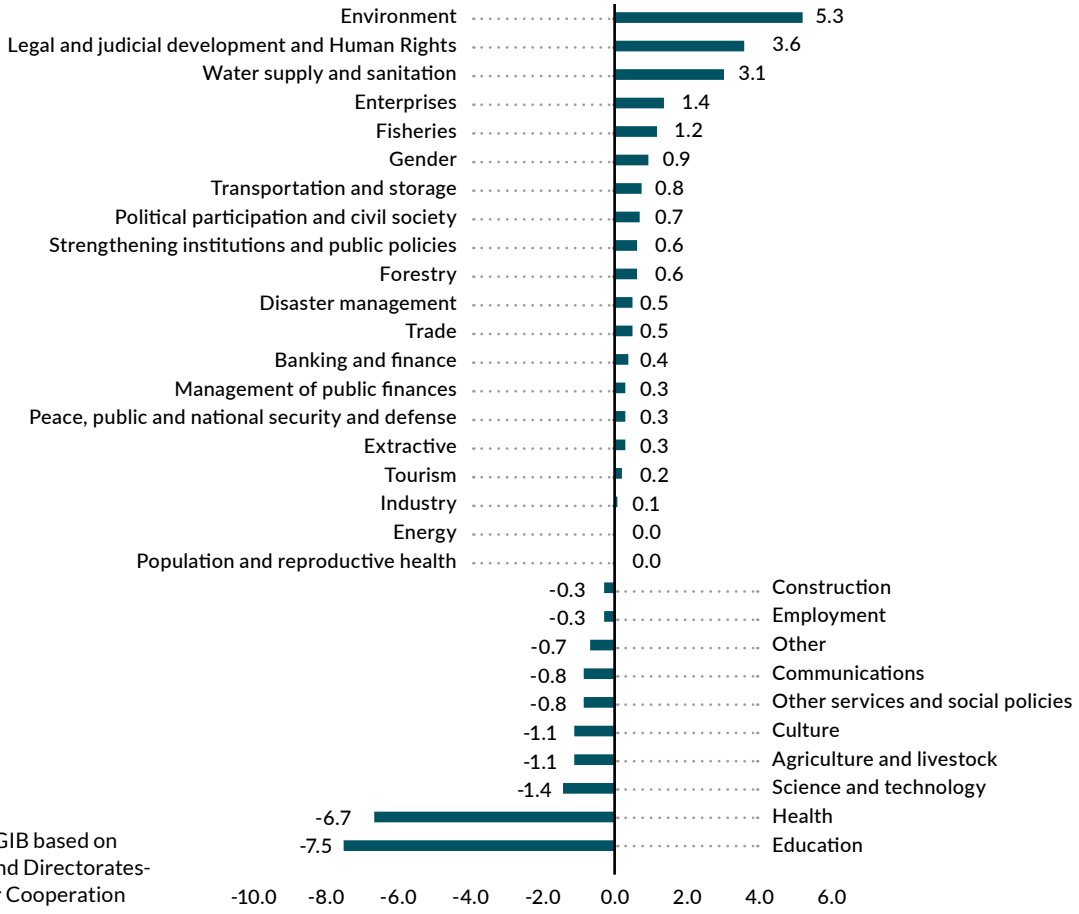


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

GRAPH II.12

Change in activity sectors' share in the total number of Bilateral SSC projects. 2010-2019

In percentage points



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

II.3.2. Countries' profile

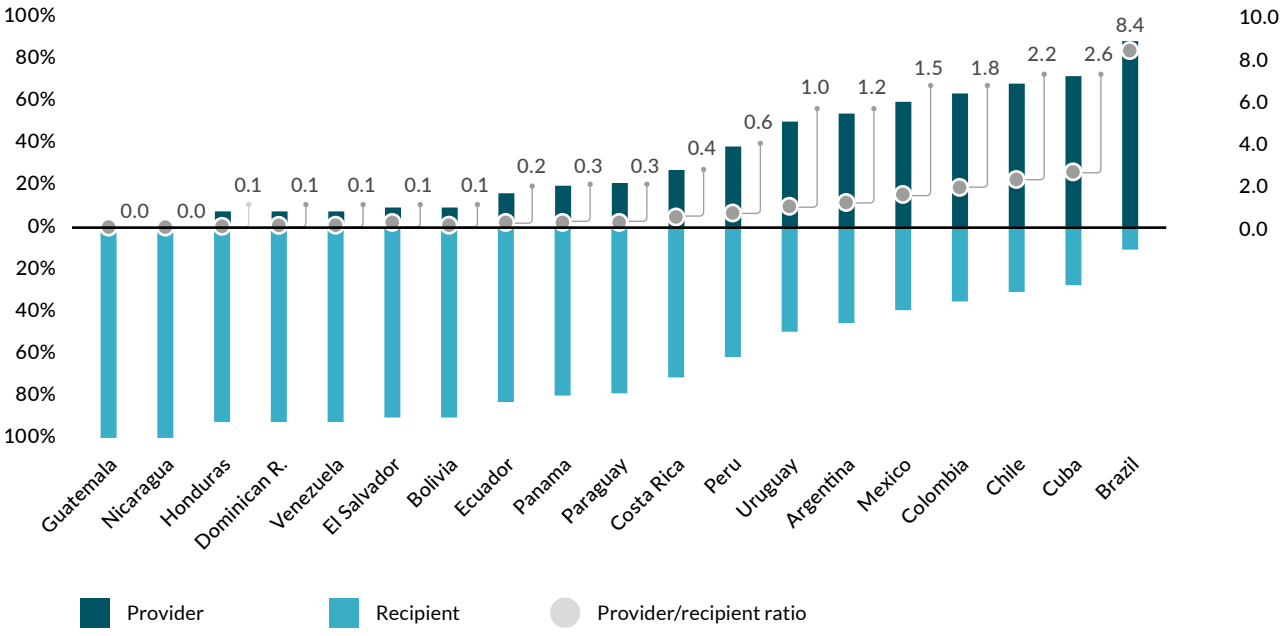
The regional approach to the capacities that were strengthened as a result of Bilateral SSC that was exchanged in 2019 must be completed with the analysis of the contribution of each of the main stakeholders. In this sense, the overall outcome is certainly the result of countries' participation as providers, by transferring their main strengths to other partners, and as recipients, to close their knowledge gaps.

Graph II.13 was prepared for this purpose. As the graph shows, countries are arranged according to their profile (SSC provider and/or recipient) and are grouped in order to identify behavior patterns. To this end, the graph combines two types of information for each country. First, the vertical left axis shows the relative contribution of each role in terms of the total number of projects (100%), while the importance of provided initiatives is situated over the horizontal axis, and that of received initiatives, is situated below.[4] Second, the right vertical axis portrays each country's provider/recipient ratio, where 1 corresponds to an even distribution of the two roles.

GRAPH II.13

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

4 In methodological terms, it should be noted that, as the aim in this case is to clearly differentiate the two roles, projects in which countries participated under the role "both" are divided and counted twice, once for the "provider" role and once for the "recipient" role.

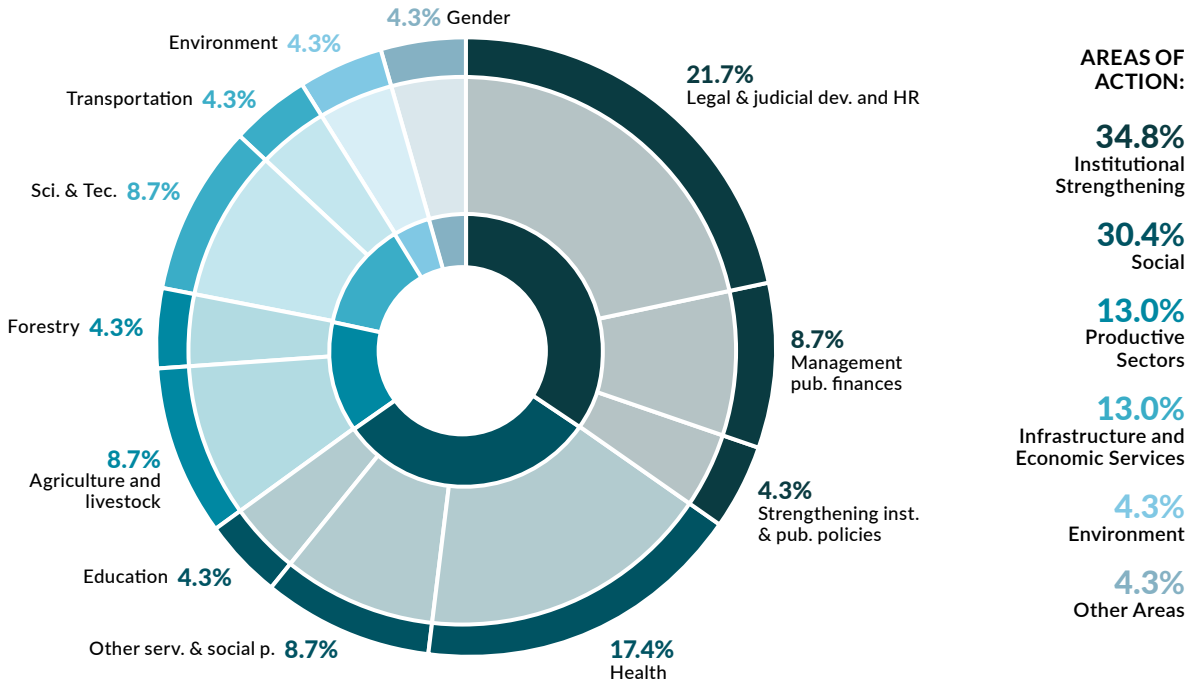
According to this graph, Central-American and Andean countries, from Guatemala to Peru, together with the Dominican Republic and Paraguay, participated in 2019's Bilateral SSC projects under a predominantly recipient role; Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Cuba and Brazil mainly acted as providers; while Uruguay shows an absolutely balanced distribution of the two roles. However, different profiles coexisted within each of these groups. For example, when comparing Guatemala and Peru (the former is 100% recipient and the latter has a recipient/provider ratio of 2:1), or Argentina and Brazil (with a provider/recipient ratio of 1.2, highly balanced and close to 1, and of 8.4, respectively).

In this sense, Graph II.14 was prepared to illustrate the type of capacities countries aim to strengthen when they participate in Bilateral SSC exchanges under a predominantly recipient role. In this case, the graph portrays the case of Guatemala. The distribution of the 23 projects in which this country participated in 2019 by area of action and activity sector sheds light on how two thirds of its cooperation was focused on the Institutional Strengthening (34.8%) and Social (30.4%) areas. This was influenced by this country's priority to support matters related to *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* and *Health sectors*. In fact, Guatemala took advantage of Bilateral SSC to, on the one hand, support the judicial system's modernization and to find formulas that contribute both to prevent violence against young people as well as to protect them in case they came into conflict with the criminal justice system. On the other hand, it aimed to strengthen health services, especially contributing to professional training and promoting the access of low-income population to ophthalmology surgeries and to child nutrition (Maternal Milk Banks). Additionally, Guatemala would have also received cooperation (around 25%) destined to strengthen aspects of its productive and economic activities, especially in terms of agriculture and livestock.

GRAPH II.14

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

In percentage



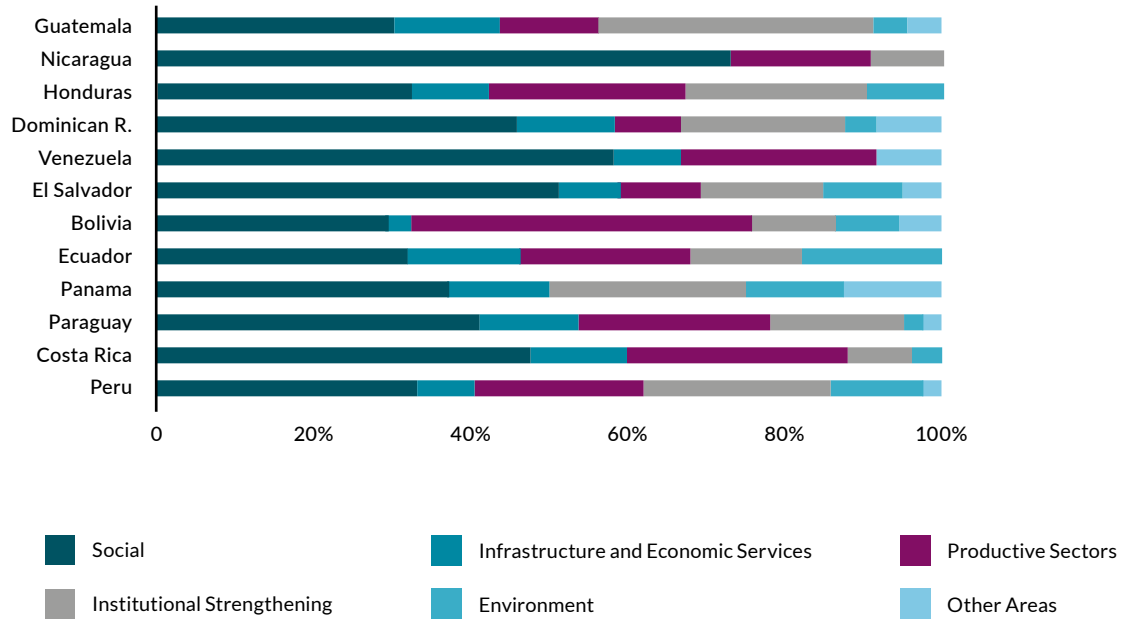
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

Graph II.15, in turn, distributes the projects in which other Ibero-American countries participated as recipients, according to the area of action which they addressed. As the graph shows, most projects executed by Central-American countries and the Dominican Republic, were aimed at capacity strengthening in the Social area. Its relative importance, however, remarkably fluctuated from 32.7% in Honduras' case, to 72.7% in Nicaragua's. Institutional strengthening (El Salvador, Panama and the Dominican Republic) and Productive Sectors (most importantly for Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua), alternated as the second most relevant areas.

GRAPH II.15

Distribution of projects in which countries with a predominantly recipient profile participated, by area of action. 2019

In percentage



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

Meanwhile, the Andean countries and Paraguay (except Bolivia) focused their cooperation on the Social area, once again its relative importance being much diverse and fluctuating between 32.1% in Ecuador's case and 58.3% in Venezuela's. For all these countries, the Productive Sectors area was the second most relevant, with the exception of Peru; in this case cooperation in the Institutional Strengthening area, stood out. Bolivia was the country with the most diverse profile. In this case, the Productive Sectors area prevailed, diversified in *Agriculture and livestock*, *Industry* and *Tourism*, followed by Social matters.

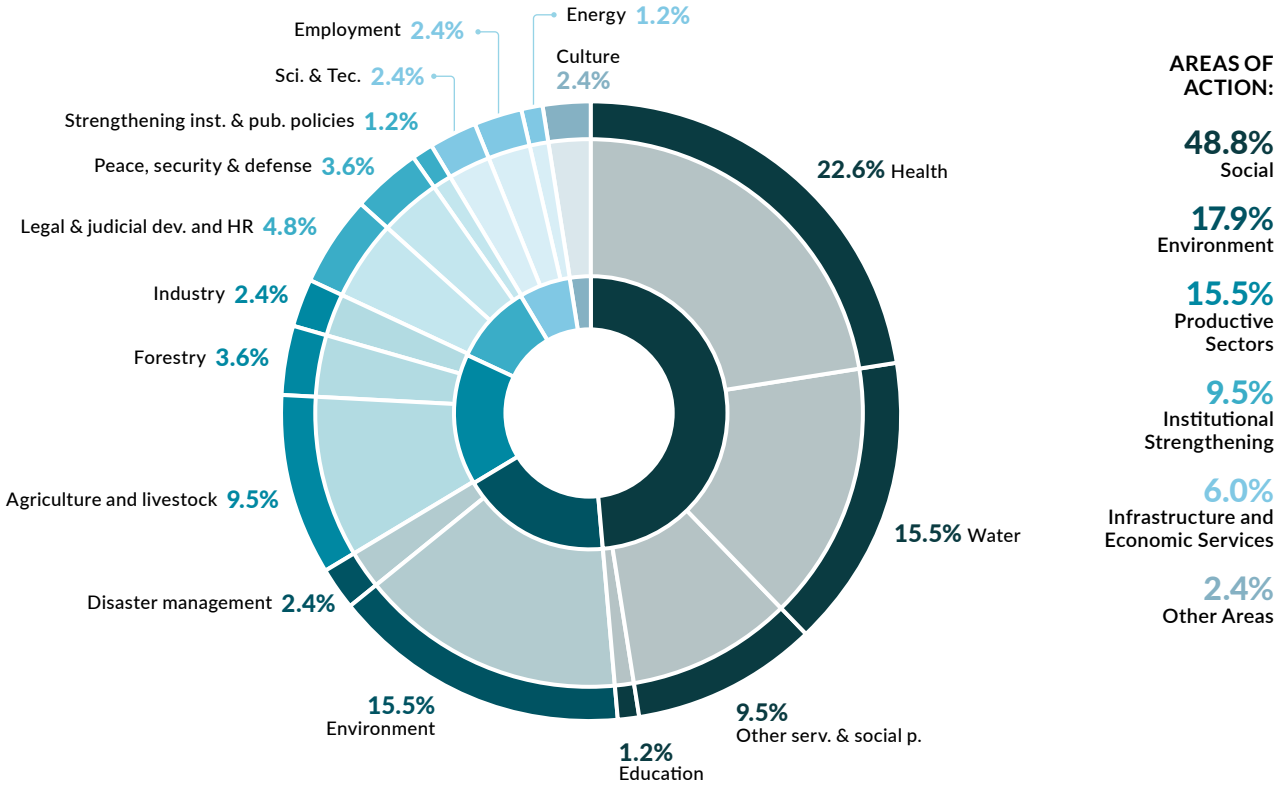
As for countries that predominantly acted as providers, Graph II.16 shows the example of Brazil, which executed almost 9 out of 10 projects in 2019 under this role. According the graph, almost one half was destined to share capacities in the Social area and, especially, in sectors such as *Health* (more than one fifth), *Water supply and sanitation*, and, to a less extent, *Other services and social policies*. The other half was mainly explained by a combination of capacities related to the Environment, Productive Sectors and Institutional Strengthening areas.

In the framework of these areas, it is possible to include Brazil's experience in the following matters: child nutrition through the expansion of the network of Human Milk Banks; institutional strengthening of health-related institutions, such as those dedicated to epidemiological surveillance and drug regulation; comprehensive management of water resources and the sustainable use of rainwater cisterns; and early childhood protection, especially by promoting school canteens as an instrument to exercise both the right to education and to food.

GRAPH II.16

Distribution of projects in which Brazil participated as provider, by activity sector and area of action. 2019

In percentage



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

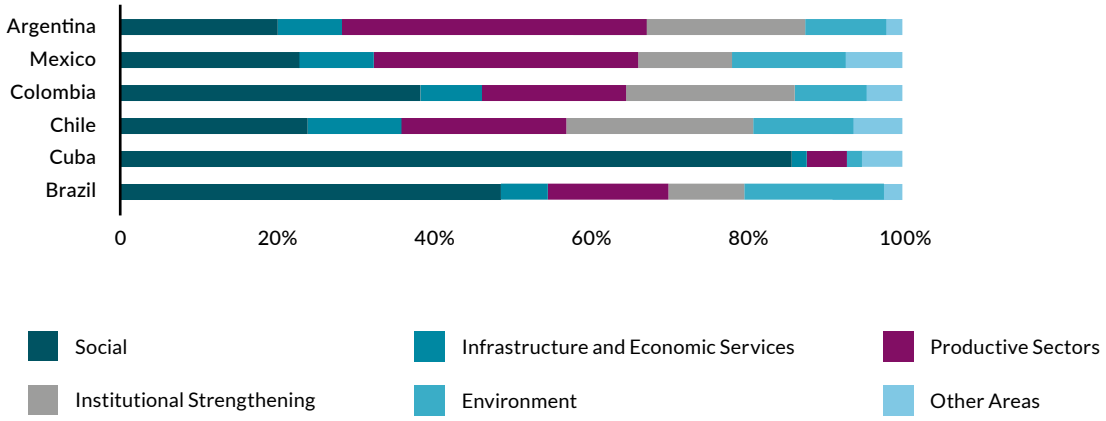
Graph II.17 was prepared to illustrate the case of other Ibero-American countries that also predominantly acted as providers. This graph distributes each country's provided projects, according to the area of action. As the graph shows, Colombia and Cuba were the other two countries with the highest relative importance in terms of cooperation dedicated to the Social area. In spite of this, however, both countries have very different profiles: highly diversified in Colombia's case (especially related to productive and institutional capacities); and, very concentrated (more than 85% of the projects) in the

case of Cuba, which shared its renown experience in sectors such as *Education* and *Health*. Meanwhile, the most important part of Argentina's and Mexico's Bilateral SSC as providers was particularly destined to support the development of Productive Sectors. Finally, Chile certainly had the most diversified profile: 75% of the projects in which it participated as provider focused on sharing its experience in the Social, Institutional Strengthening and Productive Sectors areas, all in very similar proportions.

GRAPH II.17

Distribution of projects in which countries with a predominantly provider profile participated, by area of action. 2019

In percentage



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

In order to complete this section, the analysis details the case of Uruguay, the country that, in 2019, had a basically equal proportion of provided and received Bilateral SSC projects. In this case, the aim is not only to shed light on which type of capacities were associated with each of the roles, but rather to understand how cooperation under both roles complemented. Indeed, this complementarity occurs even within the same type of capacity, when the difference in terms of each role is determined by a specific specialization profile. This is common in the so-called "bidirectional" projects, where the two countries simultaneously exercise the role "both", example that explains one half of Uruguay's exchanges.

In this regard, Graph II.8 distributes the total number of Bilateral SSC projects in which Uruguay participated in 2019 together with other Ibero-American countries, according to the area of action and the activity sector they addressed. Unlike in previous graphs, however, in this case it is also necessary to distinguish the role under which Uruguay participated in each exchange. In order to add this information, the graph is divided in two. Projects in which Uruguay acted as recipient are situated to the left, and those in which it participated as provider are displayed to the right.

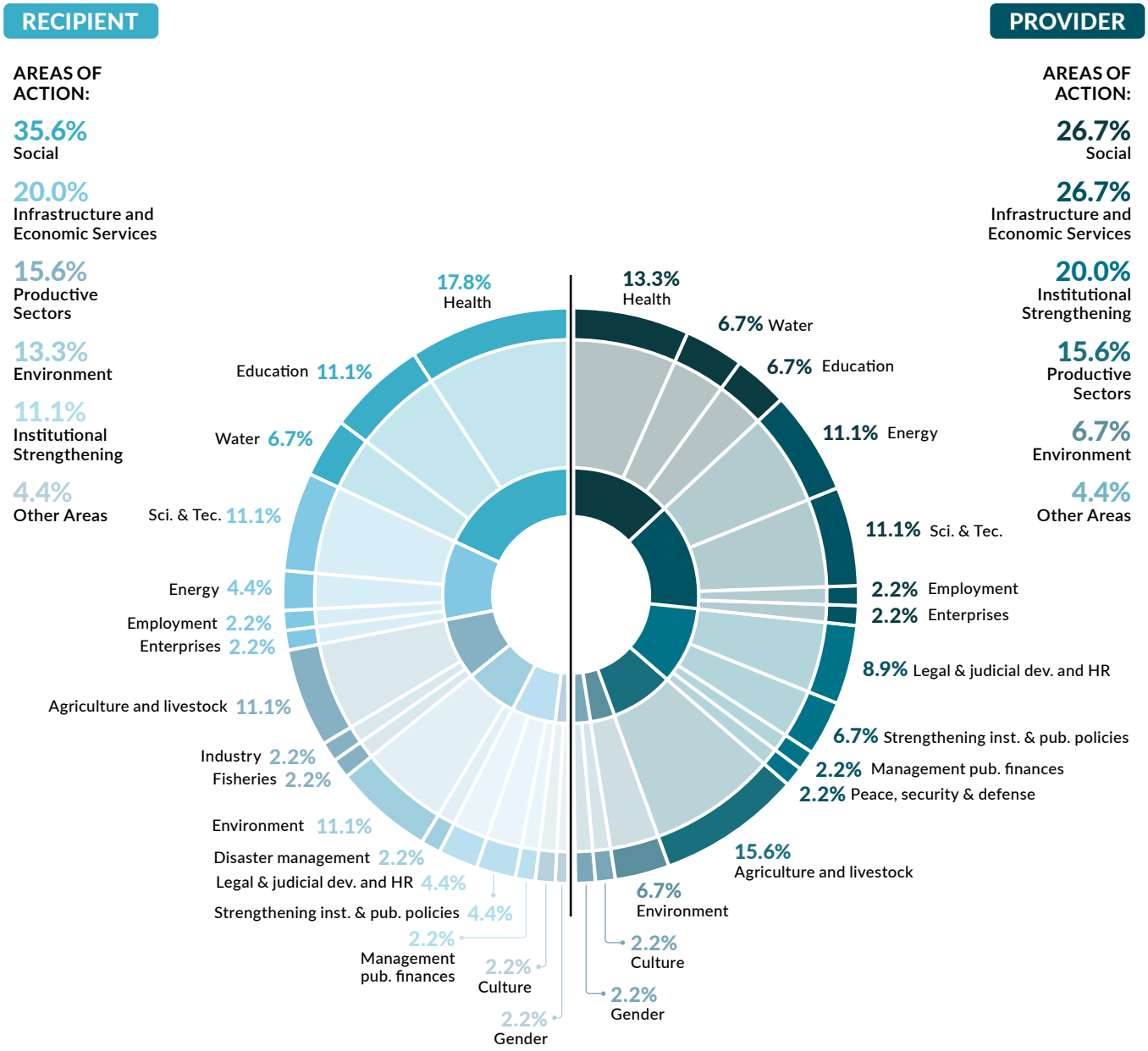
In this sense, the distribution of capacities in terms of each of the roles is very similar, although not identical. In fact, and as for both roles, most projects (more than one half) were destined to strengthen capacities in the Social and Infrastructure and Economic Services areas. In addition, although from the sectoral perspective the distribution was also very similar, it is possible to

identify certain differences: indeed, the importance of the Social area was even higher when Uruguay acted as recipient, uplifted by a higher number of projects in the *Health* and *Education* sectors. Meanwhile, cooperation to support the generation of better economic operating conditions had an even greater relative importance when the country performed the provider role, through which Uruguay shared, with other partners, its experience in the *Energy* sector.

GRAPH II.18

Distribution of projects in which Uruguay participated as provider and as recipient, by activity sector and area of action. 2019

In percentage



Methodological note: in this case, “bidirectional” projects in which Uruguay participated under the role “both”, are divided and counted twice, once for the "provider" role and once for the "recipient" role. Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

As for the remaining exchanges, it is also possible to identify one main difference: as recipient, Uruguay had the possibility to strengthen its knowledge in the Environment area; as provider, it could share its experience in terms of Institutional strengthening. From the sectoral perspective, Uruguay was provided with expertise and knowledge associated with the protection of ecosystems and natural areas, whereas, as provider, its projects contributed to strengthen the *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* sector. Meanwhile, the *Agriculture and livestock* sector was the most important in terms of exchanges in the Productive sectors area, both from the provider as from the recipient perspective. Completing the analysis in terms of both roles, it is possible to identify specific and "bidirectional" projects in *Culture* and in *Gender* equality, both sectors associated with Other areas of action.

The single analysis of the specific topics on which Uruguay's exchanges have focused in terms of the *Health* sector already illustrates the complementarities between projects, but also between the roles performed by this country in Bilateral SSC, as well as the high degree of their specialization. In this sense, projects in which Uruguay has participated under both roles have focused on the joint development of technologies applied to very diverse aspects, including therapies to fight breast cancer or on the development of biofilms to fight some types of multi-resistant organisms. Meanwhile, in those exchanges in which it predominantly acts as recipient, for example, Uruguay choses to strengthen its capacities to fight diseases such as Leishmaniasis, transmitted from animals to human beings, or to improve its renown experience in terms of transplants, working with its partners to develop a tissue bank and a donor registry.

It is possible to identify specific and "bidirectional" projects in Culture and in Gender equality

II.4. Bilateral South-South Cooperation and Sustainable Development Goals

In March 2019, Ibero-American countries subscribed the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, also known as BAPA+40, which, in article 8, recognized "the importance and different history and particularities" of this cooperation modality and reaffirmed its understanding of South-South Cooperation

> … as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, according to national priorities and plans (UN, 2019, p.2).

Countries' commitment is still firm. However, barely a year after, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has put the achievement of Sustainable Development at risk. In fact, the United Nations itself (2020) recognizes this crisis is taking the world further away from the 2030 Agenda objectives, although it is also committed to a solidarity that has proven to be essential to "leave no one behind".

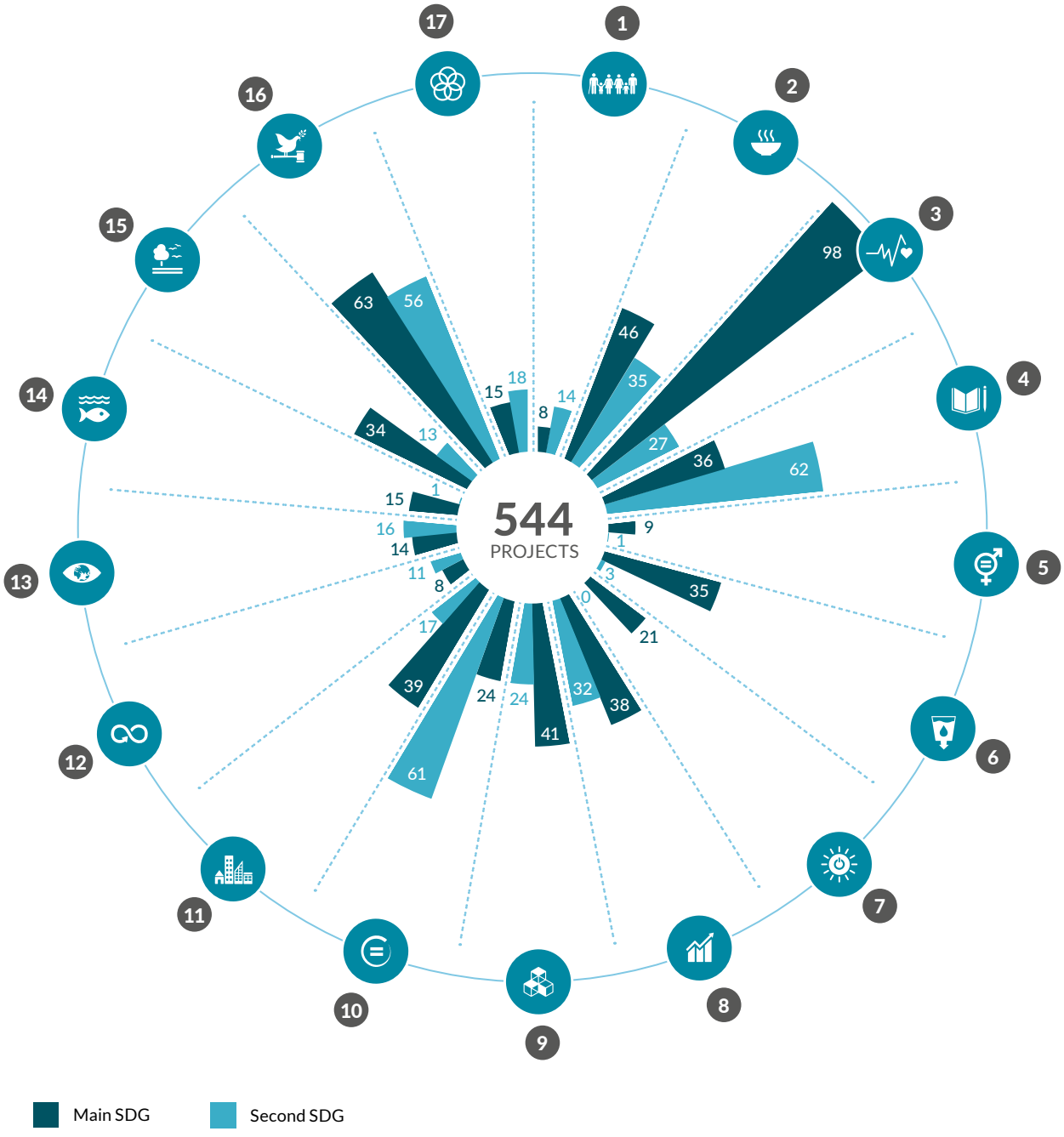
In this scenario, the analysis of Bilateral SSC promoted by Ibero-American countries throughout 2019 and its reassessment in terms of the progress made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and of the aspects that are still pending, is crucial to direct future efforts towards a SSC that contributes to overcome the crisis in an inclusive manner.

Graph II.19 was prepared for this purpose. It distributes the 544 Bilateral SSC projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019, according to a double criteria: the first refers to the main SDG with which they could potentially be aligned (100% of the projects are associated with one main SDG), while the other criterion refers to the "second" SDG to which they could also be contributing (a second SDG was identified in 70% of the cases though).

GRAPH II.19

Distribution of Bilateral SSC 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

The analysis of this graph shows how, in line with the sectoral distribution itself and, as has been the case in previous years, most (basically one hundred) Bilateral SSC projects executed in Ibero-America during 2019 were aimed at advancing the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). In addition, 30% of the total (544) is explained when adding the 63 projects that were aligned with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

In terms of relative importance, more than half a dozen SDGs followed, at a certain distance, with between 30 and 50 projects in each case. These SDGs, and their diversified purposes, confirm the region's SSC was committed to advance towards Sustainable Development in a comprehensive manner, addressing each of its multiple dimensions. Thus, from the social perspective, efforts to advance the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), stood out; the commitment to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), of a more economic nature, is also worthy of mention; and, under the environmental dimension, it is possible to identify cooperation destined to achieve SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). The remaining SDGs (up to 8 different ones) are associated with a lower number of projects, which reveals that additional efforts are still necessary to prioritize some strategic goals in the regional agenda, such as SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production).

In many occasions, projects simultaneously contribute to more than one Goal. This is often determined by the cross-cutting nature of the aspects they try to tackle. As a result, some SDGs, which are frequently not identified as main SDGs, strongly stand out when analyzing projects' alignment with a second SDG. A common example it that of SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), essential in the Latin-American context and mainly associated with 24 projects, increasing to 61 when focusing on projects' alignment with a second SDG. SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) are other examples of the above, consistent with this cooperation modality which recurrently focuses on training, technical and professional capacity building, and on the strengthening of public institutions.

To conclude, and in line with the aforementioned, it is interesting to identify which SDGs tended to most frequently relate to each other and why: that is, what type of projects tend to link them. Graph II.20 was prepared for this purpose, as a version of a network graph, where the 17 SDGs are sorted clockwise and in ascending order, in an outer circle, and SDG 1 is placed as if twelve o'clock. When the same project connects two SDGs (regardless of their hierarchy, main or second), a string links them, as in a net. The string's thickness is proportional to the number of projects through which each pair of Goals is related.

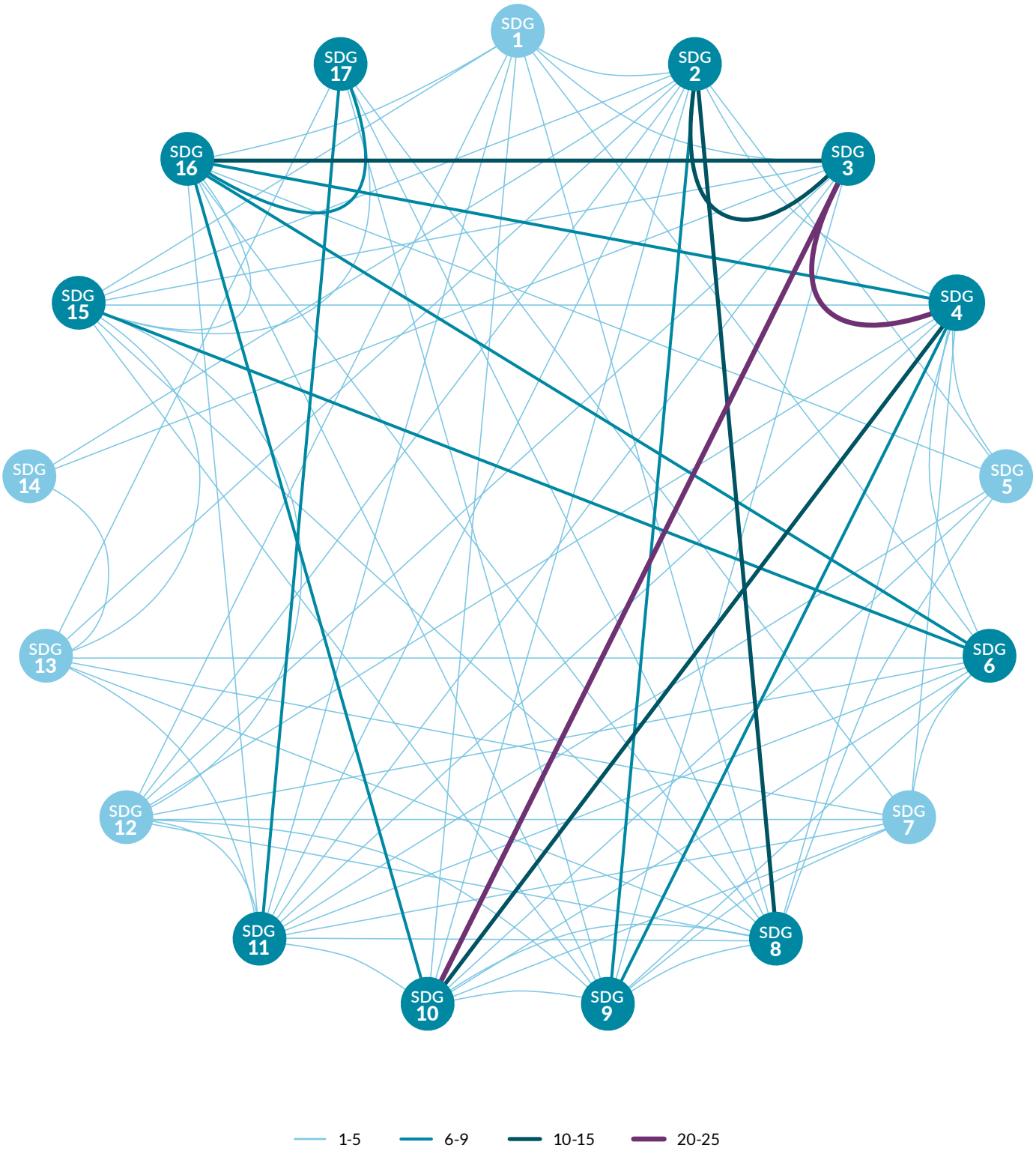
As the graph portrays, one of the most frequent associations is that related to projects which simultaneously aim to achieve SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). This coincidence is common, for example, in cooperation dedicated to promote food security or to the improvement of animal and plant health management, generally developed within the agriculture and livestock activity which, in turn, impacts on other aspects such as nutrition and food safety. Another noteworthy example would be the frequent association between SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality education). In this case, the connection is mainly explained by the numerous projects which are dedicated to training and education, general or specific, in health matters. However, some other examples correspond to specific exchanges, such as that detailed in Box II.3, to adapt innovative pedagogical methodologies to guarantee the right to education and health for children in inpatient treatment.

Other relevant associations would be mainly related to the Goals which, in turn, are strongly identified as second SDGs. In this sense, it is worth mentioning the frequency with which SDG 4 (Quality education) or SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) are related to SDG 10, which is consistent with the fact that these projects, although having a positive impact on the main SDG with which they are aligned, also address inequality reduction. The same conclusion can be drawn, in a context of intergovernmental cooperation, from the frequent association of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) with SDG 3 and even with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), with which projects that strengthen cooperation itself tend to be aligned. Finally, and given their economic dimension, SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) are strongly associated with projects that also address SDG 2 (Zero hunger), as they strengthen productive chains or the promotion of family agriculture.

GRAPH II.20

Distribution of Bilateral SSC projects in Ibero-America, by the association between SDGs. 2019

In units



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

BOX II.3

Quality education for minors in inpatient treatment: SDGs 3 and 4

Health and education are basic human rights and key indicators for human sustainable development, recognized by international instruments such as the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" (art. 28 and 29) and the "Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20th, 1989 and December 20th, 1993, respectively. Both rights are also closely related, since lack of health care not only limits economic opportunities and increases poverty, but also threatens the right of children and young people to access an education that will enable them to acquire knowledge and, consequently, enjoy fulfilling social lives. Education is also essential to overcome poverty as it facilitates socio-economic mobility.

Given its importance, the rights to education and health have been crucial aspects in global development agendas and especially in the 2030 Agenda, which is based on a comprehensive definition of development. Indeed, the approach to education in the context of hospitalization, on which this Box II.3 focuses, is especially associated with SDGs 3 and 4, and it constitutes a paradigmatic example of the above.

In fact, a common situation which undermines or interrupts the educational process is that of many children and young people who are hospitalized or convalescent, or who have to undergo frequent medical treatment. Hospital pedagogy, a field of social pedagogy, is essential to promote the continuity of these children's educational process.

The project "Implementation of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in the educational process of inpatient minors", implemented between 2018 and 2019 among two children's hospitals in Costa Rica and Chile, precisely refers to this aspect's strengthening.

The project allowed Costa Rica and Chile to share experiences through a technical exchange between two reference hospitals in the matter: Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera National Children's Hospital in San José, Costa Rica, and Dr. Exequiel González Cortés Hospital in Chile.

In 1996, Costa Rica passed "Law 7600 on Equal Opportunities for people with disabilities", which regulation states, in articles 21 and 51, the obligation to guarantee students the right to education in the event of hospitalization or convalescence. However, the country's first interventions started almost four decades ago, in 1955, in the Department of Pediatrics of the *San Juan de Dios* Hospital. Shortly thereafter, in 1964, Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera National Children's Hospital was founded, which, being aware of the problem, promoted Hospital Pedagogy from the very beginning.

Chilean Dr. Exequiel González Cortés Hospital, in turn, founded in 1991 as a result of the initiative of parents of children with cancer, is one of the two hospitals in Chile that has hospital schools recognized by the Ministry of Education. Its inauguration coincided with the launch of the UDL didactic approach at the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), a US non-profit educational organization. Being aware of its potential, the hospital promoted its practice.

The application of UDL in classrooms is based on a theoretical framework that includes the latest developments in neuroscience applied to learning, educational research, and digital media and technologies. This framework guides the design of accessible and challenging learning environments and it aims to change the design of the learning environment rather than changing students. When environments are intentionally designed to reduce difficulties, all students can participate in rigorous and meaningful learning, making it especially suitable for the needs of children and young people who are suffering from a disease.

Based on both experiences, the project's main aim was to strengthen pedagogic practices in Costa Rica's Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera National Children's Hospital so that, based on the Chilean experience, it could adopt the UDL approach and apply it to first and second cycles' curriculums. The exchange allowed the Costa Rican hospital to take another step forward in terms of its ongoing efforts to ensure the right to equal opportunities and the access to quality education for children who are suffering from a disease. This time, it also counted with the support and collaboration of the Departments of Special Education and the Department of First and Second Cycles of the Costa Rican Ministry of Public Education.

Source: SEGIB based on Barquero and Calderón (2017), Pastor et al (2014) and the Latin-American and Caribbean Network for the Right to Education of Inpatient Children (REDLACEH by its Spanish acronym) (2014)

CHAPTER III

Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America

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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 27th 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.

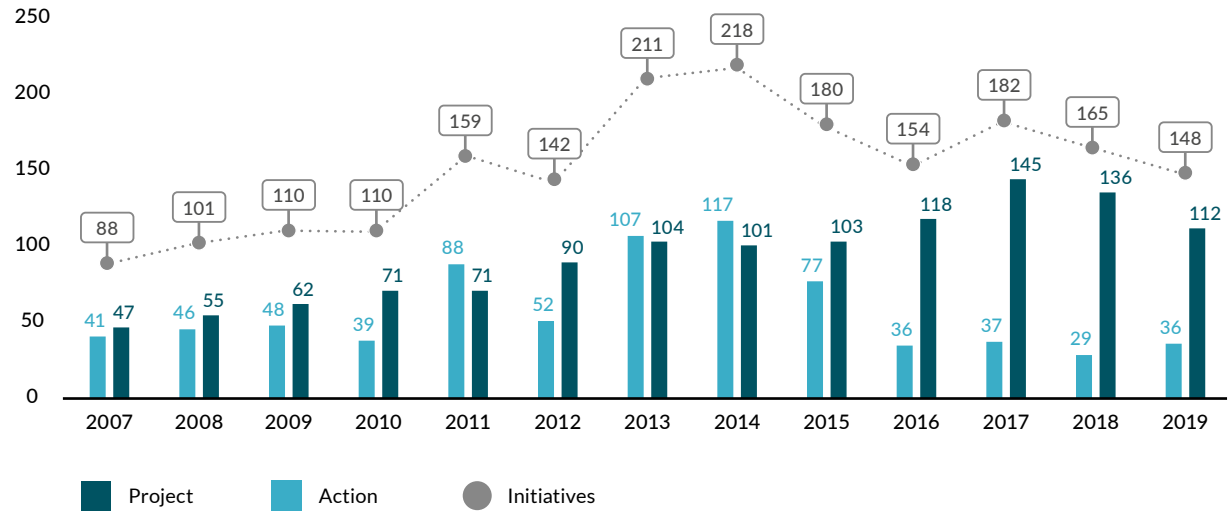
III.2
Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2019

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



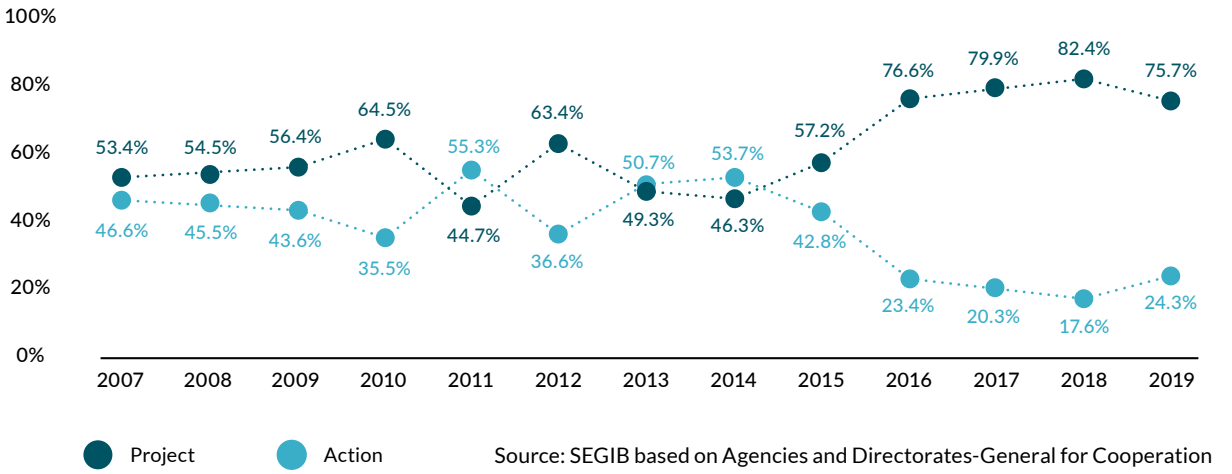
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

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.[1] 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.

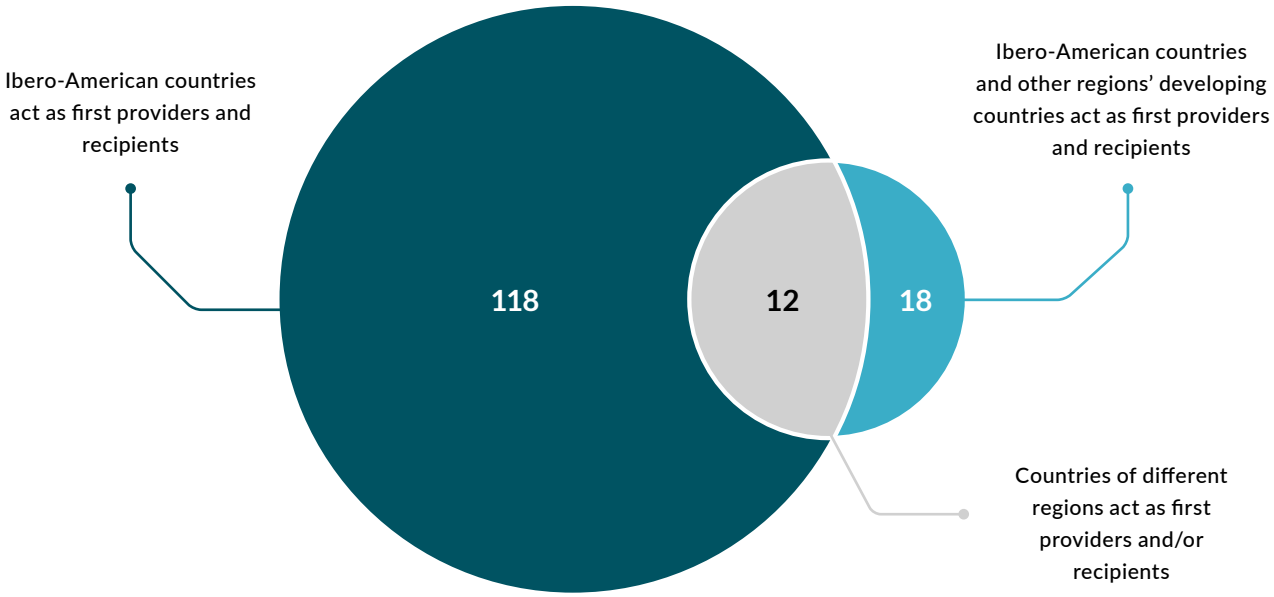
Finally, a methodological remark that affects the analysis of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which this chapter concentrates must be mentioned: the different sections will analyze Triangular Cooperation that took place mainly in 2019 and, specifically, *within* Ibero-America. In other words, this 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

1 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.

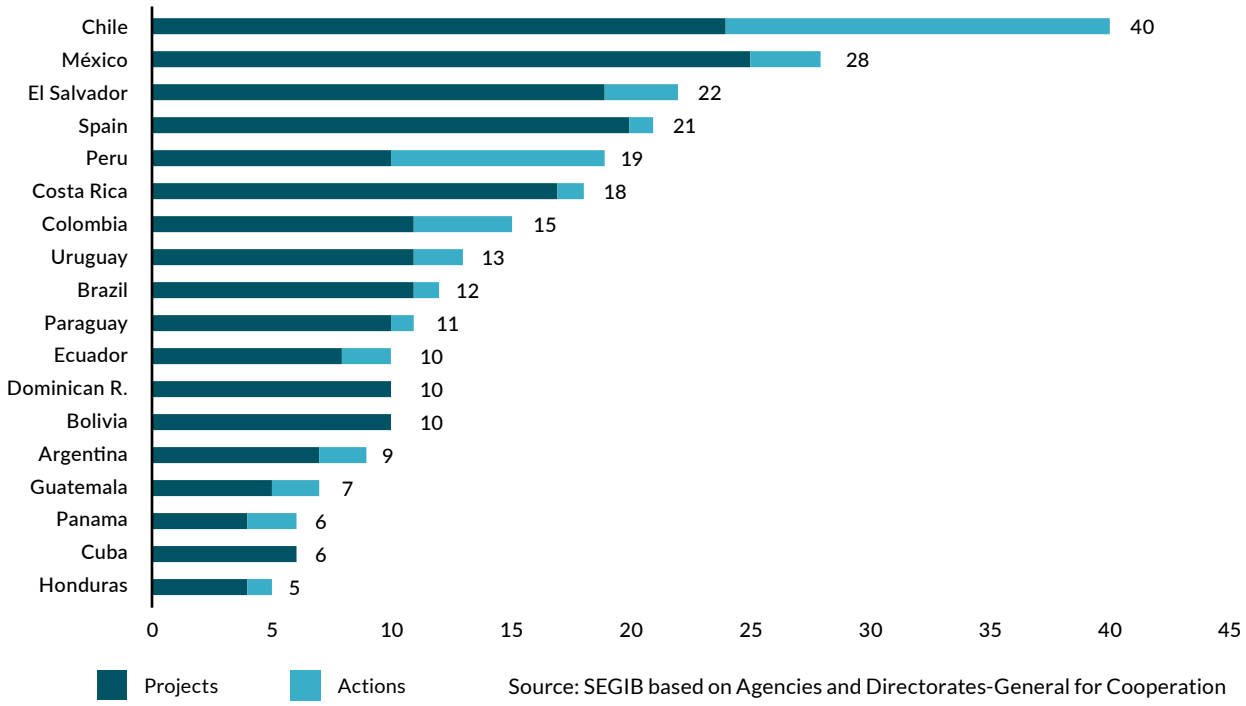
III.3.1 Countries, organizations and roles

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.[2] 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



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

2 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.

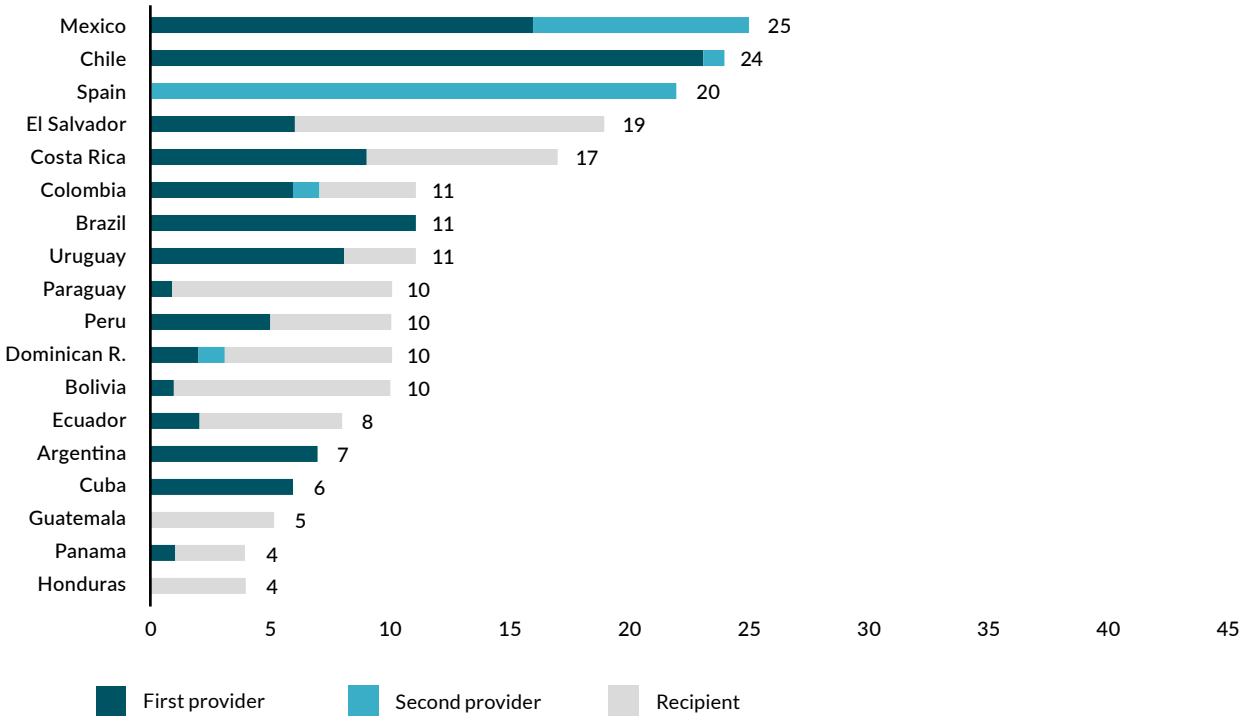
The implementation of projects rather than actions prevails in these 6 countries' cooperation pattern, actions being a basically occasional instrument. Chile and Peru are the only exceptions: for the former, the execution of 24 projects is combined with 16 actions; and, for the latter, the ratio is close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

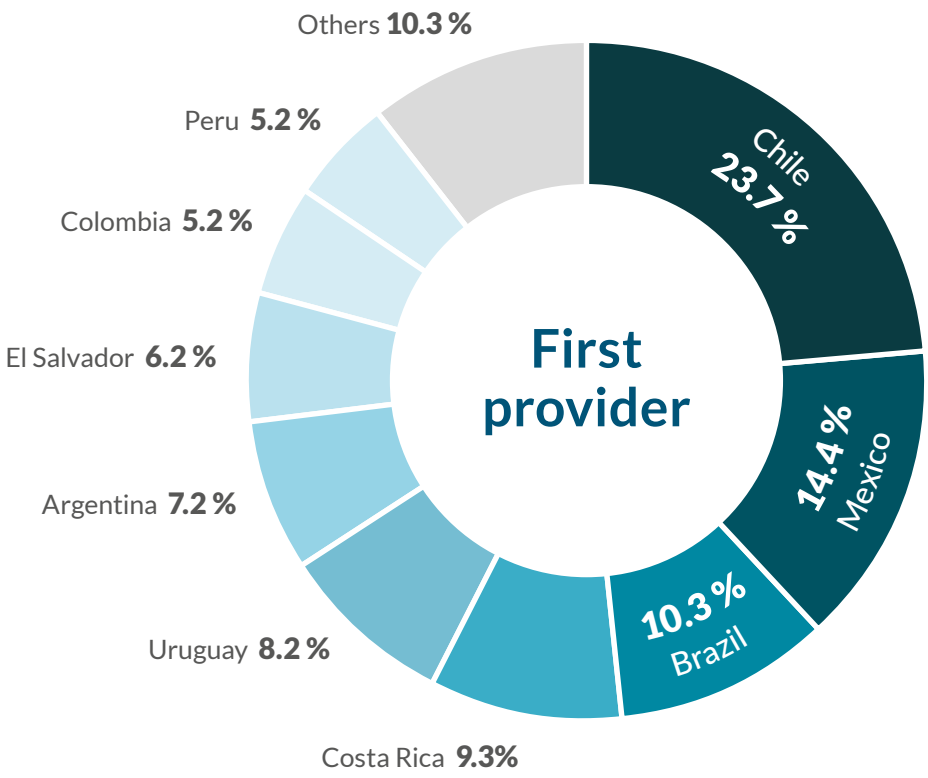
Indeed, Graph III.6 portrays the countries that most frequently participated as first providers in the almost 100 Triangular Cooperation projects that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019. As shown, as first providers, Chile, Mexico and Brazil explained almost one half of the 97 projects that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

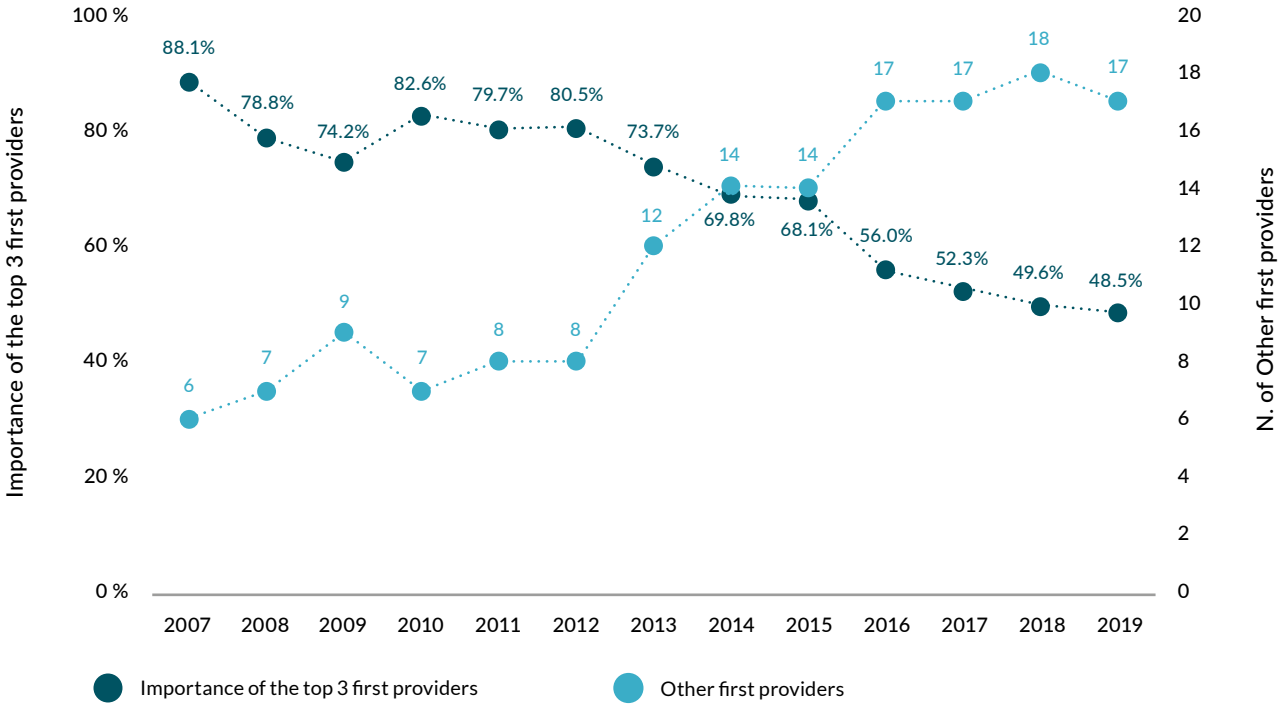


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

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 - DGCPRD 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 (DGCPRD, 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.

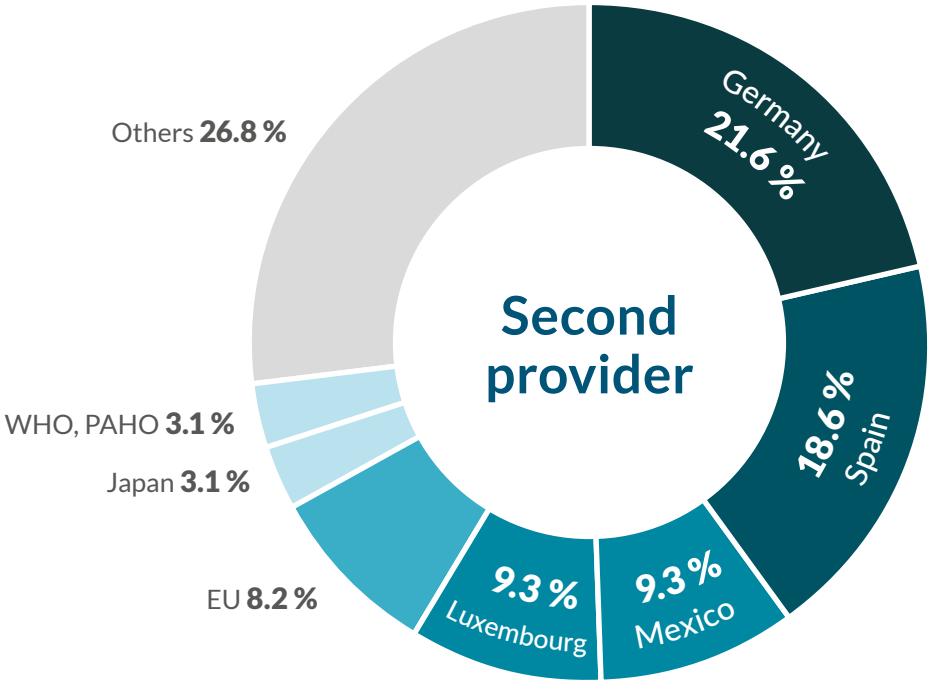
Based on this formula, capacity strengthening through this project will deliver important results: on the one hand, as it will enable the Dominican Republic's projection as TC provider, diversifying its profile within Ibero-American cooperation and, on the other hand, since it will contribute to the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

Source: SEGIB based on IISD (2015), Izquierdo, A., Pessino, C. and Vuletin, G. (2018), Directorate-General for Public Procurement of the Dominican Republic (2019) and Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic (MEPYD by its Spanish acronym, 2020) websites.

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.

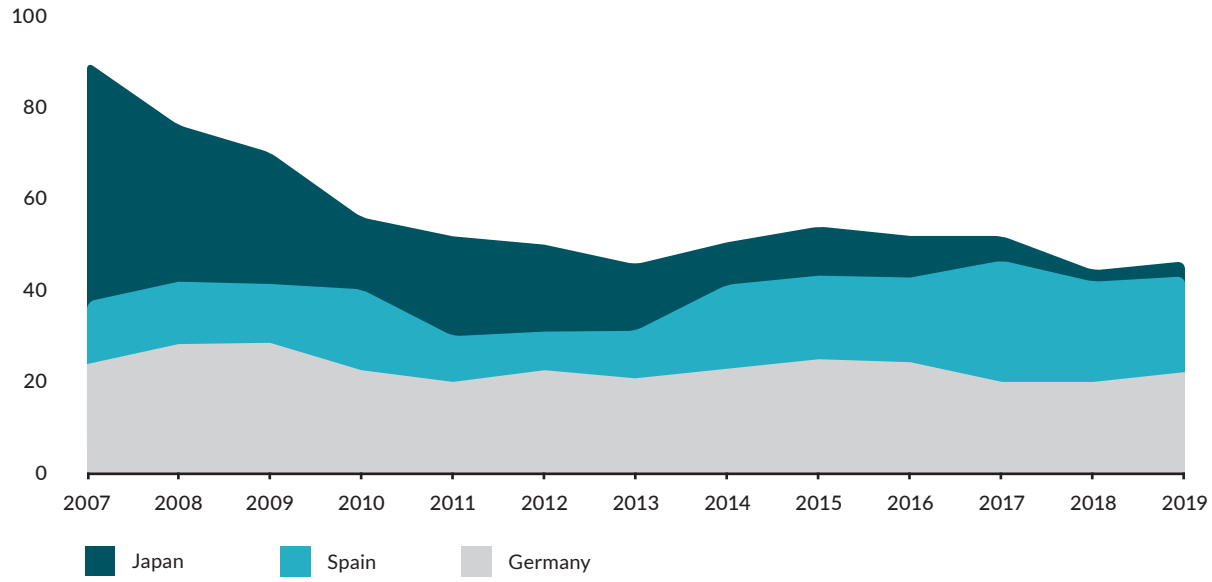
In terms of relative importance, Luxembourg, the European Union, Japan and the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization, follow, accounting for another fourth of 2019's projects. Luxembourg's participation is associated with projects this country supports and finances through the Salvadorean 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

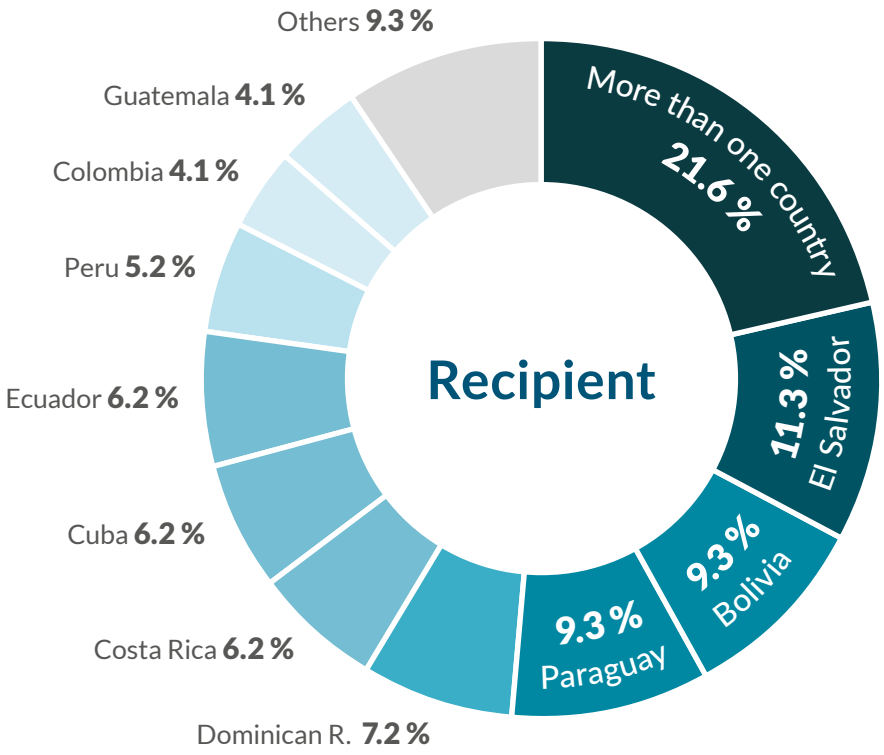
The above is combined with another relevant feature in terms of Japan's behavior: this country promoted the highest number of actions as second provider in 2019, participating in more than one half (17) of the 33 actions that were under execution. As first providers, Chile, Argentina and Mexico joined 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.

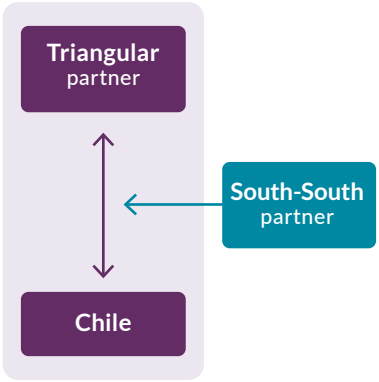
In many cases, however, these more than one hundred different combinations of 3 stakeholders may have the association of 2 parties in common. These tend to coincide with partnerships established between first and second providers. The predominance of this type of partnerships is not usually coincidental, 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

Previous partnership between providers (Mixed Funds)



A partner from the South requests technical assistance in the framework of a pre-existing partnership between Chile and a triangular partner.

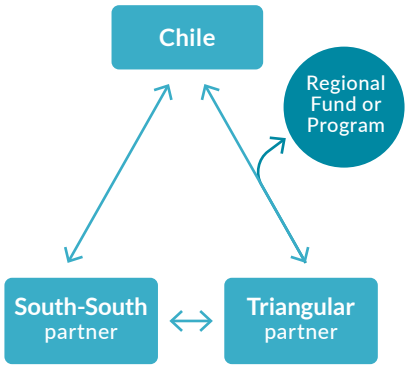
Chile-Spain Mixed Fund for TC

Created in 2010 to finance TC projects and to support, in turn, AGCID's institutional strengthening.

Chile-Mexico Mixed Cooperation Fund

Subscribed in 2006, part of its financial resources are destined to finance Triangular Cooperation projects with Central-American and Caribbean countries.

Partnership between all stakeholders



All partners are involved in the identification and design of a project which is subsequently submitted to a Regional Fund

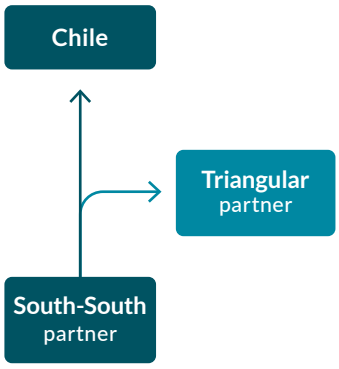
Regional Fund for TC in LAC

Launched in 2010 and managed by GIZ, its precedent was the Chile-Germany Bilateral Fund for Triangular Cooperation.

Japan-Chile Partnership Program

Signed in 1999 to jointly provide technical assistance to contribute to the economic and social development of LAC.

Original partnership between countries of the South



A partner from the South makes a request to Chile, which then invites a triangular partner to join in. Previous agreements already exist with some partners, while negotiations are underway to develop new partnerships with others.

Chile-Switzerland MoU on TC

In force since 2013, it regulates TC guidelines between both countries to promote its implementation together with LAC countries.

TC projects with Canada

Negotiations are underway to develop a TC program in areas of mutual interest such as public safety, productive development and mining.

MoU USA-Chile for the implementation of development cooperation activities in third countries

Signed in 2011 as a partnership mechanism for TC with developing countries. USAID and AGCID are the members of its Follow-up Committee.

Agreement for the Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation between Chile and France

Since 2014, it enables joint financing for the promotion of Decentralized Cooperation between both countries and a third party, among others.

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).

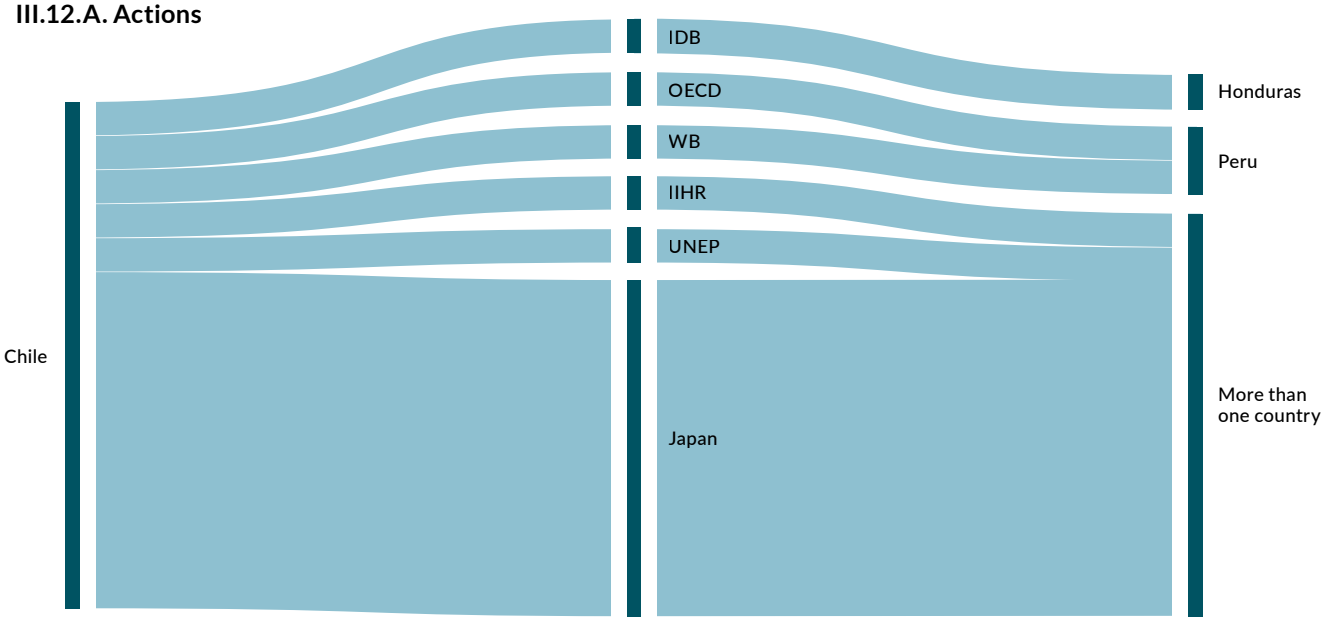
Regarding the 24 Triangular Cooperation projects, Graph III.12.B suggests that Chile's main partners as second providers were Mexico (up to 9 projects), Spain (5) and Germany (4). Cooperation together with Mexico focuses on Central-American and Caribbean countries, while initiatives developed with Germany 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

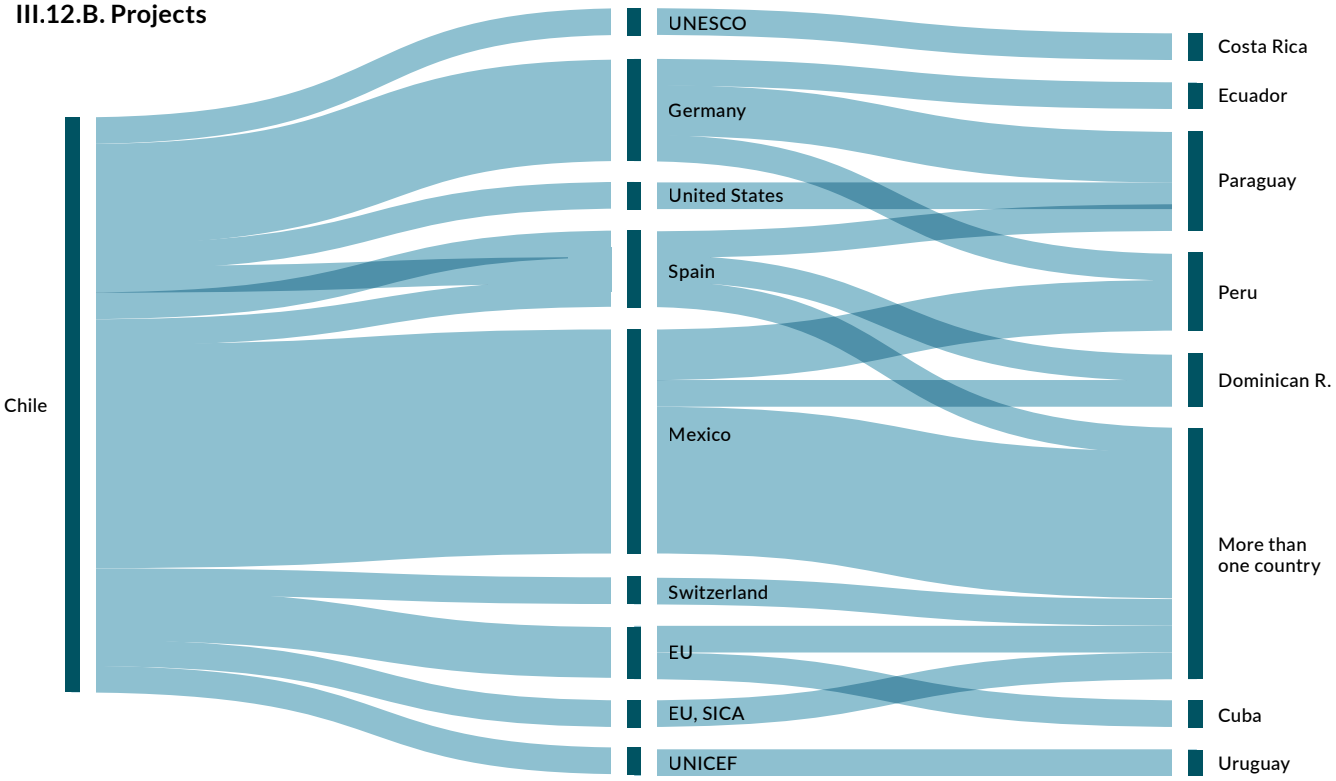
Distribution of Chile's Triangular Cooperation initiatives as first provider, by second provider and recipient. 2019

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.

Source: SEGIB based on Badia (2017), Chile-Spain Triangular Cooperation Mixed Fund (2020), UN (2015) and *Fútbol Más* website (2020).

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.

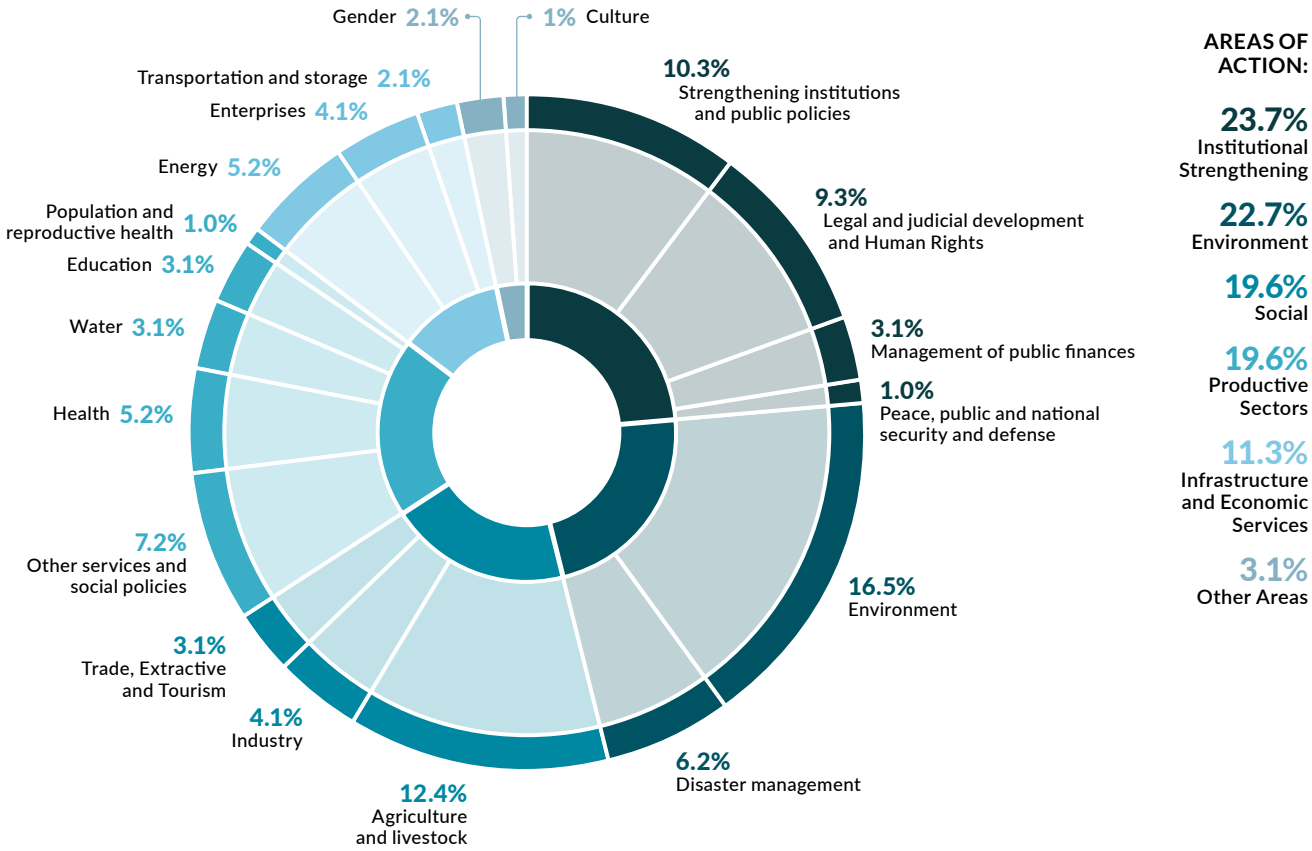
III.4.1. Strengthened capacities

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."

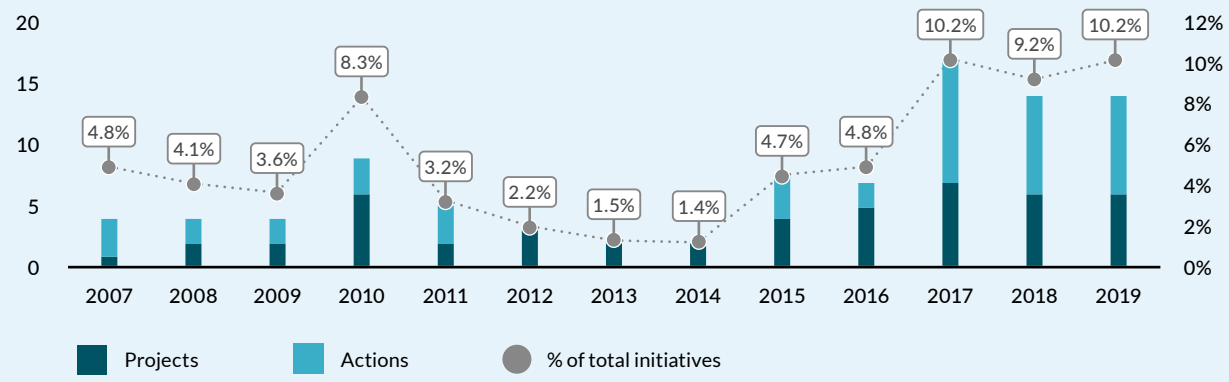
In line with the above, the analysis of the World Bank (2020) regarding the experience of East Asia and Pacific in response to COVID-19 identifies three major inter-governmental coordination modalities: direct leadership of the highest government authority, of the Ministry of Health or of the National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

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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.

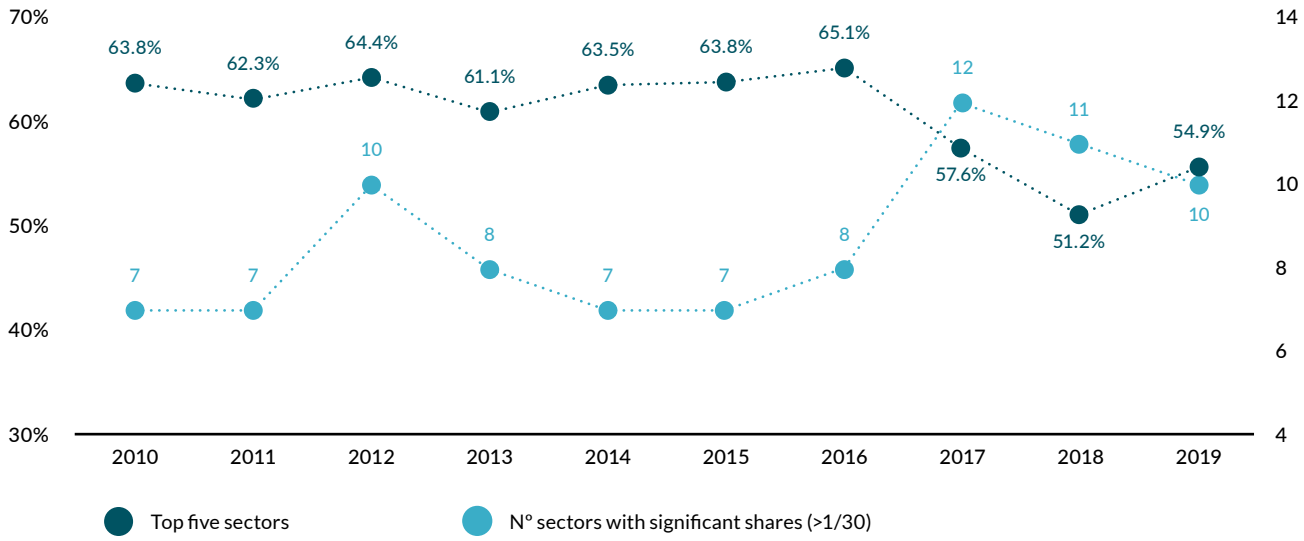
This project illustrates how, in recent years and through Triangular Cooperation, countries have shared capacities in *Disaster management* that may have also strengthened our region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, since many key aspects such as intersectoral coordination and adequate communication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

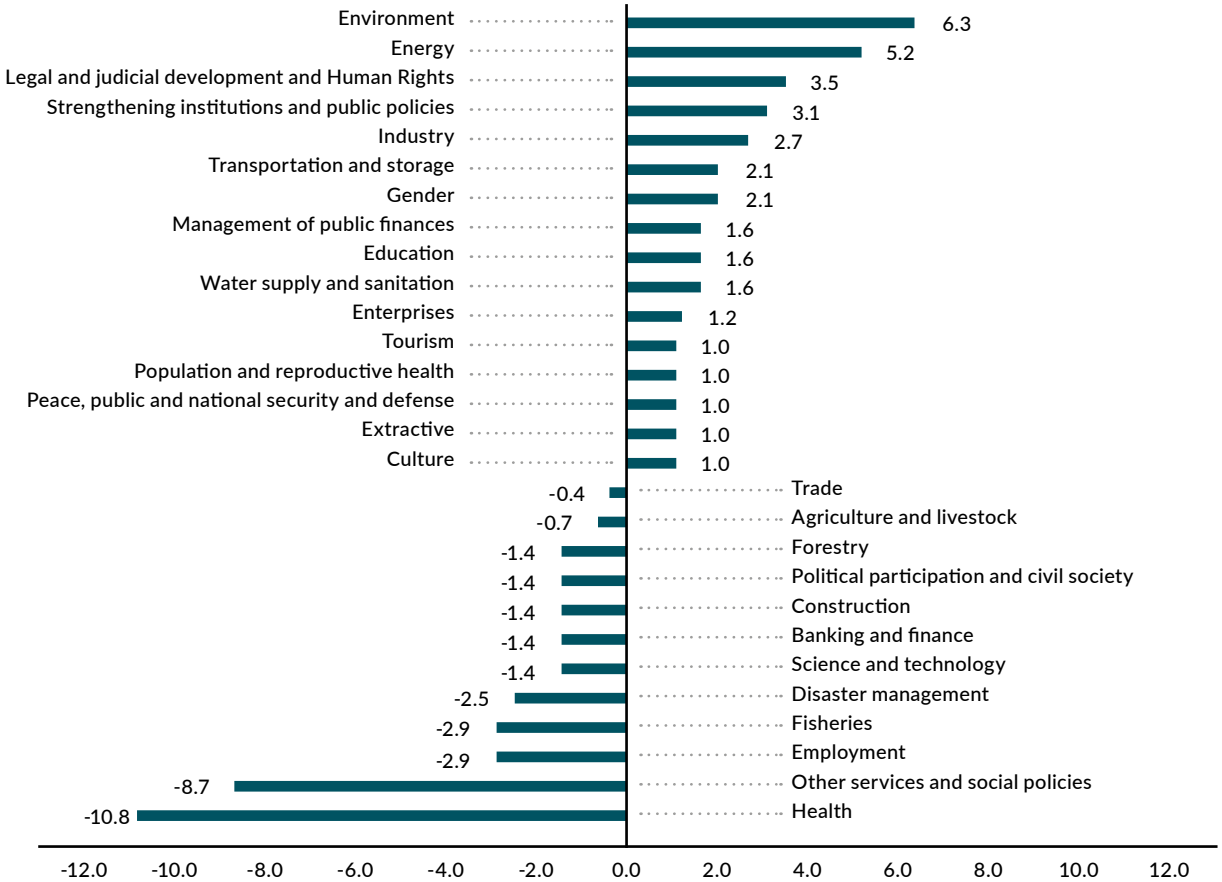
In order to complete the sectoral analysis of strengthened capacities, it is necessary to consider the remaining 20% of TC projects implemented in the region throughout 2019. These projects tackled very different matters, related to up to 11 activity sectors. This data suggests there is a trend towards 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.[3] 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



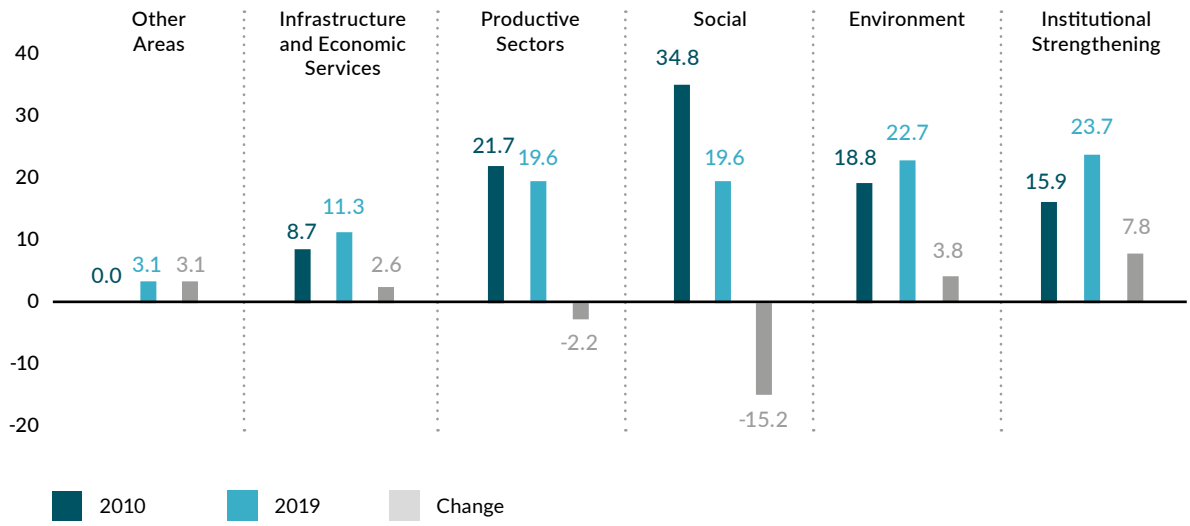
Note: Sectors such as *Other* and *Communications* are not included since they did not register associated projects in the two years considered in the analysis. Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation.

3 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).

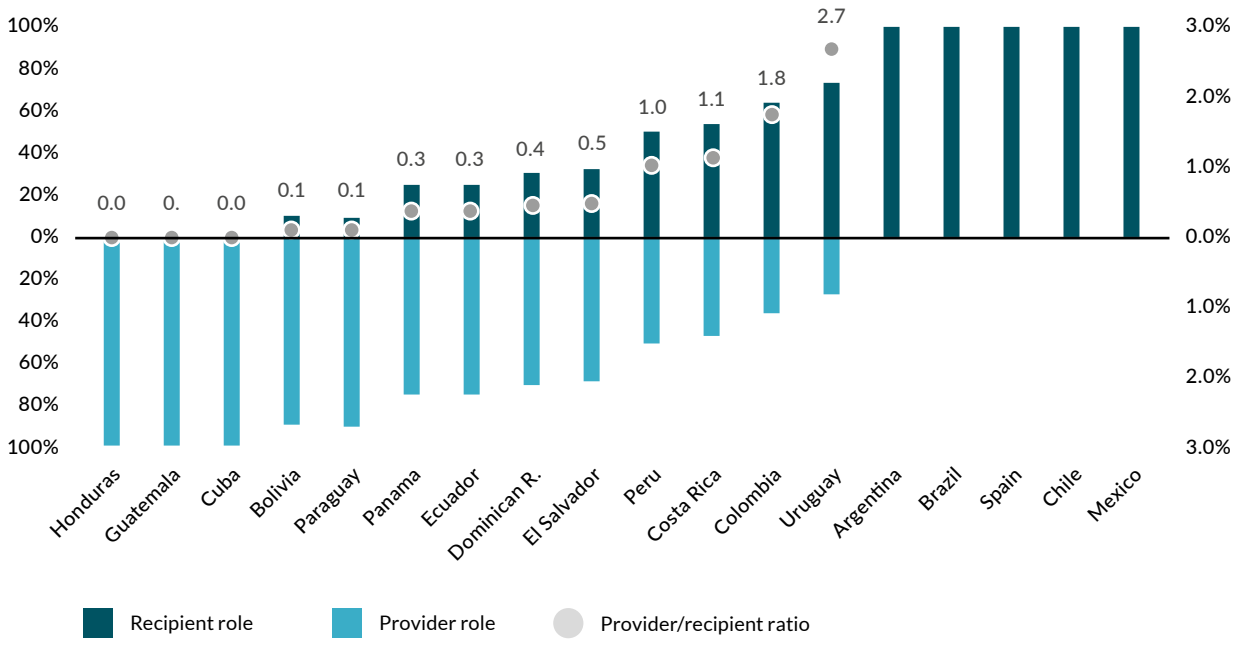
III.4.2. Profile of the main stakeholders

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

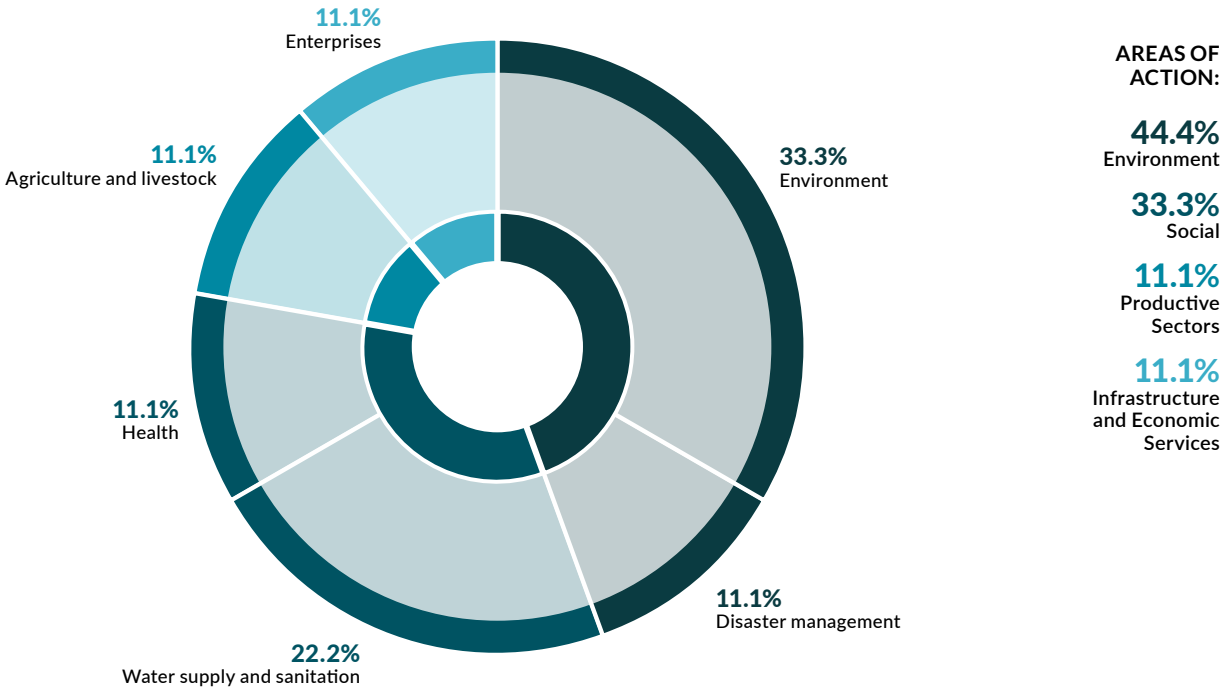
After a close examination of the graph, it is possible to identify up to three groups of countries with different profiles. First, Central-American, Caribbean and Andean countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and El Salvador, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, Bolivia and Ecuador), together with Paraguay, 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 Rice 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.

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 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.

GRAPH III.18

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

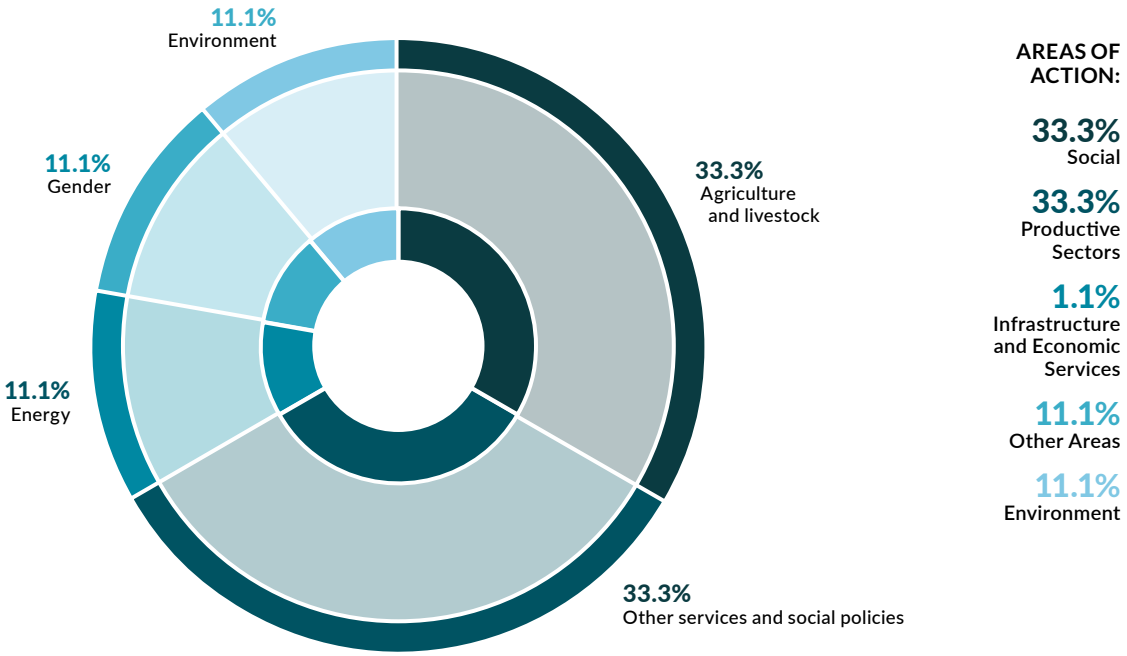
In percentage



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_2 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.

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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).

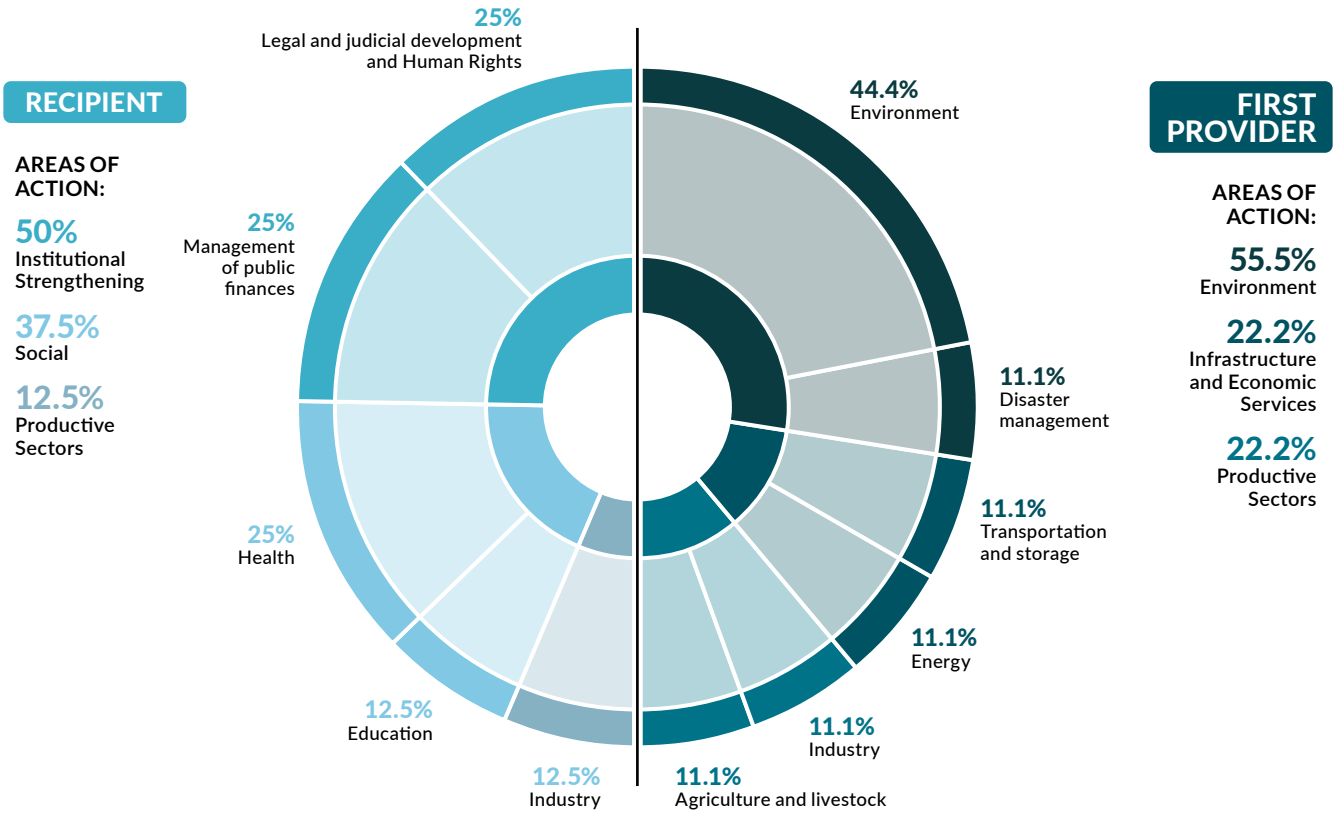
Public policy management, especially at the local level, would be one of Uruguayan cooperation's strengths, while Colombia would have supported economy-related capacity transfer in entrepreneurship and enterprises

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



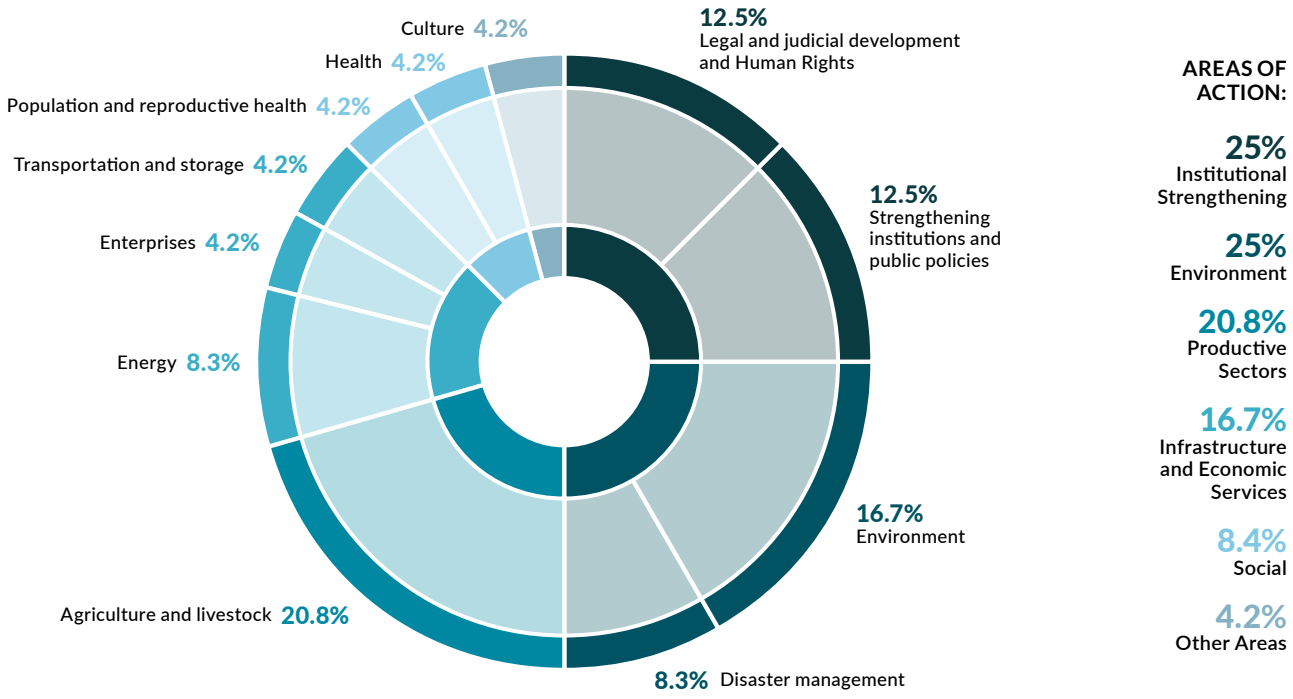
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

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 tacking 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[1] or feminicide[1] 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 feminicidal 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 feminicidal 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 Feminicidal 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 feminicidal 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.

1 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).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Atencio and Laporta (2012), ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory for Latin-America and the Caribbean (2020) and www.feminicidio.net (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 desinged 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)*

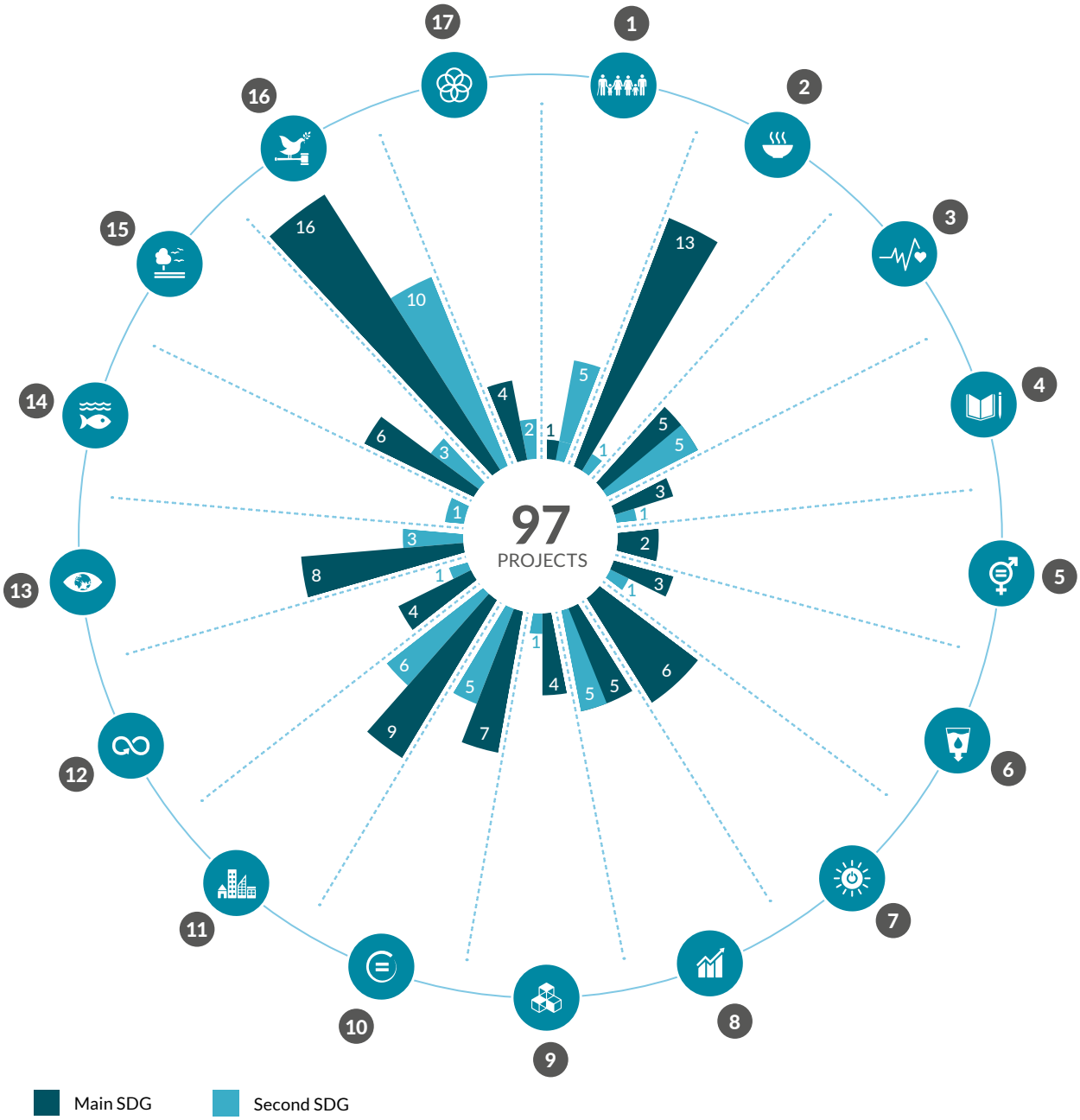
SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 10 (Reduced inequalities), of a more mainstreaming nature, should also be highlighted when analyzing projects' alignment with a second SDG. In general, they can be associated with, in the first case, projects that address economic matters, which, in turn, 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.

CHAPTER IV

Ibero-America and **intra- and interregional South-South Cooperation**

CHAPTER IV

Ibero-America and **intra- and interregional South-South Cooperation**

This new chapter is promoted to understand Ibero-American SSC from a renewed perspective, focusing on the region as a key stakeholder for development. A double approach is adopted for this purpose: the first continues the analysis developed so far and still refers to *intra-regional* SSC, however, with an emphasis on the initiatives Ibero-America implements as a whole, through the Regional modality; the second perspective analyzes *interregional* interventions, in order to focus on the exchange of experiences between Ibero-America and other developing regions, and to contribute to the necessary collective response to global and cross-border problems and challenges.

IV.1 Introduction

The commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), one of the founding milestones of South-South Cooperation, in March 2019, allowed the international community to renew its commitment to this cooperation modality. In this sense, in article 16 of this commemorative Conference's outcome document, countries acknowledged the progress SSC has made in the past few decades, from a perspective that places the region as the focal point". Indeed, countries noted how South-South Cooperation has "expanded its scope" and has "facilitated regional, sub-regional and interregional integration", providing "innovative approaches for collective actions" which contribute to "sustainable development" (UN, 2019, p.3).

In fact, this same document, in article 7, also recognized that this cooperation modality "can take place in bilateral, regional or interregional contexts", which, in any of these formulas, enable "countries to meet their development goals through concerted efforts, taking into account the principles of South-South cooperation" (UN, 2019, p.2).

In this context, and given the region's leading role as a stakeholder for development in terms of South-South Cooperation, it is interesting to review Ibero-American cooperation in 2019 from a new perspective. Indeed, the region as a whole is considered to be a piece of territory, as it is comprised of a group of countries (or some parts of these) that share similar circumstances

or characteristics (ethnical, historical, linguistic, climatic, cultural or topographical, to name a few) with which they all feel identified.[1]

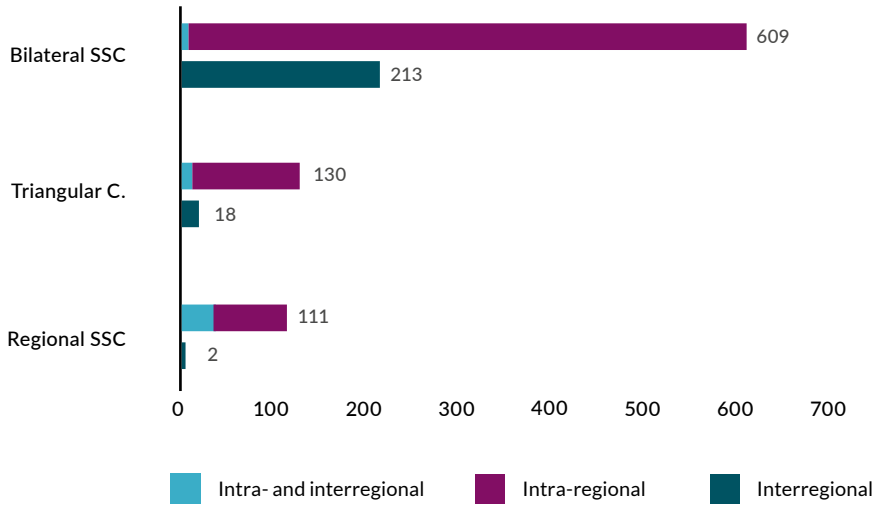
Graph IV.1 was prepared in order to better understand how this approach is applied in this chapter. This graph distributes the almost 1,100 SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America participated throughout 2019 based on a double criteria: first, the modality under which they were executed (Bilateral, Triangular, Regional); and, second, their scope, intra-regional (within Ibero-America) or interregional (together with other regions' developing countries).[2]

According to that distribution, the first part of this chapter focuses on intra-regional SSC; that is, on initiatives which take place within Ibero-America. This approach is favored by the fact that these are considered to be Regional SSC initiatives, a modality defined in the Ibero-American space that tends to be accompanied and institutionally supported by a regional organization. It should also be recalled that other intra-regional SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America participated in 2019, executed through Bilateral and Triangular modalities, were already analyzed in the two previous chapters.

GRAPH IV.1

Intra- and interregional Ibero-American SSC, by modality. 2019

In units



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

The second part of this chapter focuses on interregional SSC, mainly implemented through Bilateral and Triangular modalities. Its analysis sheds light on how Ibero-America and other regions' developing countries were able to share their experience and contribute to advance sustainable development.

1 This concept is based on the definition of the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE by its Spanish acronym): https://dle.rae.es/regi%C3%B3n

2 Indeed, and given that part of the cooperation is simultaneously intra- and interregional, a third scope can be identified which combines the other two.

IV.2

A closer look at Intra-regional SSC in Ibero-America

South-South Cooperation within Ibero-America in 2019 has been promoted through the execution of 111 initiatives, implemented under the Regional modality. This section focuses on these initiatives and addresses three aspects: it analyzes the way in which Regional SSC has been consolidating throughout these years; it identifies and characterizes its different stakeholders (country, organization, region); and it interprets how these stakeholders' joint efforts have contributed to capacity strengthening and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

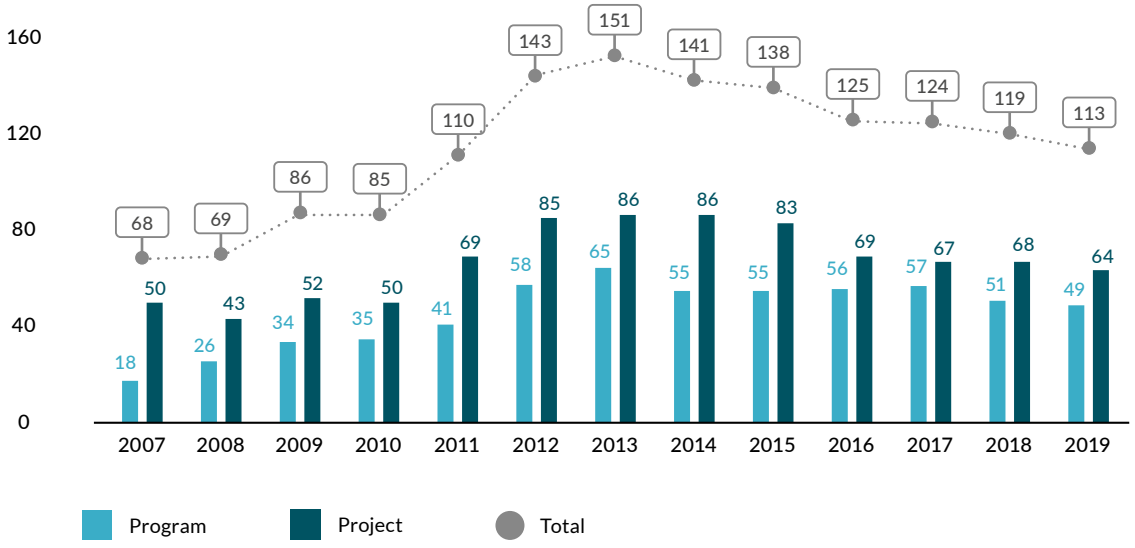
IV.2.1 The role of this modality: Regional SSC

Graph IV.2 portrays the evolution of Regional SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America has participated between 2007 and 2019, still not differentiating the context in which they were executed: intra-regional (111 in 2019) and interregional (only 2). Thus, and as the graph shows, two stages with different behavioral dynamics can be identified in this period: the first, between 2007 and 2013 is characterized by a remarkably high average growth rate of 15%, uplifting the total number of initiatives from 68, initially, to a historical maximum of 151; the second stage, until 2019, is marked by a slow but progressive decline, with an average annual growth rate of -4.7%, which pushes the final number of initiatives down to 113.

GRAPH IV.2

Evolution of Ibero-American Regional SSC projects, programs and initiatives with all partners. 2007-2019

In units



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

In addition, during the first stage, an increasing process to promote programs rather than projects is identified. Thus, while in 2007 the programs/projects ratio was basically 25%:75%, in 2013 the proportions were close to 43%:57%. In the second stage, the proportion was stable and the fall of the total number of initiatives did not change the distribution in terms of the instruments which, in 2019, was still slightly favorable to projects.

The fact that the number of Regional SSC initiatives has remained above one hundred and that programs have shown an increasing importance, suggests Ibero-America's commitment to this modality. This perception is reaffirmed when considering that the execution of these initiatives is of a longer-term and that they tend to be extended over time. In fact, more than 40% of the projects and 90% of the programs that were under execution in 2019 began sometime prior to 2018, some of these even beginning in 2014 and 2001, respectively. The Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym) is precisely an example of the above as it was launched in 2008 while its activities began in 2010. Box IV.1 reviews its 10 years' experience based on its commemorative slogan "share capacities, build knowledge", which reflects the important contribution that this Program has made to its member countries.

South-South Cooperation within Ibero-America in 2019 has been promoted through the execution of 111 initiatives, implemented under the Regional modality

BOX IV.1

"Share capacities, build knowledge": commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS)

The first edition of the *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America* in 2007 revealed, among other aspects, the need to build a common conceptual and methodological framework for South-South Cooperation in the region, in addition to work to strengthen countries' capacities to systematize information (SEGIB, 2018).

In this context, in 2008, during the 18th Ibero-American Summit in San Salvador, Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation promoted the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym), with the aim to:

> (a) strengthen national institutions which coordinate international cooperation; (b) promote the adoption of agreed regional positions in different debate fora; (c) contribute to the development of information, monitoring and evaluation systems; (d) identify, systematize and replicate good practices, lessons learnt and successful experiences (SEGIB, 2008).

The Program began its activities in 2010, when its first technical unit was established in Colombia. Initially supported by 14 countries, PIFCSS has gained support in the region and is currently comprised of 21 Ibero-American countries. In addition, its headquarters have rotated, moving to Uruguay, El Salvador and Argentina, which hosts the technical unit since 2018 and holds the Presidency of its Intergovernmental Council.

Ten years after it was launched, PIFCSS celebrates its tenth anniversary with a slogan that accurately defines its essence: "Share capacities, build knowledge". In this sense, it can certainly be stated that the original objectives that were set have been accomplished. During this time, PIFCSS has contributed to strengthen Ibero-American SSC, based on the work carried out both at the political and at the technical level.[1] In addition, it has managed to link these two levels in a virtuous way, since "the decisions made by the Heads of Cooperation are translated into effective actions implemented at the technical level" and "technical problems identified by cooperation experts can be politically addressed until the will to generate the necessary solutions attained" (PIFCSS, 2020).

The Program has succeeded in building shared visions on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, developing common work agendas and positioning the region at the international level (chapter 1 of the consecutive Reports of SSC in Ibero-America, which is prepared by the Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation themselves, is an example of the political consensus reached on some matters).

1 Please refer to PIFCSS website: https://cooperacionsursur.org/

Furthermore, it has strengthened countries' cooperation institutions' capacities and provided them with instrument to improve its implementation. For example, the Structured Mechanism for the Exchange of Experiences[2] (MECSS by its Spanish acronym), which facilitated mutual capacity strengthening between countries' cooperation Agencies and Directorates-General, is worthy of mention. In addition, more than 1,000 experts were trained in these 10 years (PIFCSS, 2020) and four editions of the "Diploma on International Cooperation with an emphasis on SSC" were implemented. The design of methodologies and instruments to improve SS and TC management should also be highlighted, among which, the document "Management guidelines for implementing triangular cooperation in Ibero-America" and the Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS by its Spanish acronym), stand out. The development of both these products implied many hours of collective work. Moreover, in terms of knowledge management, PIFCSS has supported the preparation and publication of the different editions of the Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America and has published 17 working documents on the matter.

Apart from these results, the Program's greatest contributions may have been to have strengthened the bonds between the countries of the region in terms of friendship and trust, and, especially, to have created working networks among cooperation officials and to have strengthened the network of Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation (PIFCSS, 2020).

The current context is very different from that when PIFCSS was created; however, its main objective, which is to strengthen SSC in Ibero-America, still stands strongly. Unlike in 2010, "currently all Ibero-American countries have institutionalized the management of this cooperation modality and most of them have progressed towards a dual role in terms of their cooperation, positioning themselves simultaneously as recipients and as providers" (PIFCSS, 2020).
In addition, and although it was analyzed in the Report from the beginning, triangular cooperation, a modality closely associated with SSC, has strongly gained ground in recent years. Furthermore, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 recognized SSC as one of the essential means to achieve the global goals. These two aspects now determine PIFCSS' current mission: strengthen SS and TC in Ibero-America, promoting its values and principles, in line with the achievement of the SDGs.

To conclude, it is important to highlight that the Program constitutes an exercise of SSC in itself, as it is based on the horizontal exchange of experiences and capacities among countries with different development challenges and different trajectories in terms of cooperation. In a world where some stakeholders question the value of multilateralism, PIFCSS has proven to be a privileged space "to exchange visions and coordinate collective responses beyond national efforts" (PIFCSS, 2020), improving cooperation's contribution to achieve sustainable and equitable development for all.

2 Please refer to Box IV.2 of the Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2019 "PIFCSS and the development of innovative instruments for SSC institutional strengthening: the case of the Structured Mechanism for the Exchange of Experiences" (SEGIB, 2020, pp. 148-149).

Source: SEGIB based on SEGIB (2008), SEGIB (2018), SEGIB (2020), PIFCSS (2020) and PIFCSS website: https://cooperacionsursur.org/

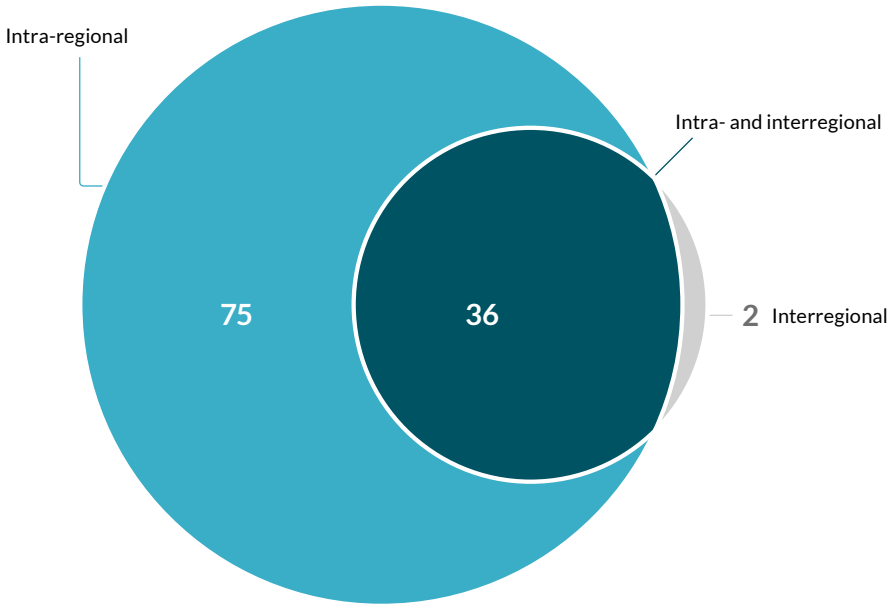
Finally, and as it was previously mentioned, the 113 Regional SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated in 2019 can be, in turn, disaggregated according to the way in which both Ibero-America and other developing regions participate. Indeed, and as Graph IV.3 shows, three different groups can be identified: initiatives with an intra-regional scope in which only Ibero-American countries participate (75); interregional initiatives, in which Ibero-America and other regions participate, under different roles (2); and initiatives that are both intra- and interregional (36).[3]

3 The difference is explained by the way in which regions participate in Regional SSC under the possible roles (provider, recipient, both). Indeed, in interregional initiatives, the roles are clearly differentiated (each region performs one role). However, if initiatives are simultaneously inter- and intra-regional, all the different regions participate and also tend to coincide in the exercise of at least one of the possible roles.

GRAPH IV.3

Distribution of Regional SSC initiatives (intra- and interregional) exchanged in Ibero-America and together with other regions' developing countries. 2019

In units



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

IV.2.2. Countries, organizations and regions

One of Regional SSC's added values is the possibility to include a higher number of countries in the search for innovative solutions to a common problem. This feature is enhanced by the fact that these efforts can be supported by a multilateral organization which, in many occasions, has a specific sectoral expertise. Its participation strengthens this cooperation modality as it provides it with institutional frameworks and operational mechanisms while it transfers its knowledge and experience in a specific matter. In this sense, the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC by its Spanish acronym), held in La Havana in 2014, already called for a SSC that "through the articulation of existing cooperation organizations at the regional and sub-regional level" contributed to "reduce regional asymmetries and national development gaps and to promote sustainable development" (FAO, 2014, p.1).

Graphs IV.4, IV.5 and IV.6 were prepared to better understand South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America in 2019 from a regional perspective, focusing on the role of the region itself as a whole. The two first graphs respectively show the intensity with which Ibero-American countries and multilateral organizations participated in the 111 Regional SSC initiatives registered in 2019. The third graph complements the other two by portraying the most common partnerships in order to identify the sub-regions that were most active.

GRAPH IV.4

Ibero-American countries' participation in Regional SSC initiatives. 2019

In units

Legend. Intensity brands, according to the number of Regional SSC initiatives in which each country participated in 2019

60 or more · Between 50 and 59 · Between 40 and 49 · Between 20 and 39 · Less than 20 · No projects registered

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

In Graph IV.4, each country is associated with a color according to its participation in 2019's Regional SSC initiatives. As the map shows, seven countries were especially active in this year's Regional SSC: on the one hand, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, in the center of the continent; and, on the other hand, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, in the South. All these countries participated in at least one half of the 111 programs and projects that were under execution throughout 2019. Indeed, values fluctuated between 56 (Uruguay) and a maximum of 65 (Costa Rica).

Meanwhile, other seven countries were also remarkably active, as they participated in around fifty Regional SSC programs and projects, in each case. Central-American and Caribbean countries (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic) and South-American countries (Peru, Chile and Paraguay) stand out once again. Nicaragua and Ecuador closely followed, participating in almost 45 initiatives. The remaining six countries (Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, together with the three countries of the Iberian peninsula, Spain, Portugal and Andorra) had a less active relative participation which, nevertheless, fluctuated between 4 (Andorra) and more than 30 (Bolivia) programs and projects. In any case, as can be seen, all Ibero-American countries, without exception, participated in this cooperation modality.

Seven countries were especially active in this year's Regional SSC: Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, in the center of the continent; and, on the other hand, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, in the South

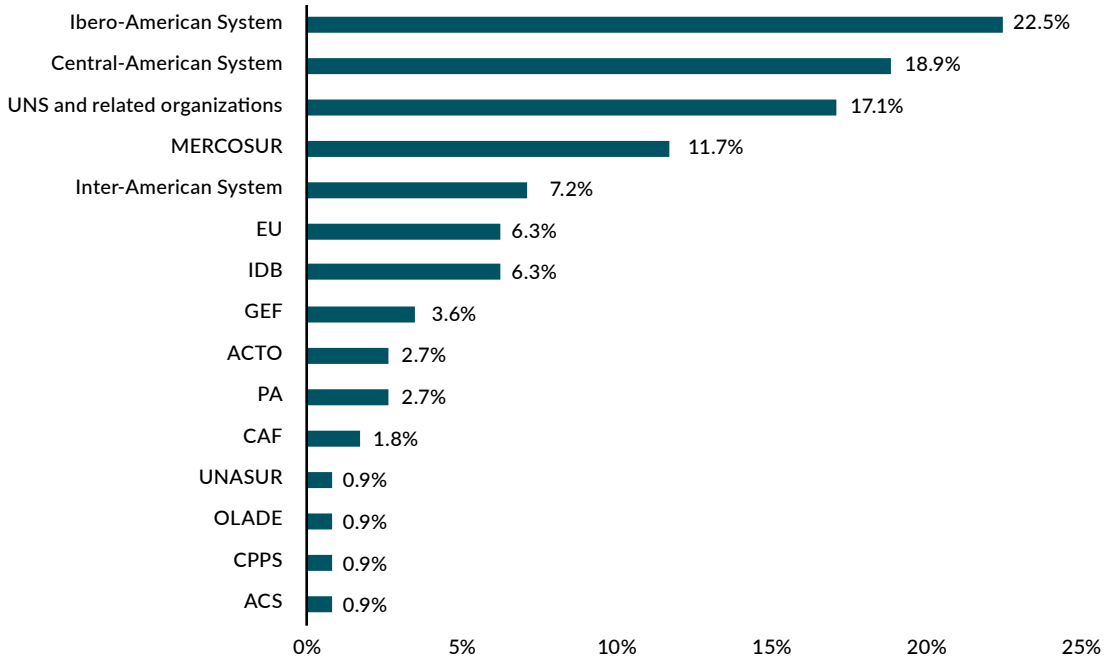
Graph IV.5, in turn, individually shows the participation of the more than 40 multilateral organizations which supported Regional SSC in 2019 (MERCOSUR, EU, IDB, for example). These can also be grouped according to the System to which they belong (Ibero-American, Central-American, Inter-American and the United Nations System). As has been already pointed out, this information is extremely relevant to SSC, not only in terms of the institutional framework under which these initiatives are implemented, but also to understand how "the diverse forms of regional (…) and sub-regional integration" enhance cooperation by "pooling efforts to address development issues" (FAO, 2014, p.2).

Hence, and as Graph IV.5 portrays, organizations that are part of the Ibero-American System participated in 25 Regional SSC initiatives, corresponding to 22.5% of the total. In all these cases, SEGIB itself was the participating institution, also supported (in two occasions) by the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI by its Spanish acronym) and the Ibero-American Organization for Social Security (OISS by its Spanish acronym), which particular areas of expertise are education and social security, respectively. Organizations within the Central-American System closely followed, participating in basically 1 out of 5 initiatives throughout 2019. In general, this cooperation is explained by the strong involvement of SICA, institution with the second highest participation in 2019's Regional SSC (20 initiatives) and the most active (in up to 82 programs and projects) if the analyzed period is extended (2006-2019).

GRAPH IV.5

Multilateral organizations' participation in Regional SSC initiatives. 2019

In percentage



Methodological note: The analysis considers the number of initiatives in which each organization participates (both individually and when grouped with those of the system in which they take part) and their importance in the total. In this sense, and given that several organizations can simultaneously participate in the same initiative, some initiatives are counted more than once. This means that the percentages associated with each organization and/or group cannot be aggregated and in no case can the total add up to 100%.

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

In addition, the role of the organizations of the United Nations System[4] (or those considered related to it), which participated in 17.1% of the initiatives, is also worthy of mention. Actually, these accounted for around 20 programs and projects distributed in up to seven organizations, among which ECLAC (5), FAO (4), ILO (3) and the United Nations Program for Environment (UNEP) (3) stand out, as well as more specific interventions of UNESCO (2), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (1) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (1).

Meanwhile, it is possible to state that MERCOSUR appears as a very powerful regional stakeholder, as suggested by the fact that, in 2019, it supported its member countries 13 Regional SSC initiatives. The institutions of the Inter-American System participated, to a less extent, through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA by its Spanish acronym) (3 initiatives), OAS (3) and PAHO (2).[5]

4 For example, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is considered to be a related organization. In order to understand the UN System's structure, specialized agencies and related organizations, please refer to https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un_system_chart.pdf

5 According to PAHO website "the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) wears two institutional hats: it is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System and also serves as Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO)" (https://www.paho.org/en/who-we-are). In this sense, and for the purpose of this analysis, PAHO is included within the Inter-American System, regardless of its role as the regional office of WHO.

BOX IV.2

IDB, global public goods and the development of information systems

Having solid, reliable and integrated information systems is an essential condition to strengthen public policies. The cooperation policy is not exempt from this premise. Good data is not only crucial for decision-making, but also for accountability in terms of public management.

Ibero-American countries have different capacities to systematize information regarding the international cooperation in which they participate. While some of their systems are long-standing and others are more recent, a few countries do not yet have these kind of instruments. In turn, countries which systems were designed years ago currently have new challenges in terms of integrating, in a single platform, the cooperation they receive and provide, or the different cooperation modalities in which they participate (traditional, South-South, Triangular, among others). Other systems might still need to develop new features to register all the initiatives implemented by sectoral and local institutions, not only those managed by the institutions responsible for cooperation in the countries.

Having quality information is essential to prepare this Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America. Therefore, for more than a decade, SEGIB, with the support of the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym), has been working to strengthen countries' registration capacities. PIFCSS has become a space for fruitful technical exchange of best practices in this matter, reasonably focused on South-South cooperation. However, lessons learnt in the framework of this Program can also be applied to the other cooperation modalities in which Ibero-American countries are involved.

In this regard, as a result of the region's remarkable progress in recent years, the first online data platform on South-South Cooperation was designed and launched in 2015: our Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS by its Spanish acronym), which countries regularly update to provide the data on which this report is based.

In this context of capacity strengthening, Chile, Costa Rica and Panama presented the project "Information System for International Cooperation" (SICI by its Spanish acronym) to the call for proposals in the framework of The Regional Public Goods (RPG) Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The project's aim is to provide countries with updated quality information, on a timely basis, on the international cooperation in which they participate. This requires unifying criteria and lowest common denominators to register the information.

Thus, the aim of the project is to improve dialogue and coordination among stakeholders for decision making.[1] In turn, this software will contribute to knowledge building and transparency in terms of international cooperation resources' management. The initiative is expected to broaden its scope to other countries of the region in the future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica and the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID by its Spanish acronym) participate in this initiative, the latter being the resources' manager and the implementing institution.

Prior to the design of the System, best practices in terms of national information systems for international cooperation were identified in the framework of the project. This analysis included the information systems of the three participating countries and of other six countries within and outside the region (Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay, Spain and France), in addition to SIDICSS. The exercise involved reviewing aspects such as regulatory frameworks to update information, data models, technological strategies, among others. The results of this analysis were shared with national and regional stakeholders in mid-2020. In addition, a series of recommendations were made, on which the design of the Information System for International Cooperation should be based (Guadatel and Track, Workshop "Analysis of national registries", June 19th, 2020).

The project was signed in May 2017 and is still under execution. IDB contributes with 500,000 dollars in the framework of the *Regional Public Goods Initiative*. Participating countries' contributions add up to a total budget of 786,000 dollars (IDB, 2017, p.3).

The RPG Initiative is destined to support the generation of regional public goods that have a potentially high development impact and which will result in significant shared benefits and positive spillover effects on many countries (IDB, 2017). The initiative is based on the premise that Latin-American and Caribbean countries share development challenges and opportunities that can frequently be addressed more effectively and efficiently through regional collective action and regional cooperation (IDB, n.d.).

1 For more information on this project, please refer to AGCID website: https://www.agci.cl/images/Insumos_IMG/cooperacion/proyectos/desnac/BID/BID%20%20SICI.docx

Source: SEGIB based on AGCID website (https://www.agci.cl/), IDB website (https://www.iadb.org/en), IDB (2017) and Guadaltel and Track (2020)

In addition, the IDB (which was originally founded within the Inter-American space but does not take part in it) and the EU, worked with the countries in 6.3% of Regional SSC initiatives in 2019, respectively. Other 8 organizations had specific interventions, their presence fluctuating between 1 (the Association of Caribbean States —ACS—, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific —CPPS by its Spanish acronym—, the Latin-American Energy Organization —OLADE by its Spanish acronym— and the Union of South-American Nations —UNASUR by its Spanish acronym) and 4 initiatives (the Global Environment Facility— GEF). In this regard, Box IV.2 was prepared to illustrate the work supported by these organizations as it refers to a project in which the IDB joined Chile, Costa Rica and Panama in the generation of a global public good: their information system for development cooperation.

Finally, the analysis of countries and multilateral organizations that participated in this cooperation modality and the intensity with which they did so, sheds light on the most frequent partnerships and on the sub-regions that most actively participated, as a whole, in 2019's Regional SSC. Graph IV.6 precisely portrays this information through a heatmap which distributes the 22 Ibero-American countries in the vertical columns and horizontal rows of the resulting matrix. Countries are sorted (both in columns as in rows) according to their association pattern with the other possible partners. In addition, and as the legend reads, the color associated with each cell increases its intensity as the number of initiatives in which each pair of partners coincides also increases.

Thus, and as Graph IV.6 shows, two groups of countries tend to predominantly associate to promote Regional SSC initiatives: on the one hand, Central-American countries and the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Colombia (these two have a slightly lower degree of coincidence than that of the rest of the group); and, on the other hand, countries in the South of the continent (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador and Peru), with the only exception of Bolivia. Among these, indeed, the most frequent partnership takes place between countries which, in turn, are part of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay).

In addition, it is possible to identify remarkably intense matches between these two groups of countries, especially between Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador and the countries of the Southern Cone, on the one hand; and, on the other hand, between Colombia and Mexico together with Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina. Meanwhile, the three countries of the Iberian peninsula, Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela have a lower degree of association, consistent with the fact that these countries also have a relatively lower participation in the total number of 2019's Regional SSC initiatives.

The conclusions that can be drawn from Graph IV.6 are consistent with the aforementioned. In this sense, it is easy to identify some Ibero-American sub-regions' intense activity, especially of those in the Central and Southern part of the continent, with a strong presence, in turn, of the multilateral organizations of which these countries are members (SICA and MERCOSUR). Visually, however, the role of larger sub-regions (Ibero-American and Inter-American), which activities tend to have a more homogeneous impact on all their member countries, is more diffuse.

As was pointed out at the beginning of this chapter, non-Ibero-American countries also joined Ibero-American countries in these 36 Regional SSC initiatives, adding efforts to find innovative solutions to common problems. In this regard, cooperation projects that have been addressing the search for the sustainable management of Amazonian water resources serve as an example of the above. In these projects, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (in the Ibero-American region) have worked together with Guyana and Suriname with the support of a specialized sub-regional institution such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Box IV.3 summarizes these interesting experiences.

BOX IV.3

South-South Cooperation for the sustainable management of water resources in the Amazon Basin

The Amazon River Basin is the largest hydrographic network in the planet, corresponding to 44% of the land area of the South-American continent. In terms of volume, the basin discharges 70% of Latin-America's freshwater and it contributes with at least 20% of the world's discharge (National Water Agency of Brazil, ANA by its Portuguese acronym, 2017). This is the only hydrological system that crosses the national borders of eight countries (ACTO, 2018a).

Two Regional SSC initiatives on water resources' management stand out in the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) —intergovernmental organization founded in 1978— due to their contribution to sustainable development: the Amazon Project and the so-called GEF Amazon Project.

The *Amazon Project: Regional Action on Water Resources*, now in its second phase (ACTO, 2018), aims to strengthen the sustainable management of water resources and to promote integration and technical cooperation among Amazonian countries in this matter. Its main objective is to strengthen ACTO member countries' information systems and to create a regional monitoring network.

Progress was made during the first phase (2012-2017) in terms of the integration and availability of hydrometeorological and water quality data (ANA, 2017). The second phase, still under execution, is expected to continue the work in these areas, as well as in the dissemination of knowledge on the Amazon and in the improvement of technical capacities of countries' water resources management institutions, among others.

The project is an initiative of the National Water Agency of Brazil and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and is implemented by ACTO together with the national water agencies of its member countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela).

On the other hand, in the framework of the same organization and involving the same countries, the project *Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Climate Change* (also known as the GEF Amazon Project), was executed between 2012 and 2018. As the Amazon Project, this initiative aimed to protect and sustainably manage the Amazon Basin's water resources —including groundwater— in the face of climate change, through the "*strengthening (of) the institutional framework for the planning and execution of agreed strategic actions*" (ACTO, 2016).

In this sense, the project delivered three essential outcomes which should be highlighted: a shared vision of the Amazonian Basin (this required an analysis of the institutional and legal frameworks of each of the countries and extensive qualitative and quantitative research, together with the basin's main stakeholders), a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Program (SAP) (ACTO, 2016). The participatory process to implement pilot projects, studies, training and workshops with more than 1,170 participants and the generation of scientific data on various aspects on the matter are worthy of mention as cross-cutting features of this initiative (ACTO, 2016). Specifically, the TDA, based on a wide consultation process (ACTO, 2018a), provided the factual basis and the analysis of the main transboundary problems, their impacts and causes, to define the SAP (ACTO, 2018b). The latter, technically approved by ACTO's members in January 2016, was a very important milestone, as it is an agreed document and a guiding instrument for countries' activities and for regional cooperation (ACTO, 2018b). It included 19 strategic actions, among which the implementation of a regional water quality monitoring system for the rivers of the Amazon basin, the development of a groundwater use and protection program for public supply in the Amazon region, the creation of systems to forecast and warn about extreme hydroclimatic events (droughts and floods) and the development of an Integrated Regional Platform with Information on Water Resources in the Basin, stand out.

Finally, the project created an Atlas of Hydro-climate Vulnerability, it strengthened the capacity of local governments to adapt and respond to extreme events, and it developed an Integrated Information System (SII by its Spanish acronym) for transboundary water resources in the Amazon Basin (ACTO, 2016). As an innovative feature, the project promoted the coordinated use of surface and groundwater in urban centers of the cities of Leticia (Colombia) and Tabatinga (Brazil), which share the same aquifer.

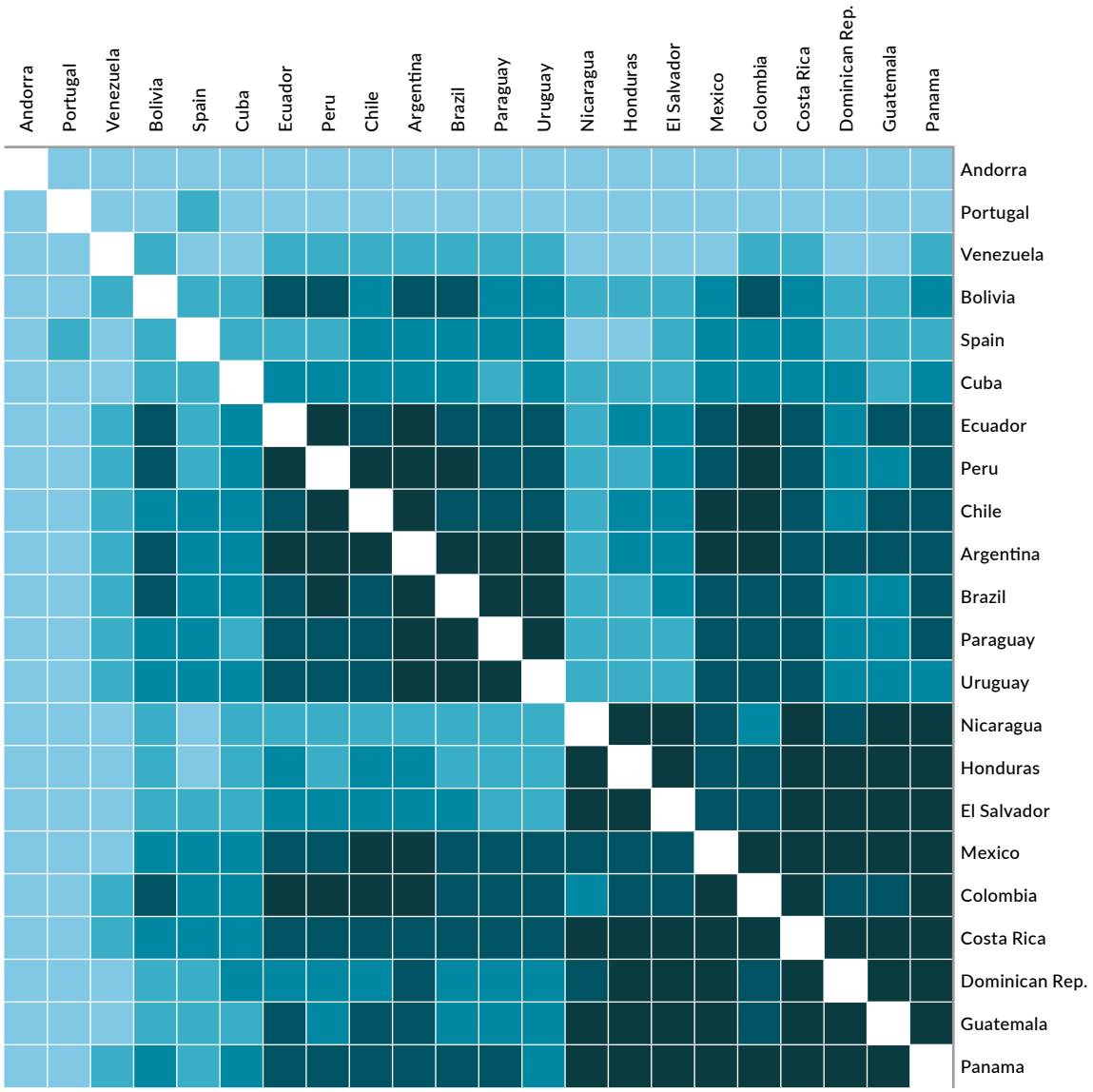
The project was financed by GEF, together with countries' and other donors' contributions, and it was implemented by the United Nations Environment Program and executed by ACTO.

Source: SEGIB based on ANA (2017), ACTO (2018a) and (2018b) and ACTO website: http://www.otca-oficial.info/home

GRAPH IV.6

Intensity of the association between Ibero-American countries, by the number of Regional SSC initiatives in which each pair of partners coincides. 2019

In units



Legend: Intensity bands, according to the number of Regional SSC initiatives in which each pair of countries coincided in 2019.

35 to 55 | 24 to 34 | 18 to 23 | 11 to 17 | 0 to 10

Methodological note: the colors and values assigned to the respective intensity bands are the result of the distribution of the initiatives by quintiles. Value ranges go from the lowest number of initiatives in which each pair of partners can coincide (0), to the highest number registered in 2019 (55).

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

IV.2.3. Common problems, shared solutions

Joint efforts made through Regional SSC enabled Ibero-American countries to advance towards shared solutions to overcome common problems while achieving a more sustainable development. In order to better understand this progress, this section identifies both strengthened capacities as well as the Sustainable Development Goals to which Regional SSC was able to contribute.

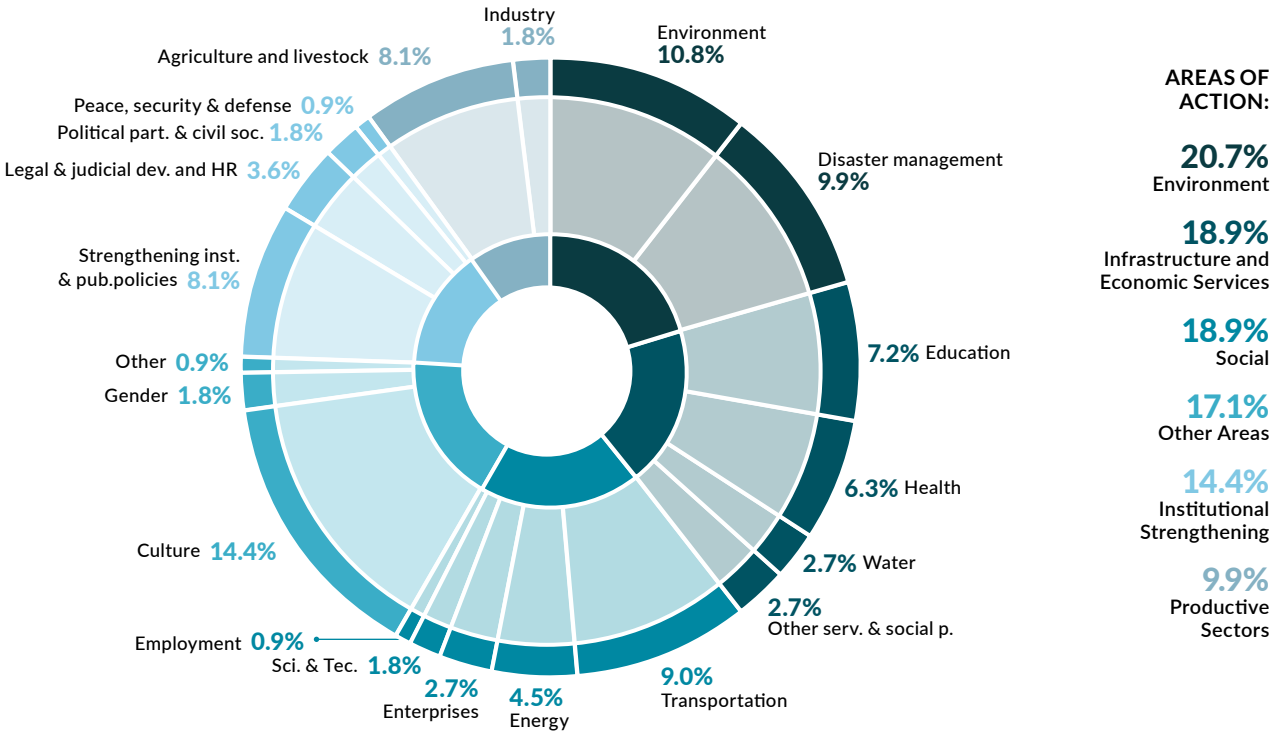
Thus, Graph IV.7 distributes the 111 Regional SSC initiatives that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019 by activity sector and area of action. As the graph shows, three out of four were focused on strengthening different matters associated with the following areas: Environment (more than 20% of the total number of initiatives in 2019); Social and Infrastructure and Economic Services (around 19% in each case); and Other Areas (heterogeneous, and with a remarkable share of 17.1%). The remaining 25% was explained by initiatives destined to Institutional Strengthening (14.4%) and to the Productive Sectors area (basically 10%).

This distribution is, in turn, determined by the relative importance of the different activity sectors within each area of action. In this sense, and as Graph IV.7 portrays, the fact that one out of five initiatives addressed environment matters is explained, in basically identical proportions, by programs and projects which aim was to strengthen *Environment* and *Disaster management*. Hence, initiatives in these two sectors combine to fight against climate change; to strengthen risk management in the face of this phenomenon and to increase resilience to overcome its most devastating effects such as droughts, fires and floods. Other exchanges tackled the comprehensive management of different types of waste, including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and all matters related to the conservation of biodiversity and, in this context, of fauna and flora threatened by trade.

GRAPH IV.7

Distribution of Regional SSC initiatives, by activity sector and area of action. 2019

In percentage



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

> *Accumulated experience in the health sector is extremely diverse and can certainly contribute to the regional response to address the COVID-19 challenge*

Countries that participate in these exchanges tend to share topographic, geographic and even climatic characteristics; as a result, actions are usually focused on specific sub-regions, such as Central-America, Meso-America, the Caribbean, the Amazon or the South-East Pacific, to name a few.

In addition, both the Social and the Infrastructure and Economic Services areas are extremely diversified in sectoral terms. Indeed, and within the Social area, programs and projects dedicated to *Education* (7.2%) and *Health* (6.3%), stood out, as well as to *Water supply and sanitation* and to *Other services and social policies*, with lower shares (2.7% in each case). This cooperation is mainly destined to promote academic mobility among students, teacher training and the universalization of inclusive education. Moreover, accumulated experience in the health sector is extremely diverse and can certainly contribute to the regional response to address the COVID-19 challenge: exchanges in this sector include initiatives to strengthen public health systems, to develop new applications of biotechnology, to regulate medicines production and market and to promote an emergency plan to face another epidemic, such as AIDS. Finally, cooperation to manage water resources and water quality, especially in the Amazon Basin, as well as urban sanitation, should also be highlighted.

Meanwhile, almost one half of the total cooperation that supported the generation of better Infrastructure and Economic Services is explained by the significant relative importance of the *Transportation and storage* sector (9.0% of 2019's Regional SSC initiatives). In this respect, the Ibero-American Road Safety Program, recently approved, as well as five initiatives promoted in the framework of MERCOSUR's Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM by its Spanish acronym) for the rehabilitation of road and railroad sections that connect its member countries, stand out. Initiatives aimed at promoting renewable *Energy* and its rational and efficient use would complete this area's analysis.

However, the sector with the highest relative importance in 2019 is part of the heterogenous Other areas: *Culture*, which accounts for 14.4% of the total number of exchanges (111). This percentage is explained by 13 cooperation initiatives promoted in the Ibero-American space to strengthen, among others, performing and audiovisual arts, music, the protection and digitization of historical and diplomatic archives, or libraries, to name a few. In addition, and although the work in the *Gender* sector is still irregular, the strategy promoted within the framework of MERCOSUR to favor the access of Afro-descendant and indigenous women to sustainable development is worthy of mention, due to the different aspects of vulnerability it aims to address.

Finally, experiences in sectors such as *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Agriculture and livestock* (8.1% of the initiatives, in each case), and *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* (a smaller 3.6%), explained a large part of the remaining 25% of 2019's initiatives in the Institutional Strengthening and Productive Sectors areas. Efforts made to strengthen statistical and information management systems (some applied to development cooperation), to improve local and urban planning and management, to promote food security, and to genetically improve traditional crops, such as potatoes, wheat, coffee and soybean, should also be highlighted. In addition, experiences that, from a rights-based approach, aimed to progress towards greater social inclusion also stood out. The new Ibero-American Program on the Rights of People with Disabilities would be a good example of the above, which trajectory is detailed in Box IV.4.

However, the scenario in 2019 is significantly different from that identified just a decade ago, which suggests a change in the region's priorities as a whole. Indeed, Graphs IV.8 and IV.9 portray the variation of the relative importance of the different areas of action and activity sectors in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives executed in Ibero-America in 2010 and 2019. When comparing these two years, it is possible to identify a progressive shift from cooperation aimed at the Social (although still very relevant) and at the Productive Sectors areas (which respective relatives shares fell 14 and 4.2 percentage points), in favor of initiatives to address Environment, Infrastructure and economic services and, to a less extent, Other Areas and Institutional Strengthening.

BOX IV.4

Ibero-America comes together for the rights of people with disabilities

According to the latest available data (ECLAC, 2013), 12% of the Latin-American population has at least one disability. Prevalence is higher among women and other economically and socially vulnerable groups (children, older adults, rural population, indigenous and Afro-descendant people, and people with lower incomes).

Likewise, although progress has been made in recent years in terms of the protection of people with disabilities at the regulatory level, most of them continue to be excluded from political, economic and social life, as suggested by the fact that literacy rates, schooling, access to the labor market, wages and health indicators are considerably lower than those of the rest of the population, while those related to poverty are higher (SEGIB, 2018).

In line with the above, it is possible to state that Ibero-America has not been indifferent to this problem within the region nor to its scale, as has been reflected in the successive declarations of its Summits of Heads of State and Government for almost two decades. Recognizing the need to include the disability perspective in a cross-cutting manner in order to ensure social inclusion and protection (Panama, 2013), and the mandate SEGIB and OISS were set to prepare an initiative or program on the rights of people with disabilities, based on accumulated experience (Action Program, section A.3, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 2016),[1] should be highlighted among the main milestones of this process, and as the origin of the program to which this Box refers (SEGIB, 2016).

In late 2017 and early 2018, efforts were focused on the design of the mandated program together with the national disability authorities of the promoting countries, supported by leading experts in public policy, academia and international organizations, as well as by the Spanish National Organization of the Blind (ONCE by its Spanish acronym), which contributed with its specialized technical advice.

The Ibero-American Program on the Rights of People with Disabilities was finally approved in the 16th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in La Antigua (Guatemala) in November 2018, starting its activities in 2019. Currently, Andorra, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay are its member countries, while Paraguay joined as observer in February 2021. These countries work together to contribute to the economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities, promoting policies that ensure the full enjoyment and exercise of their rights, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda.

Through technical assistance among its member countries, training, exchange of experiences and resources, and the identification of best practices, among other instruments, the Program focuses on six strategic objectives:

1. [Data and statistics] Consolidate a system to collect and manage data on people with disabilities. This is not only aligned with the CRPD, but is essential for the design of public policies on disability, as well as to monitor progress on the SDGs.
2. [Equality and non-discrimination] Guarantee access to justice and the right to equal recognition before the law for all people with disabilities.
3. [Education] Guarantee access, permanence and success in an inclusive general education system, at all levels, which is respectful of the cultural identity of the deaf community.
4. [Employment and social protection] Guarantee the full enjoyment of labor and trade union rights of people with disabilities in the public and private sectors.
5. [Empowerment] Strengthen organizations of people with disabilities.
6. [Health] Guarantee the right to health for people with disabilities and improve permanent and priority access to promotion, prevention and specialized care services.

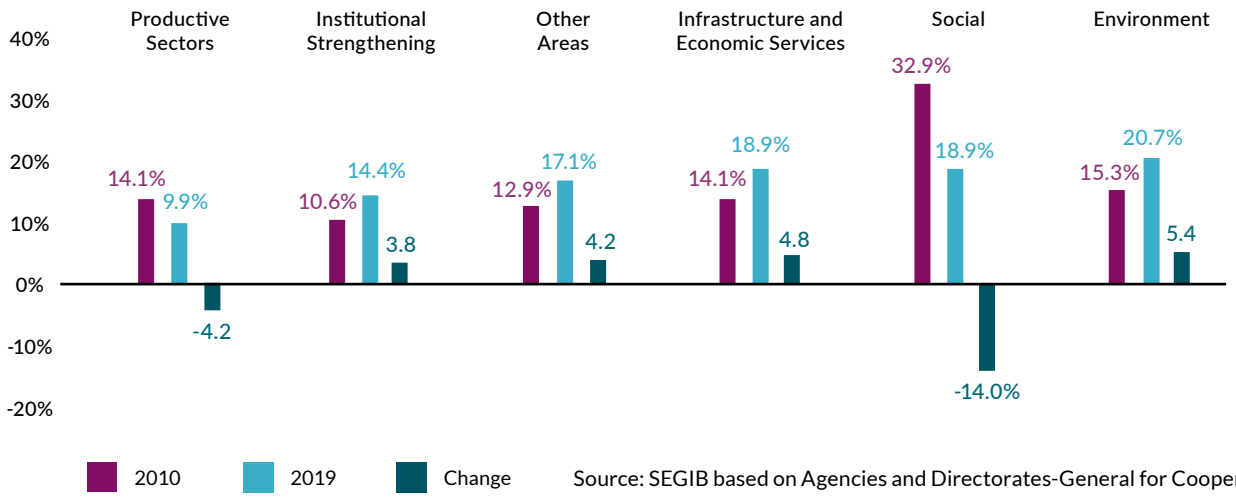
1 Since 2012, OISS has led the Program on Employment of People with Disabilities in Ibero-America, supported by 16 countries of the region. For more information, please refer to: https://oiss.org/discapacidad/programa-para-el-empleo-de-personas-con-discapacidad/

Source: SEGIB based on ECLAC (2013), UN (2007), SEGIB (2018) and OISS website: https://oiss.org/

GRAPH IV.8

Change in areas of action's share in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives. 2010-2019

Share, in percentage; change, in percentage points

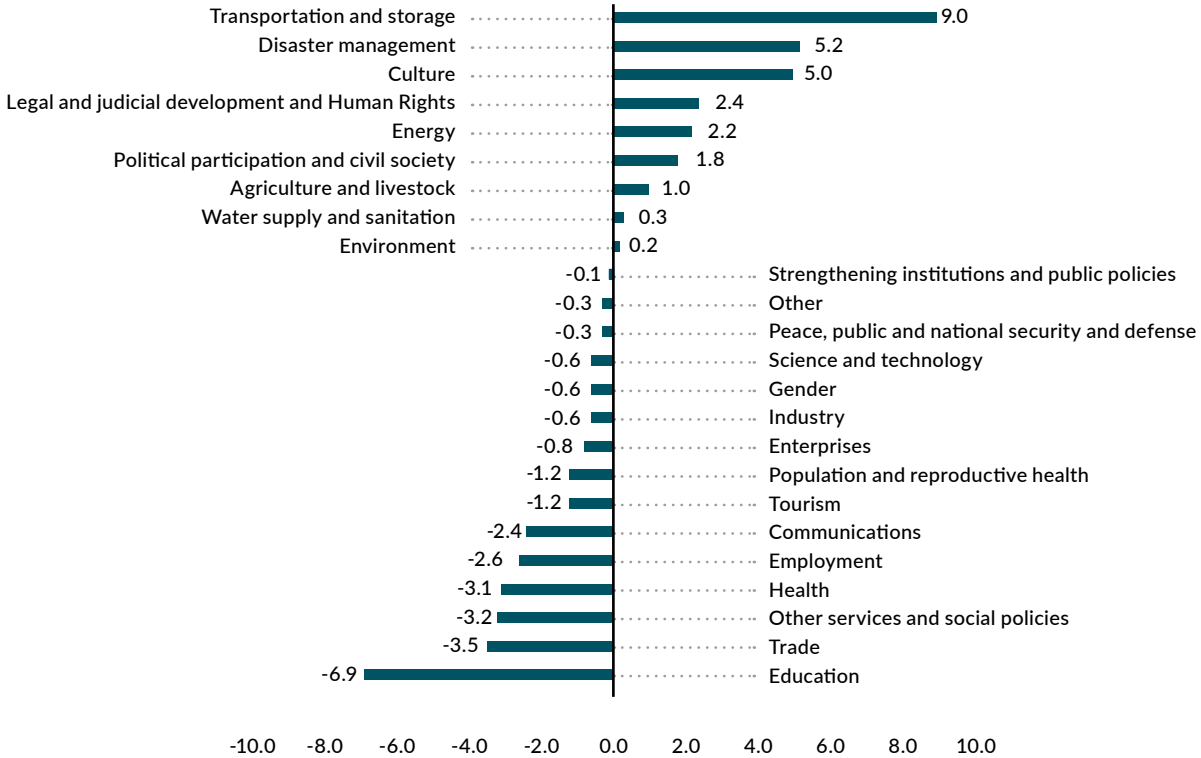


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

GRAPH IV .9

Change in activity sectors' share in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives. 2010-2019

In percentage points



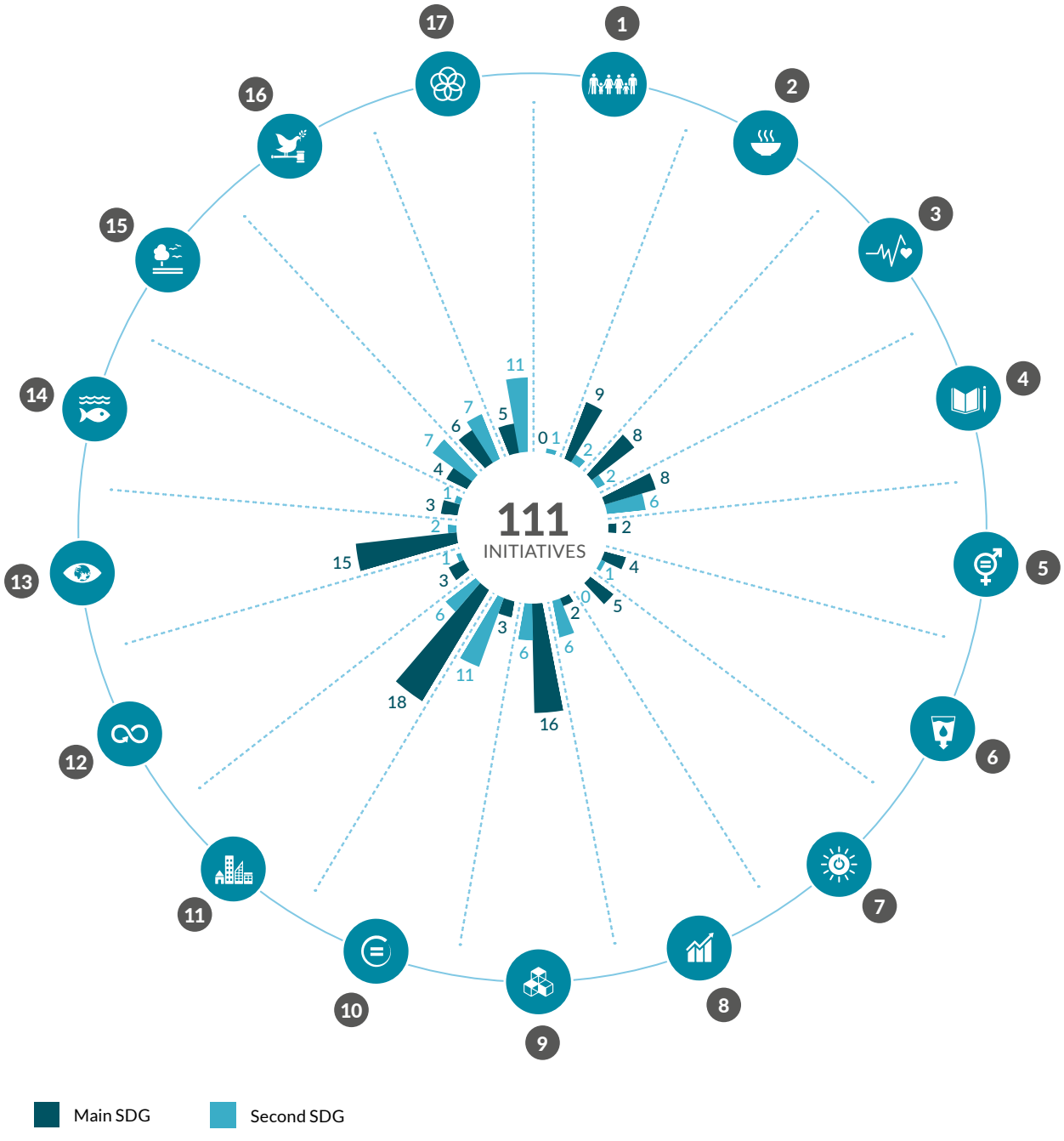
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

This is reflected in the promotion of cooperation to strengthen *Disaster management* (which increases 5.2 percentage points); to solve *Transportation and storage* structural problems (increases up to 9 points); and to promote *Culture* as an instrument for cohesion (another 5 points). At the same time, initiatives dedicated to *Education* lose relative importance (almost 7 percentage points). However, as in the case of the Social sector as a whole, *Education* continues to be one of the region's priorities.

GRAPH IV .10

Distribution of Regional SSC initiatives, 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

BOX IV.5

Culture and its cross-cutting role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

As stated in the Mexico Declaration on Cultural Policies of 1982, which is considered a conceptual milestone in this matter, culture is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon:

> In its widest sense, culture may now be said to be the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs; it gives man the ability to reflect upon himself. It is culture that makes us specifically human, rational beings, endowed with a critical judgement and a sense of moral commitment. It is through culture that we discern values and make choices. It is through culture that man expresses himself, becomes aware of himself, recognizes his incompleteness, questions his own achievements, seeks untiringly for new meanings and creates works through which he transcends his limitations. (Mundiacult, 1982, p. 1).

Accordingly, culture is recognized as an instrument for individual and social transformation and, therefore, as a cross-cutting mechanism to address development problems. Indeed, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2020) aims at:

> Incorporating culture into all development policies, be they related to education, science, communication, health, environment or cultural tourism and, on the other hand, (at) supporting the development of the cultural sector through creative industries. By contributing in this way to poverty alleviation, culture offers important benefits in terms of social cohesion.

This broad vision of culture and development is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although there is no specific SDG dedicated to culture, the 2030 Agenda does include a cross-cutting recognition of its role as an element to enhance social, economic and environmental policies and, thus, as a vehicle towards a sustainable development that leaves no one behind. In this sense, the declaration's introduction already mentions the respect for cultural diversity, and references to culture in the framework of several SDGs can also be identified.

The most remarkable mention appears in SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), which refers to cultural heritage (target 11.4). The association between

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The analysis of strengthened capacities throughout 2019 must be complemented with another approach which sheds light on how Regional SSC could have contributed to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Graph IV.10, plotted for this purpose, distributes the 111 Regional SSC initiatives that were under execution in Ibero-America in 2019 according to the main and second SDG with which they are potentially aligned. All the initiatives are associated with one main SDG, while a second SDG was identified in 63% of the cases.

As the graph shows, almost 45% of the 111 Regional SSC initiatives that were executed in Ibero-America during 2019, mainly tackle the achievement of SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities (on which 16.2% of programs and projects focused), SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and SDG 13 Climate action (around 14% in each case). Meanwhile, 22.5% could have contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 3 Good health and well-being, and SDG 4 Quality education. The remaining third would be aligned with up to 10 different Sustainable Development

culture and cities, conceived as physical and symbolic spaces, is pointed out, both of them being essential for the preservation of tangible and intangible assets threatened by climate change, social conflicts and/or economic inequalities. UNESCO had already made significant progress in 2013 with respect to this pair of concepts, at the Congress *Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies*:

> […] reaffirm the potential of culture as a driver for sustainable development, through the specific contributions that it can make – as knowledge capital and a sector of activity – to inclusive social, cultural and economic development, harmony, environmental sustainability, peace and security. (UNESCO, 2013, p.6)

This was also the case at the 2016 Habitat III Conference, where the United Nations adopted the New Urban Agenda as the roadmap to guide sustainable urban development and transform the world's cities in the next 20 years (UNESCO, 2020).

In addition, SDG 4 (Quality education), specifically proposes, in target 4.7, that by 2030, all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, through the promotion of a culture of peace and the appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to development, among others.

On the other hand, Hosagrahar (2017, p. 12) mentions that "cultural tourism accounts for 40% of the world's tourism income", which positively impacts on labor and economy. From this approach, culture can be related to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), specifically to targets 8.9 and 12.b, which link the promotion of tourism with culture's strengthening. Likewise, the potential contribution to these SDGs can also be identified in the impact culture has on the promotion of creative industries.

Ibero-America is no stranger to this debate and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) is currently working on the Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development, through which culture is being mainstreamed into the targets of the 2030 Agenda, from an Ibero-American perspective. Additionally, and as a result of the partnership with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin-America and the Caribbean (FILAC by its Spanish acronym), work is underway to create an Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages to preserve and protect the heritage of indigenous languages spoken in Latin-America, especially those that may become extinct.

Source: SEGIB based on Hosagrahar (2017), MONDIACULT (1982), UN (2015), UNESCO (2013) (2020) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

Goals, SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions, being the most significant. In addition, it is possible to state that SDG 1 No poverty, was not associated with 2019's programs or projects as a main SDG.

These Goals' relative importance has a clear positive correlation with the sectors that were also mainly strengthened. In this sense, Regional SSC initiatives dedicated to *Environment*, *Disaster management* and *Culture* stood out. It should be noted that cooperation related to *Culture* is usually associated with SDG 11 (the most prominent) as it includes a specific target on cultural heritage. However, and as a result of its potential as an instrument for development, the approach to this issue in the 2030 Agenda is very cross-cutting. This cross-cutting nature (further detailed in Box IV.5) explains why cooperation in the *Culture* sector may be contributing to the achievement of other second SDGs, such as SDG 10 Reduced inequalities, SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, and SDG 4 Quality education, all of which stand out in Graph IV.10.

Nevertheless, cooperation related to Culture only explains one part of the importance SDG 10 has as a second SDG (11 initiatives). Another significant part is determined by Regional SSC which mainly contributed to advance SDG 3 Good health and well-being, and SDG 4 Quality education, both key to guaranteeing access to basic rights, as well as to building a fairer society.

Finally, SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals, also has a strong predominance when focusing on initiatives' alignment with a second SDG. Likewise, this SDG has significant cross-cutting features and it stands out in initiatives which are mainly aligned with different SDGs, among which SDG 5 Gender equality, and SDG 13 Climate action, are worthy of mention. In these cases, the link with SDG 17 is established, for example, through the design of information and statistical systems applied to their respective specialized matters. As a result, the generation and better management of knowledge is promoted, and multiple SSC stakeholders are encouraged to coordinate their responses to development problems more effectively.

// One half of 2019's cooperation is explained by the participation of non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries //

IV.3
Ibero-American Interregional South-South Cooperation

As Graph IV.1 showed, throughout 2019, South-South Cooperation between Ibero-America and other developing regions was executed through almost 290 initiatives, predominantly implemented under the Bilateral modality. This section analyzes this SSC in order to identify the roles of developing countries throughout the world, as well as the sub-regions in which they are situated. In addition, it sheds light on an essential aspect: the potential contribution these exchanges have made to solve global and cross-border problems, while promoting more sustainable development.

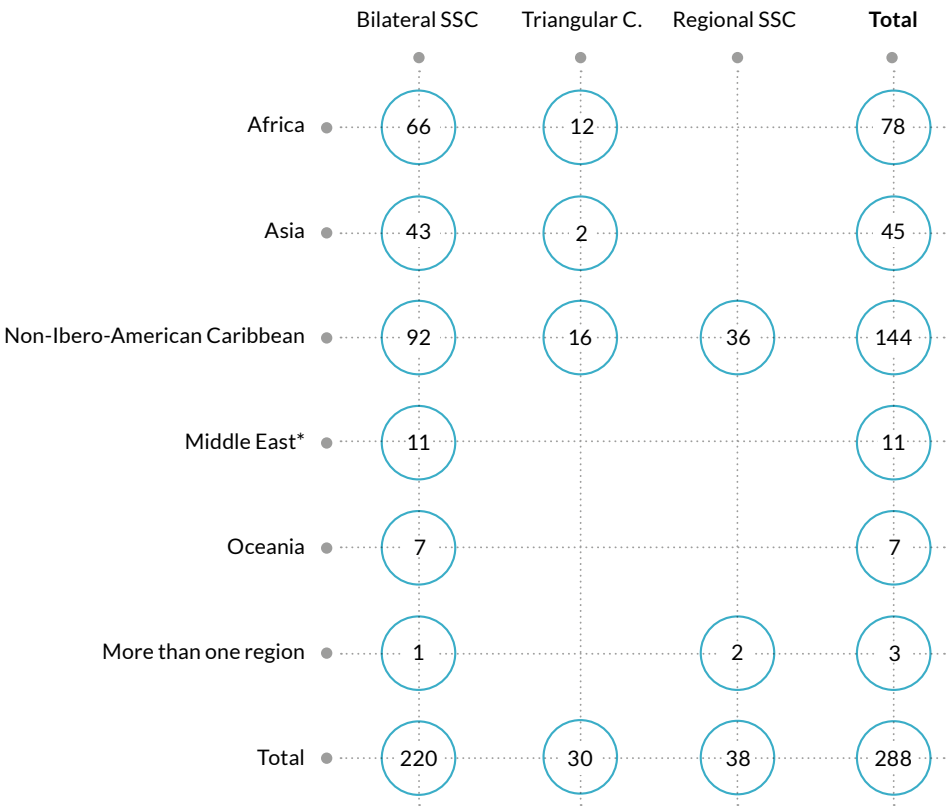
IV.3.1. A first approach

Graph IV.11 distributes the 288 SSC initiatives in which Ibero-America participated together with other regions' developing countries, based on a double criteria: geographical location and modalities. As the graph portrays, one half of 2019's cooperation is explained by the participation of non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries. African and Asian countries followed, at a certain distance (27.1% and 15.6% of the initiatives, respectively). Meanwhile, more specific exchanges were executed with the Middle East and Oceania, which respective relative shares fluctuated between 2.5% and 4%.

GRAPH IV.11

Ibero-American initiatives with other regions' developing countries, by modality. 2019

In units



Note: (*) Seven countries are included in this region (Iran, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Syria, Qatar and Yemen), in addition to other three which are categorized as European such as Turkey, Moldova and Romania.

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

This distribution is similar to that accumulated between 2006 and 2019. In this period, the number of South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-America participated together with other regions' developing countries was higher than 1,450. Six out of 10 (880) were explained by the significant relative importance of the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, while initiatives in which it participated together with Africa and Asia accounted for 20.9% and 12.6% respectively. The remaining initiatives, together with the possibility of several regions coinciding in the same exchange, accounted for the last 6.4%.

In turn, Graph IV.11 itself confirms the preeminence of the Bilateral SSC modality, under which 3 out of 4 of the 288 initiatives registered in 2019 were executed. Regional and Triangular initiatives accounted, however, for 13.2% and 10.4% respectively. In line with the above, bilateral exchanges also stood out in terms of Ibero-American cooperation with any of the other considered regions. Meanwhile, Triangular cooperation was mainly implemented together with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean (16 actions and projects), Africa (12) and, more specifically, with Asia (2).

The 38 Regional SSC initiatives registered in 2019 deserve a special mention: as anticipated, only 2 of these initiatives were classified as interregional, while most of them (36) meet both inter- and intra-regional criteria. In any of these cases, this is basically a Regional SSC in which Ibero-America and the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, and only occasionally, Africa, participate.

IV.3.2. Countries, organizations and regions

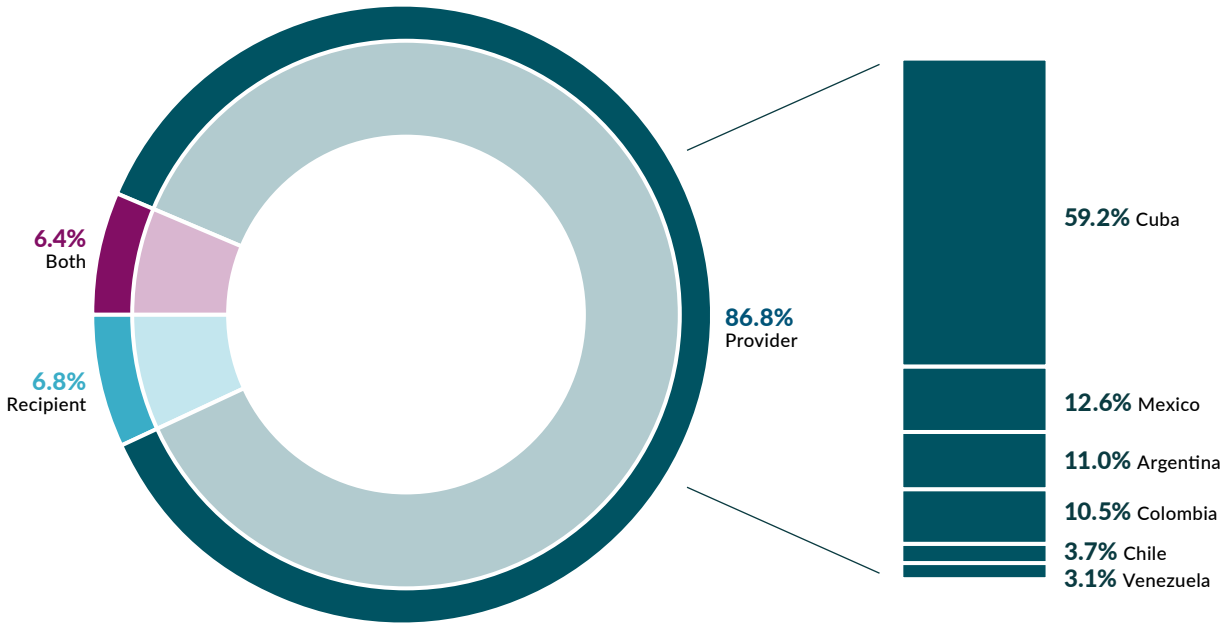
The following analysis disaggregates cooperation by modalities in order to better understand which countries, both in Ibero-America and in other developing regions, most actively participated in inter-Regional SSC in 2019, as well as the organizations that joined them. In this way, it is possible to examine some other aspects in depth, among which the role from which stakeholders tended to participate and/or the type of partner ships that were most frequently established, stand out.

Thus, Graph IV.12 provides two types of information in terms of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged in 2019 between Ibero-America and other regions' developing countries: the first refers to the role under which Ibero-American countries participated in the 220 initiatives that were under execution that year; and, the second, focuses on the most predominant role (provider) and identifies Ibero-American countries which performed it, arranged according to their different relative importance.

GRAPH IV.12

Bilateral SSC initiatives with other regions' developing countries, by role and by Ibero-American countries' participation. 2019

In percentage



Note: The role *Both* includes initiatives in which at least one Ibero-American country performs this role, but also those in which both roles coincide, i.e. initiatives with at least two Ibero-American countries, one of them acting as provider and the other as recipient.

In fact, Graph IV.12 shows how Ibero-American countries acted as providers in 86.8% of the Bilateral SSC initiatives registered in 2019. Consequently, their participation under the other roles was more specific: the recipient role barely explains 6.8% of the exchanges, while the coincidence of both roles was only identified in 6.4% of the total.[6]

6 As explained in Graph IV.12's methodological note, this 6.4% considers two different cases: the first refers to initiatives in which at least one Ibero-American country performs the role Both; the second refers to cases in which "both roles" coincide, as at least two Ibero-American countries participate, one of them acting as provider and the other as recipient.

BOX IV.6

Argentina and Africa: approaching through South-South Cooperation

In 2016 the Argentinean government launched the Argentine Plan for Cooperation with Africa 2016-2019, which aim was to “contribute to strengthen bilateral and regional ties with African countries through cooperation actions in strategic areas such as agribusiness, science, technology and tourism” (Lechini, 2018, p.153). Three stages were planned for this purpose: the first stage, until 2017, included the implementation of 18 projects which are already under execution; 12 new programs would be developed in the framework of the second stage, in 2017 and 2018, with countries with which no agreement had been signed; and, finally, during the third stage, between 2018 and 2019, 12 additional projects would be promoted with countries with which cooperation had previously taken place (Sputnik News, 2016).

As a result of this Plan, Argentina has been able to more actively approach various countries of the African continent and share its experiences in the framework of SSC, strengthening capacities in different areas, with a special emphasis on: agriculture and livestock, fisheries development and science and technology. Thus, and according to the Plan’s first assessment, "the importance of actions carried out between 2016 and 2019, in the framework of 29 cooperation projects, which include bilateral, triangular and regional initiatives, mobilizing 150 highly qualified Argentine and African professionals, are worthy of mention” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, 2019).

In this regard, three of the key institutions that have supported this Plan have been: at the technical level, the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA by its Spanish acronym) and the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI by its Spanish acronym); and, at the financial level, the Argentine Fund for International Cooperation (FO.AR by its Spanish acronym).

As for INTA and INTI, it is important to highlight their contribution to the development of the agro-industrial sector in Argentina, to the improvement of SMEs through innovation and technology transfer, and the subsequent experience they have been able to share with other countries. In this regard, one of the first public-private cooperation partnerships was promoted in the framework of the Argentine Plan for Cooperation with Africa 2016-2019. This initiative involved INTI, the Argentine Chamber of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers (CAFMA by its Spanish acronym), the Research and Technological Development Center (CIDETER by its Spanish acronym) and the group of South African companies GRAIN SA, which carried out "more than 10 missions to South Africa in order to promote sustainable grain production based on the Argentine 'direct sowing' technique" (MRECIC, 2020, p. 77).

As for FO.AR, it is possible to state that this fund is one of the most renowned SSC and Triangular financing instruments in the region. Ever since its origin in the 1990s, it has enabled the Argentinean government to generate partnerships with various countries within and outside Ibero-America through the exchange of national and foreign experts →

In addition, and as the graph portrays, only six Ibero-American countries participated in this cooperation as providers. Cuba is the most remarkable case, which explains 6 out of 10 of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged in 2019 with other regions’ developing countries. Mexico, Argentina and Colombia followed, at a certain distance, each of them with relative shares equal to or slightly above 10%. Chile and Venezuela explained, in each case, less than 3% of the total number of initiatives.

and by hosting seminars and workshops. Regarding the African continent, according to FO.AR's records up to 2018, exchanges with African countries accounted for 18% of all its cooperation (MRECIC, 2018, slide 5).

As a result of all this international effort, in 2016, delegates from the Argentinean government participated in exploratory missions to identify new cooperation opportunities with Kenya and Mozambique. The aim was to "concentrate Argentinean cooperation actions, focusing it on specific topics in order to improve its effectiveness in those areas in which our country has capacities, comparative advantages and recognized trajectory" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, 2020). Additionally, this mission contributed to strengthen bilateral cooperation's institutional framework with the approval of a Technical Cooperation Agreement and of Memoranda of Understanding with Mozambique and the Republic of Congo, among others.

In short, the promotion of cooperation between the South-American country and countries of the African continent has had important results. Indeed, and as provider, between 2018 and 2019, Argentina kept 21 initiatives under execution with African developing countries (14 initiatives corresponded to Bilateral SSC and 7 to the Triangular modality). More than one half (62%) corresponds to the Productive Sectors area. Within this, *Agriculture and livestock* stood out (52%), as well as *Industry*, to a less extent. The most noteworthy initiatives in these sectors include projects related to the improvement of livestock and dairy production, as well as the implementation of sustainable agriculture models shared with Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Tunisia. In addition, four initiatives in the Infrastructure and Economic Services area are also worthy of mention, all executed under Triangular Cooperation, with the participation of Portugal or Japan as second providers. In these cases, exchanges were promoted to strengthen capacities in science, technology and innovation systems and technologies for production management in small and medium-sized enterprises.

On the other hand, initiatives which tackled Institutional Strengthening were also significant, specifically in terms of public policies (international cooperation projects management), of *Political participation and civil society* (training for elections) and of *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* (forensic sciences). Finally, the Social area was also addressed by the contribution of two projects: the first focused on water resources management with Mozambique, through which professionals were trained in water management in arid zones and in the use of wastewater for irrigation; through the second one, Argentina transferred Tunisia the universal child allowance model, which aim is to address and protect the needs of this vulnerable population group.

Source: SEGIB based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina (MRECIC by its Spanish acronym) (2018) (2019) (2020), Lechini, G. (2018), Sputnik News (2016) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

However, it is necessary to be cautious when contrasting 2019's figures with the accumulated data for the 2006-2019 period. In this sense, between 2006 and 2019, Ibero-American countries participated, together with other developing regions, in a total of 1,122 Bilateral SSC initiatives. Once again, in almost 85% of the cases, Ibero-American countries acted as providers. However, up to 17 different countries participated in this period's cooperation: six of them (the same as in 2019) accounted for 77.2% of the exchanges; ten countries had more specific participations, aggregately explaining only 3.7% of the total number of initiatives; and, the most outstanding difference was that of Brazil, which accounted for a remarkable 19.1% of the final figure, contrasting with its lack of participation in 2019's SSC.

The above can only be explained by a methodological difference, related to the way in which data registration is carried out. In this sense, it is possible to identify two stages and a turning point in 2015: specifically, prior to that date, Ibero-American

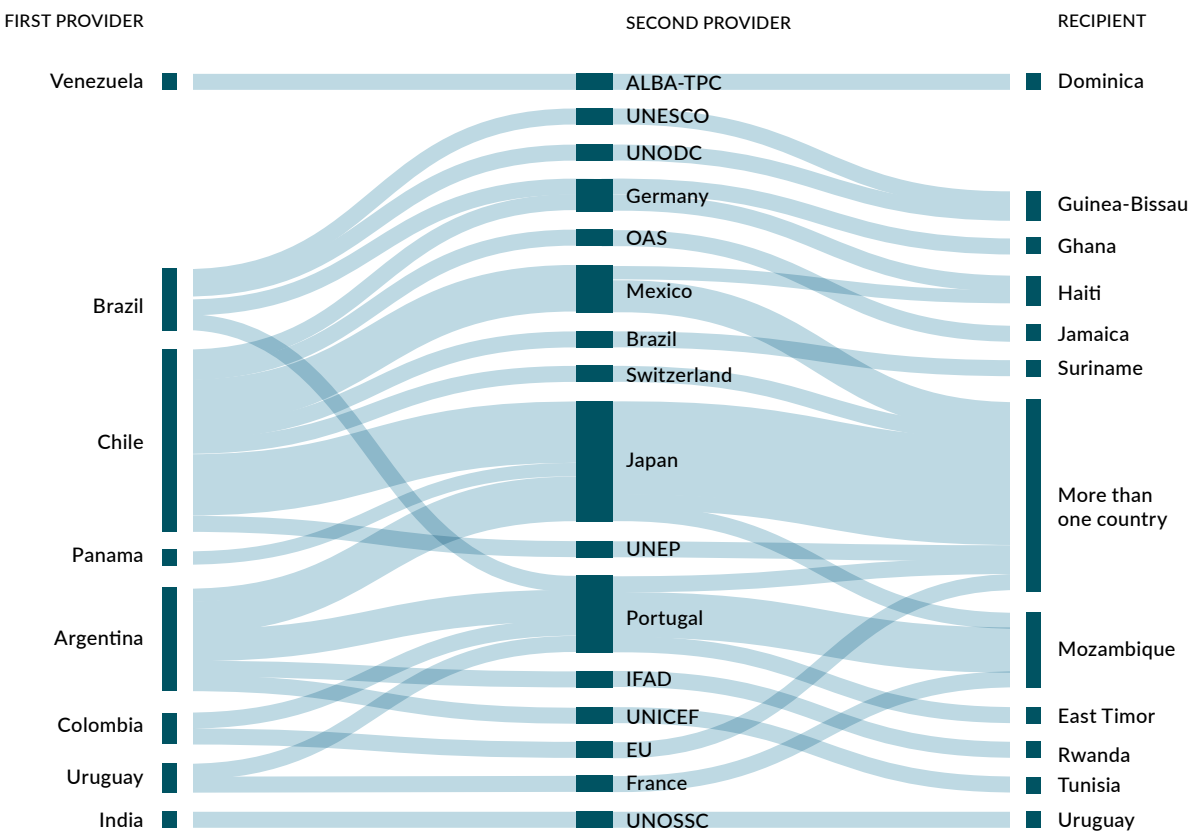
countries only registered their experience with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean;[7] and, only after that date, they began to report their exchanges with all developing regions. However, not all countries registered this kind of information with the same regularity: for example, while Argentina, Mexico and Colombia chose to annually update information regarding this cooperation, Brazil and Cuba decided to do so only in certain years, decision that may be biasing the results.

Finally, in terms of bilateral exchanges and according to 2019's data, Ibero-America has mainly acted as provider, especially with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Box IV.6 illustrates an example of the above and details the special partnership that Argentina has established over the years with Africa. As for overall cooperation, Asia would be the only exception, region with which Ibero-America has established a more dual association. This region acted as provider in 14 of the 15 Bilateral SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated as recipients.

GRAPH IV.13

TC initiatives between Ibero-America and other regions, by stakeholder and role. 2019

In percentage



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

7 This is mainly explained by the focus Ibero-America placed on the Caribbean after the devastating effects of the earthquake that took place in Haiti in 2010. As a result, the relative importance of this region represents 60% of the total number of the exchanges registered between 2006 and 2019. This figure is higher than the 50% that was registered in 2019.

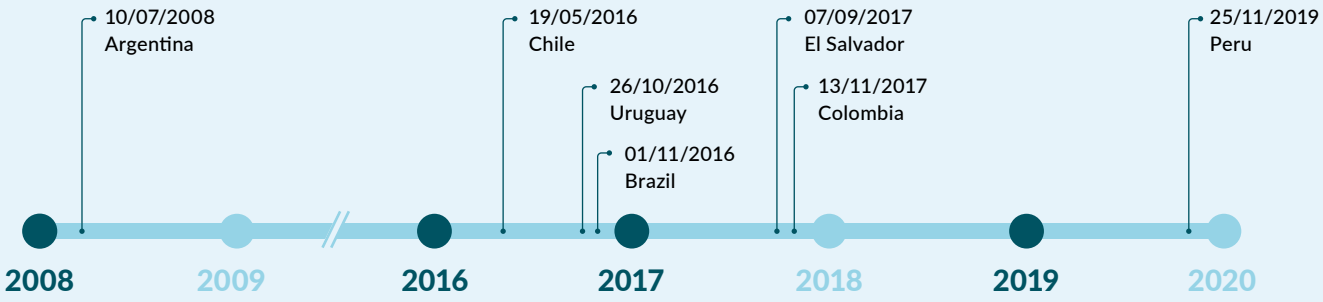
BOX IV.7

Portugal and the development of an institutional framework to promote Ibero-American TC with developing regions

According to *Instituto Camões* (2020), Portuguese cooperation has as its main objective "the eradication of poverty and (to advance the achievement of) sustainable development (...) it should be seen as an investment and not as an expense, and as a means of development rather than providing assistance". Accordingly, Portugal's cooperation is focused on the following areas: education for development; gender; food security and nutrition; rural development; human rights and good governance; migration and refugees; security and development; justice; environment and energy; and health.

For this purpose, Portugal has signed cooperation instruments with different partners in diverse topics, diversifying stakeholders and partnerships.[1] Among these, agreements with other Ibero-American countries to promote Triangular Cooperation as a way to leverage additional resources, share different stakeholders' experiences and added value to favor development, should be highlighted. The following figure summarizes the institutional framework Portugal has developed for this purpose, based on the chronological signing of Memoranda of Understanding on TC with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay (Instituto Camões, 2020).

Cooperation instruments on TC signed by Portugal and different Ibero-American countries



Source: SEGIB based on Instituto Camões (2020)

1 Some examples are: on the one hand, the signing of the Agreement between Portugal and SEGIB, in November 2019, to establish a financing mechanism for the International Development Cooperation Fund, which will be available for both institutions; and, on the other hand, the signing, already in 2020, of a Memorandum of Understanding with the OECD to strengthen cooperation in areas that contribute to improve governance.

On the other hand, Graph IV.13 refers to Triangular Cooperation. In this sense, 30 initiatives are distributed in a flow diagram, according to the countries and organizations which acted as first providers (left flow), second providers (middle flow) and recipients (right flow). As the graph portrays, Chile (40% of the initiatives), Argentina and Brazil stood out as first providers, transferring their capacities. These three countries aggregately explain 75% of the total number of actions and projects. Colombia and Uruguay, together with Panama, Venezuela and India (in Asia) had more specific participations.

This Triangular Cooperation was mainly destined to non-Ibero-American and African developing countries. Specifically, and as has been the case

Numerous TC initiatives have been promoted in this framework, some of them with Asia, but most of them with Africa and, almost always, with countries which are, in turn, part of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP by its Portuguese acronym). In fact, Portugal prioritizes Portuguese-speaking states such as Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Principe and East Timor. In addition, and as part of the efforts made to promote the institutional framework described above, the financial resources that make this cooperation possible have a "special fund supported by voluntary contributions from public and private entities to promote specific actions (...)" (*Instituto Camões*, 2020).

The strengthening of this cooperation, as well as the interest to connect Ibero-America with other regions and broaden collaboration ties for the benefit of developing countries, has led to a growing number of experiences being registered in SIDICSS: thus, in the 2018-2019 period, Portugal, together with other Ibero-American countries, acted as provider in 5 triangular initiatives with Asia and Africa.

Specifically, the following Triangular Cooperation actions and projects are worthy of mention:

a) First, and to contribute to capacity building in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, it is possible to identify: on the one hand, the TC project with Brazil as first provider and Mozambique as recipient[2] in sustainable coffee production; and, on the other hand, an action to strengthen the cocoa production chain, with Colombia as first provider and Ghana and São Tomé and Principe as recipients.

b) Other two projects also aimed at supporting Mozambique's development. The first one, in the *Health* sector, was dedicated to the care of oncology patients, with Uruguay as the first provider. This initiative contributed to the detection and treatment of hematology-oncology diseases, through the training of Mozambican professionals and technicians in Flow Cytometry. The second initiative, in the *Science and technology* sector, in which Argentina was the first provider, enabled all countries to join efforts in terms of biotechnology, biosafety, water treatment and reuse, as well as to develop statistics and indicators.

c) Finally, the initiative promoted by Portugal together with Argentina to strengthen the training process of East Timorese journalists should also be highlighted. Through this, different technical areas of journalism were addressed (chronicle, report, interview, social networks or radio), with the possibility to broaden the exchange of experiences to topics such as graphic design for newspapers and online publications, or the development of databases of a journalistic nature.

2 For more information on this initiative, please refer to "Box V.3. Portugal and Brazil join efforts to support coffee's sustainable production in Mozambique" of the *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2019*.

Source: SEGIB based on Instituto Camões (2020) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

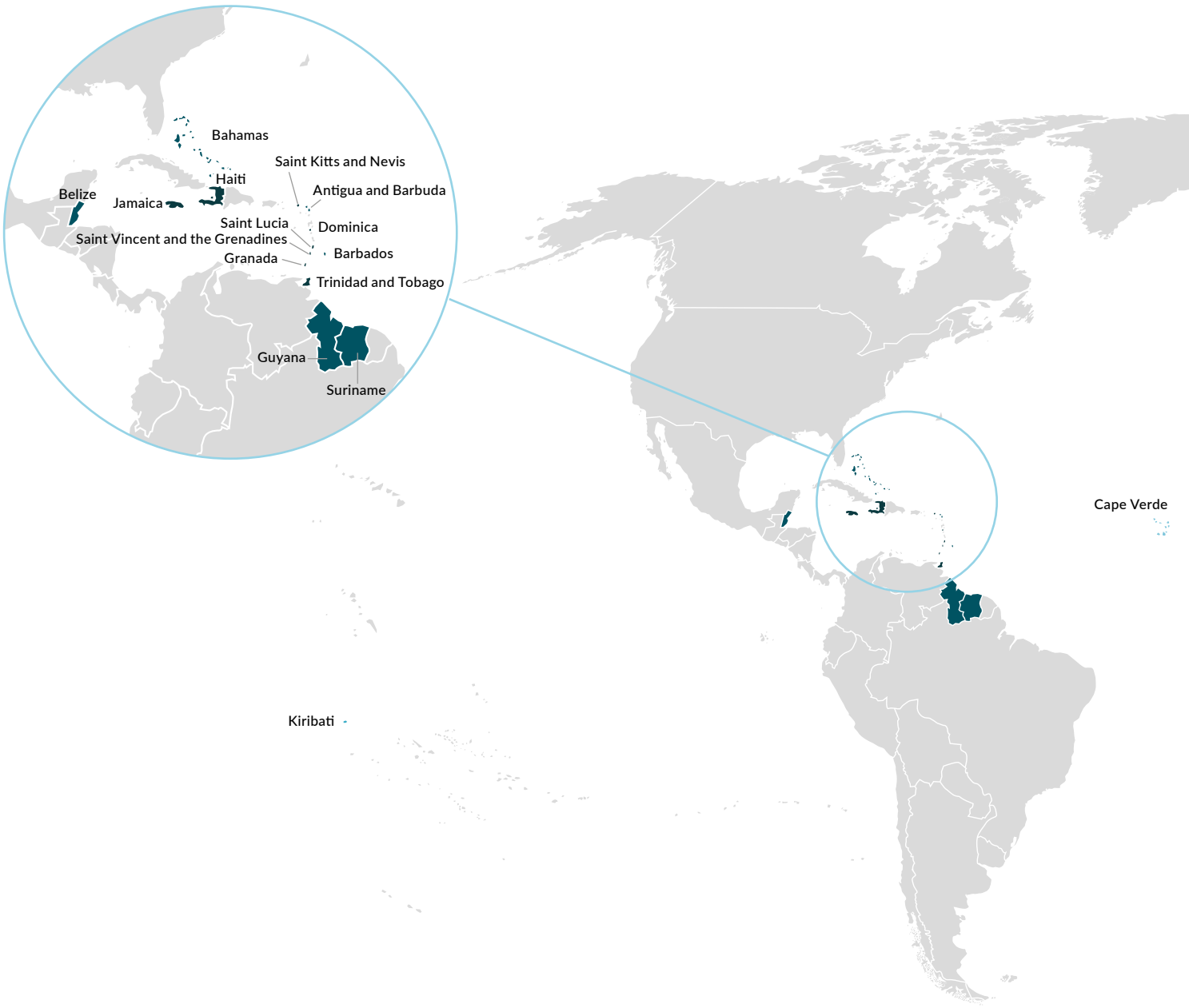
in the past in terms of this modality, the most common situation (in 43% of the cases), is that "more than one" recipient (mainly Caribbean countries) participate in the same initiative. In addition, individually, one third of the cooperation was explained by Mozambique (which acted as recipient in up to 5 initiatives), as well as by four other African developing countries (Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda and Tunisia). As for other recipient countries, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname, in the Caribbean, complete the analysis, together with East Timor, in Asia, and Uruguay, in Ibero-America.

Up to 16 different stakeholders, including countries and multilateral organizations in basically identical proportions, were involved in partnerships between first providers and recipients. In this sense, more than one half of the initiatives are explained by

GRAPH IV.14

Participation of other regions' developing countries in Ibero-American inter-regional SSC. 2019

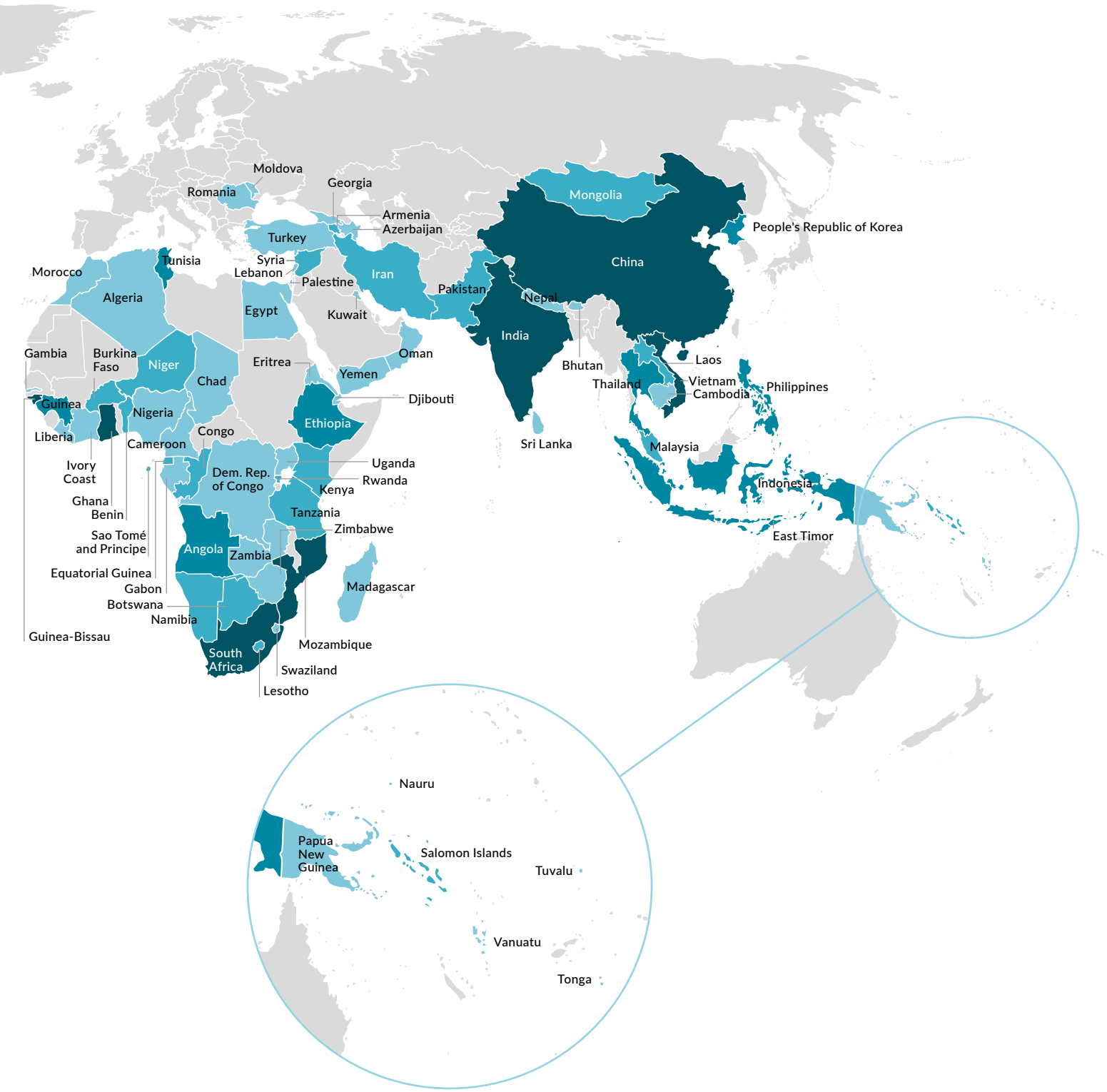
In units



Legend: countries according to the number of initiatives in which they participated in 2019, regardless of the modality and the role.

16 or more | 5-15 | 3-4 | 2 | 1 | No projects registered

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


Moldova
Romania
Georgia
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Turkey
Syria
Lebanon
Palestine
Iran
Pakistan
Mongolia
People's Republic of Korea
China
Nepal
India
Bhutan
Laos
Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Malaysia
Indonesia
East Timor
Morocco
Tunisia
Algeria
Egypt
Kuwait
Oman
Yemen
Djibouti
Eritrea
Gambia
Burkina Faso
Niger
Chad
Guinea
Nigeria
Liberia
Cameroon
Congo
Ethiopia
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Benin
Sao Tomé and Principe
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Botswana
Namibia
Guinea-Bissau
Dem. Rep. of Congo
Uganda
Rwanda
Kenya
Tanzania
Zimbabwe
Angola
Zambia
Madagascar
Mozambique
South Africa
Swaziland
Lesotho
Nauru
Papua New Guinea
Salomon Islands
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Tonga

Japan (26.5% of 2019's TC with other regions), and by Portugal and Mexico (which account for another 26.7%). In fact, Portugal has been building an institutional framework based on agreements with other partners, which has enabled it to gain ground in terms of Triangular Cooperation with other regions, especially with the Portuguese-speaking community, as Box IV. 7 details. Other countries such as Germany, France and Switzerland, in Europe, and Brazil, also participated in these exchanges.

As for the multilateral organizations which supported Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation with other developing regions throughout 2019, it is possible to identify two groups: on the one hand, institutions that are part of the United Nations System, some of these are specialized agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime —UNODC— the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation —UNOSSC— and IFAD); and, on the other hand, organizations which are part of regional integration platforms and political coordination mechanisms such as EU, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP by its Spanish acronym) and OAS.

Finally, the distribution shown in Graph IV.14 is explained by the above data, together with the information that was already detailed with reference to 2019's Regional SSC that, as was mentioned, focused on the exchange of experiences between Ibero-American and non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries. Indeed, the resulting map portrays all developing countries around the world according to their participation in the 288 SSC initiatives promoted in 2019 together with Ibero-America, regardless of the modality and role. Their different relative importance is determined by the color with which each of them is associated, which increases its intensity as the number of initiatives in which they participate also increases, as referred in the legend.

All regions are represented, the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Africa and Asia standing out

As the map shows, in 2019, 89 non-Ibero-American developing countries participated in this SSC. Consistent with what has been previously pointed out, all regions are represented, the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Africa and Asia standing out. Indeed, up to eleven Caribbean nations appear in the highest possible value range, the number of initiatives in which they participated ranging from 16 in Grenada's case to 33 in Haiti's and 56 in Belize's. The latter was remarkably active in the three modalities, especially in Regional SSC (27 initiatives), its high participation being explained by it its membership in SICA and its location in the Meso-American sub-region.

Finally, other ten countries, which participated in between 5 and 15 SSC initiatives, should also be highlighted. Within this group, it is possible to identify non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries, once again. However, other African and Asian countries also had a strong participation, mainly as providers. Specifically, on the one hand, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and South Africa, together with Mozambique (as already mentioned) stood out; and, on the other hand, China, Vietnam and India are also worthy of mention.

IV.3.3. Common problems, shared solutions

During 2019, Ibero-America and other developing regions were committed to exchange SSC experiences and to add efforts to face global and cross-border development problems. In this context, Graph IV.15 was plotted to better understand the priorities that were addressed by this cooperation. The graph distributes the 288 SSC initiatives executed in 2019 according to the area of action and the activity sector in which each of them was classified.

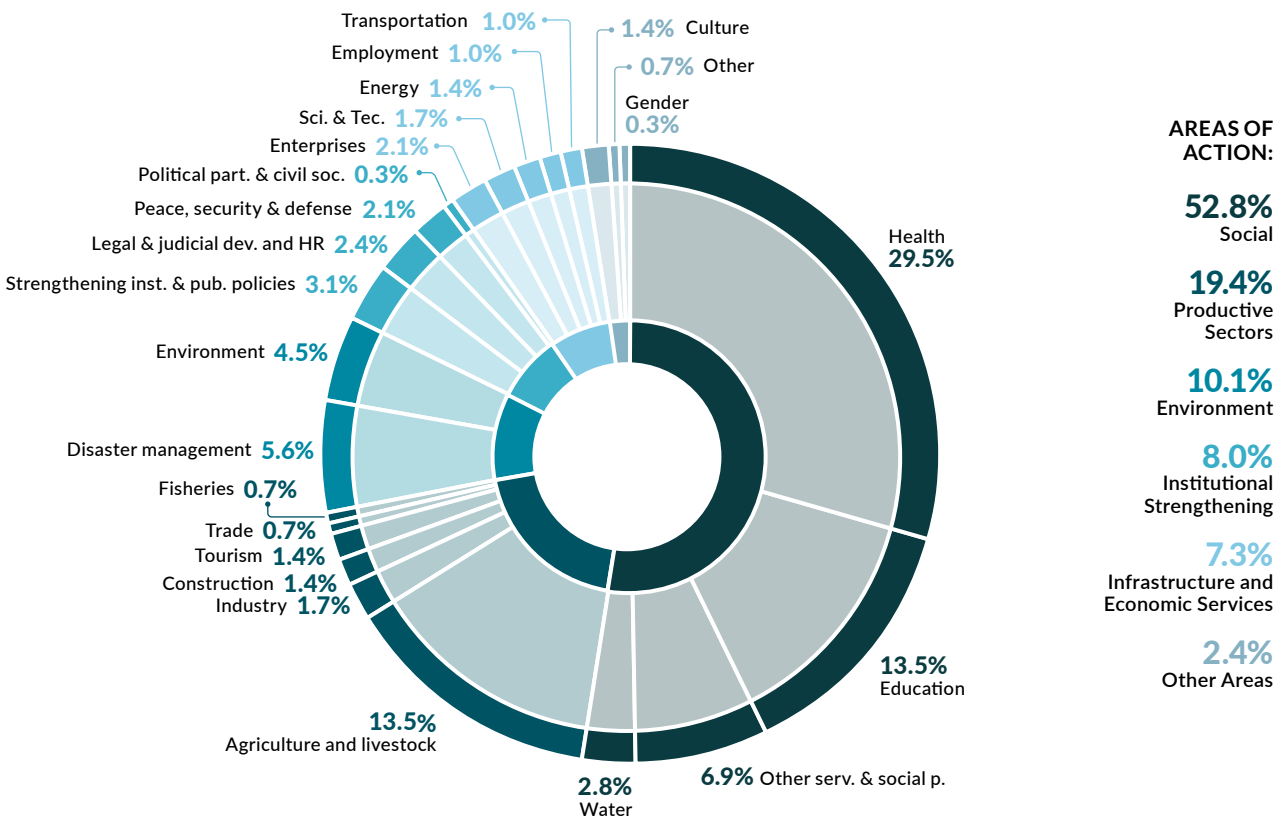
Thus, and as the graph shows, more than one half of 2019's inter-Regional SSC (52.8%) was destined to strengthen the Social area. Meanwhile, one out of five initiatives aimed at supporting the development of Productive Sectors (19.4%). The remaining SSC exchanges were diversified in sectors such as Environment (10.1%), Institutional Strengthening (8.0%), and Infrastructure and Economic Services (7.3%). Specific interventions were registered in Other Areas (2.4%).

A disaggregated analysis shows that three of the four most important sectors in 2019 precisely addressed social problems. In this sense, *Health* stood out (3 out of 10 initiatives) and, at a certain distance, *Education* (13.5%) and *Other services and social policies* (6.9%) followed. In addition, an important part of this distribution is determined by Cuba's specialized profile which, in 2019, provided the highest number of Bilateral SSC initiatives to other regions. In any case, and as Box IV.8 details, Cuba's solidarity, together with efforts made by Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, contributed to strengthen many developing countries' public health systems, improving their possibilities to respond to the COVID-19 global crisis.

GRAPH IV.15

Ibero-American initiatives with other regions' developing countries, by activity sector and area of action (all modalities). 2019

In percentage



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

BOX IV.8

SSC and the strengthening of health services: key for the global fight against COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has put all countries' health systems to the test. The overload of health services, even in those nations that have a higher level of development, has once again highlighted the importance and need to implement more robust public health policies, to provide and invest more technological and financial resources and, naturally, to have human resources which are capable of facing these challenges under very adverse circumstances. The challenge is even greater for developing countries, which respective systems already have to overcome structural deficits.

In this context, it is important to highlight South-South Cooperation's dynamism in the *Health* sector between Ibero-America and other regions' developing countries, through capacity strengthening which proved to be certainly valuable to face the health emergency challenge. Indeed, in 2019, *Health* was the sector on which the highest number of exchanges were concentrated (almost 30% of the total). These 85 initiatives, implemented under different modalities, have facilitated Ibero-America's support and knowledge transfer to various developing countries, especially to the non-Ibero-American Caribbean and Africa.

More specifically:

a) Ten of these initiatives have a really diverse profile, not only in terms of the modality but also regarding the stakeholders which took part in them. However, the following countries deserve a special mention: in Ibero-America, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, together with all Central-American countries; and, Haiti, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, in addition to Mozambique, in the Caribbean and in Africa. All these experiences share a common feature: they all contribute to strengthen health systems and, consequently, they provide countries with extremely useful lessons for the health response to COVID-19. Exchanges explicitly promoted to strengthen public health systems; to improve registries, the access to and use of quality medicines; to focus on health surveillance and laboratory networks; as well as those that establish an Emergency Plan to alleviate another epidemic, such as AIDS-HIV, are especially relevant in this context.

b) However, the most important part of these initiatives (75) are explained by the commitment Cuba has had, for decades, to share its renown experience in *Health* matters with other developing countries. With further detail, this includes:

- The *Comprehensive Health Care Program*, which started in 1998 as a response to the social and humanitarian disaster caused by another emergency: the strike of Hurricanes George and Mitch in Central-America. Since that year, more than 164 countries around the world have benefitted from this program. It was originally designed based on a comprehensive perspective of health, understood as a right and a good that must be provided and guaranteed by the State to its citizens. It involves sending medical

→

Agriculture and livestock was another relevant sector, the third in terms of relative importance, on which 39 SSC initiatives focused, accounting for 13.5% of those registered in 2019. The exchange of experiences in this sense aimed to strengthen the production and market chains of products such as cocoa and rice, as well as those of livestock origin; to move towards sustainable agriculture, including the development of bio-inoculant technologies; to improve animal and plant health management and achieve greater food safety; and to contribute to fight climate change and its worst effects (especially those caused by droughts) by strengthening technical skills and, especially, biosafety.

brigades to recipient countries to train human resources and, in turn, provide services in rural areas or areas affected by different vulnerabilities. According to Jiménez (2009):

> The Program is organized to respond to necessities determined by the recipient country, providing not only medical attention to its population, but also improving services' organization and preparing the medical and paramedical workforce which will continue the work initiated by the Cuban medical brigades, ensuring assistance's sustainability. (p.7)

- Undergraduate scholarships, which have been key to support the training of thousands of students from different parts of the world in various health areas, particularly at the *Latin-American School of Medicine* (ELAM by its Spanish acronym), university promoted by Cuba which campus was established in the country in the late 1990s.[1] Thus, and according to 2019 Health Statistical Yearbook, Cuba trained 7,726 foreign students in the 2019-2020 academic year in different health careers, 7,147 of them through the Medicine Program and 579 in specialized bachelor's degrees in different fields from nutrition to hygiene and epidemiology (p.188).
- *Operación Milagro*, which Cuba is promoting since 2005, to provide health care to vulnerable populations with eye diseases that could not be treated through national health systems. It also supports the training of health professionals in ophthalmology, once again, to ensure that knowledge is appropriated and replicated. By the end of 2019, more than 3,144,000 patients from more than 30 nations had benefited from this Program (Diaz, 2020).

Finally, and in a context as exceptional as the one provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential to mention that, during 2020, Cuba's renown experience (not only in terms of Health but also regarding emergency response) explains why this country did not hesitate to send its health professionals to different countries in Latin-America and the Caribbean (Venezuela, Nicaragua, Grenada, Suriname, Jamaica, Haiti, Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis), but also to others such as Andorra and Italy (*Somos Iberoamérica*, 2020). Cuba's solidarity transcends traditional cooperation modalities and demonstrates the importance of joining efforts, for the benefit of all, to overcome the challenge the world is currently facing.

It should be highlighted that ELAM not only trains students in health-related careers, but also in areas related to sports, pedagogy and culture.

Source: SEGIB based on Díaz (2020), Jiménez (2009), Ministry of Public Health of Cuba (2020), *Somos Iberoamérica* (2020) and Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

1 It should be highlighted that ELAM not only trains students in health-related careers, but also in areas related to sports, pedagogy and culture.

Thirty initiatives which, in similar proportions, were dedicated to *Disaster management* and *Environment*, deserve a special mention. Most of them are focused, once again, on the fight against climate change and on risk management in the face of its most harmful effects, as well as on all matters related to preserving biodiversity. In addition, most of the problems addressed within this area are of a cross-border nature. Consequently, many of these initiatives were executed under Regional SSC and involved developing countries in Latin-America and the Caribbean.

Finally, joint efforts to find shared solutions to common problems contribute, in turn, to advance Sustainable Development, in line with the commitments made in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic has put its achievement at risk, it is even more crucial to better understand the progress that had been made prior to this health, economic and social crisis the world is facing. Graph IV.16 was prepared for this purpose. The graph distributes the 288 inter-Regional SSC initiatives that were executed in 2019 according to their potential alignment with a main (in 100% of the cases) and, when corresponding, with a second SDG (in around 80% of the exchanges).

As the Graph shows, the alignment with the SDGs is consistent with the profile of strengthened capacities, especially in the Social and Productive Sectors areas and, to a less extent, in the Environment area. In fact, 86 initiatives, corresponding to more than one third of the total, could potentially contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 3 Good health and well-being. Contributions to SDG 4 Quality education and SDG 2 Zero hunger followed, at a certain distance, accounting for almost another 30% of the initiatives. The remaining exchanges were remarkably diversified; however, the aggregate contribution of 23.3% to four SDGs, stands out: SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

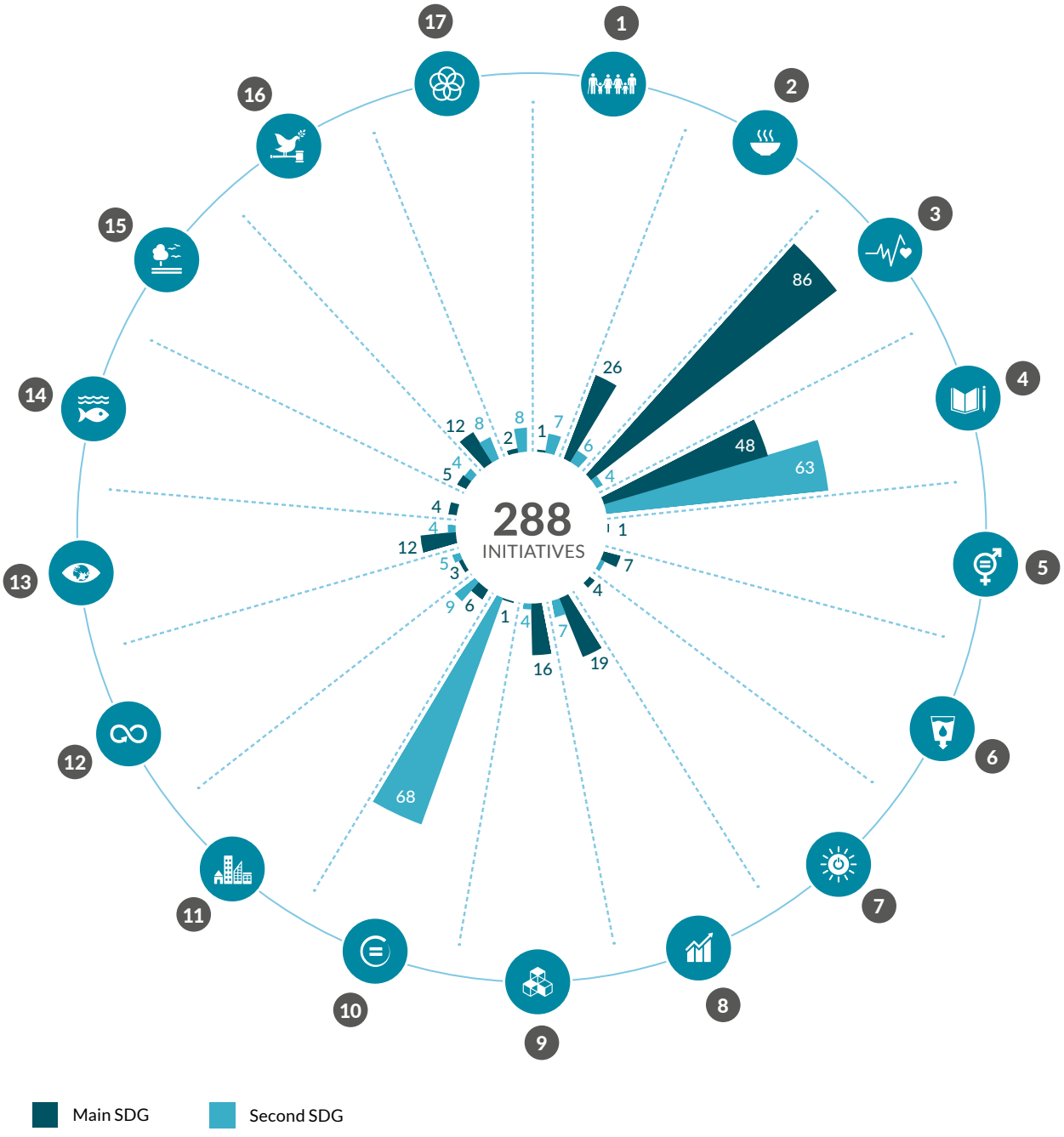
On the other hand, the Development Goals that were most frequently identified as second SDGs, are related to initiatives which mainly promoted more egalitarian societies, and provided the population with greater technical and professional skills, especially in the health area, through cooperation and training. Thus, it is possible to understand why more than half of 2019's initiatives were associated with these second SDGs: SDG 10 Reduced inequalities and SDG 4 Quality education.

More than one third of the total of the initiatives, could potentially contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing

GRAPH IV.16

Ibero-American initiatives with other regions' developing countries, by main and second SDG (all modalities). 2019

In units



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

COUNTRY FACTSHEETS

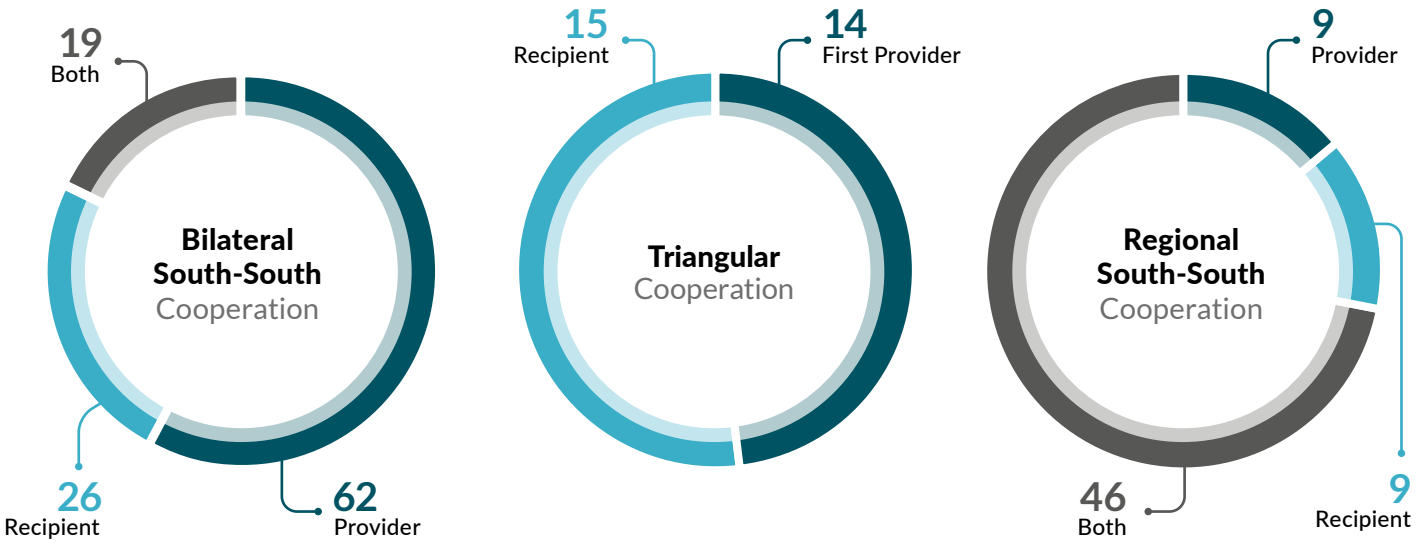
REPORT ON SOUTH-SOUTH
AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION
IN IBERO-AMERICA 2020

southsouth

ARGENTINA 200

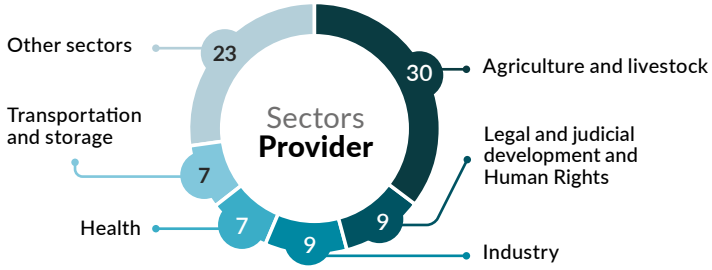
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

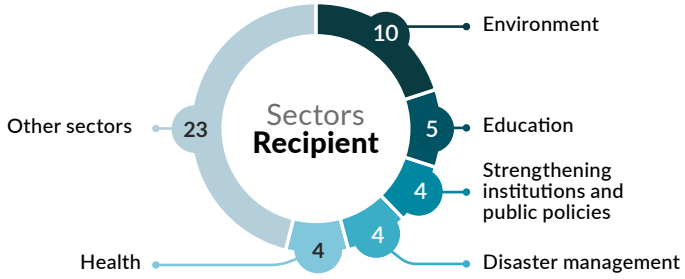
In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units





ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 2, 11 and 9

MAIN PARTNERS

In 2019, Argentina had 200 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Initiatives were mainly implemented in the framework of Bilateral SSC (53.5%), while 32% corresponded to Regional SSC and, the remaining 14.5%, to Triangular Cooperation. Argentina predominantly participated as provider in the framework of bilateral initiatives, while combining the first provider (through capacity transfer) and recipient roles, in Triangular Cooperation.

Through these exchanges, Argentina could share its experience in the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Industry*, *Health*, and *Transportation and storage* sectors. Exchanging with other countries contributed, in turn, to strengthen Argentinean capacities in *Environment*, *Education*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Disaster management* and *Health*, among other sectors.

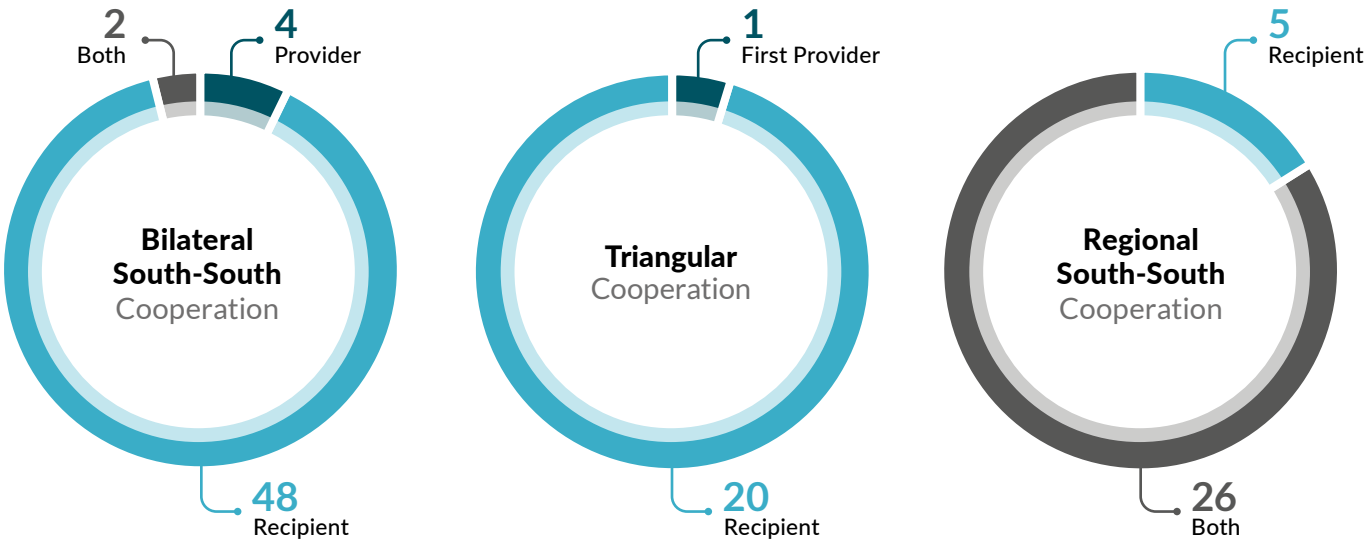
Throughout 2019, Argentina exchanged with other regional and extra-regional partners, among which Chile, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay stand out. This country's participation in that year's SS and Triangular Cooperation, mainly contributed to the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure).

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

BOLIVIA 106

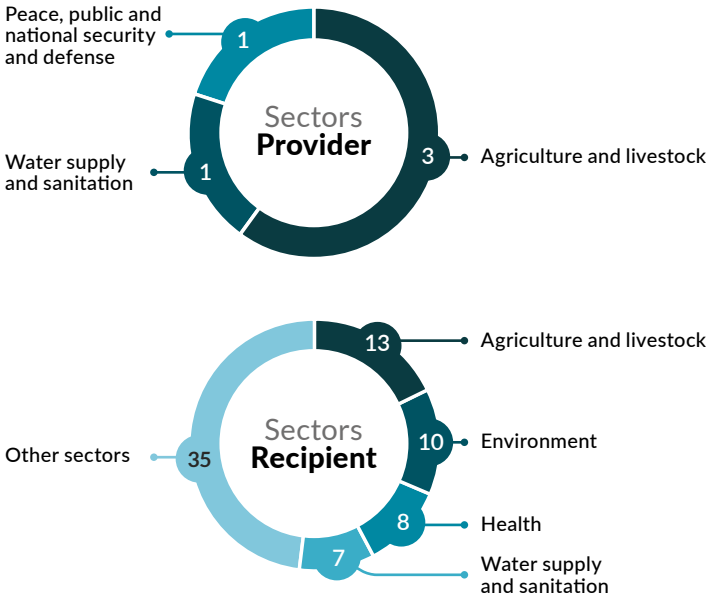
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 2, 3, 6 and 11

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Bolivia had 106 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Slightly more than one half of these initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC (51%), 29% was developed through Regional SSC and the remaining 20% corresponded to Triangular Cooperation. Its main partners were Peru, Brazil and Colombia.

Bolivia predominantly acted as recipient in the framework of Bilateral and Triangular modalities, its interventions as provider being more specific. Through these exchanges, this country strengthened its capacities and knowledge in the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment*, *Health*, and *Water supply and sanitation* sectors, among others.

As provider, Bolivia transferred its experience to other Ibero-American partners in matters related to *Agriculture and livestock*, *Water supply and sanitation* and *Peace, public and national security and defense*.

Fulfilling its commitment to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Bolivia's more than 100 initiatives contributed to advance the implementation of SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

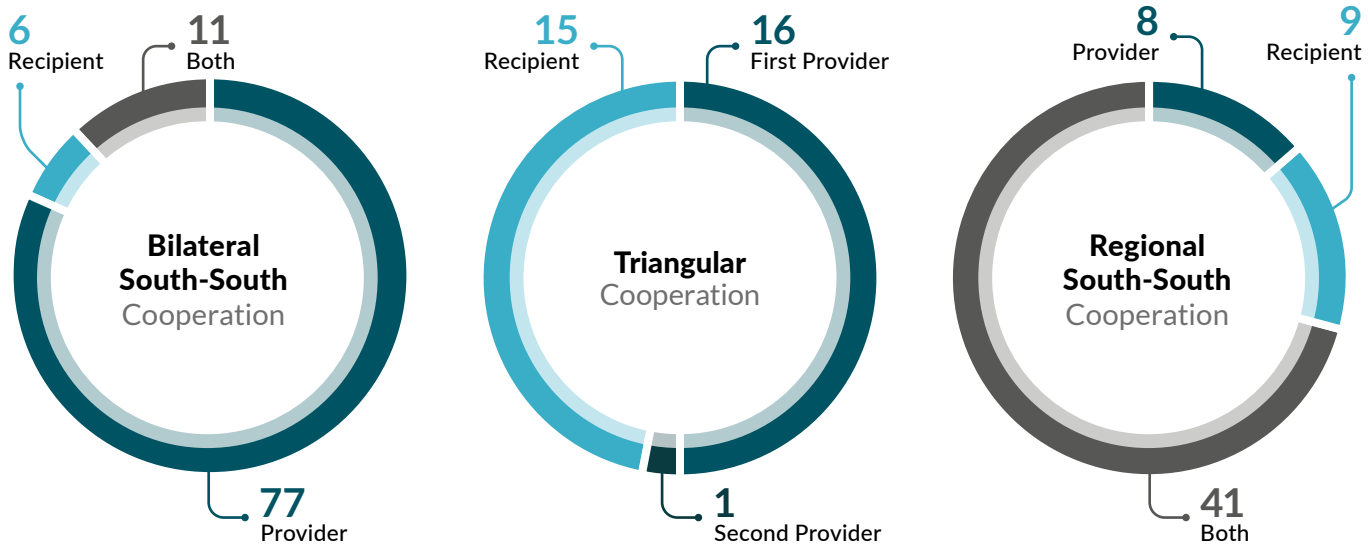
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

BRAZIL

184

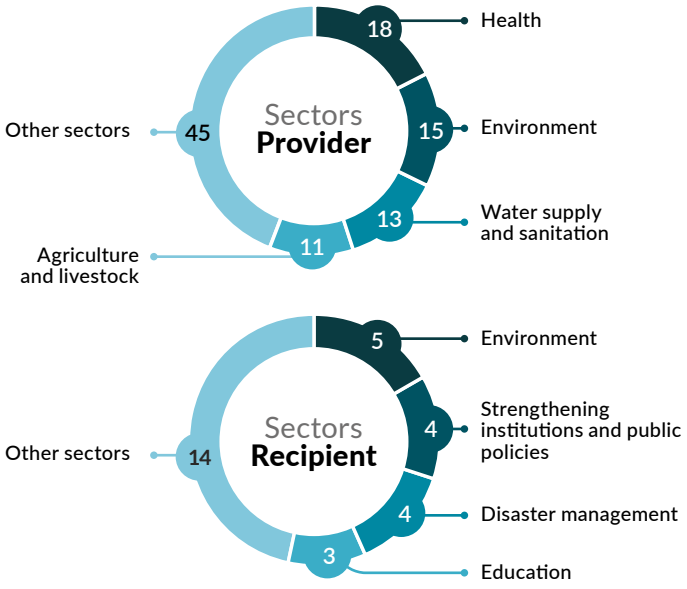
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 3, 11 and 6

MAIN PARTNERS

During 2019, Brazil participated in 184 cooperation actions, projects and programs. One half of these initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC (51%), almost one third (32%) through Regional Cooperation and the remaining 17% was executed in the framework of Triangular Cooperation. Although Brazil participated in this cooperation by combining the exercise of several roles, initiatives in which this country transferred its capacities and acted as provider, prevailed.

Through the combination of these modalities and roles, SS and Triangular Cooperation in which Brazil participated in 2019 allowed this country to share its experience in sectors such as *Health*, *Environment*, *Water supply and sanitation* and *Agriculture and livestock*, among others. It could also strengthen its own capacities through different initiatives on various topics mainly related to *Environment*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Disaster management* and *Education*.

During 2019, Brazil's main partners were Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Peru. This country's cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation).

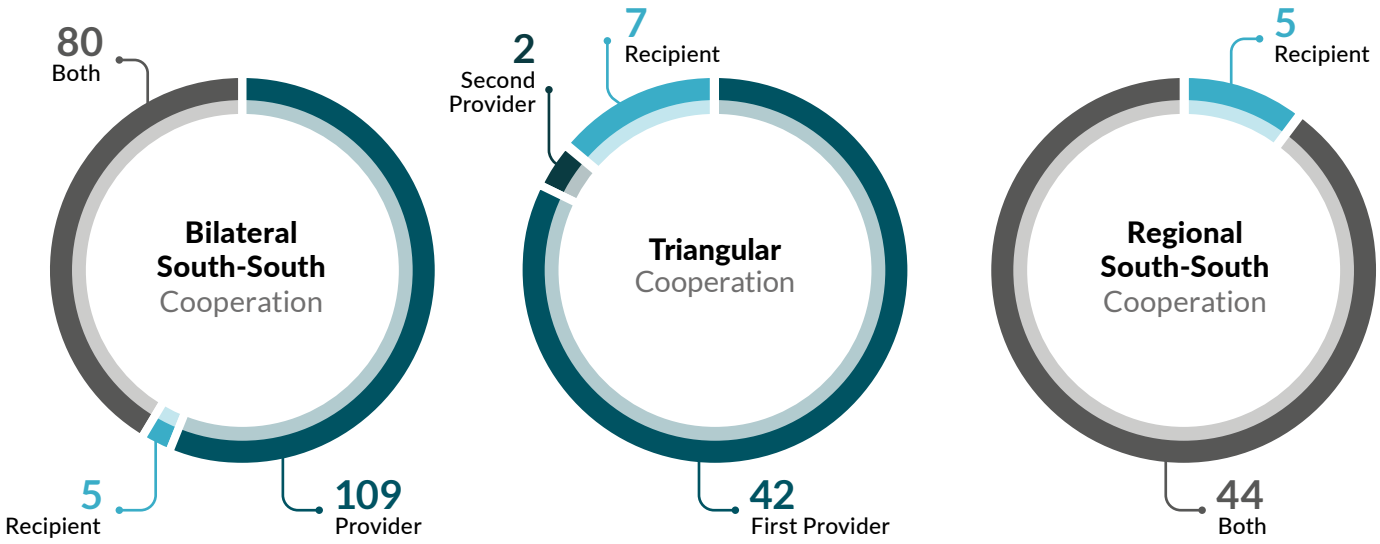
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

CHILE

294

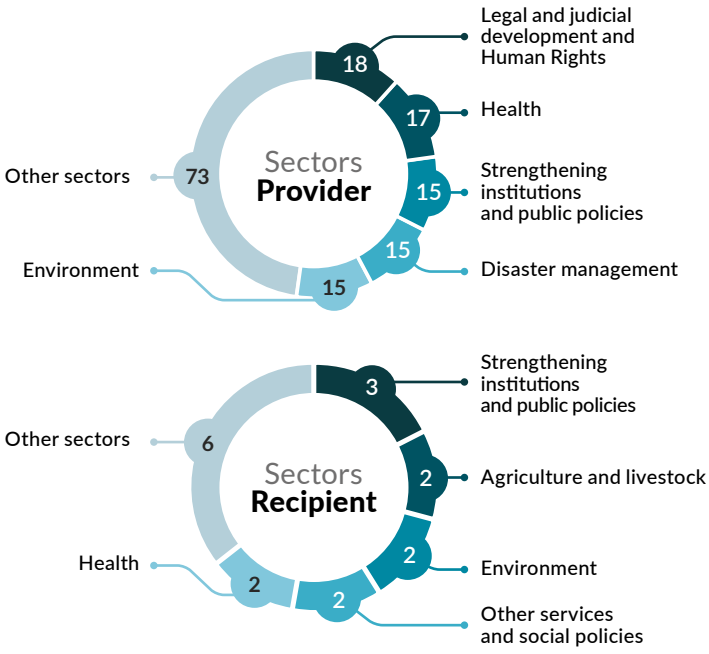
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 16 and 3

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Chile had 294 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Nearly 2 out of 3 of these almost 300 initiatives were implemented in the Bilateral framework, while the remaining third was distributed in equal proportions between Regional and Triangular modalities (17% of the total in each case).

Chile participated in this cooperation predominantly as provider but it also combined the exercise of the two roles. In this sense, its exercise of the role *"both"* explains 40% of its interventions under the bilateral modality and around 90% of its regional initiatives. As a result of these exchanges, this country could transfer its experience in *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Health*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Disaster management* and *Environment*; while it strengthened its own knowledge and capacities in *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment*, *Other services and social policies* and *Health*.

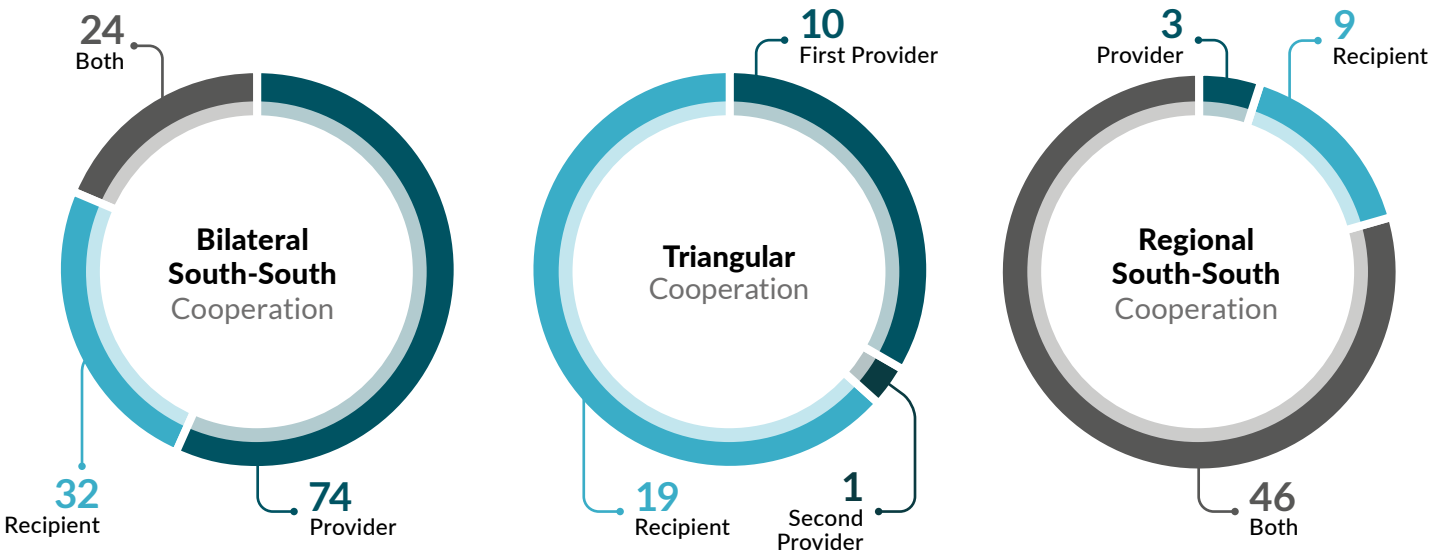
Chile's SS and Triangular cooperation was especially intense with partners such as Mexico, Argentina and Peru. Through these exchanges, it could potentially contribute to the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

COLOMBIA 218

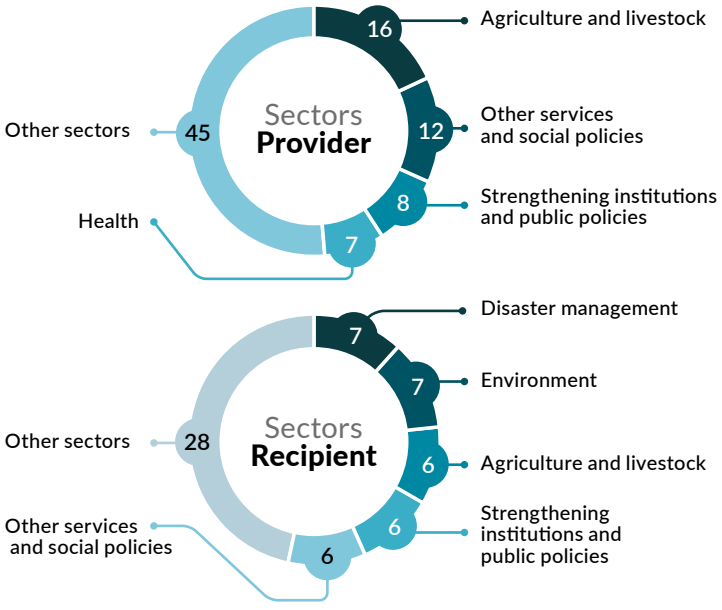
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 8 and 11

MAIN PARTNERS

During 2019, Colombia participated in 218 cooperation actions, projects and programs. Around 60% of these initiatives was implemented through Bilateral SSC and the remaining 40% was distributed between Regional SSC (27%) and Triangular Cooperation (14%). Its main Ibero-American partners were Peru, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Colombia combined the exercise of the different roles although its participation as provider was more prominent, mainly under the Bilateral modality. Through these more than 200 initiatives, Colombia transferred its experience in the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Other services and social policies*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Health* sectors. On the other hand, it could also strengthen its capacities and knowledge on *Disaster management*, *Environment*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Other services and social policies*, among other sectors.

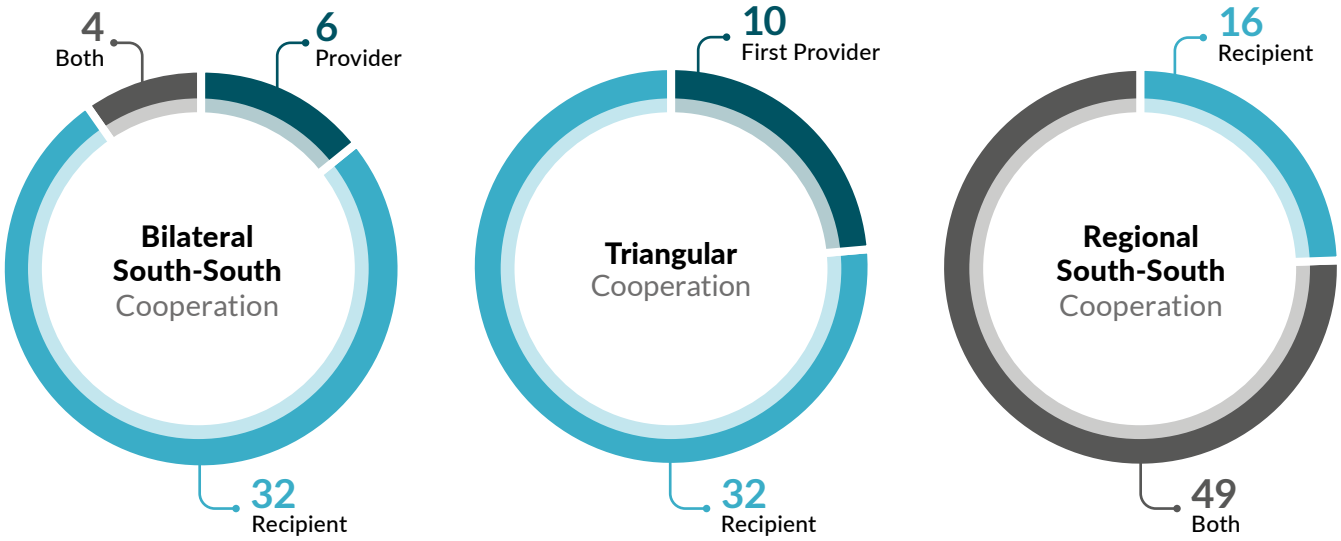
Altogether, Colombia's SS and Triangular cooperation in 2019 contributed to the region's progress on the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

COSTA RICA 149

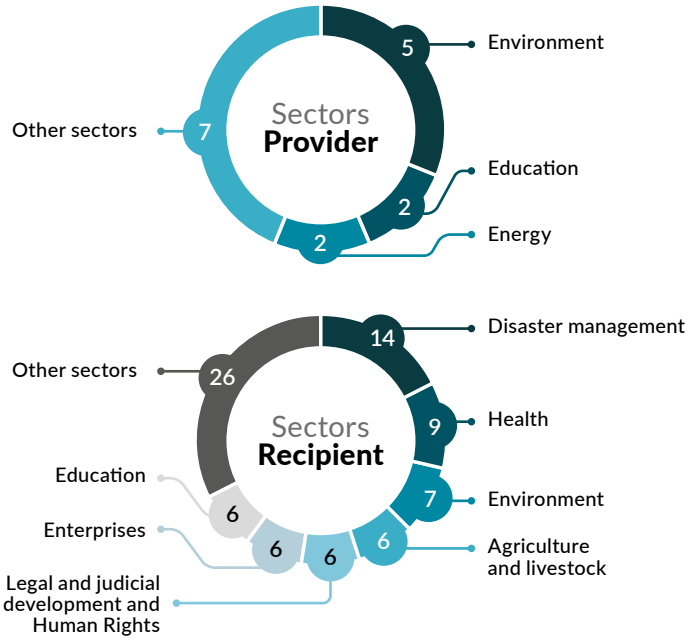
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 3, 11, 13 and 9

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Costa Rica had 149 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. The largest part of these initiatives was implemented through Regional SSC (44%), followed, in the same proportion, by those developed through Bilateral SS and Triangular Cooperation (28% each). Guatemala, Panama and El Salvador stood out among its main partners.

Although Costa Rica combined the exercise of different roles in the three modalities which are recognized in the Ibero-American space, its increasing participation as provider in Triangular Cooperation initiatives should be highlighted. This way, it could transfer experiences and lessons learnt in terms of *Environment*, *Education* and *Energy*. In turn, this country also strengthened its own capacities and knowledge in *Disaster management*, *Health*, *Environment*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Education* and *Enterprises*, among other sectors.

As a result of efforts made in the framework of this cooperation, Costa Rica was mainly able to contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure).

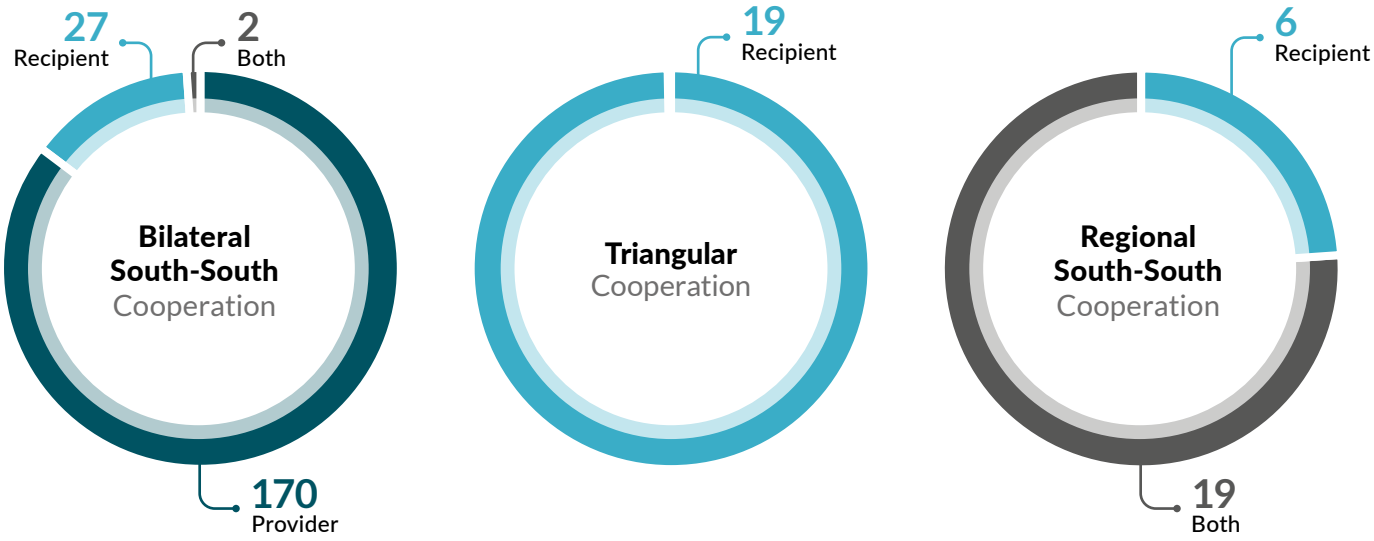
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

CUBA

243

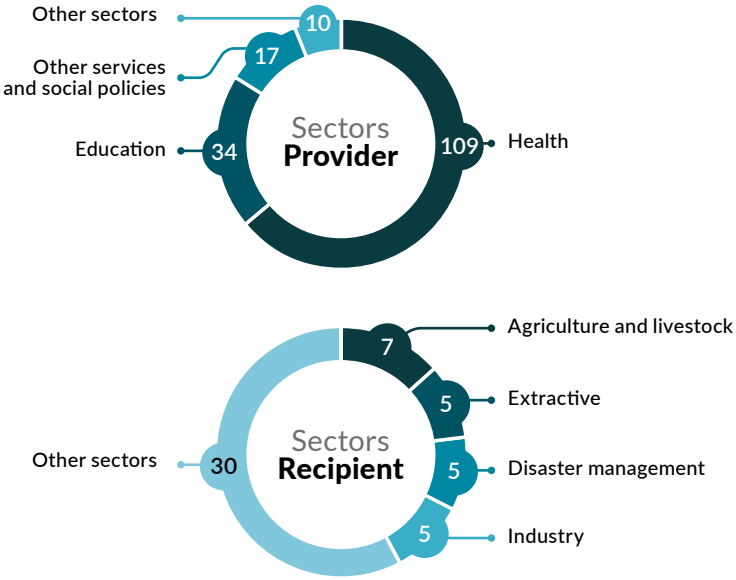
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 3, 4 and 11

MAIN PARTNERS

During 2019, Cuba participated in around 250 cooperation actions, projects and programs. Eight out of ten initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC. The remaining 18% was distributed in similar proportions between Regional (10%) and Triangular (8%) initiatives.

Although Cuba combined the exercise of several roles, it mainly acted as provider in terms of Bilateral SSC, these initiatives accounting for almost 86% of the total. Through this cooperation, Cuba contributed to strengthen capacities of a predominantly social dimension in sectors such as *Health*, *Education* and *Other services and social policies*, among others. On the other hand, and as recipient, it could enhance its experience in economic-related matters such as *Agriculture and livestock*, *Extractive* and *Industry*, apart from strengthening its capacities in *Disaster management*.

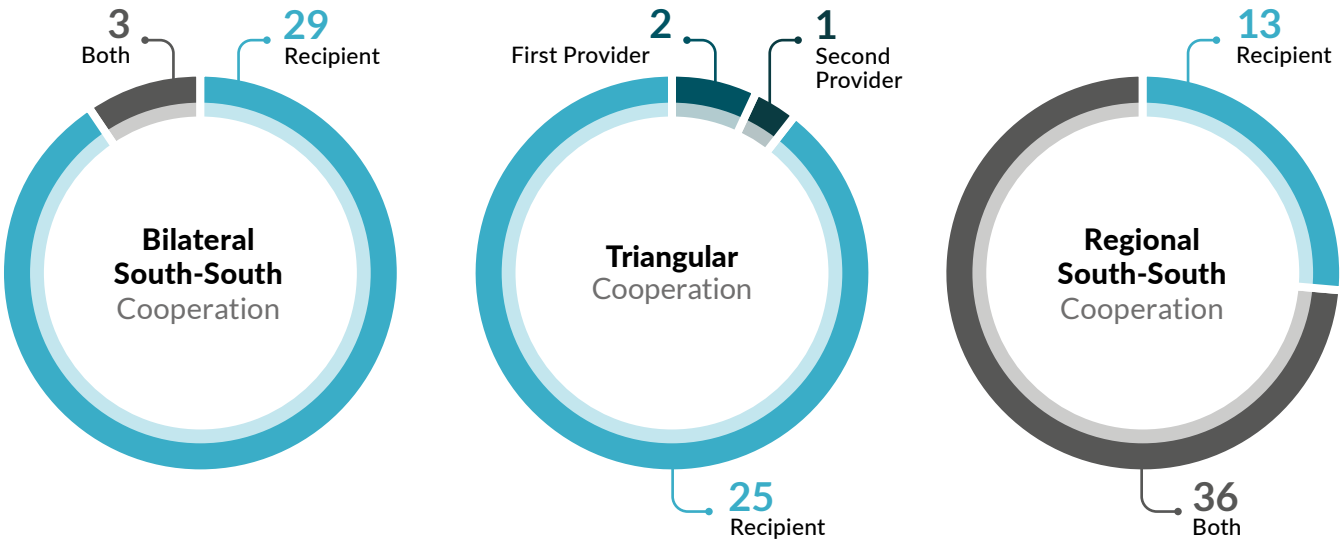
In order to implement these 243 initiatives, Cuba associated with several countries among which Mexico, Colombia and Argentina stand out. Through these exchanges, Cuba contributed to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

DOMINICAN R. 109

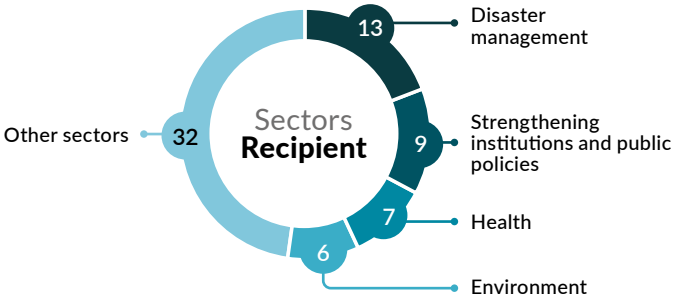
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 3 and 13

MAIN PARTNERS

In 2019, the Dominican Republic participated in 109 cooperation actions, projects and programs. These initiatives were executed through the different modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space, being Regional SSC (45%) the most significant. Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation initiatives followed (29% and 26% respectively). Partners with which it concentrated the largest part of these exchanges were Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama.

The Dominican Republic predominantly acted as recipient in Bilateral and Triangular initiatives, in sectors such as *Disaster management*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Health* and *Environment*. However, its increasing participation as provider in Triangular Cooperation initiatives through experiences related to *Management of public finances* and *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, should be stressed.

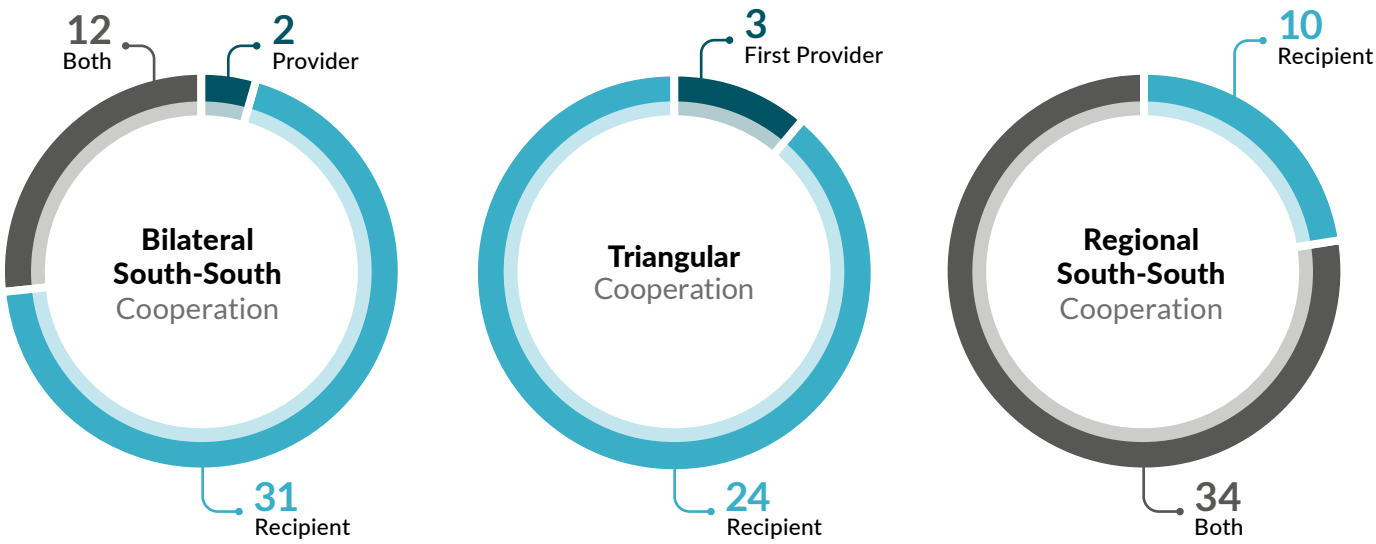
As a result of efforts made in the framework of these exchanges, SS and Triangular Cooperation in which the Dominican Republic participated could contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate action).

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

ECUADOR 116

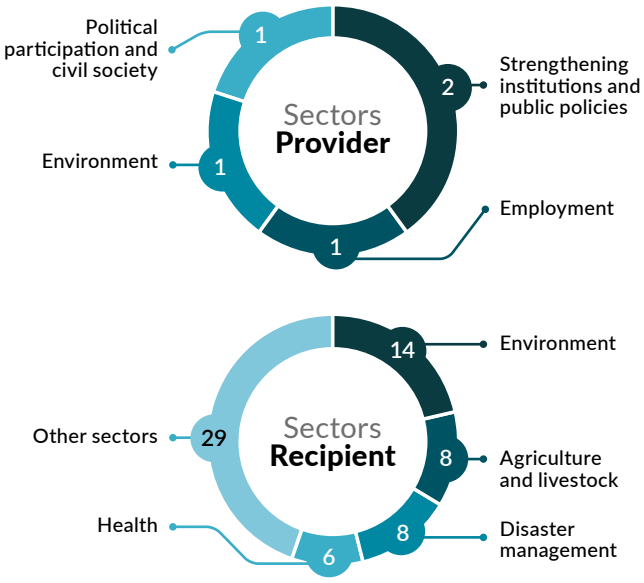
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 16, 2 and 15

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Ecuador had 116 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Bilateral and Regional SSC initiatives represented, in each case, 4 out of 10 of the total, while 23% corresponded to Triangular initiatives. Chile, Peru and Colombia stand out among Ecuador's main cooperation partners.

Ecuador acted as recipient in most exchanges, which allowed this country to learn from the experiences of other partners in sectors such as *Environment*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Disaster management* and *Health*, among others. As provider, Ecuador contributed to strengthen other countries' capacities in topics related to *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Employment*, *Environment* and *Political participation and civil society*.

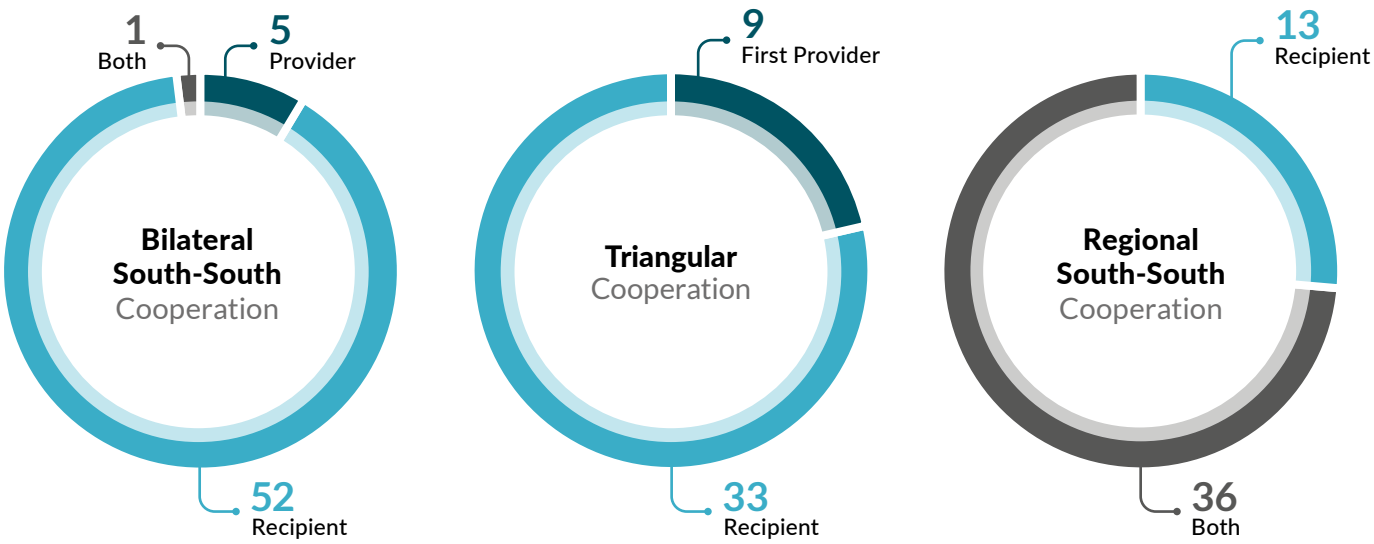
As a result of efforts made in the framework of these exchanges, Ecuador's SS and Triangular Cooperation could contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

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

EL SALVADOR 149

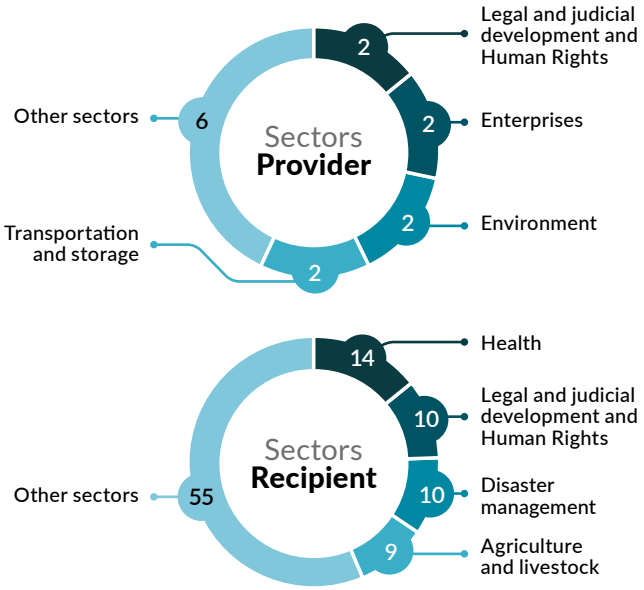
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 3, 16 and 13

MAIN PARTNERS

During 2019, El Salvador had 149 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. The largest part of these initiatives was implemented through Bilateral SSC (39%). In terms of relative participation, Regional (33%) and Triangular (28%) initiatives followed.

Although El Salvador participated in 2019's cooperation under a predominantly recipient role, its increasing contribution as first provider in Triangular Cooperation should be stressed. Exchanges enabled this country to strengthen its knowledge and capacities in the *Health*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Disaster management* and *Agriculture and livestock* sectors, among others.

El Salvador could also transfer its accumulated experience in *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Enterprises*, *Environment* and *Transportation and storage*, among others.

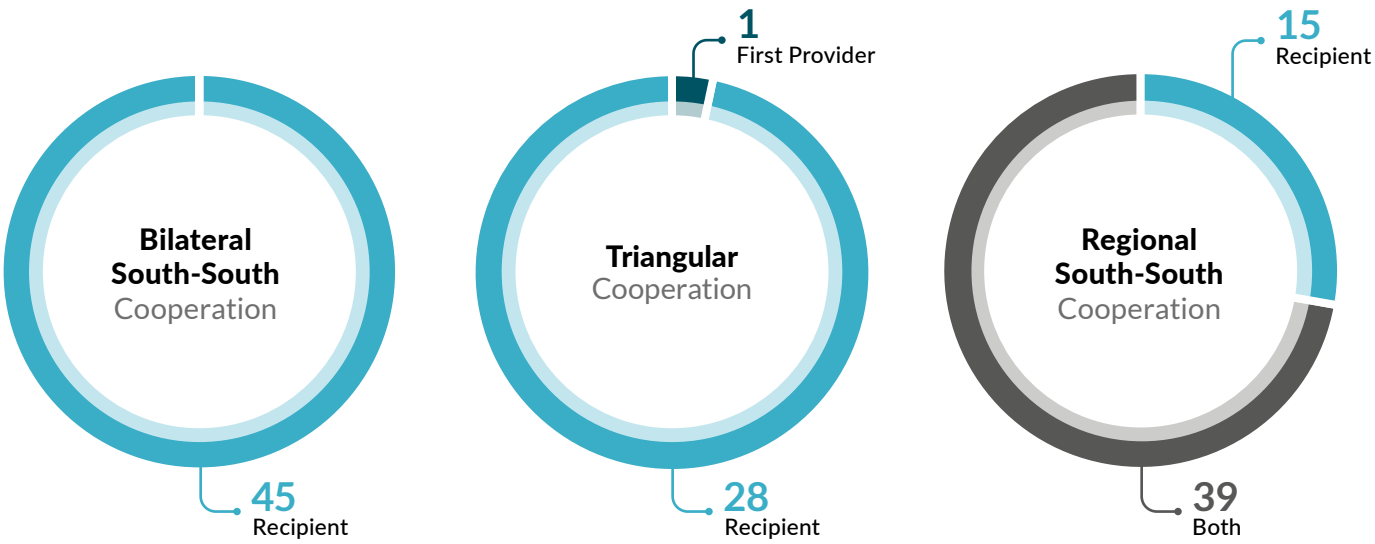
Three Central-American partners should be highlighted in the framework of El Salvador's SS and Triangular Cooperation during 2019: Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala. Through this cooperation, El Salvador could contribute to the region's progress on SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 13 (Climate action).

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

GUATEMALA 128

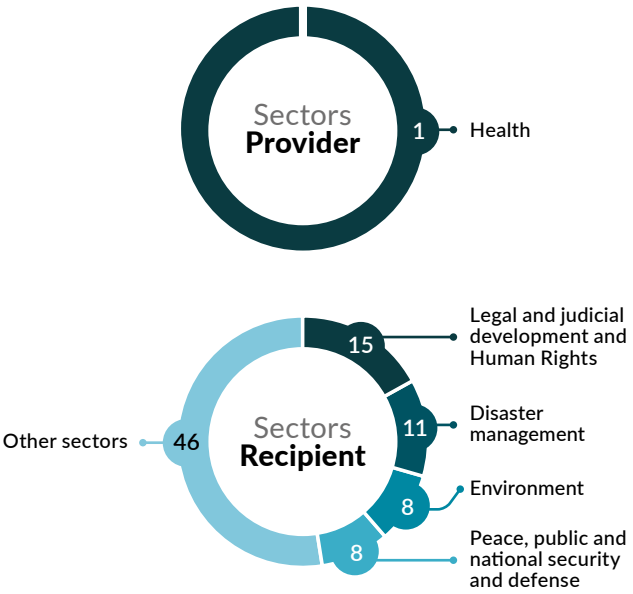
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 13 and 9

MAIN PARTNERS

In 2019, Guatemala had 128 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. 42% corresponded to Regional SSC initiatives, 35% was developed under the Bilateral modality and around one fourth (23%) was implemented through Triangular Cooperation. In most of these initiatives, its partners were also Central-American countries: Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador.

Overall, Guatemala predominantly acted as recipient and, under this role, it was able to strengthen its capacities in different topics related to *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Disaster management*, *Environment* and *Peace, public and national security and defense*, among others. In addition, it participated as first provider in a Triangular Cooperation initiative associated with the *Health* sector.

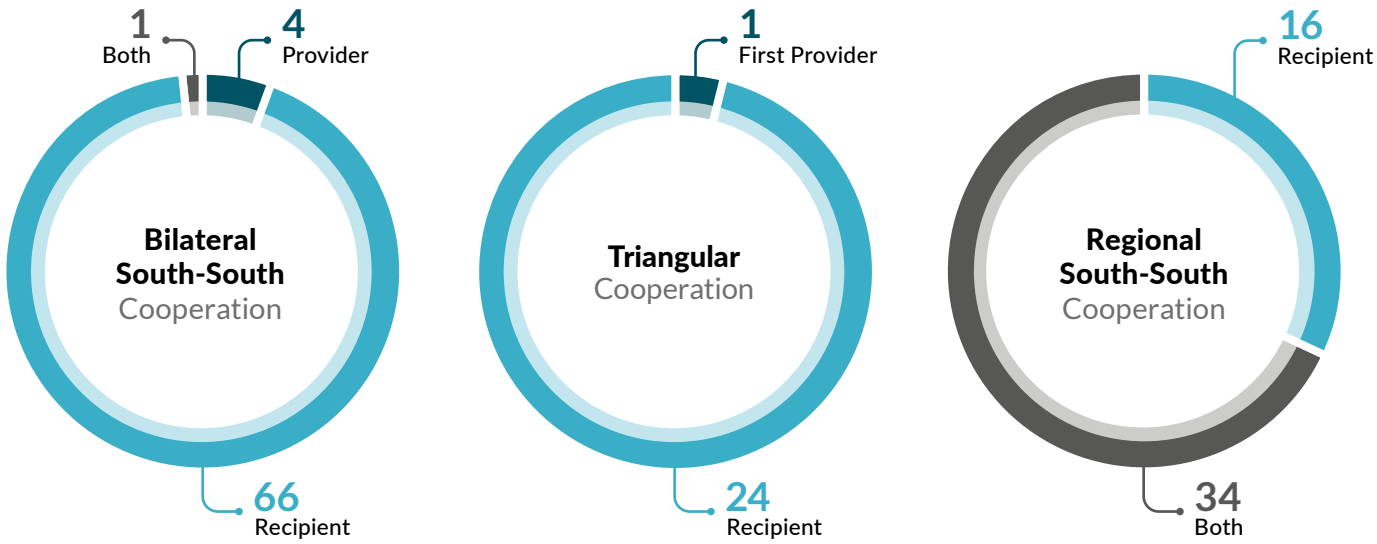
As a result of efforts made in the framework of these exchanges, Guatemala's SS and Triangular Cooperation could contribute to the region's progress on SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure).

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

HONDURAS 146

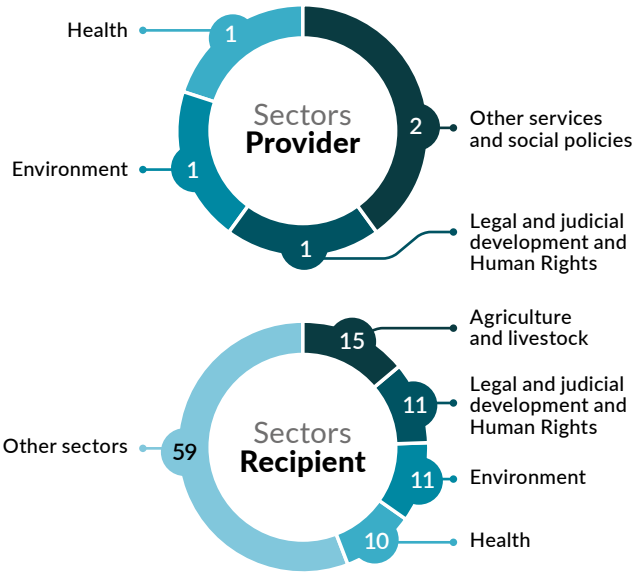
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 13, 16 and 3

MAIN PARTNERS

In 2019, Honduras had 146 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. In 49% of the cases, initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC. 51% of the remaining initiatives was developed through Regional SSC (34% of the total) and Triangular Cooperation (17%). Its main partners were three Central-American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Honduras mainly participated as recipient in this cooperation. Through this, it could strengthen its knowledge and experience in different matters related to *Agriculture and livestock*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Environment* and *Health*, among other sectors.

As provider, Honduras contributed to its partners' capacity strengthening in different topics associated with *Other services and social policies*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Environment* and *Health*.

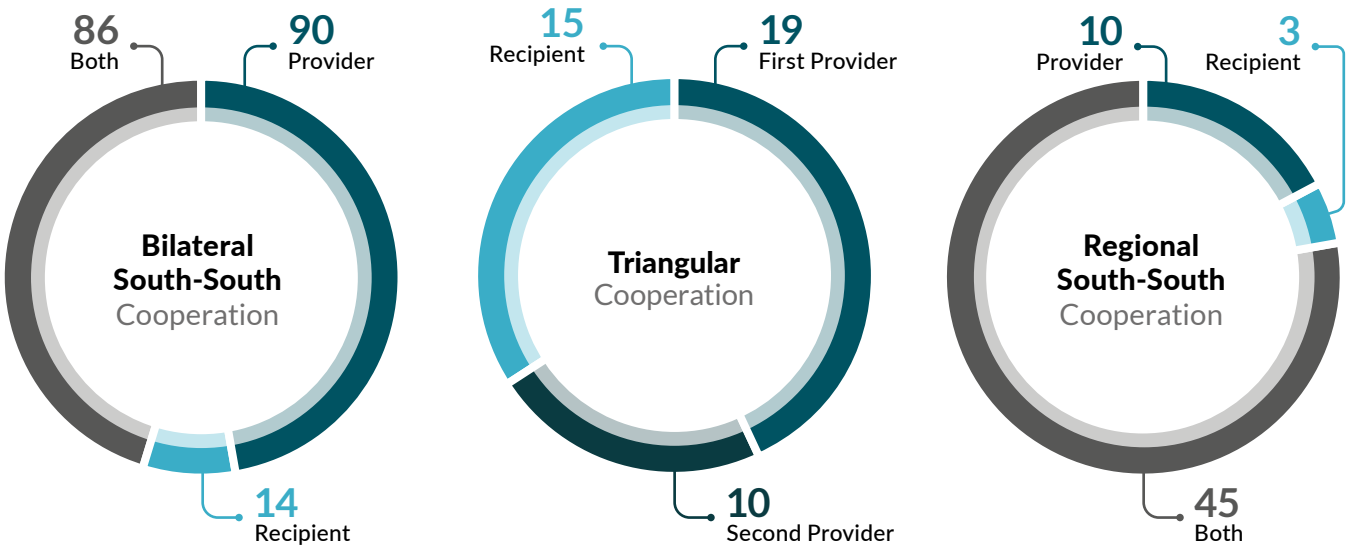
Altogether, Honduras' SS and Triangular Cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

MEXICO 292

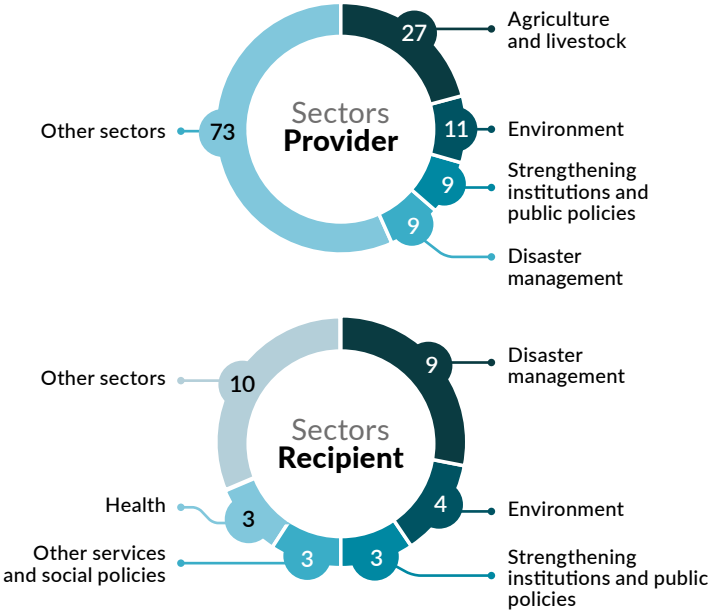
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

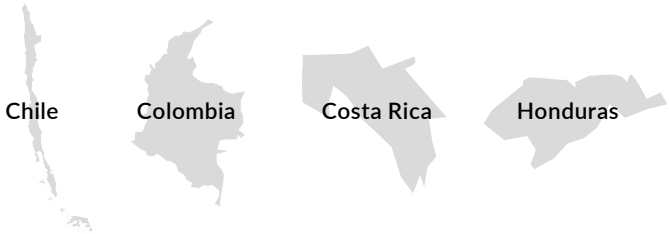
In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 2 and 16

MAIN PARTNERS



During 2019, Mexico had 292 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. In 65% of the cases, initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC. 20% was executed through Regional SSC and 15% corresponds to Triangular initiatives.

Mexico acted as provider in around one half of bilateral exchanges. Meanwhile, in almost the other half, it simultaneously acted as provider and recipient, its cooperation being strongly "bidirectional". This country contributed to support its partners' capacities in the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Disaster management* sectors, among others. Its capacities were strengthened in different matters related to *Disaster management*, *Environment*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Other services and social policies* and *Health*.

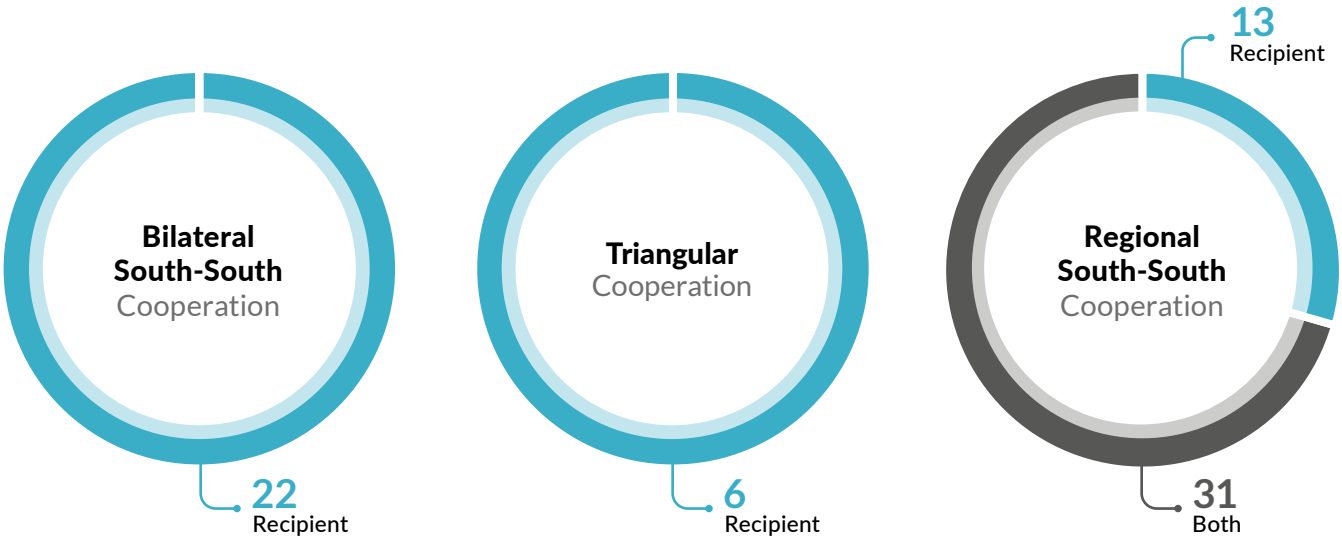
In these almost 300 exchanges, Mexico mainly associated with Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras and its cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

NICARAGUA 72

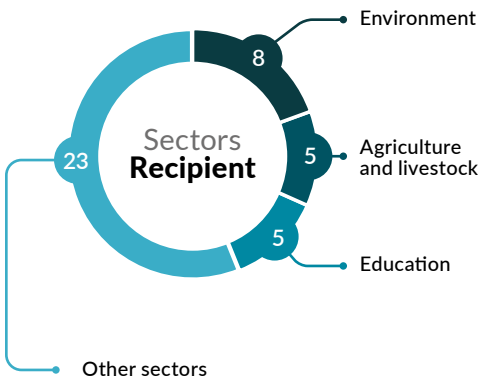
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 13 and 4

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Nicaragua had 72 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Six out of 10 of these initiatives were implemented through Regional SSC, around one third (31%) was executed under the Bilateral SSC modality and the remaining 8%, through Triangular Cooperation.

Nicaragua acted as recipient in all Bilateral SS and Triangular Cooperation initiatives, strengthening its capacities in very different topics, mainly related to the *Environment*, *Agriculture and livestock* and *Education* sectors, among others.

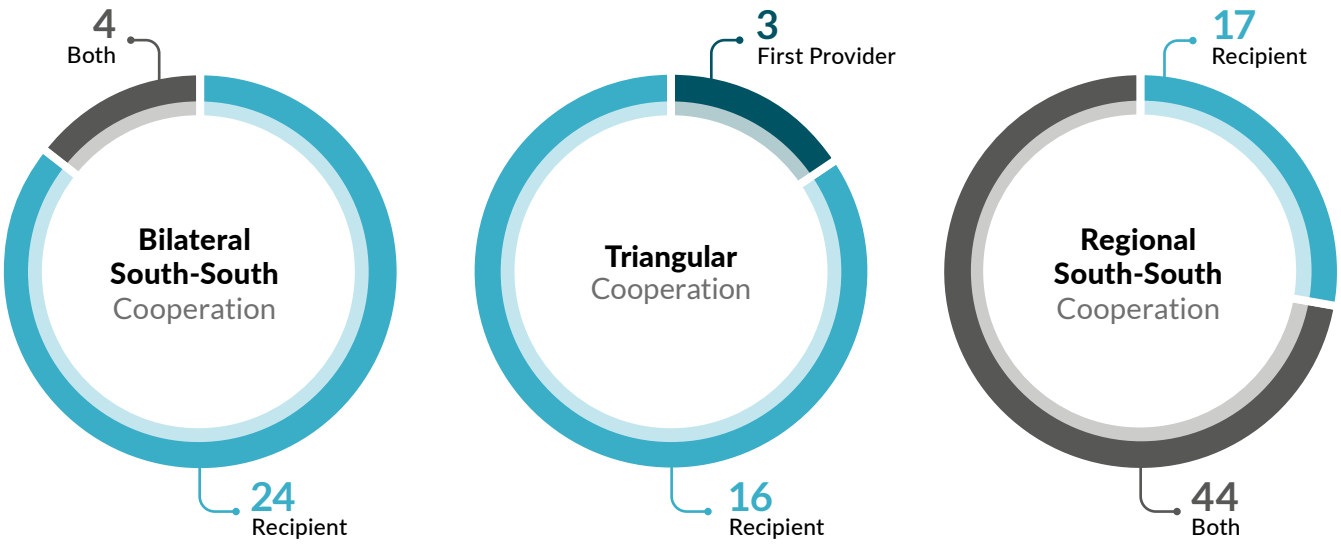
Nicaragua associated with several partners, among which, other Central-American countries such as Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama, mainly stood out. Through Nicaragua's SS and Triangular Cooperation, the region could advance the achievement of SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 4 (Quality education).

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

PANAMA 108

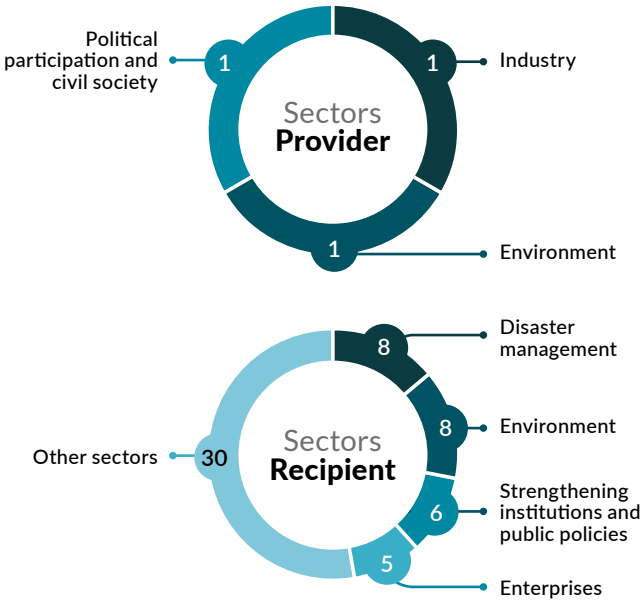
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 13, 11, 9 and 16

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Panama had 108 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. More than one half (56%) of the initiatives were implemented through Regional SSC, 26% was executed under the Bilateral SSC modality and the remaining 18%, through Triangular Cooperation. Part of these exchanges were mainly developed with Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

Panama acted as provider in most cases, its capacities and knowledge being strengthened in different sectors such as *Disaster management*, *Environment*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Enterprises*, among others. It only exercised the recipient role in specific occasions, sharing its experience in *Industry*, *Environment* and *Political participation and civil society*.

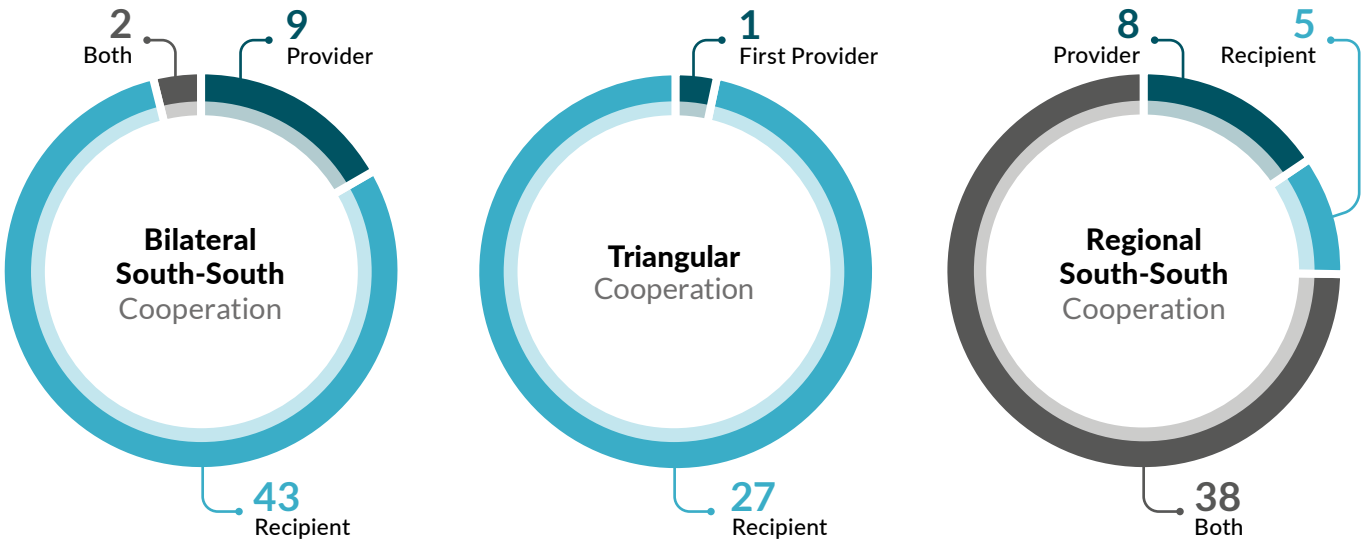
As a result of efforts made in the framework of these exchanges, Panama's SS and Triangular Cooperation could contribute to the region's progress on SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

PARAGUAY 133

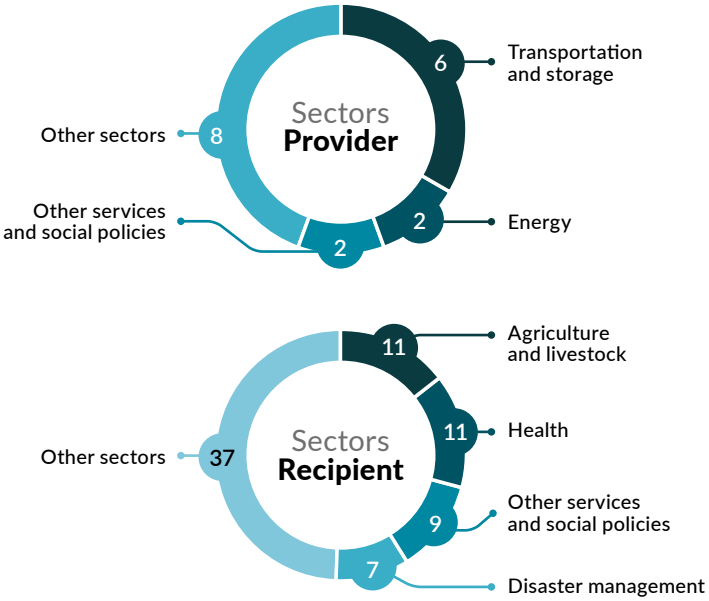
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 9 and 3

MAIN PARTNERS

During 2019, Paraguay had 133 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. 41% of these exchanges was implemented through Bilateral SSC, this proportion being similar to that of Regional SSC (38%). The remaining 21% was explained by Triangular Cooperation.

Paraguay participated in these exchanges predominantly as recipient, role through which it strengthened its capacities in matters related to *Agriculture and livestock*, *Health*, *Other services and social policies* and *Disaster management*, among other sectors. However, this country also increasingly acted as Bilateral SS and Triangular Cooperation provider, and it could share its experience in topics associated with *Transportation and storage*, *Energy* and *Other services and social policies*.

Argentina, Brazil and Chile should be highlighted among its main partners. As a result of efforts made in the framework of these exchanges, Paraguay's SS and Triangular Cooperation could contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

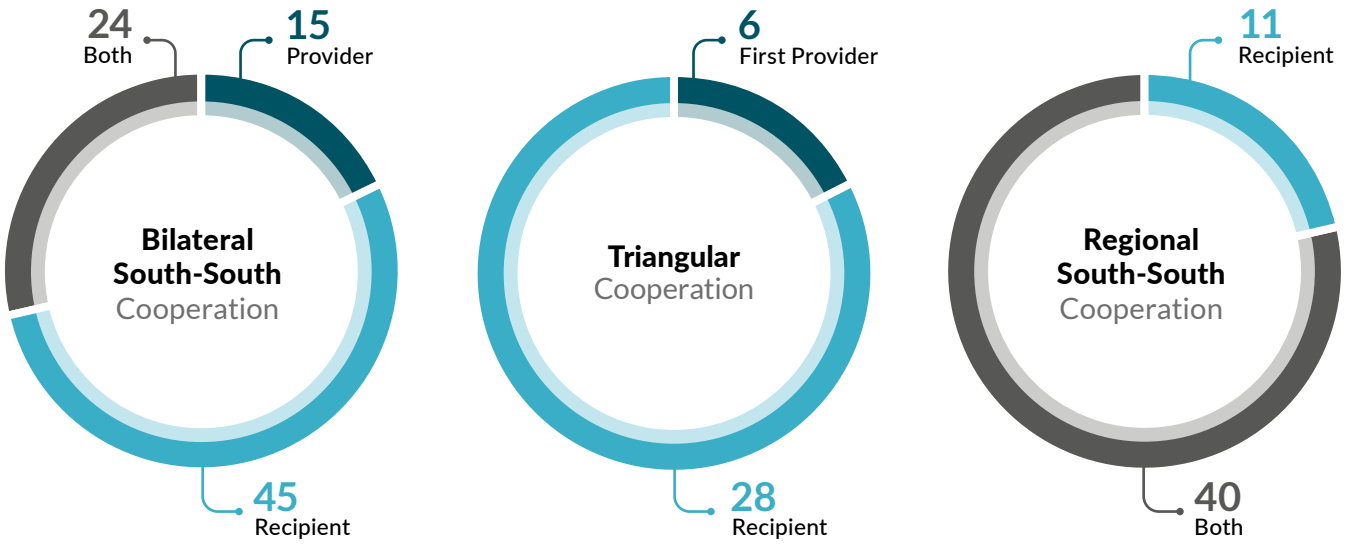
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

PERU

169

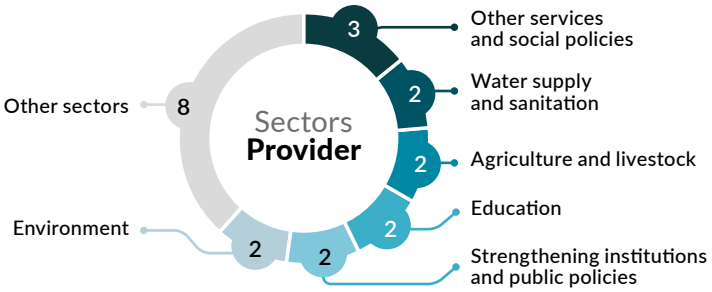
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 16, 3 and 15

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Peru had 169 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. One half of these initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC, 30% was developed through Regional SSC and the remaining 20% was executed in the framework of Triangular Cooperation.

Overall, Peru combined the exercise of the recipient (mainly) and the provider roles. This combination enabled Peru to strengthen its capacities and knowledge in sectors such as *Environment*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Health* and *Disaster management*, among others. In addition, it could also share its accumulated experience in *Other services and social policies*, *Water supply and sanitation*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Education*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Environment*.

Chile, Colombia and Mexico stood out as Peru's main partners. Through these almost 170 SS and Triangular Cooperation initiatives, this country contributed to the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

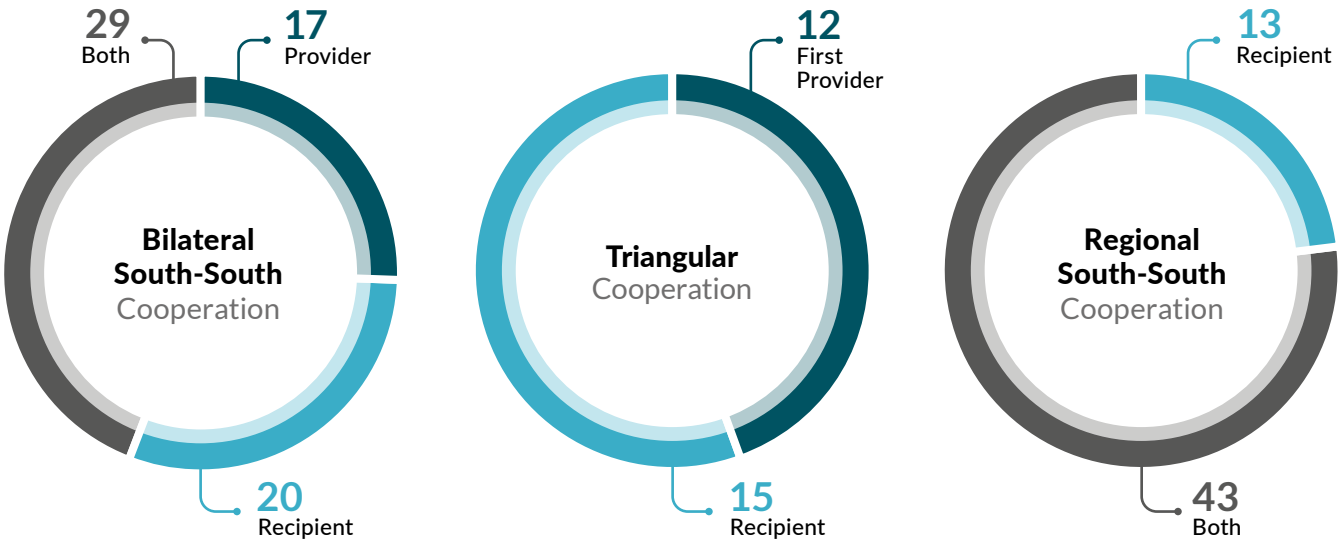
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

URUGUAY

149

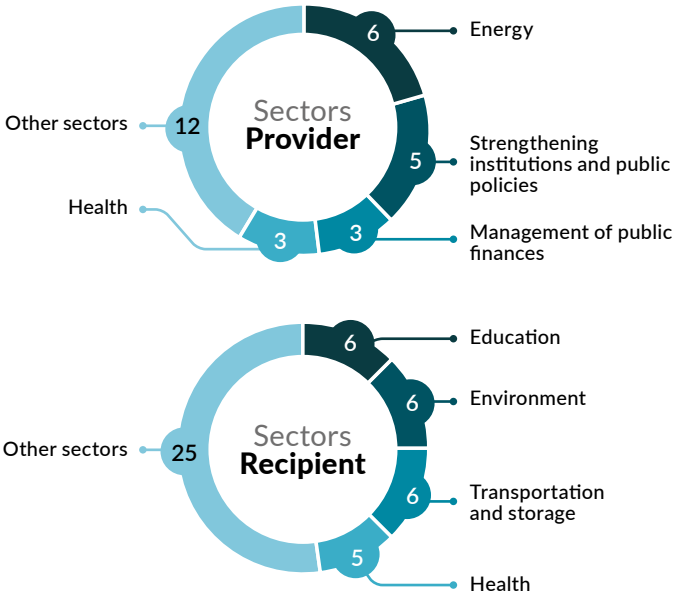
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 9 and 3

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Uruguay had 149 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Most of these initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC (44%), closely followed by those developed through regional and triangular exchanges (38% and 18% respectively). In the framework of this cooperation, Uruguay's main partners were Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

As has been the case in the past, Uruguay participated in this cooperation by combining the provider and recipient roles in very similar proportions. As a result of this knowledge and experience exchange with other countries, Uruguay could strengthen its capacities in sectors such as *Education*, *Environment*, *Transportation and storage* and *Health*. In addition, it transferred part of its experience and good practices in the *Energy*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Management of public finances* and *Health sectors*.

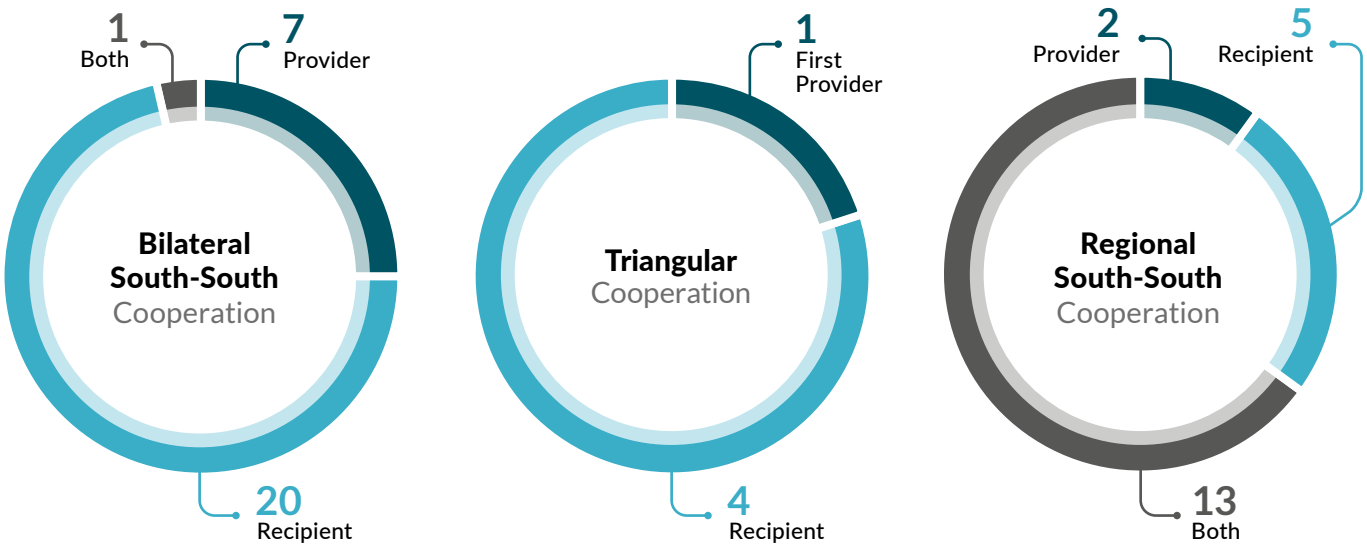
SS and Triangular Cooperation in which Uruguay participated throughout 2019 could contribute to the region's progress on SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

VENEZUELA 53

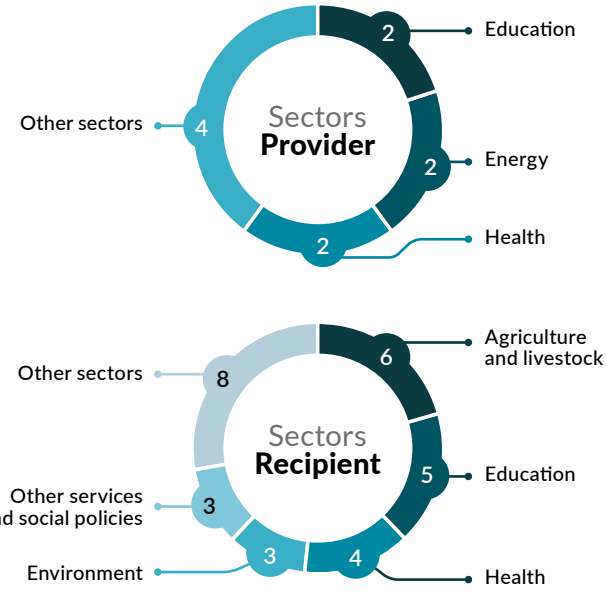
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 3, 9 and 11

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Venezuela had 53 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Nine out of ten of these initiatives were implemented in the framework of Bilateral SSC (53%) and Regional SSC (38%). Only 9% was developed under the Triangular modality.

Venezuela participated as recipient in most exchanges, which allowed this country to strengthen its capacities and knowledge in different topics mainly related to the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Education*, *Health*, *Environment* and *Other services and social policies* sectors. When it acted as provider, Venezuela shared its experience on *Education*, *Energy* and *Health*, among other sectors.

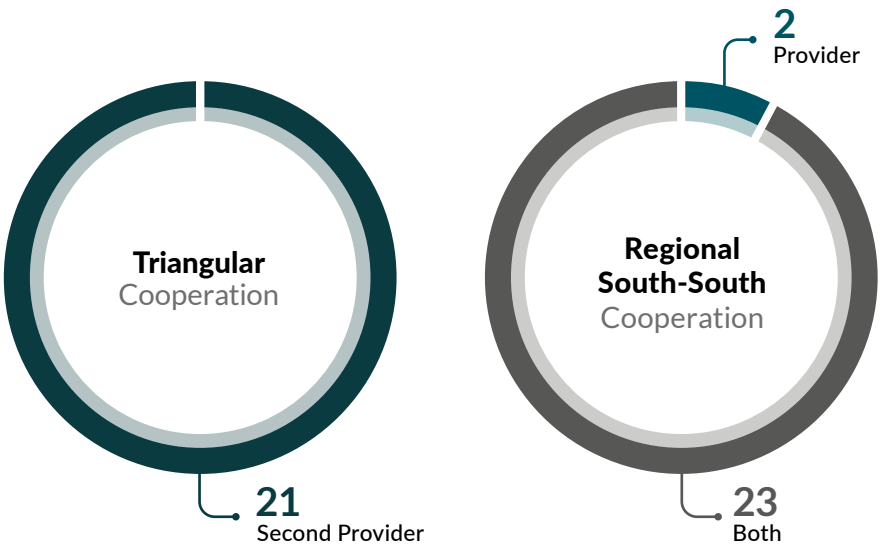
Cuba and Brazil stood out as its main partners in 2019 and, altogether, its participation in this year's SS and Triangular Cooperation could contribute to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

SPAIN 46

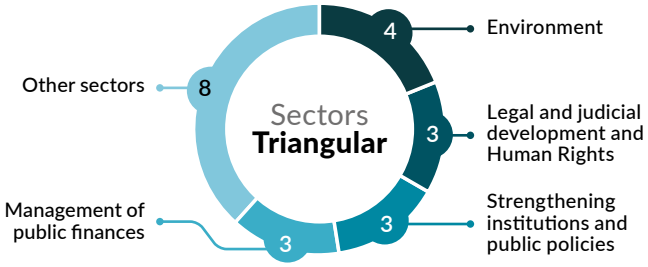
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11 and 16

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Spain had 46 cooperation actions, projects and programs under execution. Almost one half of these initiatives (21, corresponding to 46% of the total) were implemented under the Triangular modality in which Spain always acted as second provider, supporting capacity transfer. The remaining initiatives (25, corresponding to 54%) are explained by Regional SSC.

Triangular Cooperation exchanges during 2019 enabled Spain to support the strengthening of its Ibero-American partners in diverse matters which are mostly related to the *Environment*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Management of public finances* sectors, among others. Meanwhile, in the framework of Regional SSC, Spain exchanged experiences in *Culture*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Education*.

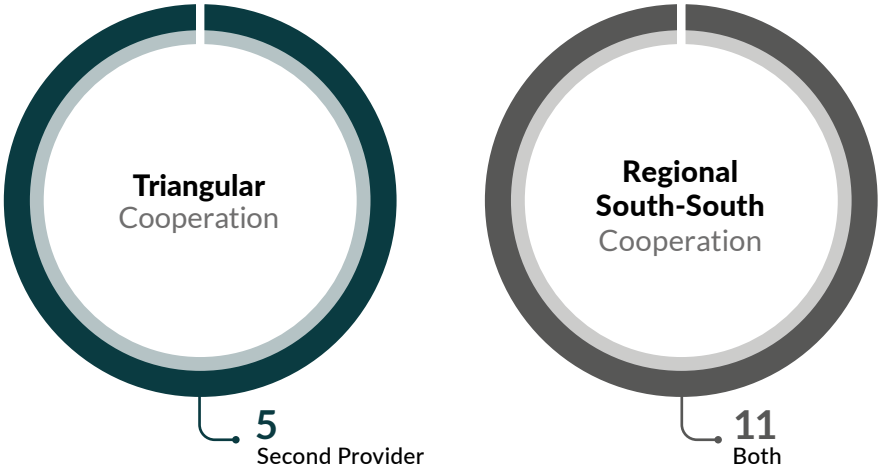
Although Spain's cooperation involved different partners, exchanges with Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Chile, stood out. Its 46 initiatives could contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

PORTUGAL 16

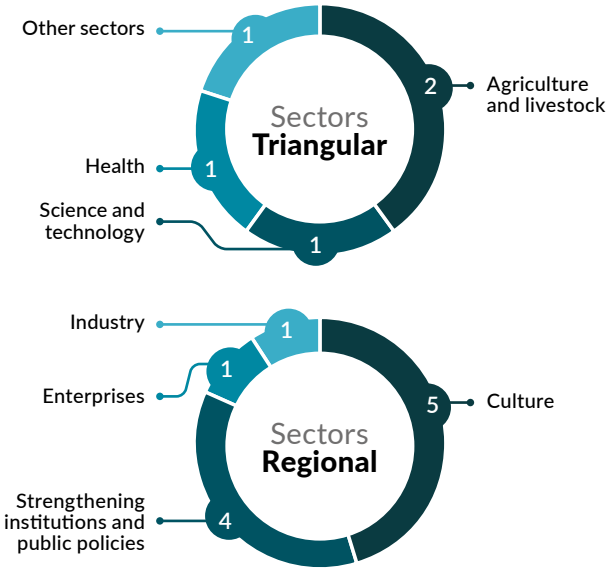
PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 9 and 16

MAIN PARTNERS

Throughout 2019, Portugal participated in 16 cooperation initiatives, always under Regional South-South Cooperation (11) and Triangular Cooperation (5).

Specifically, Portugal contributed to the execution of more than ten Ibero-American Programs and Ascribed Projects, through which it could share and exchange experiences and knowledge in terms of *Culture*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Enterprises* and *Industry*.

On the other hand, Portugal intensified its participation in Triangular Cooperation projects, always as second provider. Through these experiences, Portugal contributed to capacity strengthening in matters mainly related to the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Science and technology* and *Health*, among other sectors. It should be stressed that developing countries from other regions such as Ghana and Mozambique also took part in some of these Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

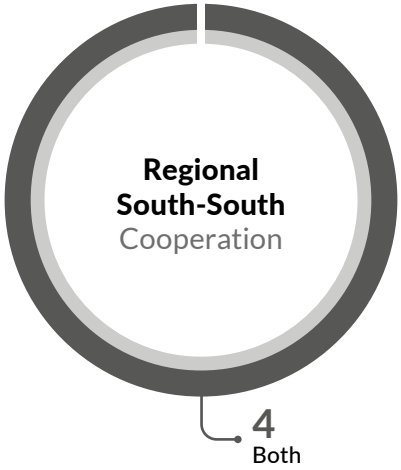
Overall, Portugal's main partners in these exchanges were Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain and Uruguay. In addition, this country's cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

ANDORRA 4

PARTICIPATION BY MODALITIES AND ROLES

In units



STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES

In units

ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS

Initiatives are aligned with SDG 3, 9, 10 and 17

MAIN PARTNERS

In 2019, Andorra had 4 Regional South-South Cooperation initiatives under execution. These correspond to 3 Ibero-American Programs and 1 Ascribed Project through which knowledge and capacities are strengthened in *Transportation and storage*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Enterprises* sectors, respectively. Specifically, Andorra participated in:

- *Ibero-American Road Safety Program*, which aims at promoting road users' safe movement, reducing injuries, disabilities and deaths related to traffic accidents in all member countries.
- *Ibero-American Program on the Rights of People with Disabilities*, which objective is to contribute to the economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities, through policies that ensure the full enjoyment and exercise of their rights.
- *Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym)*, which aim is to strengthen and boost Ibero-American countries' cooperation so as to contribute to the quality and impact of its actions, as well as to promote the exchange of experiences that can be adapted to each country's public policies.
- *Ascribed Project on Quality (IBERQUALITAS)*, which intends to improve Ibero-American countries' social and economic fabric and its productivity, through quality and excellence, so that Ibero-America is perceived as a high-quality environment to live and invest.

Through this cooperation, Andorra contributed to the region's progress on SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

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

Methodological note

This section presents the methodological considerations that were taken into account when analyzing Ibero-American countries SSC under execution in 2019 in each one of the modalities recognized in this space, as well as for the development of the final factsheets which summarize and combine each country's most important information.

COOPERATION MODALITIES

Bilateral South-South Cooperation

Cooperation modality in which two developing countries exchange resources or experiences. This exchange is exempt from conditionality and dialogue is developed in equal conditions. Costs are shared, although not necessarily equally. Countries share the so-called roles of provider (the one that contributes with the main financial, technical and human resources) and recipient. Occasionally, all participating countries simultaneously act as providers and recipients, situation which is referred as "Both".

Triangular Cooperation

South-South Cooperation modality in which a group of stakeholders participate, all of which may provide various types of contributions (technical, financial or other), sharing the exercise of three roles: the so-called first provider and recipient (one or two developing countries, in each case), and the second provider (developing country, developed country, regional or multilateral organization, or any association among these). The distinguishing feature is determined by the role of the first provider, which acts as the main party responsible for capacity strengthening.

Regional South-South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation modality aimed at the development and/or integration of a region, considering that the countries that comprise it (a minimum of three developing countries) share and agree on that objective. The regional nature of this cooperation is outlined in a formal institutional mechanism. Its execution is developed through programs and projects.

TYPE OF INITIATIVES

Program

Group of projects aimed at a same objective. Occasionally, it implies, additionally and simultaneously, several recipients. It is only applicable to Regional SSC.

Project

Group of interrelated actions aimed at satisfying, through its execution, a common objective, towards a specific recipient, in the framework of one or more sectors and/or topics. It is comprised of the following elements: defined execution period, budget, expected results and, likewise, it must have a follow-up and evaluation mechanism. It will have been approved within a cooperation framework (mixed commission, interinstitutional agreement, general cooperation agreements, or similar). It is applicable to all cooperation modalities.

Specific action

It is executed only once, through specific alternatives (technical assistance, internship, joint research, diagnoses mission, seminar, etc.). It is only applicable to Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation modalities.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

During these last years, a sectoral classification for the analysis of South-South Cooperation has been agreed, within the Ibero-American space. As a result of this effort, 30 activity sectors were defined, grouped in 7 areas of action. Table 1 describes each sector and arranges them according to their association with each of the areas. In order to summarize:

a) Sectors such as *Education*, *Health*, *Population and reproductive health*, *Water supply and sanitation* and *Other services and social policies*, refer to the strengthening and improvement of Social areas, and they are grouped in this category.

b) In addition, *Extractive*, *Agriculture and livestock*, *Forestry*, *Fisheries*, *Construction*, *Industry*, *Tourism*, and *Trade*, are dedicated to the strengthening of Productive sectors. In addition, sectors such as *Energy*, *Transportation and storage*, *Communications*, *Science and technology*, *Banking and finance*, *Employment* and *Enterprises*, complement the support to national economies from more operative perspectives. These are all grouped in Infrastructure and Economic Services.

c) Meanwhile, sectors such as *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, *Management of public finances*, *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, *Political participation and civil society*, are considered to be destined to Institutional Strengthening, as well as *Peace, public and national security and defense.*

d) On the other hand, two sectors are associated with environmental issues: the first includes all matters relative to the preservation and care of the *Environment*; and the second one, all interventions relative to *Disaster management*, considering in this case any of the phases they affect (prevention, preparation, mitigation, emergency assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction).

e) Finally, given its particular characteristics and difficult categorization, sectors related to *Culture*, *Gender*, and *Other* (dedicated to alternative development models), are treated differently and grouped in Other Areas of action.

TABLE 1

Activity sectors recognized in the Ibero-American space, by area of action

Area of action	Activity sector	Description
SOCIAL	**Education**	Strengthening Education at all levels, from basic to university, as well as professional training. It covers educational plans and policies, curricular programs, construction and renovation of schools and other related infrastructures, training and education of teachers and other professionals in the sector, among others.
	Health	Strengthening general and basic health through actions related to health policy, medical services, basic health care, medical research, fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, development, quality and monitoring of medicines and vaccines, post-reproductive health, basic nutrition, sanitary infrastructure, health education, and training of health officials, among others.
	Population and reproductive health	Programs and policies on population, migration and migrants, reproductive health care, family planning, STD prevention, specific training, among others.
	Water supply and sanitation	Policy and management of water resources and waste, access to water, supply and treatment, sanitation, sewage, development of river basins and specific training, among others.
	Other services and social policies	Strengthening social services and policies in general, housing policy, policies dedicated to non-discrimination, social care and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, especially people with disabilities, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, children, young people and older adults, just to mention some.
ECONOMIC Infrastructure and Economic Services	**Energy**	Strengthening policies, infrastructure, services, research and institutions involved in energy generation and supply, from both renewable and non-renewable sources, as well those related to these resources' sustainability (gas and hydrocarbons, water, sun, wind and biofuels, among others).
	Transportation and storage	Strengthening policies, infrastructures, services, research and institutions involved in transport and storage policy, as well as in the improvement and sustainability of transport in general or of any means of transport (road, rail, maritime, river and air).
	Communications	Support to policies, infrastructure, services, research and institutions involved in communication, by any means and formats (telecommunications, radio, television, press, and information and communication technology, among others).
	Science and technology	Development of policies, infrastructure, services, research and institutions which promote Science and Technology that produces results that have general application (non-sectoral) in the economy. It also includes all matters related to the resulting knowledge transfer, to the strengthening of the scientific system and to enhance socialization and universal access to technology, among others.
	Banking and finance	Support to improve companies' financial resources management, organizations and small-scale producers, preferably when this strengthens the local economy. It includes training and education in financial services, development and implementation of microcredit programs, as well as support to banks when their activity is connected with these aims.
	Employment	Support to policies, infrastructure, services, research and institutions that facilitate and promote creation and access to employment, as well as more specific professional training and education actions that contribute to that purpose.
	Enterprises	Support to policies, infrastructure, services, research and institutions that promote companies, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the strengthening of competitiveness processes.

ECONOMIC Productive Sectors	**Extractive**	Strengthening exploration and extraction of mineral and energy resources (coal, oil, gas), as well as waste treatment, especially through mining legislation and mine planning and management instruments.
	Agriculture and livestock	Policy development and support to institutions involved in agriculture and livestock. It includes all matters relative to land use, arable land, seed management, land reform, food sovereignty, plant and animal health, fostering family farming and support to agriculture cooperatives, just to mention some.
	Forestry	Policy development and support to institutions involved in forestry and forest management, as well as matters related to the commercial use of wood.
	Fisheries	Policy development and support to institutions involved in aquaculture and fisheries. It includes support to small-scale fisheries production, plant health, and nutritional and food security, among others.
	Construction	Policy development and support to the construction and infrastructure sector.
	Industry	Policy development and support to institutions involved in the promotion of industry in general and by sectors. It includes the strengthening of all the phases of the transformation process, from processing to final distribution.
	Tourism	Policy development and support to institutions involved in the tourism sector.
	Trade	Policy development and support to institutions which foster trade and the final distribution of products at a local, national and international level. It also includes regional and multilateral trade agreements and negotiations.
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING	**Strengthening institutions and public policies**	Strengthening the public sector, its institutions and policies. It includes all governmental levels, as well as support to decentralization processes (political, administrative and fiscal) and support to and between regional and local governments. It also includes cooperation (as a public policy) and the generation of statistics and indicators aimed at informed decision making on policies and public management.
	Management of public finances	Budget and public expenditure management, revenue management (especially for taxes systems), and support to the improvement of financial management systems, fiscal policies, public audits, public debt, control and management of public companies, measuring their performance, among others.
	Legal and judicial development and Human Rights	Strengthening legal frameworks, constitutions, laws and regulations, as well as justice institutions, systems and procedures and practices (traditional, indigenous, etc.) out of the formal legal system; and support to the defense and extension of human rights, especially civil and political rights. It includes the fight against impunity and the protection of minorities of any kind (ethnic, religious, linguistic, sexual, migrants, children, victims of traffic and torture, ...).
	Political participation and civil society	Strengthening political participation, electoral processes and democracy, civil society, as well as actions to improve citizens' control over their representatives.
	Peace, public and national security and defense	Peace processes and conflict resolution, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into civilian life. Support to public security (aimed at preventing, investigating and prosecuting crimes against people - criminal codes, law enforcement agencies, police, prisons, etc.) and national security and defense (fight against corruption, money laundering and drug trafficking, military training, fire arms control,....).
ENVIRONMENT	**Environment**	Policy development and support to institutions involved in environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources, waste treatment, pollution reduction, fight against climate change and biodiversity conservation, among others.
	Disaster management	Support to all operational interventions carried out throughout the disaster management process, including prevention, preparation, mitigation, emergency assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

OTHER AREAS	**Culture**	Policy development and support to institutions involved in all forms of culture (also traditional and oral), as well as performing arts, in any of its disciplines (architecture, dance, scene, sculpture, music, painting and literature), as well as to popular crafts, libraries, museums, and others.
	Gender	Policy development and support to institutions which foster programs and projects that connect women and development, promote their economic empowerment and the fight against violence towards women, among others.
	Other	Promotion of alternative development models, rural, urban, social and community economy, among others.

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

COUNTRY FACTSHEETS

Information systematized in these factsheets corresponds to South-South Cooperation in which each of the Ibero-American countries participated throughout 2019. In general, each factsheet presents information relative to the initiatives in which they participated, cooperation modalities, roles, main partners, activity sectors and the SGDs with which they are potentially aligned. It is important to highlight that values are not disaggregated by execution instrument (actions, projects and programs), but they refer to the total of SSC initiatives.

The way in which values were calculated is the following:

- **Total number of initiatives (in units).** It refers to the sum of the actions, projects and programs in which the country participated under the three modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space (Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC). It is important to mention that the analysis considers cooperation initiatives within Ibero-America and with other regions. Given its nature, Bilateral SSC modality is not applicable to the countries of the Iberian Peninsula.

- **Participation by modality and roles (in units).** The number of initiatives and the type of role under which the country participated in 2019 is shown for each SSC modality, considering cooperation initiatives between Ibero-America and other regions. Additionally, possible executed roles vary according to the cooperation modality:

  - Bilateral SSC: Provider, Recipient, Both.

  - Triangular Cooperation: First provider, Second provider, Recipient.

  - Regional SSC: Provider, Recipient, Both.

- **Strengthened capacities (in units).** Analysis shows how many initiatives were associated with each of the 30 activity sectors recognized in the Ibero-American space, for each of the 19 Latin-American countries, for the total of initiatives in which the country participated as provider and as recipient, regardless of the cooperation modality.

In terms of provision, all three roles, Provider, First provider and Second provider are jointly considered.

Initiatives in which the country performed the role Both are not considered for this analysis. Those activity sectors which most stood out (3-4) are shown in the resulting pie chart, and the others are added in a general category for "other sectors".

In case of the three countries of the Iberian Peninsula, sectoral analysis is developed considering only the modality through which cooperation was executed, not the role.

- **Contribution to SDGs.** It refers to the SDGs with which the initiatives in which the country participated could be aligned, regardless of the cooperation modality through which they were executed and the role. It is worth mentioning that, specific actions are not considered in this analysis, only programs and projects.

- **Main partners.** It refers to those partners with which the country shared in 2019 a higher number of exchanges, regardless of the SSC modality (bilateral, triangular, regional) and the executed role.

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The *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2020* systematizes and analyzes cooperation initiatives in which the region participated in 2019. One of the main innovative features of this edition is the inclusion of the term Triangular in the name of the Report. This change acknowledges Ibero-America's accumulated experience in this modality and is aligned with its global recognition as a means for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It is important to highlight that this thirteenth edition was prepared in the framework of the COVID-19 crisis, which has made the need to cooperate and add efforts to face global challenges even more evident, if possible. Indeed, this crisis and the possible contributions South-South and Triangular Cooperation can make to the health, economic and social response the world needs, cut across this edition. Hence, the 2020 Report focuses, as has been the case in the past but with an even greater emphasis, on the sectoral analysis, and on the importance of capacity strengthening and the exchange of experiences in the search for shared solutions to development problems.

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