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Ibero-Americana

Report on South-South and Triangular
Cooperation in Ibero-America 2024

southsouth



Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

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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:

*Project Capacity building for the generation of scientific evidence on the impacts of mountain
ecosystem recovery measures on the provision of water services, between the Environmental
Fund for Water Protection of Ecuador (FONAG by its Spanish acronym) and the National
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Photo: Through SSC, the National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems of Peru (INAIGEM by its Spanish acronym) and the Environmental Fund for Water Protection of Ecuador (FONAG by its Spanish acronym), exchange experiences to strengthen strategies for the conservation and recovery of water services in mountain ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

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FOREWORD

This 15th edition of the Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America is an important milestone for the Ibero-American Community.

First, because it marks the anniversary of a regional project that is currently internationally consolidated as a reference document for the registration, analysis and visibility of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Second, because as a result of the accumulated experience —over 10,000 cooperation initiatives and more than 17 years since the first version in 2007—, this edition enables an assessment with a medium-term perspective.

Third, because it reveals that Ibero-American cooperation is beginning to show encouraging signs of recovery. Specifically, figures increased once again in 2023 after nine consecutive years of a sustained decline in the number of exchanges registered in our region. Although moderate —81 initiatives more than in 2022—, this growth represents a change in trend that should be appreciated.

In the current complex international context, data analysis and systematization with a time-frame perspective, and based on a solid and recognized technical and professional quality, is of strategic importance. As a result of this Report, Ibero-America has a powerful, relevant and unique tool to participate —making substantial contributions— in the global

debate on the measurement and impact of development cooperation. Our region has a privileged source of knowledge and visibility that sheds light on innovative, efficient and effective mechanisms to address the challenges of financing for development during 2025.

The messages that were prepared for this Report by prestigious institutions with which SEGIB has closely worked over the last two years (ECLAC, UNCTAD and the OECD's TOSSD Secretariat), are proof of the recognition of SEGIB's efforts in this area. These messages also account for SEGIB's fruitful collaboration with other regional platforms and multilateral organizations. In this sense, it should be noted that the Report and its international projection are a successful South-South and Triangular Cooperation exercise in itself.

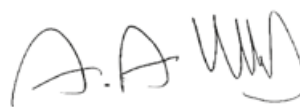
This edition once again presents the detailed information that characterizes our Report; however, as a new feature, this issue is structured in 3 chapters that are preceded by 12 highlights. A special reference should be made to 5 of these, which show the evolution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation since the origin of this document. For example:

1. Bilateral South-South Cooperation continues to account for 3/4 of all the region's cooperation while Triangular Cooperation has significantly increased, doubling its relative importance during the 2022-2023 period.

2. More than half of the Ibero-American countries have implemented over 1,000 initiatives, and two of them have carried out more than 2,000. These figures consider countries' participation as providers, as recipients, or in a "dual" role (this last has grown the most and implies a higher level of horizontality).
3. Ibero-American cooperation has been progressively consolidating through the execution of medium-term projects, which currently account for 90% of the initiatives, displacing the implementation of specific actions.
4. The combination of the different countries of the Global South, the countries of the North or "developed" countries, and the international organizations that interact in Ibero-American cooperation is very significant, with an annual average of almost 150 stakeholders.
5. Traditional sectors such as *Health and Agriculture and livestock* lead cooperation initiatives' statistics over the years while sectors such as *Science and technology* still have percentages (3%) which are far less than enough to successfully face regional and global challenges.

Bringing our skills and knowledge together makes us much stronger as a region than as individual countries. This precisely reveals multilateralism's relevance as a politically agreed collective action. Together we are better and more visible at the global level and this Report is a clear example of the above.

Going forward, we will continue in the search for new opportunities to innovate and improve the Report. Specifically, we are particularly eager on exploring the process of incorporating artificial intelligence tools for information processing. We are confident that the results of this effort will enable us to maintain Ibero-America's and SEGIB's prominence and leadership in this area. Having this objective in mind, and with the aim of further consolidating this Report as a global benchmark, we will keep up our work, based on the continued support and commitment of the 22 States that make up the Ibero-American Community.



Andrés Allamand
IBERO-AMERICAN SECRETARY GENERAL



Lorena Larios Rodríguez
SECRETARY FOR IBERO-AMERICAN COOPERATION



GREETINGS



ECLAC has witnessed, with great joy, the birth and consolidation of SEGIB in its 20 years of work in the Ibero-American space -in the 19 Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin-America and in those of the Iberian Peninsula: Spain, Portugal and Andorra-. SEGIB has linked our region with Europe in a horizontal manner, making countries participate on an equal footing, based on innovative partnerships that have set and strengthened transformative public policies.

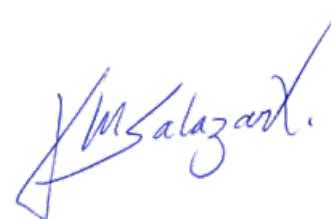
ECLAC and SEGIB contribute to the promotion of Latin-America and make efforts to strengthen its relations with the world. Both institutions have established working agreements on a wide range of initiatives such as the preparation of the periodical series of publications on "Ibero-American Spaces", where issues related to knowledge economy; innovation and technological development; trade and investment; education, science and culture are addressed; as well as, more recently, the joint work on the South-South and Triangular Cooperation agenda.

The Ibero-American General Secretariat holds the oldest systematic efforts to register, analyze and disseminate information on South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the regional level. These are reflected in the *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America*, a reference document for governments, cooperation authorities and researchers in Ibero-America and worldwide. Throughout its 15 years, the Report has systematized and analyzed Latin-American countries' cooperation initiatives, providing relevant information to the region and to ECLAC's Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean, among others.

In 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted 17 Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of ending poverty, preserving the planet and improving people's lives. To respond to economic, social and environmental needs, the Agenda called for a global partnership of international solidarity and cooperation. The 2030 Agenda is our roadmap and South-South and Triangular Cooperation has great potential to accelerate countries' progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We appreciate SEGIB's work related to the monitoring, measurement and evaluation of cooperation included in the *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2024*. Based on its information, it is possible to seek common approaches on the challenges Latin America faces on its path to development. The Report also provides guidelines for South-South and Triangular Cooperation modalities, through the exchange of knowledge, technology, experiences and mobilization of resources.

Now more than ever, South-South and Triangular Cooperation are called upon to provide transformative alternatives and we hope the joint work between ECLAC and SEGIB will contribute to respond to this regional and global need.



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

The fifteenth edition of the Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America marks a significant milestone in documenting the contributions of Ibero-American countries to sustainable development. UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) celebrates its launch to inform debates at the XXIX Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Governments in Cuenca, Ecuador. Over the years, this publication has become a crucial reference for insights into the dynamics of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The pioneering work of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) has been pivotal in advancing the measurement and analysis of South-South Cooperation projects, enhancing their visibility, and laying the groundwork for global initiatives to quantify South-South Cooperation flows to inform the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We congratulate SEGIB for developing innovative data collection and analysis methodologies, providing a deeper understanding of the evolving nature of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The data and insights in this report reflect the robust mechanisms established by Ibero-American countries to address challenges such as public health crises, climate change, and food security, underscoring the importance of solidarity in enhancing societal resilience.

A notable advancement in the global measurement of South-South Cooperation is the voluntary 'Conceptual Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation,' welcomed by all countries in March 2022 when the UN Statistical Commission adopted SDG indicator 17.3.1. Developed by the global South and chaired by India, with participation from Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa, and Tanzania, the Framework addresses a long-standing gap in the global development data landscape. It marks a significant step towards achieving balanced and representative data on development support.

Countries asked UNCTAD to coordinate work towards reporting data on South-South Cooperation to the SDG indicator, an effort led by countries of the global South and based on nationally owned data. The Framework offers a comprehensive, flexible, and inclusive approach to quantifying development support among Southern countries, capturing both financial and in-kind cooperation modalities. It ensures that the contributions of the global South are accurately reflected and recognized, aligning with principles of respect for national sovereignty, ownership, and mutual benefit.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation play a crucial role in accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, alongside other development support. Enhancing capacities to produce South-South data, developed, collected and endorsed by the countries of the South, empowers countries to shape their development narratives and strategically manage their mutual support. The Ibero-American example shows the strategic importance of data for advancing sustainable development through cooperation and solidarity.

Looking ahead, collaboration between UNCTAD and the Ibero-American community will be vital. SEGIB's foundational efforts, combined with continued partnership and dialogue with member states, inspire broader efforts to enhance capacities in other regions. Learning from this experience will help strengthen regional initiatives towards a more comprehensive global understanding of development cooperation.

We extend our gratitude to SEGIB, countries, and stakeholders who have contributed to this report. Your dedication is vital to advancing our shared goals and progressing towards the 2030 Agenda. Moving forward, let us continue to build on this strong foundation, working together to address challenges and seize opportunities.

Our commitment to South-South Cooperation is strong, and we are confident that through our collective efforts, we can develop data systems that accurately reflect the realities of the South. We trust that this report and the data on South-South Cooperation will serve as valuable resources for policymakers, practitioners, and the Ibero-American community, inspiring and advancing our pursuit of sustainable development.



Anu Peltola
Director UNCTAD Statistics
UN Trade and Development - UNCTAD

I would like to congratulate SEGIB for completing its 15th data collection on South-South and Triangular Co-operation in Ibero-America. The ensuing Report is a demonstration of both the strong commitment of Ibero-American countries to transparency, and the important work by SEGIB over many years to enhance country reporting capacities. The Report's high-quality data and visualisations make it an excellent resource for policy analysis and a model for other initiatives aiming to increase global transparency in government support.

At the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT) Secretariat, established on 01 January 2024, we have noted the commitment of Ibero-American countries to sharing information on the sustainable development support they provide to other countries in the region and beyond. Ten Ibero-American countries have reported to TOSSD so far, submitting data on their technical co-operation and joint research programmes, and their financial support and activities addressing global challenges e.g. UN peacekeeping operations. Many of these countries have actively participated in the development of the TOSSD standard, first through the International TOSSD Task Force and now through the IFT. Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru and Spain have joined the IFT as Members, and other Ibero-American countries are considering doing so.

The SEGIB and TOSSD reporting systems are complementary. TOSSD is an international statistical standard for measuring the full array of resources to promote the sustainable development of developing countries, including both official resources and private finance mobilised through official means. It is equally applicable to bilateral, multilateral and triangular co-operation providers, including countries and organisations from the South. TOSSD thus captures a broader set of activities, but with less qualitative data on South-South Cooperation (SSC) than SEGIB. At the same time, the experience of SEGIB is a valuable resource to be shared with reporters in other regions wishing to improve their reporting processes.

These complementarities provide us with great opportunities for collaboration to facilitate the work of data reporters. Over the past year, the IFT and SEGIB Secretariats have worked closely together to review statistical definitions and taxonomies, such as the sector classifications, and exchanged best practices in data collection.

In May 2024, we were pleased to welcome the SEGIB Secretariat as an Observer to the International Forum on TOSSD. This Observership will increase opportunities for SEGIB to exchange knowledge with SSC providers beyond Ibero-America. For the IFT, it is way of strengthening the voice and active role of SSC providers in shaping TOSSD and the measurement of development support for the SDGs.

Together, SEGIB and the IFT can spread information on the wide range of support that Ibero-American countries provide for sustainable development. The IFT is eager to work with SEGIB to unlock the full potential of the data and promote their use to inform current and future dialogues on financing for development. The 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, in Spain, is an ideal opportunity to show how working together can make a meaningful difference.



Julia Benn
Head of the International
Forum on TOSSD Secretariat



Photo: Lithium extraction and the implementation of industrialization processes to add value to the raw material is the main activity of the state-owned company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos. Through SSC with Argentina, Bolivia improves the yield of this metal and the quality of its by-products. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

IBERO-AMERICAN HEADS OF COOPERATION

BY OCTOBER 9TH, 2024

| COUNTRY | NAME | INSTITUTION |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| ANDORRA | Jeroni Estupiñán Pascual | Department of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Relations |
| ARGENTINA | Mateo Estremé | Directorate for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship |
| BOLIVIA | Antonio Mullisaca Díaz | Vice-Ministry for Public Investment and External Financing. Ministry of Development Planning |
| BRAZIL | Ruy Pereira | General Direction. Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC by its Spanish acronym) |
| CHILE | Enrique O'Farrill-Julien | Executive Direction. Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID by its Spanish acronym) |
| COLOMBIA | Diana Carolina Páez Gamboa | Directorate for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| COSTA RICA | Sergio Vinocour Fornieri | Directorate for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship |
| CUBA | Óscar Pérez Oliva Fraga | Vice-Ministry for Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment. Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Olaya Dotel | Vice-Ministry for International Cooperation. Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development |
| ECUADOR | Juan Manuel Escalante Dávila | Directorate-General for International, Bi-Multilateral and South-South Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility |
| EL SALVADOR | Karla Majano de Palma | General Direction. Agency for International Cooperation of El Salvador (ESCO by its Spanish acronym) |
| GUATEMALA | Iliana Maricela Peña Aldana | Under-Secretariat for Cooperation and Partnerships for Development. Secretariat for Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN by its Spanish acronym) of the Presidency of the Republic |
| HONDURAS | Cindy Larissa Rodríguez Mendoza | Under-Secretariat for Cooperation and International Promotion. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| MEXICO | Luisa Hortensia Solchaga López | Directorate-General for International Cooperation Policy for Development. Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID by its Spanish acronym) |
| NICARAGUA | Arlette Cristina Marenco Meza | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| PANAMA | Carlos Marcial Fitzgerald | Directorate-General for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| PARAGUAY | Eliana Raquel Duarte Torales | Directorate for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| PERU | Noela María Eufemia Pantoja Crespo | General Direction. Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI by its Spanish acronym) |
| PORTUGAL | Florbela Paraíba | Institute for Cooperation and Language (Camões) |
| SPAIN | Laura Oroz Ulibarri | Directorate for Cooperation with Latin-America and the Caribbean. Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID by its Spanish acronym) |
| URUGUAY | Mariano Berro | Executive Direction. Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI by its Spanish acronym) |
| VENEZUELA | María Jacqueline Mendoza | Directorate for Political Coordination and Integration Mechanisms. Vice-Ministry for Multilateral Affairs. Minister of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs |



Photo: Environmental volunteers develop initiatives for reforestation and for the creation of firebreaks in Los Andes Forest Park (San Miguelito, Panama). This prevents fires from spreading and residents from being exposed to soot. Through this project, Panama and El Salvador share their experience to increase environmental protection and awareness. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

Commemorating fifteen editions of the Report: challenges and opportunities in the framework of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

I South-South Cooperation's main contributions and achievements since 2007

Fifteen years ago, in 2007, Ibero-America initiated a benchmark practice in terms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): the systematization of initiatives based on the principles of solidarity, consensus, equity and horizontality. Since then, the different editions of the Report on SSTC have accounted for countries' political will to generate collaborative partnerships aimed at exchanging experiences and best practices that contribute not only to strengthening public policies but also to support government institutions to effectively provide goods and services that promote the improvement of the quality of life of the region's population. Thus, Ibero-American SSTC has become a reference for international cooperation, having a flexible and effective strategy for knowledge sharing and resource management among countries with common characteristics and challenges.

Ibero-American SSTC plays a relevant role in the context of global development strategies, strategically aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate agendas, and, more recently, with post-pandemic recovery efforts. This cooperation model, characterized by its adaptability, enables the region to face emerging challenges such as human mobility crises and the effects of climate change —among others—, in an inclusive and participatory manner. As a result of its contribution to SDG 17, Ibero-American SSTC stands out as an effective mechanism to strengthen multisectoral partnerships, supporting sustainable development in the countries of the region.

This fifteenth edition reveals how Ibero-America has managed to consolidate its agreements and collaborative instruments to respond to common needs, in the face of the impact of political crises and of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of its capacity to address specific problems in an efficient and adaptable manner, technical cooperation has been the most dynamic in these fifteen years, accounting for national and regional priorities in areas such as education, health, and disaster management, to name a few.

Over the years, SSTC in Ibero-America has consolidated a working mechanism that enables countries to share resources and knowledge, promoting sustainable, high-impact programs. Each report has shed light on projects' quantity and quality, making the consolidation of SSTC as an essential modality for the region's development, visible. This document has also provided evidence on the innovations that Ibero-American countries have generated in this area.

We are less than six years away from 2030, and the region faces the challenge of accelerating its progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In a complex international context, with structural challenges such as climate change, inequality and human mobility, SSTC is a key instrument to accomplish comprehensive sustainable development. Ibero-American countries have demonstrated a joint commitment to build a cooperation system aimed at implementing effective public policies in the framework of collaborative efforts that strengthen the region's human and economic development.

This edition of the Report highlights the process of systematization, measurement and visibility of SSTC in Ibero-America, a region that has managed to reach a consensus on criteria and terms, and has agreed on an integrated vision of progress in the framework of this cooperation modality. As a result of the financial support of Spanish Cooperation, of Ibero-American countries' commitment, and of the work carried out by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) for its preparation, this Report documents the achievements that have been made and the lessons learned, making the regional contribution to the SDGs visible.

Ibero-American cooperation is not just the aggregation of national initiatives; it is an example of common value-added practices that accounts for the way in which structured collaboration can have a multiplying impact on countries' development. This edition, commemorating fifteen years of work, highlights the region's efforts to address local needs while creating a cooperation model that can be replicated in other contexts.

In the current scenario of debates on financing for development, this Report becomes a strategic instrument, providing essential data and analyses that contribute to the region's visibility, positioning it as a reference for its inclusive and dynamic cooperation. SSTC in Ibero-America is a vehicle to generate new partnerships and associations, reaffirming the region's commitment to sustainable development and to strengthen its technical and political capacities.

The Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America has become a fundamental reference in this field. Its fifteen-year history reveals the region's shared commitment to build a solid,

effective and transparent system based on the principles of equity and collaboration. This edition places emphasis on the progress made so far and it underscores the future potential of SSTC as an essential modality to address global challenges.



Regional challenges after fifteen years of collaborative work

SSTC must clearly and measurably demonstrate its contribution to sustainable development in all its dimensions, bringing key stakeholders such as local governments, civil society, the academia and the private sector together, in order to maximize the joint impact of its initiatives.

It is necessary to delve into the debate on SSTC's quantitative and qualitative measurement and evaluation. It is therefore crucial to strengthen data collection systems so that its follow-up can shed light on its impact on public policies and its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. This favors transparency and accountability, increases the possibilities of having access to new financial resources, and improves cooperation's management in the region.

Although some challenges still persist, the current debates on measurement acknowledge the progress made and reveal the global recognition that the Ibero-American region has gained in this area. This would not have been possible without the Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Each country contributes to SSTC from a unique combination of knowledge, experiences, solutions and technologies according to its institutional capacities to effectively transfer these resources. In this sense, the development of solid national cooperation systems, with an adequate coordination and leadership of International Cooperation Agencies, Directorates-General or other respective offices, becomes an essential pillar for countries' successful performance.

It is also key to generate, systematize and transfer knowledge through efficient and sustainable cooperation and evaluation mechanisms in order to maximize SSTC's sustainability and its impact at the regional and global levels, as well as to strengthen national cooperation systems' capacities to identify, systematize and share best practices in a timely manner, when requested by their counterparts.

The global debate on SSTC must incorporate these specific regional contexts and consider the different perspectives of all Ibero-American countries. It is crucial to continue systematizing their cooperation, giving them visibility and providing them with tools for its better management. This will strengthen Ibero-America's positioning in an inclusive and global debate, reaffirming this modality as a driver of sustainable development that can contribute to reduce poverty and inequalities in and between countries, and as a benchmark for the future and for other regions.



Opportunities for South-South Cooperation in the framework of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

Next year, Spain will host the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, following Monterrey (2002), Doha (2008) and Addis Ababa (2015). This event represents a strategic opportunity to mobilize policies and resources that boost sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Since the last conference, the world has undergone profound changes in terms of digitalization, macroeconomics and finance, in addition to facing systemic risks derived from climate change, pandemics and conflicts, which have limited access to financing for development. This context makes this a key venue to define a financial framework that addresses these challenges and facilitates access to resources in a fair and sustainable manner.

In the framework of the Pact for the Future, countries reached a basic agreement to strengthen financing for development, prioritizing the creation of a multi-stakeholder, multilevel cooperation system that will enable low- and middle-income countries to access financing on fair terms. This Pact promotes resource mobilization through innovative and collaborative mechanisms, focusing on resilience and sustainability to address critical matters such as climate change adaptation and post-pandemic economic recovery.

This access to financing on favorable terms is essential for Ibero-America, especially for middle-income countries that face obstacles in this area. In this sense, this Fourth Conference is a crucial platform for Ibero-American countries to agree on the need for a new international architecture for financing for development that addresses aspects such as the reform of the international financial system in order to make it more inclusive, responsive to

global priorities and equitable to tackle the challenges that define contemporary global landscapes and countries' needs—considering their diverse economic and social contexts—, from a multidimensional perspective, through innovative and efficient mechanisms for the mobilization of public and private, monetary and non-monetary resources. SSTC, as a capacity building modality, can be very significant to create the conditions that favor investors' confidence in the region.

Likewise, SSTC, already positioned in the development agenda debates, must also be at the core of the debates on financing. The conference should promote political dynamization and resource mobilization to achieve the SDGs at the global, regional, national and local levels, ensuring that these funds are available to the most vulnerable populations. It should also encourage countries to explore alternative mechanisms and financial instruments and to comply with their commitments in the framework of international development agendas.

Although technical cooperation and SSTC often involve modest budgetary amounts, their high value in terms of technical knowledge transfer and their capacity to strengthen institutions are priceless. SSTC has its own value, providing countries with the opportunity to mobilize financial flows with a high return in technical and institutional capacities. This approach also generates confidence, facilitating the participation of new stakeholders and making the region more attractive to international financial flows while boosting synergies and innovation, which are key in the current context.

This effort must be translated into the reduction of asymmetries, capacity strengthening, the promotion of sustainable development and the design of public policies that consolidate Ibero-America's position in the international political and economic system. This will reaffirm countries' multilateral and collaborative calling and will promote a cooperation system that prioritizes inclusive and resilient development, aligned with the commitments of the Pact for the Future.



How to read this Report

How to read a report with more than 200 graphs? What to look for in it? Where to start? This section aims to answer these and other questions in order to facilitate the approach to a document which methodological thoroughness and length is no obstacle to an agile and entertaining reading.



What is this Report about?

This report analyzes Ibero-American countries' South-South Cooperation in a certain period. This particular edition focuses on 2022 and 2023. However, the accumulated data (from 2007 –the first year this document was published– to 2023) enables the contextualization of this modality and the interpretation of this information in light of relevant events, such as the 2030 Agenda or the COVID-19 pandemic.




What information is included in this Report?

This Report includes systematized information on the three cooperation modalities recognized by this Ibero-American space: “Bilateral SSC”, “Triangular Cooperation” and “Regional SSC”. In each case, the unit of analysis coincides with the type of instrument through which exchanges are implemented: “action, project, program”, all of them considered “initiatives”. Several analyses are made in terms of these initiatives: by time frames; by “stakeholders” and “roles”; by “sectors” (capacities that are exchanged and strengthened); and by SDGs (alignment of this cooperation with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda). The instruments that support the Triangular and Regional modalities are also studied. All these concepts are detailed in the attached Methodological Note.



How is this information presented?

The Report is divided into three chapters, each of them referring to the three modalities mentioned above (Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation, Regional SSC). They systematize the cooperation that the 22 Ibero-American countries have carried out with partners from all over the world (countries of the Global South, countries of the North, and multilateral organizations). These chapters are preceded by a series of Highlights that summarize the main outcomes of this document. The Report closes with 22 Country Fact Sheets, which detail the most relevant information for the 2022-2023 period in each case.



Where to start reading?

Wherever the reader prefers. The Highlights, the Chapters by modality and the Country Fact Sheets structure the Report around 5 complementary but different and independent information sections. This makes the Report flexible and adaptable to each reader, enabling them to dive into each content regardless of the sequence and separately, without affecting the understanding of the whole picture.

Something else, as this is a commemorative edition

In order to celebrate this special edition, the Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation have included a message in which they highlight the value of these 15 editions and reflect on the region's challenges and opportunities in the face of the next Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025, in Spain. Commemorative greetings from organizations with which SEGIB closely works to strengthen SSC at the global level –ECLAC, UNCTAD and IFT-TOSSD– are also included. Finally, a fold-out infographic summarizes and illustrates the history of these 15 Reports in the framework of the last 25 years of development cooperation.



Photo: Considering the strategic importance of lithium production and commercialization for Latin-America, the National University of La Plata — through the Center for Inorganic Chemistry—reached a strategic SSC agreement to study the nucleation and growth of lithium carbonate crystals, in collaboration with the state-owned company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

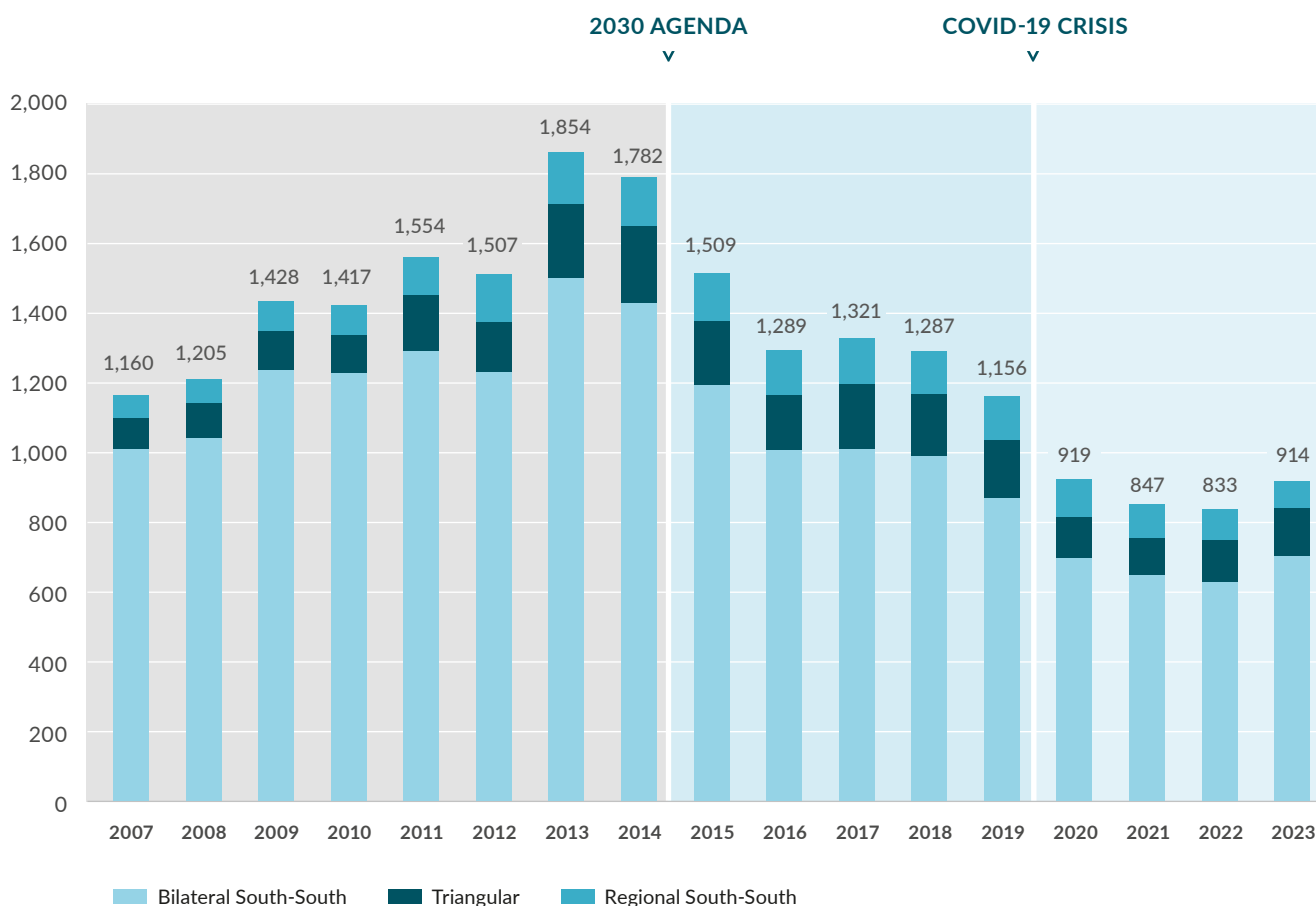
Highlights

1 Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation is growing again

In 2023, and after successive falls —intensified by the crisis caused by COVID-19— the total number of exchanges between Ibero-American countries is beginning to increase. The final figure (914), however, remains below 1,000 annual initiatives, still at a significant distance from pre-crisis levels and far from the maximum record of 2013 and 2014.

Evolution of the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC actions, projects and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2007-2023

In units



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

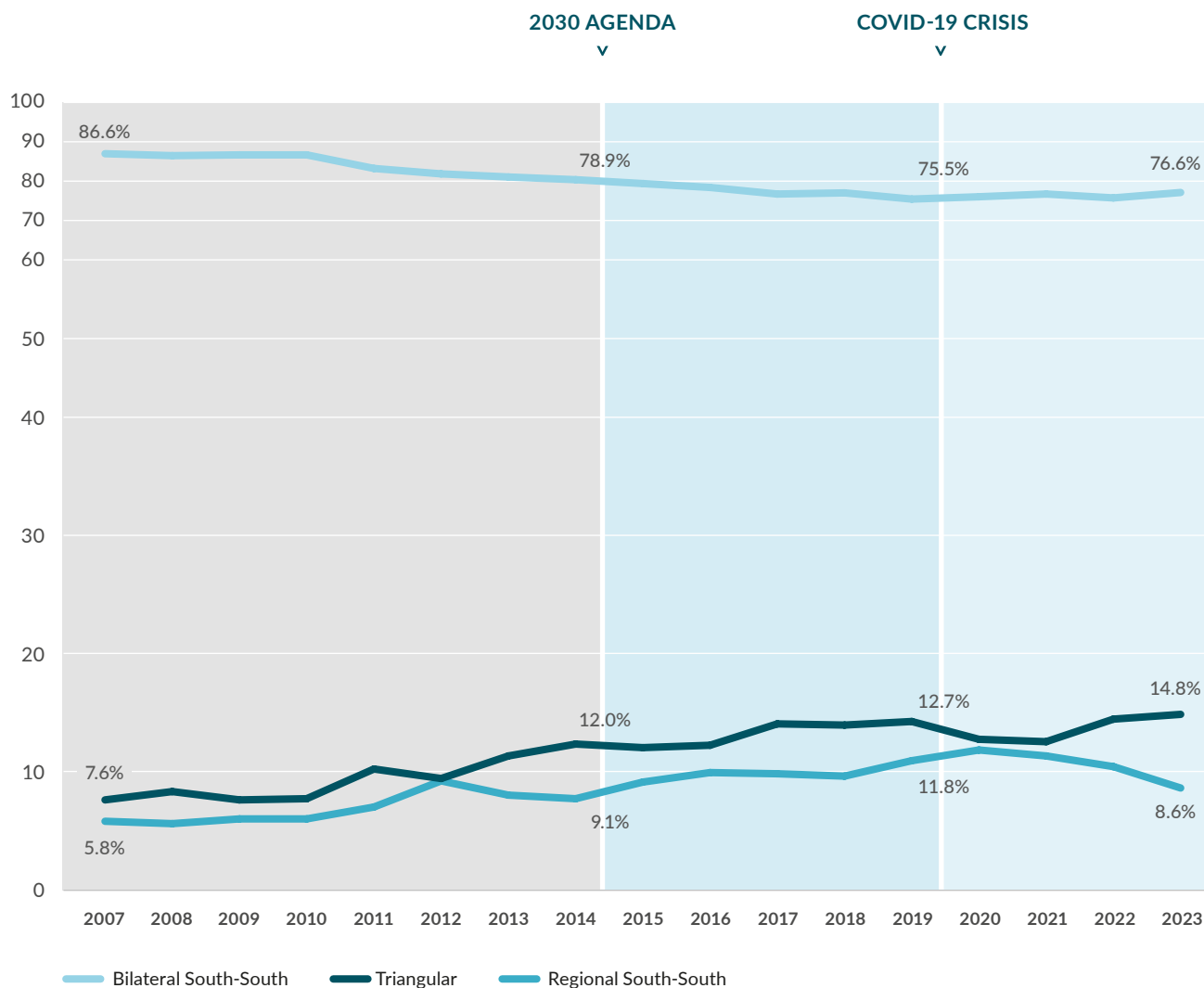
2 Bilateral SSC is still the most important modality (75% of the total), although Triangular Cooperation doubles its participation (to 15% in 2023)

Between 2007 and 2023, the importance of Triangular Cooperation in the total number of exchanges rises from 7.6% to 14.8%. Until the COVID-19 crisis, this increase undermined that of Bilateral SSC, which participation fell by 10 points. After the pandemic, Triangular Cooperation began to displace Regional SSC, which importance fell from 11.8% in 2020 to 8.6% in 2023.



Evolution of the weight of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, by two-year period. 2007-2023

In units



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

3

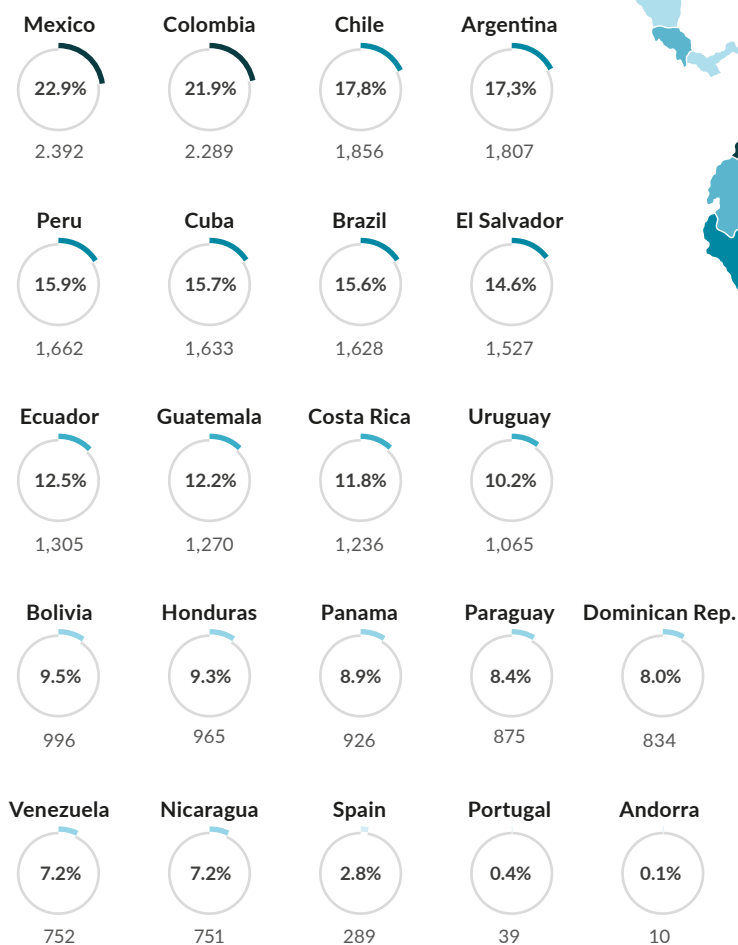
More than half of the Ibero-American countries carried out over 1,000 exchanges

Between 2007 and 2023, Mexico and Colombia have participated in more than 2,200 initiatives, while six countries —Chile, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, Brazil and El Salvador— have implemented over 1,500. Another four —Ecuador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Uruguay— surpassed the 1,000 threshold. Spain also deserves a special mention, with approximately to 300 Regional SSC and Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

Initiatives in which each Ibero-American country has participated, by modality. 2007-2023

In units

10,432
TOTAL



More than 2,000 From 1,500 to 1,999 From 1,000 to 1,499 From 500 to 999 From 250 to 499 Less than 250



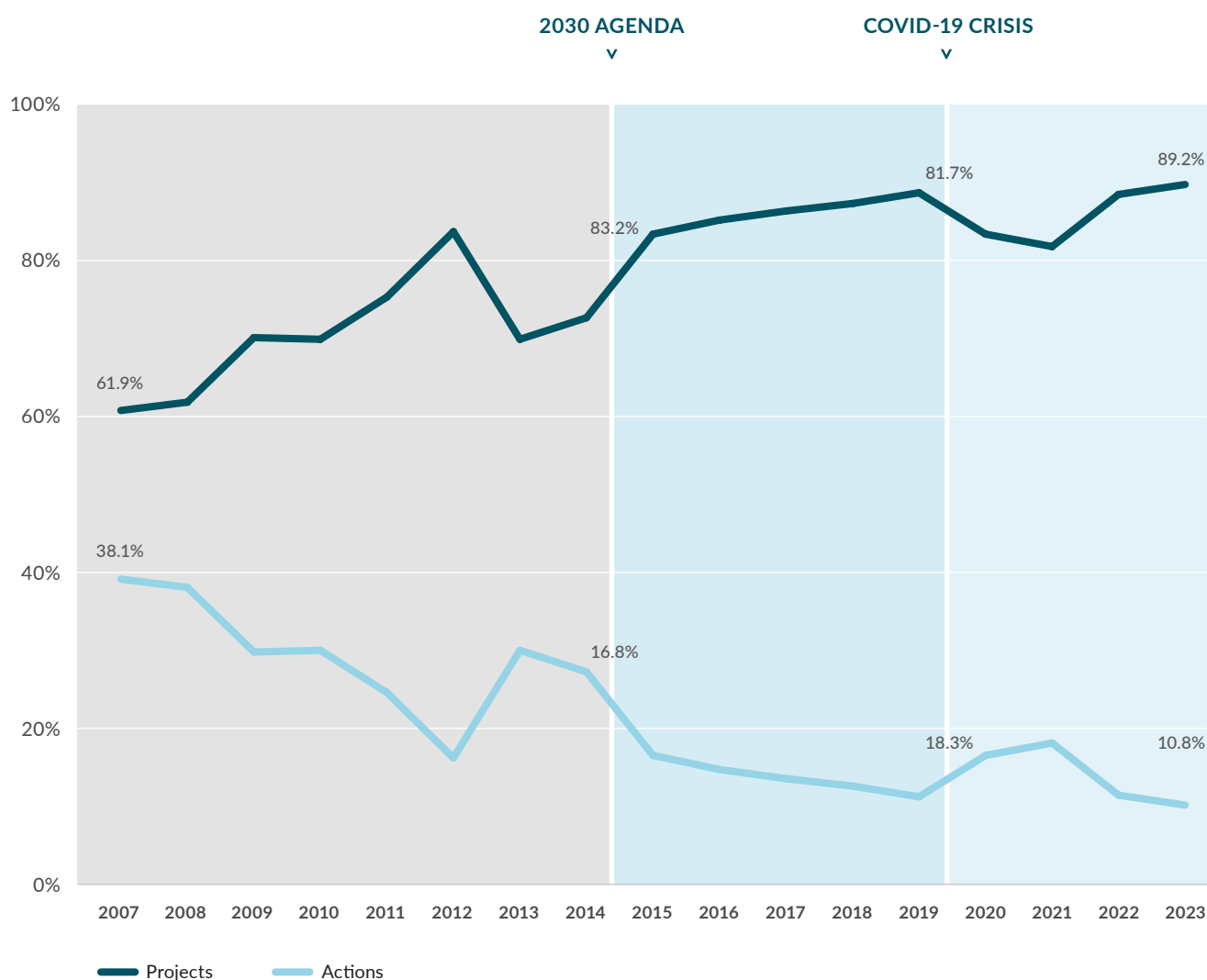
Ibero-American SSC and Triangular Cooperation is consolidating, becoming more stable, of a long-term nature and less specific

Between 2007 and 2023, projects (which average execution takes about 2 years), have become increasingly important as an instrument for SSC and Triangular Cooperation, to the detriment of actions (more specific, and with an average duration of about one month). In 2007, projects accounted for 60% of the total number of exchanges, and actions for 40%. Nowadays, projects account for 90% of all initiatives.



Evolution of projects' and actions' weight in the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2007-2023

In percentage



Methodological note: Projects also include Regional CSS programs, which only account for 1.3% of the 10,432 initiatives carried out in this period.

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

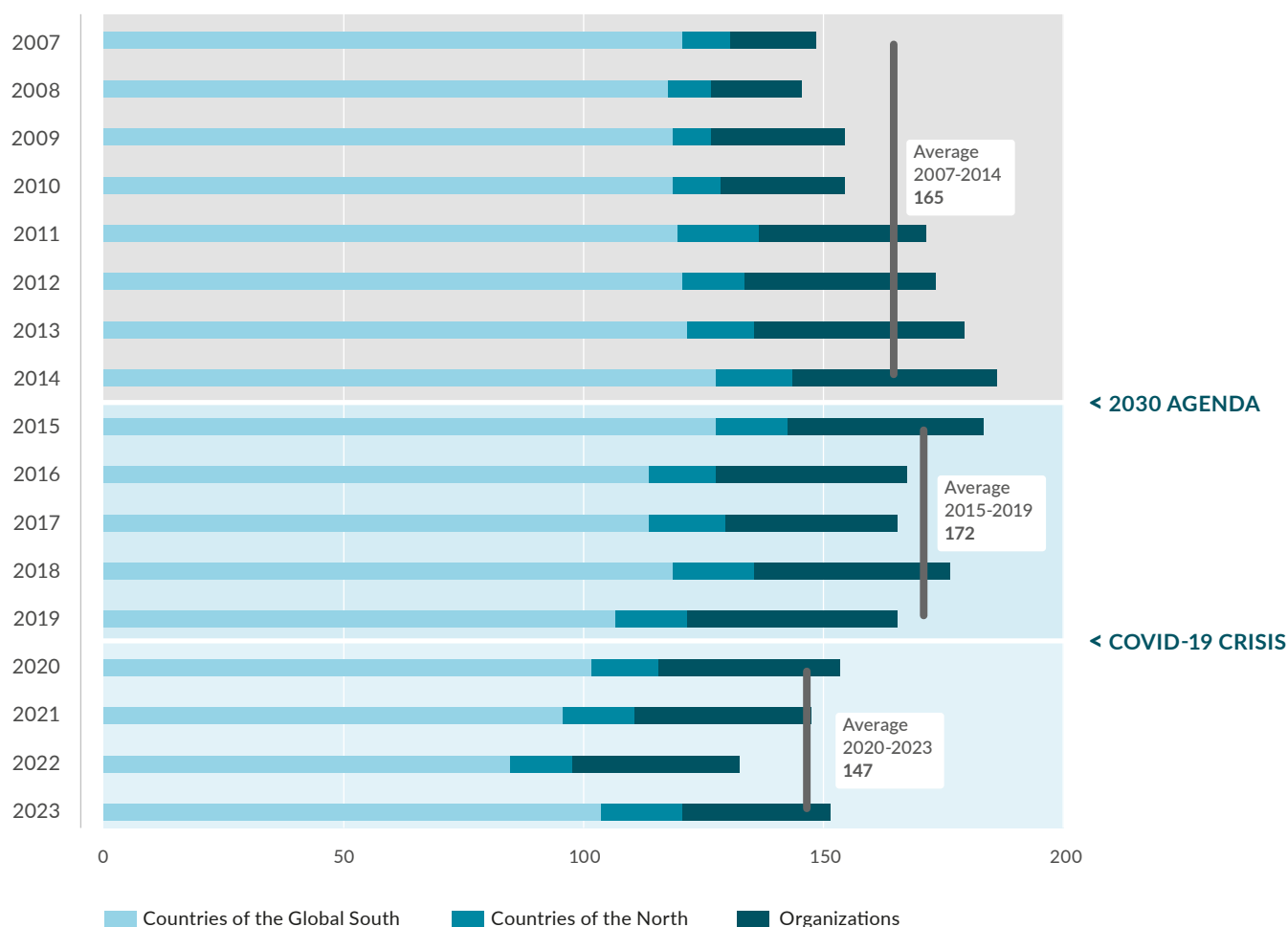
5 This cooperation has been based on the interaction of more than 200 countries and organizations

The 10,432 initiatives carried out between 2007 and 2023 have involved 239 stakeholders. The 22 Ibero-American countries have associated with 135 countries of other regions of the Global South; 37 countries of the North; and 81 multilateral organizations. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the participation of different stakeholders increases. The impact of COVID-19 crisis reduces the average number, which is, nevertheless, around 150 per year.

Number of different partners (countries of the Global South; other regions' countries; and organizations) that annually participated in the total number of Ibero-American initiatives. 2007-2023

In units

Total 239 Countries of the Global South 154 Countries of the North 40 Organizations 81



Methodological note: Projects also include Regional CSS programs, which only account for 1.3% of the 10,432 initiatives carried out in this period.

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



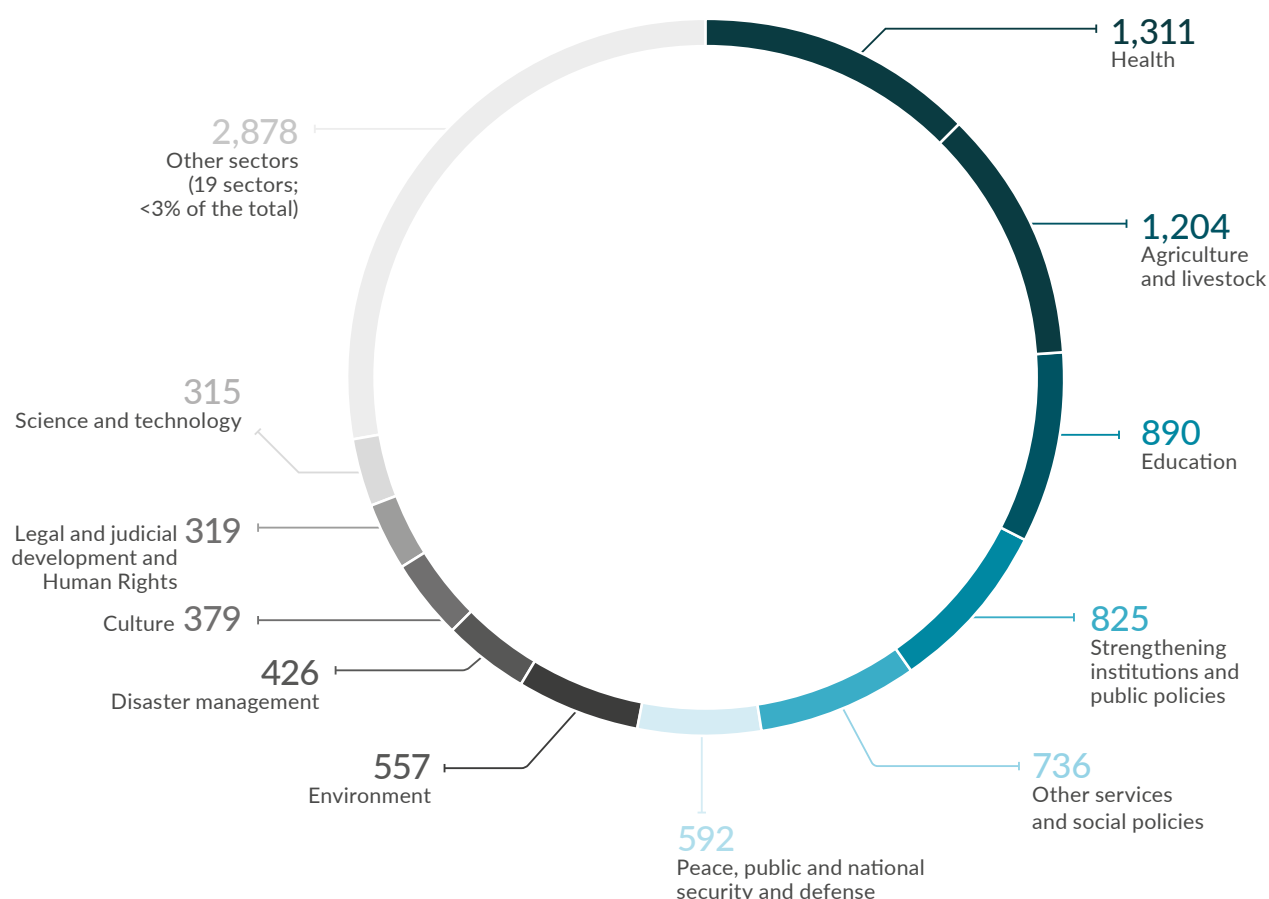
The largest number of initiatives focuses on the *Health and Agriculture and livestock sectors*, while exchanges in *Science and technology* barely reach 3%

Between 2007 and 2023, Ibero-American countries dedicated more than 1,200 initiatives—in each case—to strengthen the *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock* sectors. These were followed by exchanges in the Social (*Education* and social policies), Institutional strengthening and Environment areas. Efforts are still necessary in other important regional challenges, such as *Science and technology* (315 exchanges).



Distribution of the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, by activity sector. 2007-2023

In units



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

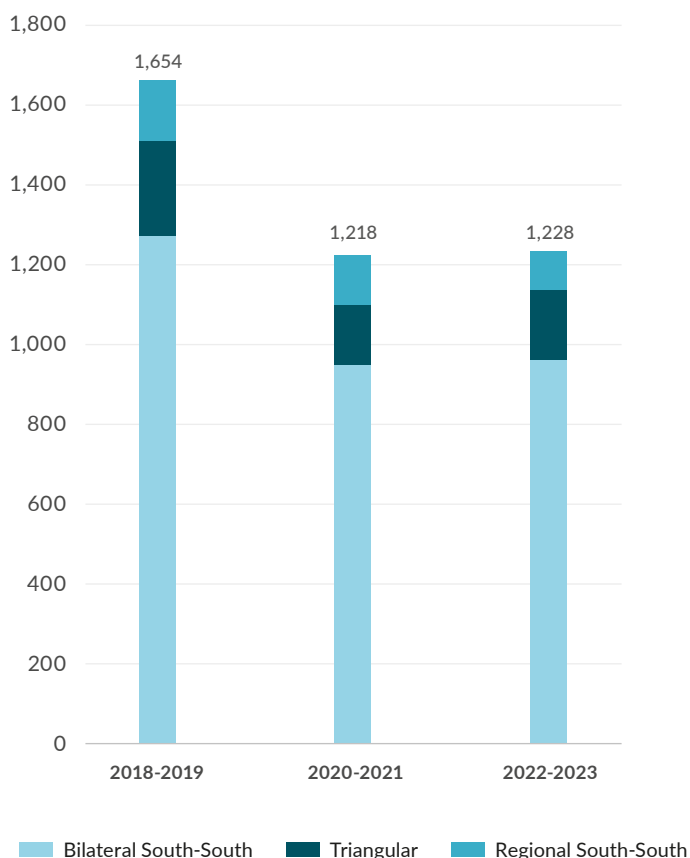
The 1,228 initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 suggest a positive, albeit still incipient, change in trend

In 2022-2023, the total number of initiatives increased by 0.8% (to 1,228) compared to the 2020-2021 period. This figure reveals a significant change in trend, especially after the sharp drop of -26.4% caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Bilateral SSC shows a similar dynamic. Triangular Cooperation seems to be the more resilient modality and Regional SSC fails to halt its decline.

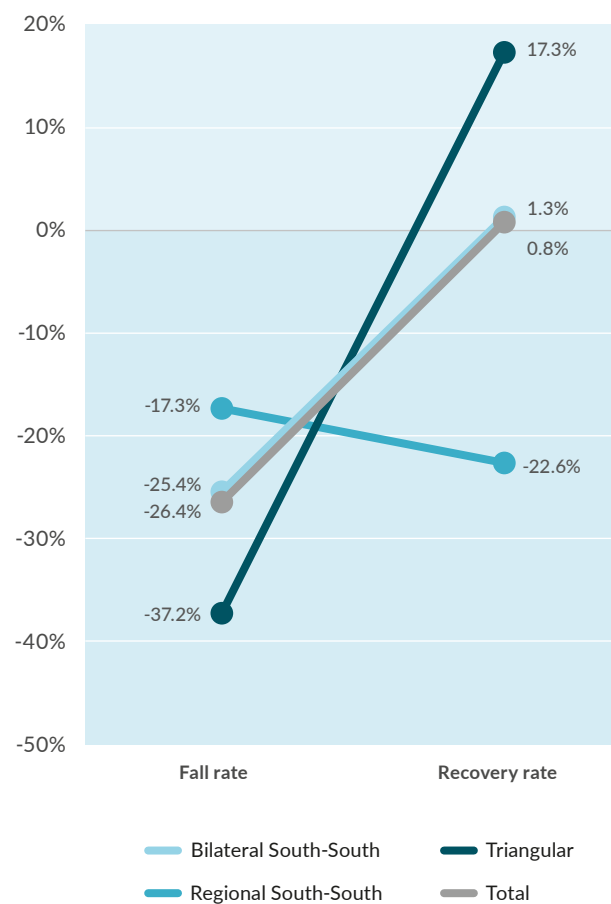
Evolution of the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by modality (Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC). 2018-2019, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In units and percentage

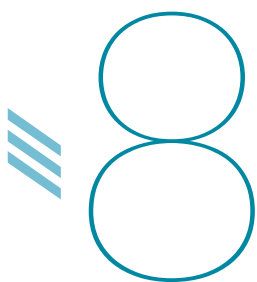
A. Initiatives



B. Variation between two-year periods



Methodological note: The "fall rate" refers to the variation in the number of initiatives implemented in 2020-2021 with respect to the preceding two-year period (2018-2019). The "recovery rate" refers to the variation in the number of initiatives implemented in 2022-2023 with respect to 2020-2021.
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



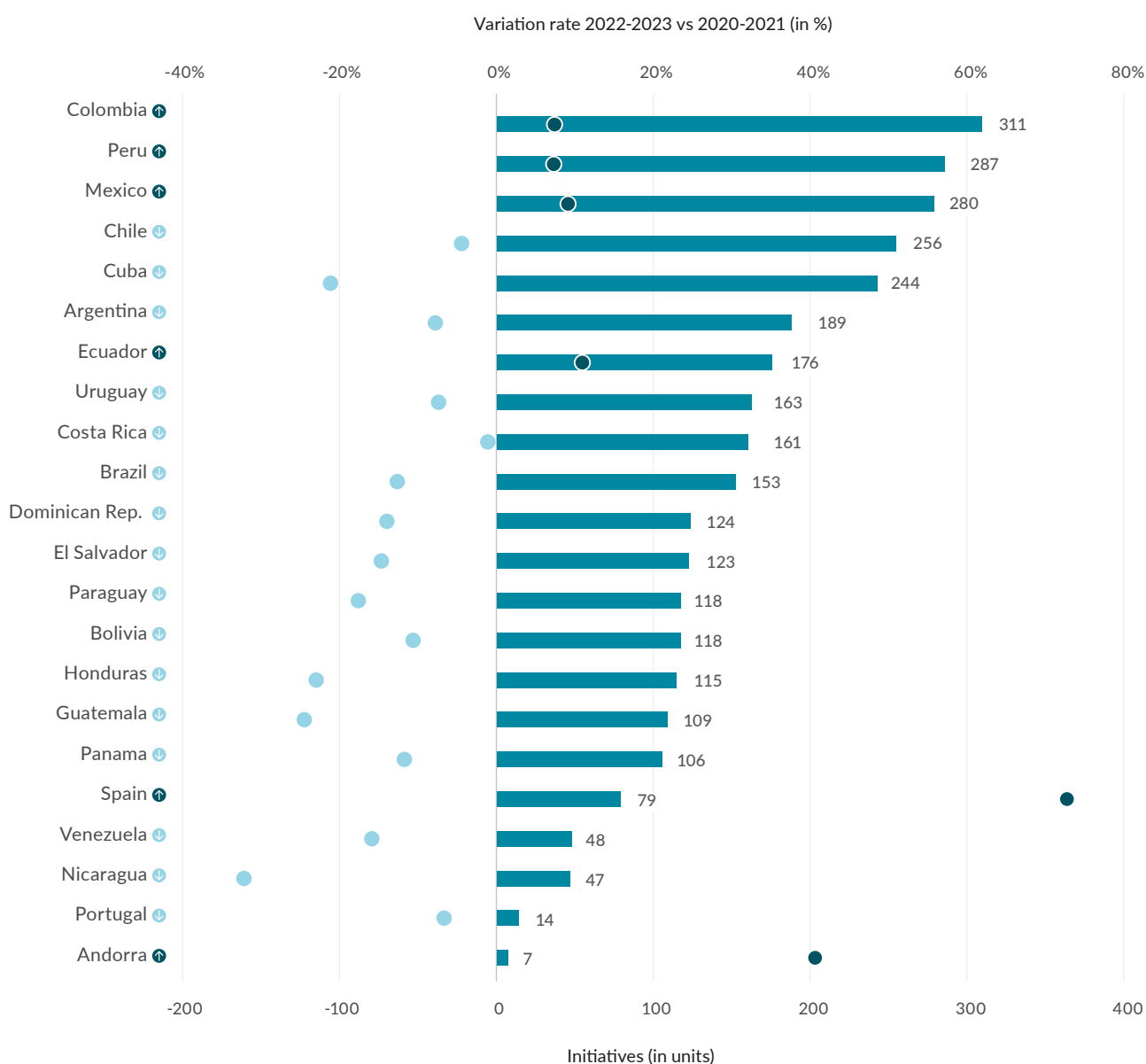
After the pandemic, 6 countries drive cooperation's growth

In the 2022-2023 period, most Ibero-American countries' SSC and Triangular Cooperation continues to fall. However, Mexico, Peru and Colombia regained dynamism, implementing around 300 initiatives, and their cooperation increased between 7%-9%, compared to 2020-2021. The cases of Ecuador (176 exchanges and a 10.7% increase) and Spain, which Triangular Cooperation pushes initiatives up by 71.7% (to 79), are also noteworthy.



Ibero-American countries' total number of initiatives and the variation rate with respect to the COVID-19 two-year period. 2022-2023 and 2022-2023 vs. 2020-2021

In units and percentage



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



Bilateral SSC is the preferred modality to address the *Health* sector while Triangular Cooperation is mainly chosen to tackle *Environment* matters

From 2018 to 2023 (before, during and after the COVID-19), Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation continued to have a different profile with respect to thematic priorities, *Health* (between 20%-30% of bilateral exchanges) being the most important in the framework of the former, and *Environment* (from 10% to 15% of triangular exchanges) prevailing in terms of the latter. *Agriculture and livestock*, however, was equally significant for both modalities, accounting for another 10%-15% of the final number of initiatives.



Evolution of the weight of the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors in the total number of initiatives exchanged before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis, by modality. 2018-2023

In percentage



*Vertical axes range between 0-20%, except in *Health*'s case, in which it ranges between 0-35%.

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

10

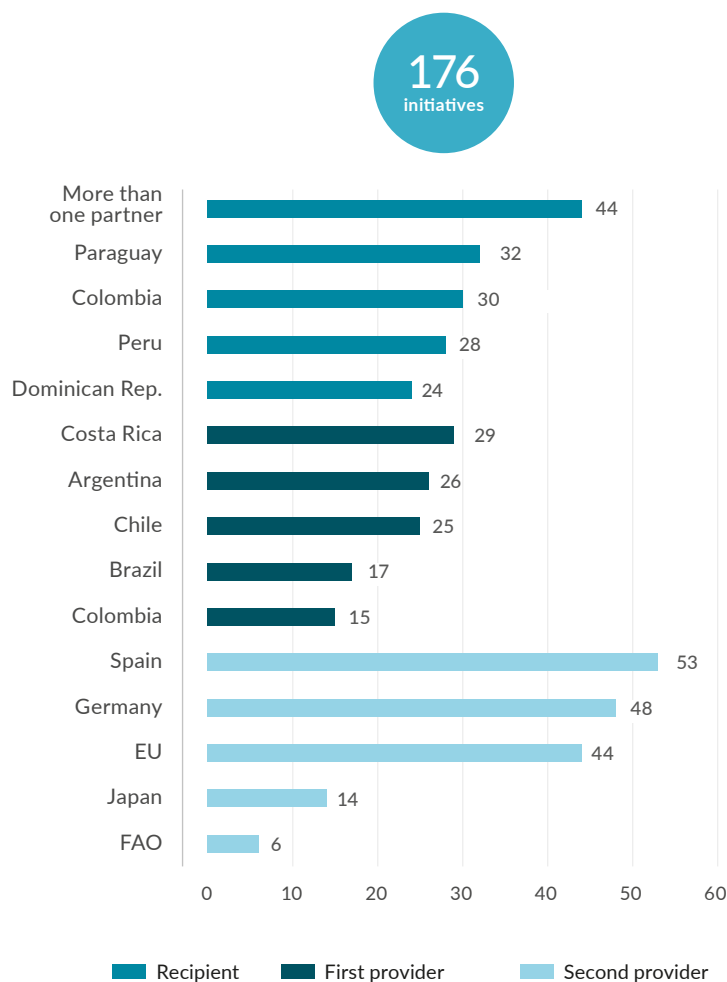
Spain's Triangular Cooperation is significantly growing, outperforming Germany's

After a sharp drop due to the impact of the pandemic, Spain's Triangular Cooperation has been successively increasing, raising to 53 initiatives in 2022-2023. As a result, this country has become the first second provider, followed by Germany and the EU. Costa Rica, Argentina and Chile are the most dynamic first providers. Paraguay, Colombia, Peru and the Dominican Republic stand out as recipients, although the most common case is still that in which several countries simultaneously participate in this role.



Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main partners, by role (recipient, first and second provider). 2022-2023

In units

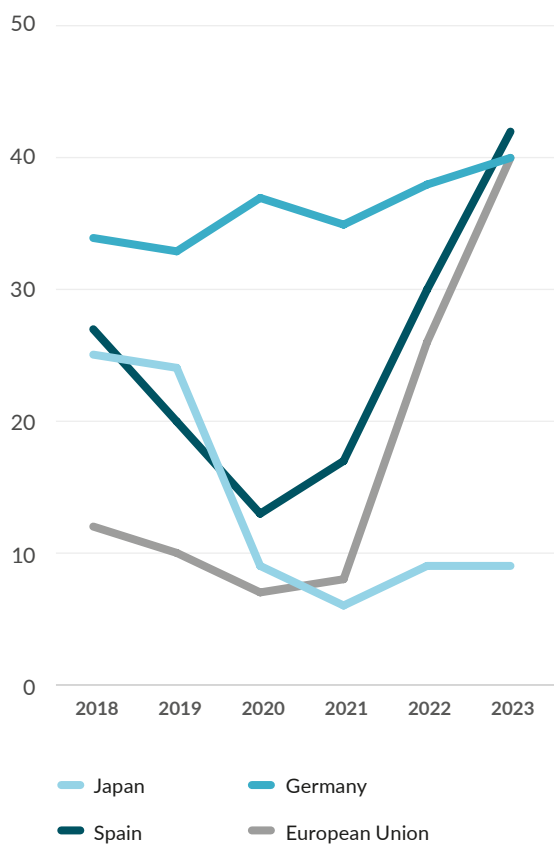


Methodological note: All the initiatives in which each partner participates in that role are counted, whether it participates individually or in association with others. For example, Spain and the EU share roles in 32 of their 53 and 44 initiatives.

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

Evolution of the participation of the main second providers in the Triangular Cooperation carried out in the pre- and post-COVID-19 crisis, by country. 2018-2023

In units



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

11

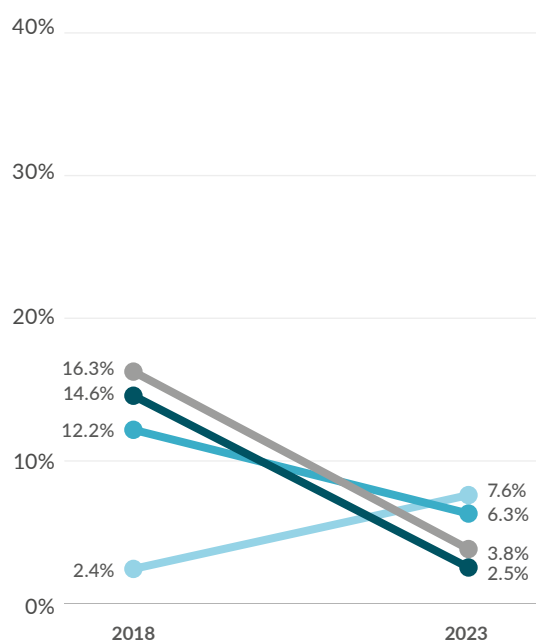
Regional SSC promoted by the Ibero-American System is strong and resilient

Between 2018 and 2023 (before, during and after the crisis), the Ibero-American System gains importance in Regional SSC as a whole, accounting for 22.8% of the initiatives in 2018 and for 36.7% in 2023. Its strength and resilience contrasts with that of other systems, such as the Central-American, Mesoamerican and MERCOSUR, each of which loses more than 10 percentage points, their importance being below 10% in 2023. The other system that shows great dynamism is the Pacific Alliance, which participation increases from 2.4% to 13.9%.

Evolution of the weight of multilateral cooperation systems in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives in the pre- and post-COVID-19 crisis, by system. 2018-2023

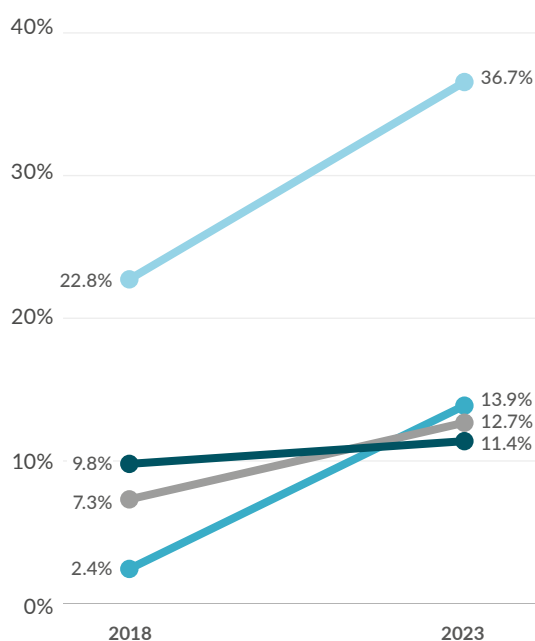
In percentage

A. Below 10% in 2023



Central-American System
MERCOSUR
Mesoamerican Initiatives
European Cooperation System

B. Above 10% in 2023



UN System
Inter-American System
Pacific Alliance
Ibero-American System

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



12

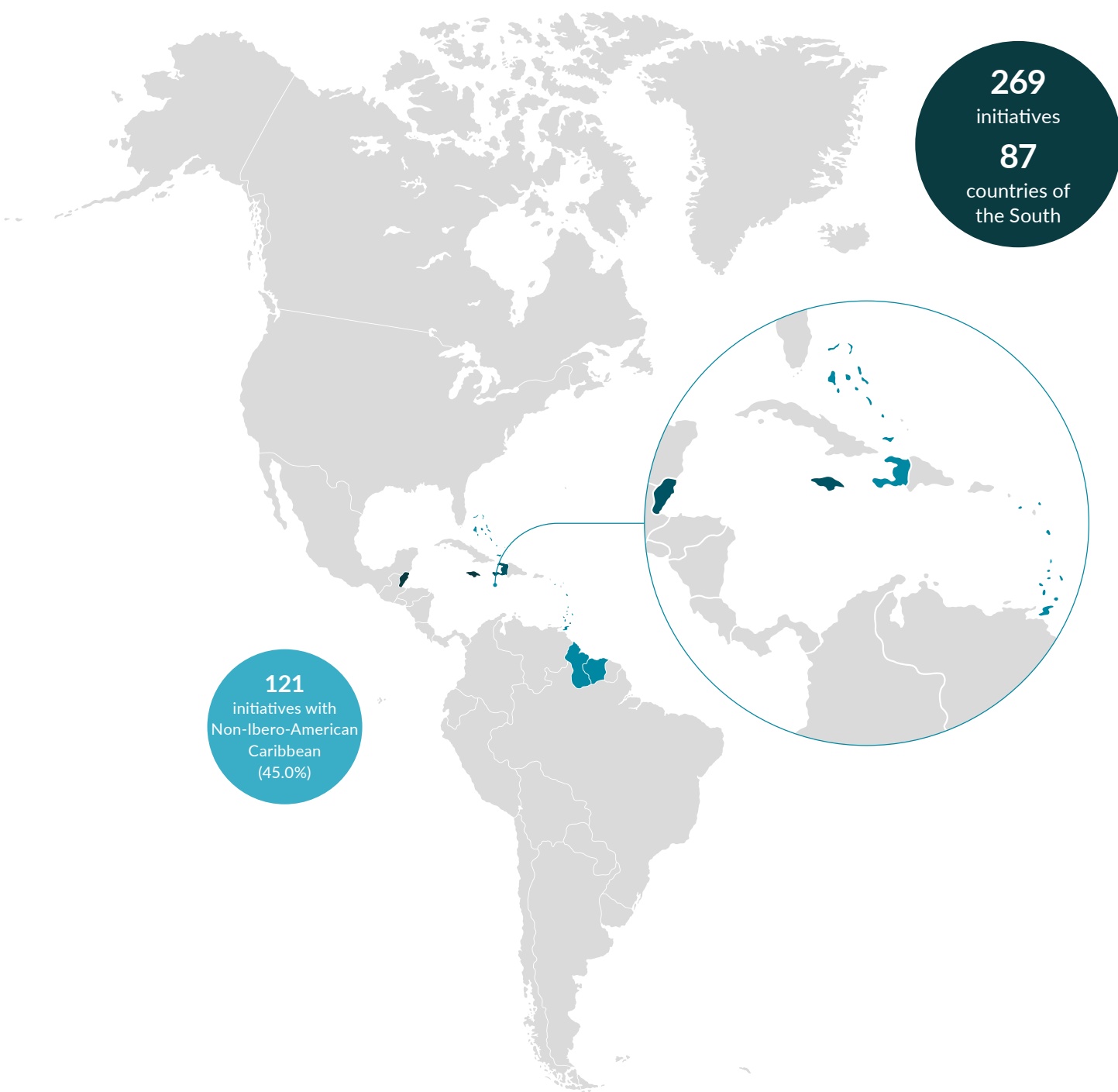
Partnerships are growing and cooperation is carried out with 87 other countries of the Global South

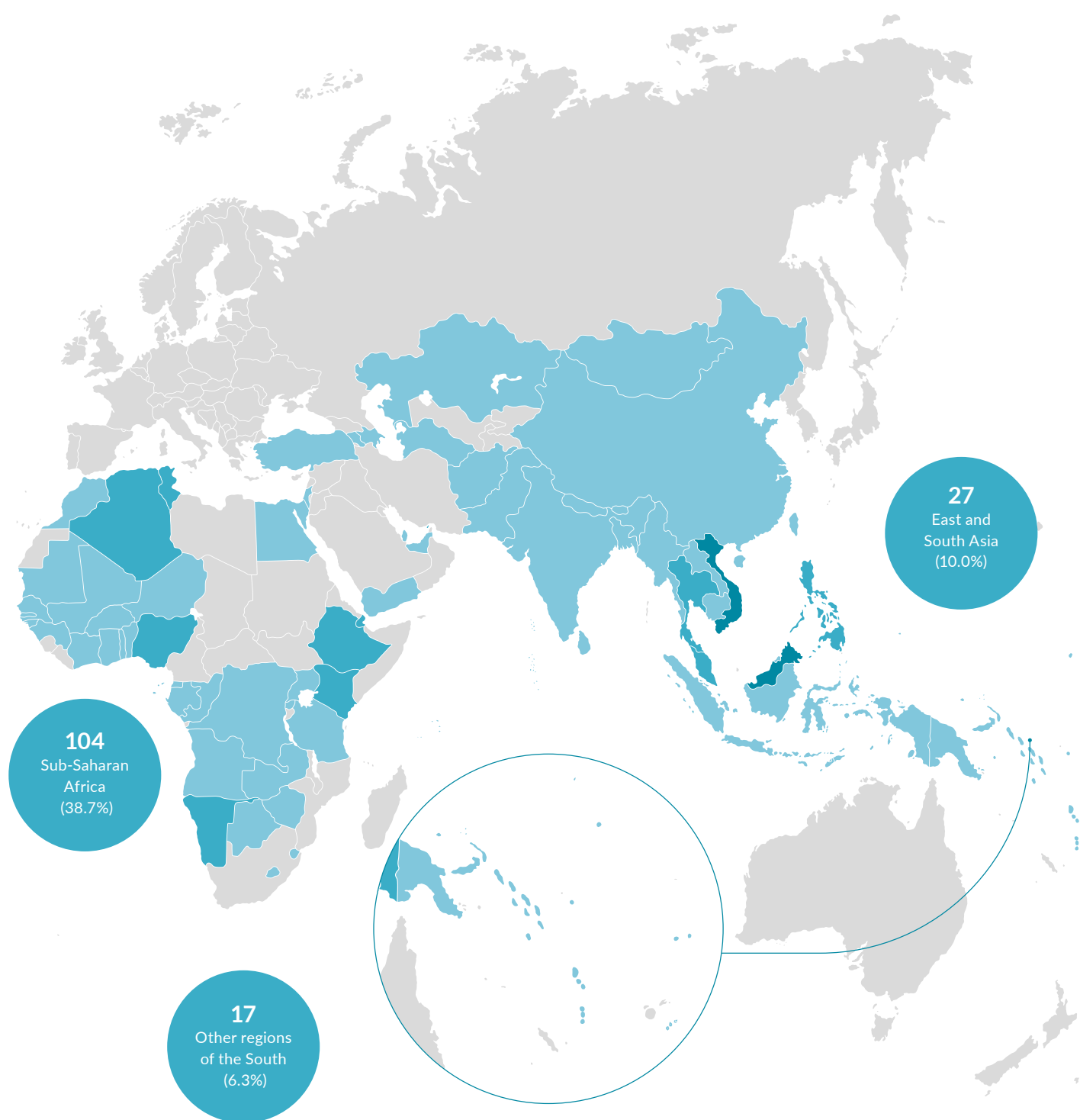
Up to 269 of the 1,228 initiatives that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period involved knowledge sharing with 87 other countries in other regions of the Global South. This reveals that the capacity of SSC and Triangular Cooperation to generate increased and diversified partnerships is intensifying. Associations with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa stand out, with over 100 exchanges with Ibero-America.



Participation of countries of other regions of the Global South in the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2022-2023

In units





Number of initiatives in which each country participated in 2020-2021, regardless of the modality and role

More than 20 initiatives
 From 10 to 19
 From 5 to 9
 Less than 5



Photo: Through SSC, the National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems of Peru (INAIGEM by its Spanish acronym) and the Environmental Fund for Water Protection of Ecuador (FONAG by its Spanish acronym), exchange experiences to strengthen strategies for the conservation and recovery of water services in mountain ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

1 Ibero-America and Bilateral South-South Cooperation in the New Global Context

The 2022-2023 period was expected to be a turning point to overcome the crisis caused by COVID-19. In this context of a sustainable and inclusive return to normality, South-South Cooperation (SSC), severely hit by this pandemic, needed to recover and renew its strength as an instrument for development. This chapter analyzes whether the Bilateral SSC in which Ibero-America has participated over the last two years has contributed to recovery while enabling further progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The above-mentioned approach focuses on Ibero-American countries and their partners of the South as the main stakeholders that actually make SSC possible.

1.1 Bilateral SSC in Ibero-America in 2022 and 2023: facing the challenge of recovery

During 2022 and 2023, and after the 2020-2021 period, when the COVID-19 crisis forced the cancellation and/or rescheduling of a large number of exchanges, Ibero-American countries' South-South Cooperation was expected to regain its strength.

Indeed, it should be recalled that the measures taken in 2020 and 2021 in response to the pandemic — especially strict confinement and mobility restrictions— forced a significant part of the SSC projects that were scheduled for that period to be put on hold

(temporarily or even completely). This had a significant impact (initiatives decreased by 25% compared to 2018 and 2019) partly because SSC heavily relies on the mobilization of professionals and officials between countries, which was clearly not feasible.

These adverse conditions, however, did not hinder Ibero-American countries from trying, on the one hand, to adapt and, on the other, to look for alternatives both to continue executing part of the planned cooperation and to promote new initiatives that would allow SSC to become a tool to respond to the crisis, especially in health-related topics. As a result of these efforts, countries chose to carry out more specific actions —rather than other types of initiatives—, as these proved to be easier to implement in a virtual format. In this context, and as the previous edition of this Report shows, actions explained 1 out of 5 of the total number of initiatives executed during the 2020-2021 period (they accounted for 1 out of 10 in 2018 and 2019). Likewise, initiatives related to Health registered an unprecedented increase, accounting for 25% of all the exchanges of the period, a figure almost 10 percentage points higher than that of the years before the pandemic (SEGIB; 2023).

Subsequently, in the 2022-2023 period and as Graph 1.1 suggests, a turning point that can be associated with a recovery dynamic began to show. More specifically, this graph displays the evolution of Bilateral SSC initiatives, actions and projects exchanged by Ibero-American countries —not only among themselves but also with partners around the world—, between 2007 and 2023, the first and the last year for which records are available. A sequence of stages with different growth dynamics can be identified:

- a) On the one hand, a period of intense growth between 2007 and 2013, with annual averages over 7%, when an all-time high of more than 1,400 initiatives was reached.
- b) On the other hand, successive drops of different levels of intensity from 2014 onwards, resulting in a fall of -20% —the largest on record—, between 2019 and 2020, when the COVID-19 crisis pushed the total volume of initiatives below 700.
- c) From then on, in 2021 and 2022, the registered dynamics continued to push the number of exchanges down to a historic minimum of 626 actions and projects. However, a change in this trend can already be foreseen: the rates of these declines are progressively slower (-7.1% and -2.9%, respectively) and, in 2023, a positive growth of around 12% can be seen, which brings the final number of initiatives back to the threshold of 700.

In addition, Graph 1.2, which shows the evolution of the total number of initiatives that were implemented in the pre- and post-COVID crisis stage (from 2018-2019 to 2022-2023), by year and period, was plotted to further explain the impact that the pandemic had on the Bilateral SSC carried out by Ibero-American countries, as well as the recovery path that figures suggest.

The analysis of Graph 1.2 confirms the dynamics described above. Thus, the trend line that links the values annually recorded from 2018 to 2023 clearly shows a curve which, after a series of drops that gradually tend to slow down between 2018 and 2022, makes its first upward inflection in 2023. This change has a positive impact on the total number of initiatives implemented in the different two-year periods, from 944 in the two years that coincide with the crisis to 956 in 2022-2023. This increase suggests a positive trend; however, it is still clearly not enough to fully recover pre-pandemic levels, when the number of initiatives stood at 1,256 (300 more than in the most recent period).

// Graph 1.1

Evolution of all Bilateral SSC actions, projects and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In units

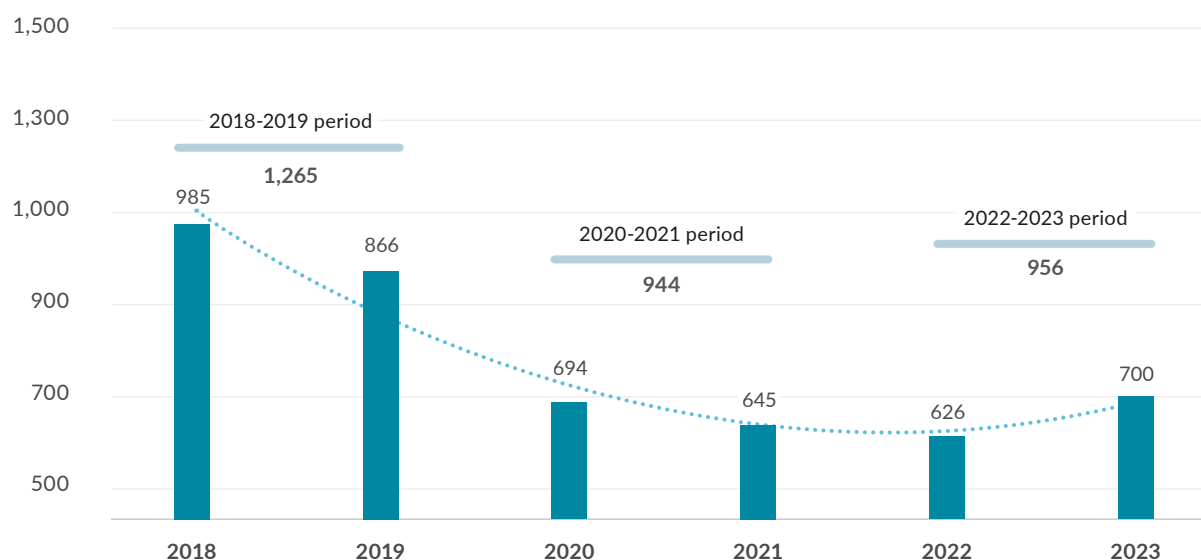


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 1.2

Bilateral SSC initiatives implemented in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by year and two-year period. 2018-2023

In units



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

Finally, the analysis requires a closer look at the evolution of another equally important fact: the way in which the distribution of these initiatives —implemented through two instruments (actions and projects) of very different relative scope— has changed. This difference can be seen, for example, in the average time taken to ensure the full implementation of these instruments, which, in turn, suggests the need to destine different kinds of resources (human, technical and financial) and efforts to carry them out.

In this sense, according to available data, during the 2022-2023 period, actions required, on average, 37.5 days for their full implementation. In contrast, the time taken to ensure the conclusion of a project cycle was more than two years.¹

Considering the above, it is possible to make a better interpretation of Graph 1.3, which shows the evolution of the relative importance that projects and actions have

had over the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives that were annually carried out by Ibero-American countries in the 2007-2023 period. It should be expected that, as time goes by and countries strengthen their capacities to carry out SSC, the implementation of projects should increase, to the detriment of actions, which should become less important in relative terms.

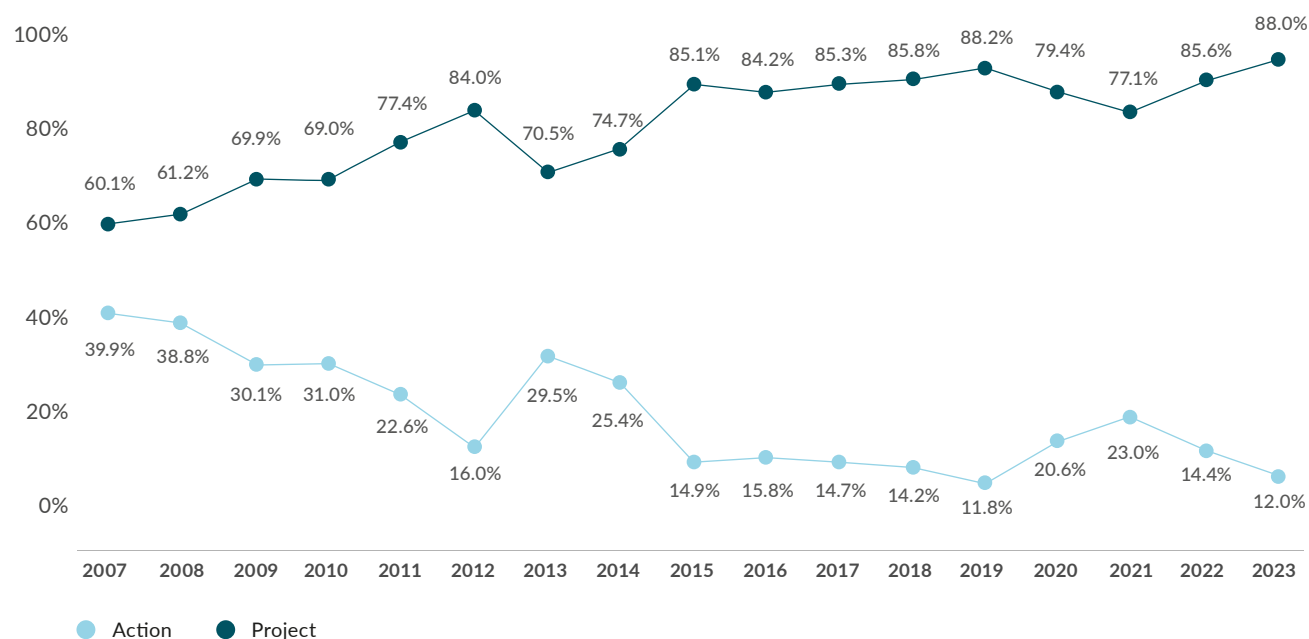
Indeed, this seems to be confirmed by Graph 1.3, which shows that, between 2007 and 2019, projects and actions' shares follow diverging trajectories, projects-actions ratio going from 60%-40% in the early years to almost 90%-10% at the end of the decade. In 2020 and 2021, the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 crisis and the need to recur once again to the use of actions, break this trend and lead to a convergence of the relative importance of the two instruments (75%-25%). However, the gap between the two percentages widens again in the following two years, returning to a scenario in which projects account for almost 9 out of 10 initiatives in 2023.

¹ In order to estimate the average duration of an initiative, it is necessary to know the starting and completion dates. In the case of the actions carried out in the 2022-2023 period, both dates are available in 93% of the records. In the case of projects, this coverage is reduced to 25%. Therefore, the duration of projects is calculated in two ways: 1) by comparing the starting and completion dates; and 2) by comparing the starting and completion years (25% and 100% of the records, respectively). The respective results do not differ substantially when using each of these formulas (2.1 and 2.5 years). Hence, it is possible to state that the average duration of projects is higher than two years.

// Graph 1.3

Evolution of projects' and actions' weight in the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In percentage



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

In short, the coincidence of different and positive dynamics in the 2022-2023 period confirms that SSC in the region is on the path to recovery. First, after years of successive drops, initiatives' growth rates are beginning to show positive values. Second, the number of total exchanges has increased and, although it is still a long way from pre-crisis levels, is slightly above that registered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Third and finally, the variation of the distribution of total exchanges by instrument in favor of projects suggests that SSC is once again gaining strength, having the capacity to fully overcome the crisis.

In the 2022- 2023 period, the combination of different and positive dynamics confirms that SSC in the region is on the road to recovery

1.2

Ibero-American countries and their partners in Bilateral SSC in the 2022-2023 period

A better understanding of Bilateral SSC in Ibero-America in 2022 and 2023 also requires a closer examination of Ibero-American countries and other regions' partners of the Global South, which, through different dynamics, determine the main characteristics and trends of all the exchanges.

This section precisely analyzes the main features of this participation and its intensity. In the specific case of Ibero-American countries, it also describes the extent to which each country's Bilateral SSC is showing signs of recovery.

It should be added that a distinction will be made, in methodological terms, between intra- and interregional cooperation. Thus, three levels of analysis will be combined: the first one will refer to all cooperation; the second one will refer to exchanges between Ibero-American countries themselves; and, the third one will refer to SSC carried out by Ibero-American countries with partners of other regions of the South.

1.2.1

Ibero-America and the Global South: intra- and interregional SSC

As Graph 1.4 shows, during the 2022-2023 period, Ibero-American countries implemented 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives with partners around the world. More than 75% of these (738) are explained by exchanges that took place between Ibero-American countries themselves. Meanwhile, around 23% (218) corresponded to cooperation between Ibero-American countries and others of the Global South.

The same graph complements the above information with a breakdown, by region, of the 218 Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-America, in 2022 and 2023, at the interregional level. Thus, 80% of the initiatives that Ibero-American countries carried out with partners of the Global South involved both Sub-Saharan Africa (43.1%) and the non-Ibero-American



In 2022-2023, Ibero-American countries exchanged 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives with partners around the world

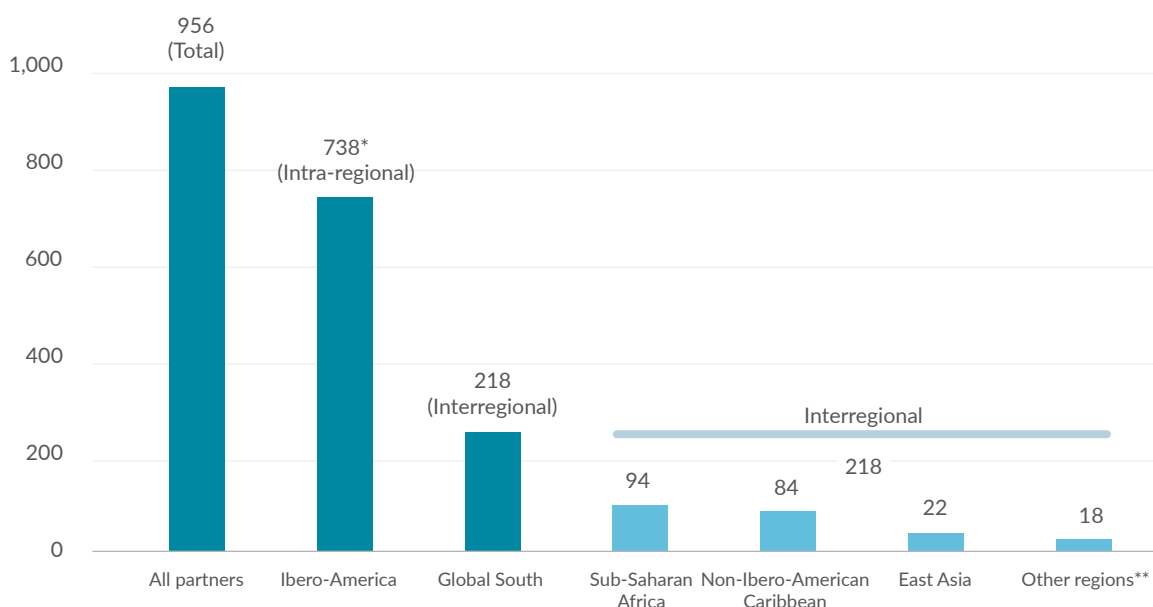


Caribbean (38.5%). The remaining percentage (almost another 20%) was related to exchanges with East Asia (1 out of 10) and with countries that belong to a range of other regions (8.3%), Central and South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East being the most important.

// Graph 1.4

Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, at intra- and interregional levels, by region. 2022-2023

In units



* Includes 4 initiatives in which one of the roles is shared between Ibero-American countries and other regions' countries. These initiatives could be counted both at the intra- and at the interregional level, but only one option is chosen to avoid double counting.

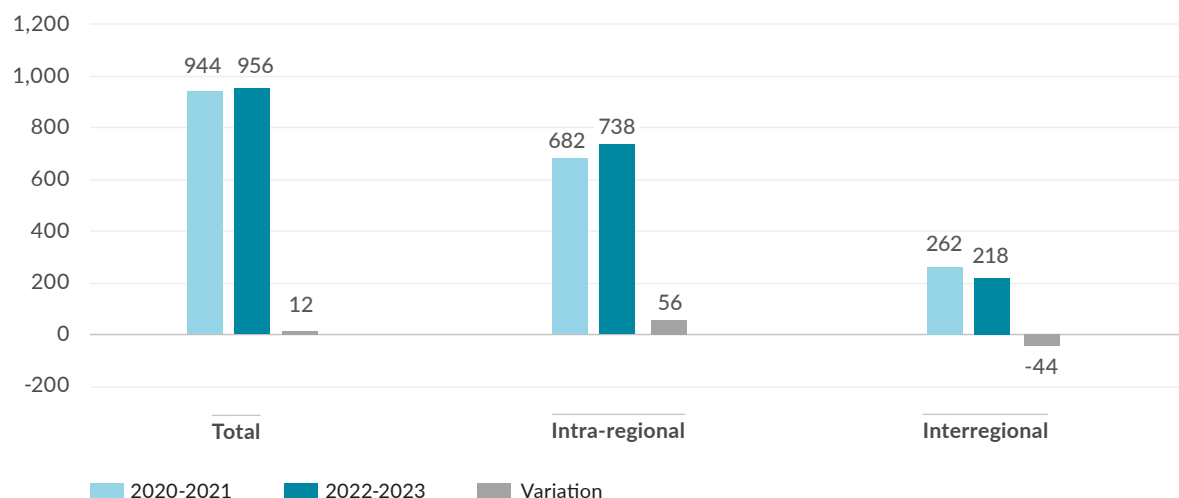
** Adds data from Central and South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (including Turkey).

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

// Graph 1.5

Variation in the number of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives with all partners, by total, intra- and interregional exchanges. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In units

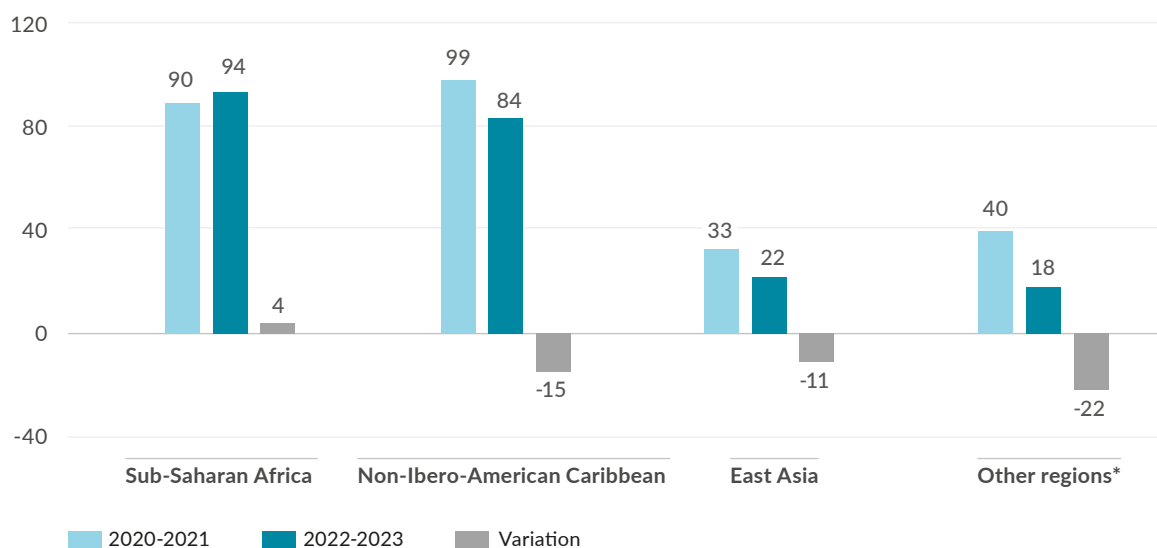


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 1.6

Variation in the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged at the interregional level (Ibero-America with other regions of the Global South), by region. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In units



* Adds data from Central and South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (including Turkey).

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

When comparing this data with that of the previous period (2020-2021), it is possible to state that the slight increase in the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives carried out

by Ibero-American countries with all partners (from 944 to 956) responds to a certain redistribution in favor of intra-regional exchanges, which displace interregional ones.

Indeed, Graphs 1.5 and 1.6 compare the two periods and show the variation in the number of initiatives exchanged at all levels –total, intra-, and interregional– (Graph 1.5), as well as the variation experienced by the exchanges that Ibero-American countries implemented with each of the different regions of the Global South (Graph 1.6). A combined analysis of both graphs confirms that the reduction in the number of initiatives exchanged with other regions (-44) is more than offset by the increase in those within Ibero-America (+56). In addition, the graphs show that the drop of the exchanges at the interregional level affects all regions, with the exception of Sub-Saharan Africa, the only one that registers a positive variation.

1.2.2.
Ibero-American countries’
participation in Bilateral
SSC in 2022-2023

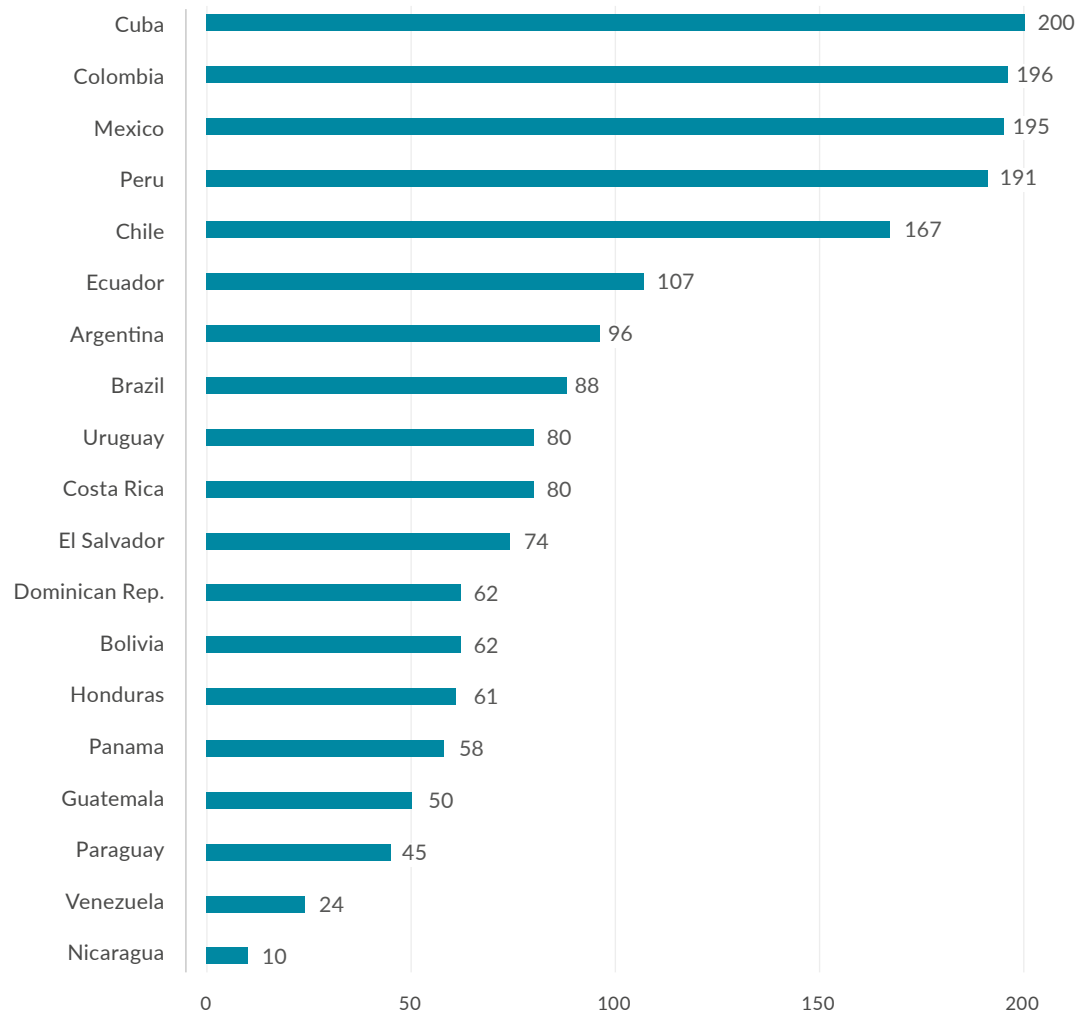
During the 2022-2023 period, the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives in which each Ibero-American country participated with partners around the world tended to be very diverse. At least this is suggested by Graph 1.7, which ranks the 19 Ibero-American countries that participated in this modality in descending order, according to the number of exchanges.

As the graph shows, five countries were particularly dynamic throughout 2022 and 2023: Cuba (with a

// Graph 1.7

Bilateral SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners, by country. 2022-2023

In units



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

maximum of 200 initiatives), followed closely by Colombia, Mexico and Peru (all with more than 190 exchanges). According to these figures, it can be stated that each of these countries was involved in at least 1 out of 5 of the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives that the region as a whole carried out with partners all over the world. Chile was also a very active country with more than 150 initiatives.

Ecuador, the only Ibero-American country among the remaining ones that surpassed the barrier of 100 Bilateral SSC initiatives, comes after these five. Additionally, a large group of up to ten countries implemented between

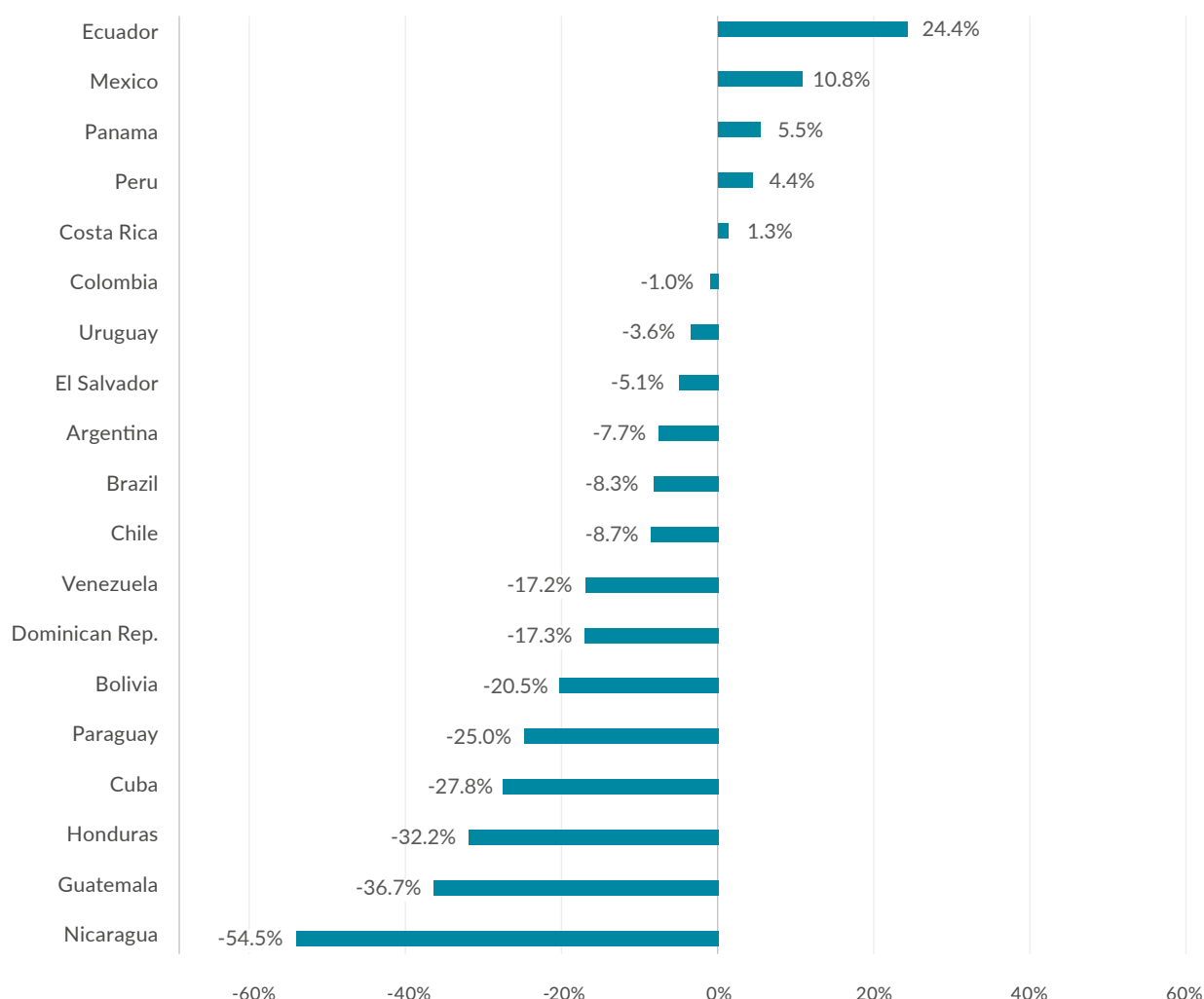
50 and 100 exchanges. Among these, a distinction can be made between those that had a more intense participation (above 75 initiatives: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Costa Rica) and those that registered values below this threshold (El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Bolivia).

Meanwhile, during 2022 and 2023, three countries registered a lower participation with less than 50 Bilateral SSC initiatives: Paraguay (45 exchanges), followed by Venezuela and Nicaragua, which remained below these figures, with 24 and 10 initiatives respectively.

// Graph 1.8

Growth in the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, between the pandemic and post-pandemic two-year periods. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In percentage



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

Graph 1.8 sheds light on the evolution of Ibero-American countries participation in 2020-2021 and 2022-2023, by comparing the data of both two-year periods and showing

the positive or negative growth of their Bilateral SSC initiatives. As the graph reveals, five countries regained dynamism and implemented a higher number of initiatives.

However, the majority were less dynamic, experiencing a certain fall in the total number of exchanges. In this sense, countries' different behaviors seem to offset the final figure of the total number of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives. Indeed, and given that the rise of this total was still minimal (barely 1.3%), the final result suggests a sort of 'zero-sum game', in which some gained at the expense of the loss of others.

Specifically, Ecuador registered the highest variation in terms of total exchanges (close to 25%), increasing its participation from 86 initiatives in 2020-2021 to 107 in 2022-2023. Mexico and Peru, two of the most active countries in the period, also experienced a positive turnaround: with more than 190 exchanges, they both increased their participation around 10% and 5% respectively. Panama and Costa Rica complete the group of countries with positive variations: situated in the

intermediate range of values (from 50 to 100 initiatives), their participation raised 5.5% and 1.3% respectively.

The rest of the countries experienced negative changes, although with very different intensities: between -1% and -54.5% (Colombia and Nicaragua, respectively, two countries that, in turn, belong to the group of those that registered the highest and lowest volume of exchanges). Argentina, Brazil and Chile, despite being among the traditionally more dynamic countries, reduced their activity at rates around -8%. Venezuela's, the Dominican Republic's and Bolivia's variation was more intense, with rates close or equal to -20%, as well as Paraguay's, Cuba's, Honduras' and Guatemala's (more than -25% in all cases). Finally, Uruguay and El Salvador did not register significant drops, which allowed them to maintain total values very close to those of 2020-2021.



Photo: The Otomí gastronomy of the Mezquital Valley has its origins in a deep and intimate tradition with the ecosystem which includes collecting flora, fauna and insects. Traditional cooks from Santiago de Anaya recreate this legacy, inherited from mothers and grandmothers, and prepare dishes with natural ingredients, without preservatives and with high nutritional value. *Ibercocinas* promotes the design of policies, programs, strategies and initiatives aimed at safeguarding, protecting and promoting Ibero-American cuisine as a tool for sustainable development. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

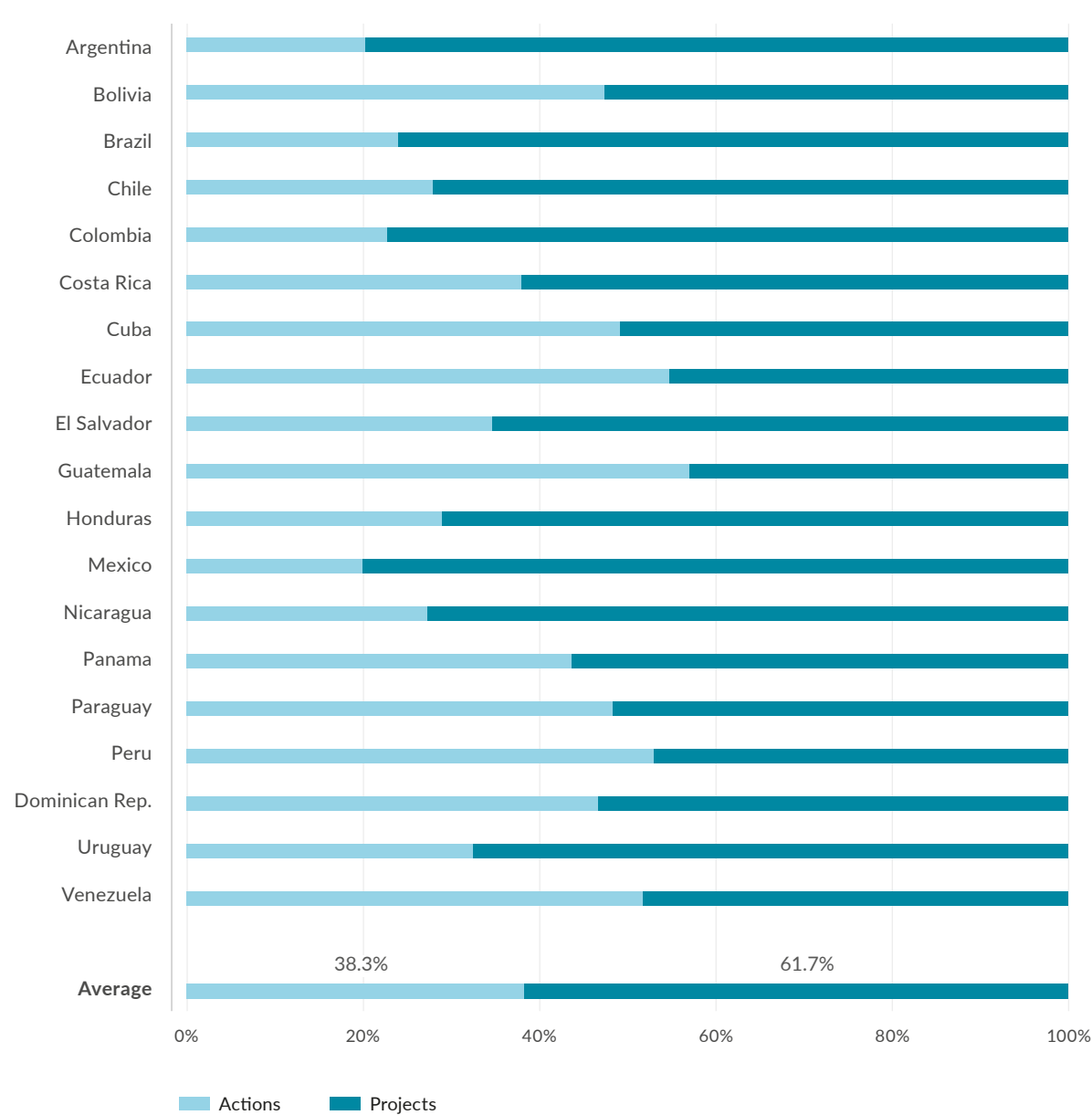
However, as seen above, this change, related to the total number of initiatives, is only one of many variables to assess a possible recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. In the current context, it is equally important to analyze countries' capacities to implement SSC, which suggests a necessary review of how projects are evolving with respect to actions.

Indeed, in the 2020-2021 period, 6 out of 10 of the Bilateral SSC initiatives the region implemented were carried out through projects. In the following years (2022 and 2023), this proportion increased to 8 out of 10. This being the case, it is interesting to analyze whether the execution of a higher number of projects to the detriment of actions was a trend that was equally shared by all countries.

// Graph 1.9

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated, by actions and projects, by country. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023
In percentage

A. 2020-2021

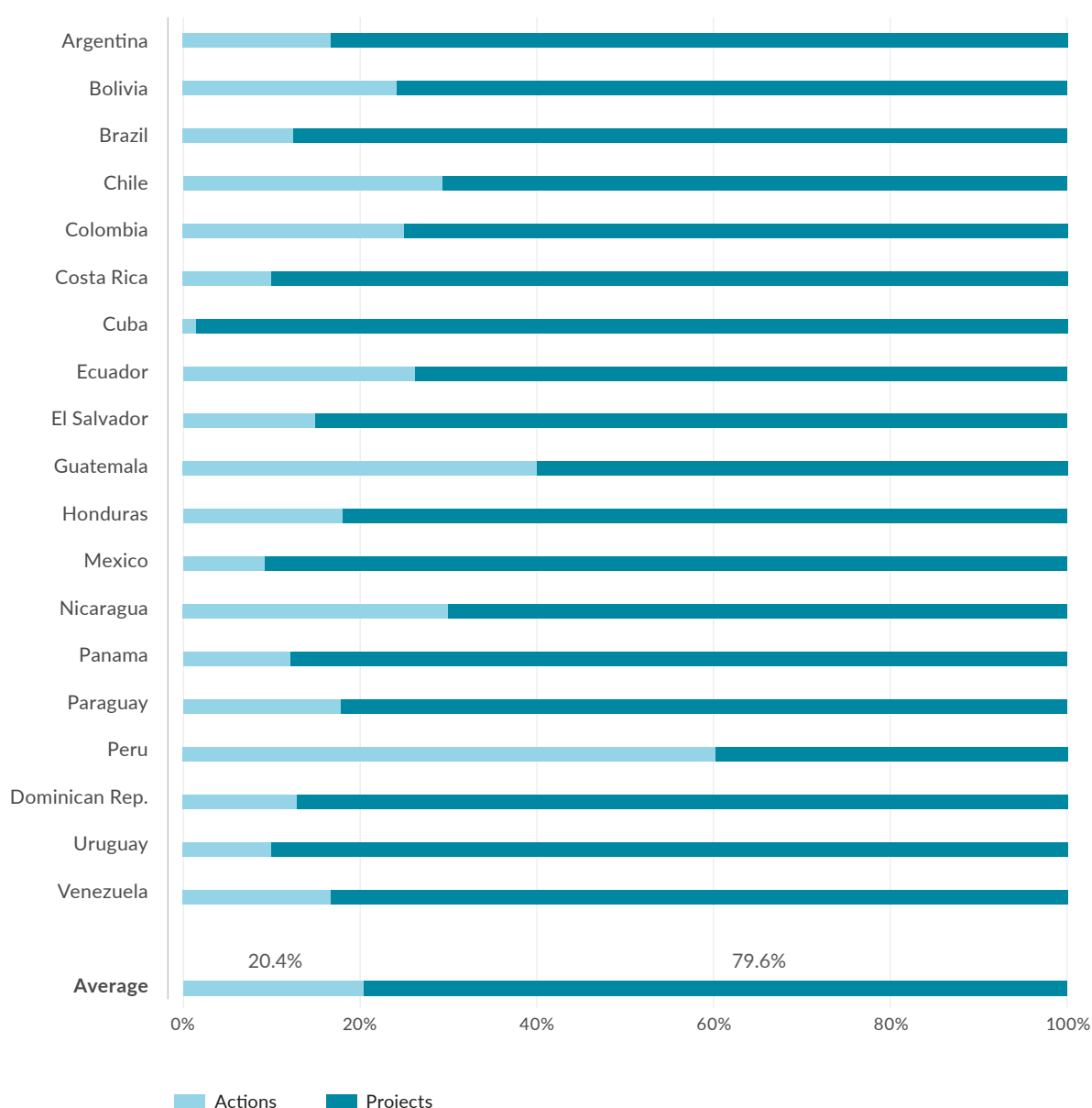


Graphs 1.9 A, 1.9 B and 1.10 were prepared to confirm the above:

- a) Graphs 1.9 A and 1.9 B, respectively refer to the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 periods. They both show the distribution of actions and projects in the total number of initiatives exchanged by each Ibero-American country and by the region as a whole.
- b) On the other hand, Graph 1.10, places the 19 Ibero-American countries on the scatter chart that results from analyzing two types of information: the first, on the horizontal axis, refers to the importance of projects in the total number of Bilateral SSC

initiatives in the 2022-2023 period; the second, on the vertical axis, is associated with the way in which this percentage has changed from one two-year period to the other. Twenty (20) points are plotted in the chart, 1 for each of the 19 countries and 1 for the region's average. The latter explains that, in 2022-2023, projects account for 80% of the total initiatives after registering an increase of almost 18 points in their participation, compared to 2020-2021. This 'average' acts as a reference value and facilitates the analysis because: 1) it divides the graph into four quadrants; and 2) it allows countries to be grouped in each of these quadrants according to whether their values are below or above the regional average.

B. 2022-2023

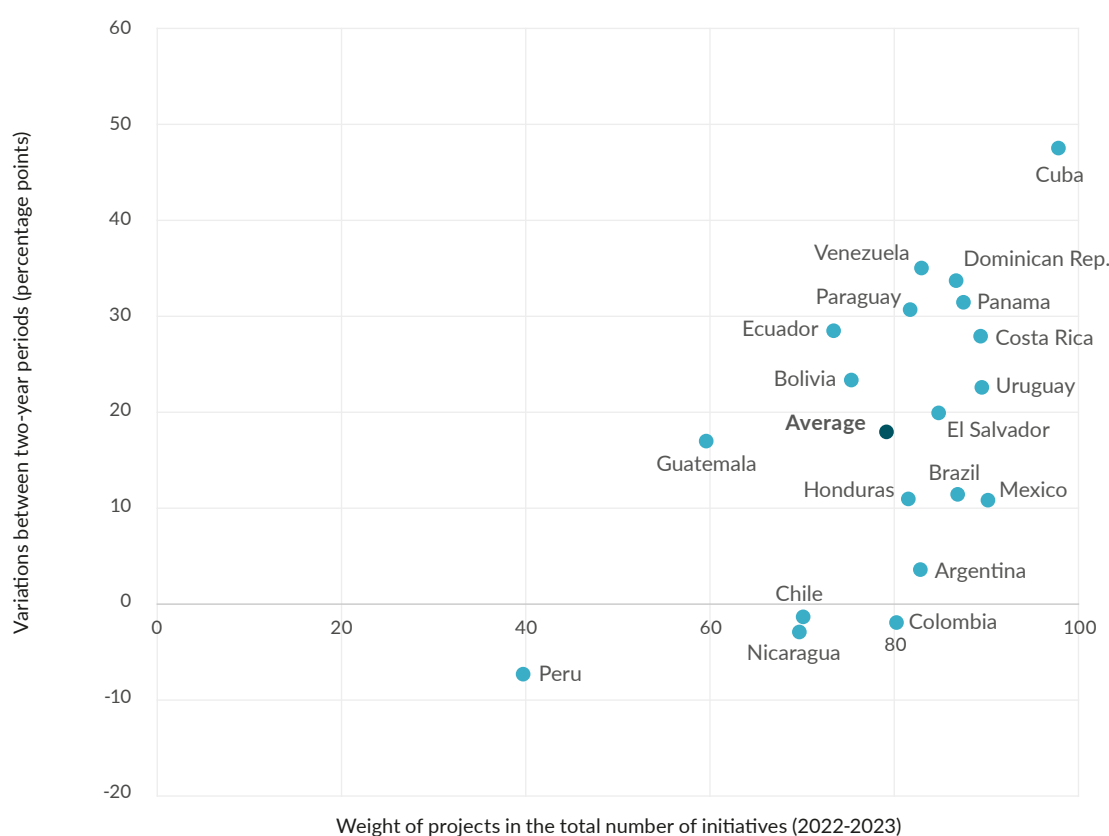


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 1.10

Variation in projects' weight in the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, by country. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In percentage and percentage points



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

Graphs 1.9 (A and B) clearly show that, from one period to the next, the proportion of the horizontal bars that correspond to actions' relative share in the total number of exchanges of each Ibero-American country has tended to fall, while that of projects has tended to increase. This first confirmation thus indicates a generalized recovery in countries' capacity to implement projects. The same graph, however, points out some exceptions, suggesting that these changes were not the same for all countries. Graph 1.10 allows an in-depth analysis of the aforementioned.

Indeed, as discussed above, the division of Graph 1.10 by quadrants enables the identification of four different behavioral patterns, depending on whether the country is below or above the average value. Thus, the eight countries which participation increased more than 18 percentage points and which projects represent more than 80% of their total number of exchanges, are situated in the upper right quadrant. These are: Cuba and the

Dominican Republic; Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama; and Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Honduras are located in the same quadrant, but at the bottom. Despite experiencing a below-average variation between the two periods, these four countries managed to have projects account for between 80% and up to 90% of the Bilateral SSC initiatives they implemented throughout the 2022-2023 period.

Bolivia and Ecuador, meanwhile, are located at the top left of Graph 1.10 as their participation increased in the range of 20 to 30 percentage points, above the regional average. This remarkable boost brought them closer to the average figure, but kept them at slightly lower values of around 75%. Finally, the five countries located to the left but at the bottom, had diverse performances and combined values below the average. Within this group, Guatemala is the only one that increased its participation. Colombia's, Chile's and Nicaragua's projects decreased, still accounting for more than 70% of their cooperation.



Photo: Scientists and students from universities and research centers; high school teachers and students; and agricultural producers, work together to promote agriculture and food security through improved resource management. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

A special mention should be made of Peru, which was still committed to actions' dynamism, increasing their share, with a relative importance of 40% of its initiatives, a value 20 points higher than the average.

All of the above seems to confirm that, for most Ibero-American countries, the recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis is still in its early stages. In fact, during the 2022-2023 period, most countries did not register an increase in the total number of exchanges. However, it is indeed possible to identify a generalized shift towards projects (of a greater relative size), a dynamic that points to a renewed strengthening of countries' capacities to maintain this trend and meet the challenge of returning to pre-crisis levels.

However, Ibero-American countries were not the only stakeholders of the Bilateral SSC that took place during 2022 and 2023. As noted, 218 initiatives, corresponding to almost 1 out of 4 of the 956 registered, were explained by exchanges between Ibero-American countries and those of other regions of the Global South. Seventy-nine (79) countries were indeed involved in these initiatives, geographically distributed between Sub-Saharan Africa (37), the non-Ibero-American Caribbean (14), East Asia (9) and several other regions, 25% of these spread across North Africa, the Middle East and Central and South Asia.

Four graphs were prepared—one for each of the regions—to make a deeper analysis of the aforementioned. Each of them shows a selection of countries according to the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged with Ibero-American partners during 2022-2023.

As Graph 1.11 portrays, most countries (more than 70%) carried out exchanges of a rather specific nature, always below 5 initiatives. Among these, Dominica and Guyana in the non-Ibero-American Caribbean; China and Malaysia in East Asia; and Namibia, Cape Verde and Nigeria, on the one hand, along with Tunisia and Algeria, on the other, in Sub-Saharan and North Africa, respectively, stood out with 4-5 initiatives.



Up to 218 initiatives –almost 1 out of 4– were implemented between Ibero-American countries and 79 countries of other regions of the Global South



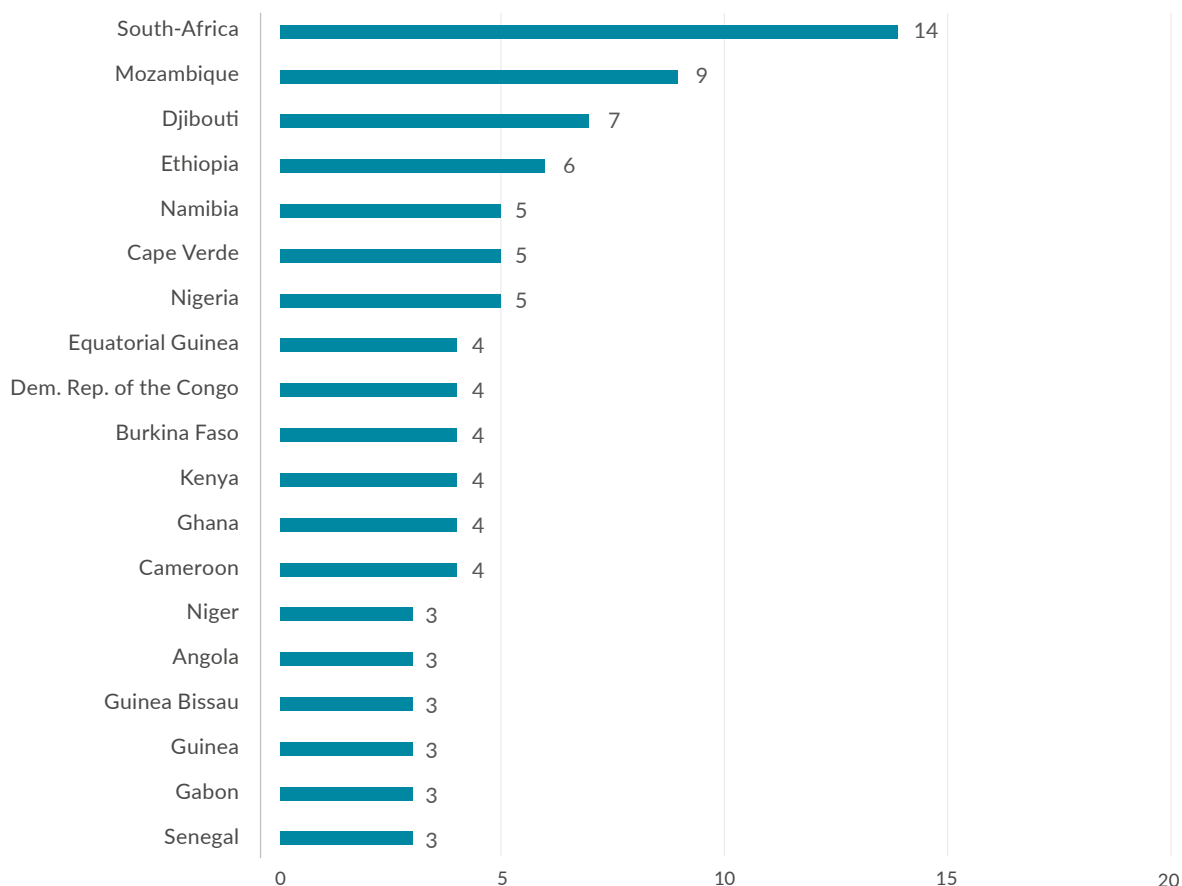
Meanwhile, around twenty countries participated in between 6 and 10 Bilateral SSC exchanges. Up to 8 non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries took part in these initiatives, Saint Lucia (10 actions and projects), Haiti, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago (7 initiatives in each case) standing out. Mozambique, Djibouti and Ethiopia, in sub-Saharan Africa; and Vietnam and Thailand, in East Asia, were also in this range. Finally, the cases of South Africa in Sub-Saharan Africa and Jamaica and Belize in the non-Ibero-American Caribbean deserve a special mention, as the only three countries that executed 15 Bilateral SSC exchanges or more.

// Graph 1.11

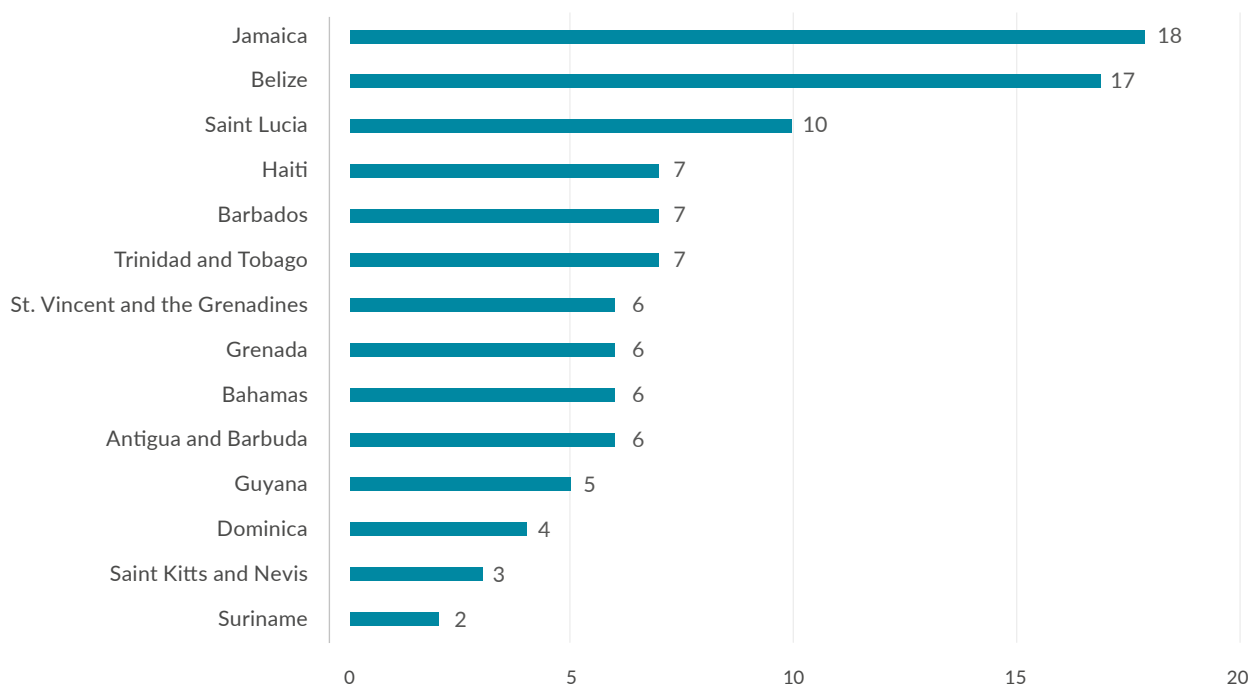
Bilateral SSC initiatives in which selected countries from the Global South participated with Ibero-American partners, by region. 2022-2023

In units

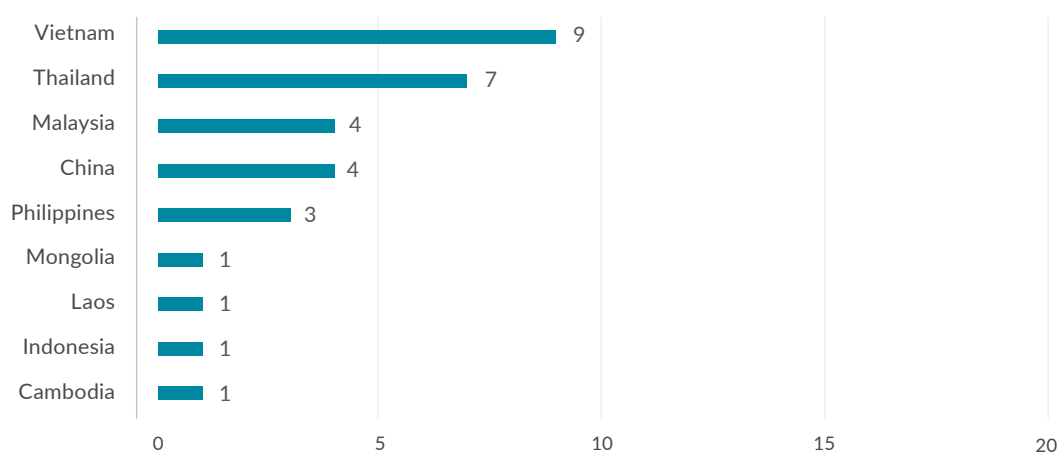
A. Sub-Saharan Africa



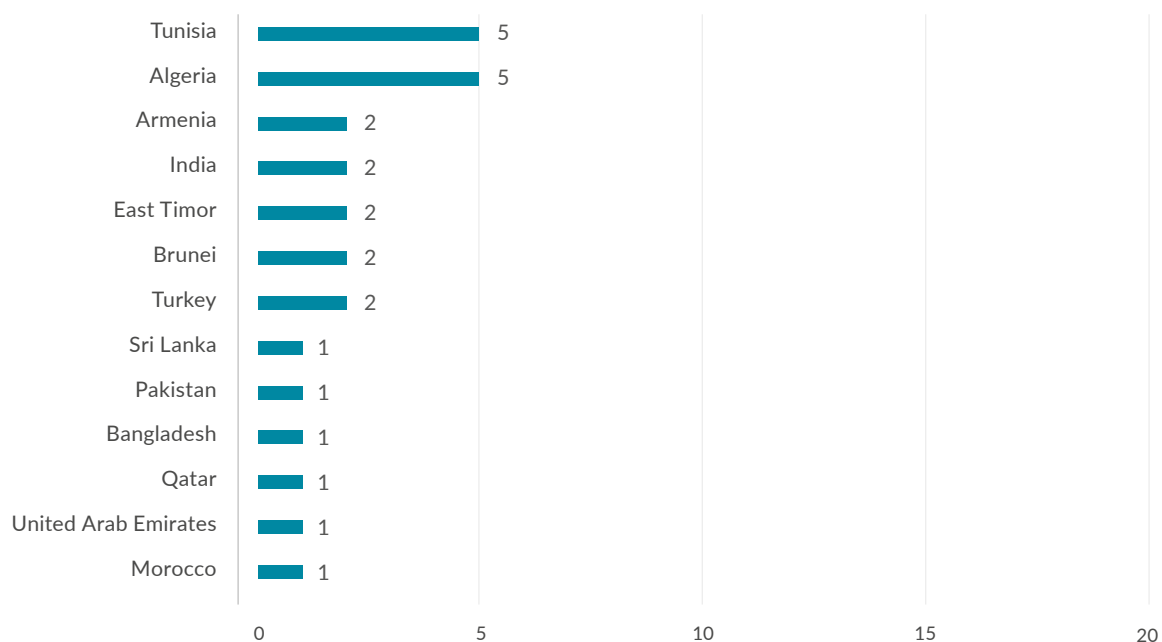
B. Non-Ibero-American Caribbean



C. East Asia



D. Other regions*



*Adds data from Central and South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (including Turkey).

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

1.3

Ibero-American countries' exchanges with other regions

In this section, an analysis is made of the partnerships that took place between countries to implement the 956 Bilateral SSC exchanges registered in the 2022-2023 period. Special focus is made on their relations, the volume of initiatives and the roles. This review is carried out by differentiating between the associations that were made at the intra-regional level —when Ibero-American countries exchanged with each other—, and those that took place at the interregional level, when Ibero-American countries interacted with other regions' partners.

1.3.1.

Intra-regional exchanges

Graph 1.12 is a very visual resource with which to approach the way in which Ibero-American countries exchanged the 738 Bilateral SSC initiatives implemented at the intra-regional level during 2022 and 2023. This graph sheds light on several aspects at one glance: first, on the different partnerships between countries; second, on the number of initiatives that took place in the framework of these associations; and third, on the different combination of roles.

Indeed, and for this purpose, this graph is plotted as a matrix. The values in the top row and in the left-hand column coincide and correspond to the 19 Ibero-American countries that participate in this modality. Countries are arranged in ascending order according to the total number of initiatives in which they participated in 2022-2023, as shown in Graph 1.7. Recipient countries are situated in the top row and providers are located in the left-hand column. Each of the resulting intersections shows a possible pair of partners with their corresponding distribution of roles.

It should be added that there is a bubble in each of the intersections in which exchanges actually took place. Bubbles' size and color (as referred in the legend) show the range of values in which the number of initiatives exchanged between the two countries fluctuated. Meanwhile, the outer circle that (sometimes) surrounds the bubbles (its size being proportional to the total number of initiatives between these countries) is associated with the cooperation in which the two countries played the role "both".

A first analysis of Ibero-American countries' exchanges among themselves during 2022-2023 requires focusing on two aspects of Graph 1.12. On the one hand, it is necessary to take a closer look at the bubbles' location. On the other, it is important to consider the way in which the intensity of their size and color increases, as well as the presence (or not) and proportion of the outer circles. The number of bubbles will reveal the extent to which all possible partnerships have actually materialized into effective exchanges, also revealing the extent to which the region has been able to take advantage of its full potential. The latter will provide more detail on the dynamics of the different association patterns which, in turn, will allow countries to be grouped according to similar or dissimilar features.

It should first be noted that, potentially, and considering the number of countries and the possible combinations of provider-recipient roles, Bilateral SSC at the intra-regional level can reach a maximum of up to 342 different partnerships.² This figure coincides with the total number of intersections shown in Graph 1.12. As can be seen, about half of all these possible partnerships (159, corresponding to 46.5%) were actually materialized during the 2022-2023 period.

The location of these partnerships on the matrix should also be considered. These associations, symbolized by the bubbles, follow a diagonal trajectory in a southward and eastward direction. This is consistent with the fact that exchanges are concentrated where the most dynamic countries coincide, which, in turn, are those that have been able to cooperate with the largest number of partners.

² Given that 19 Ibero-American countries participate in the Bilateral SSC modality, the total of 342 is calculated by multiplying 19 by 19, and then subtracting the impossible 19 combinations in which the country would associate with itself.

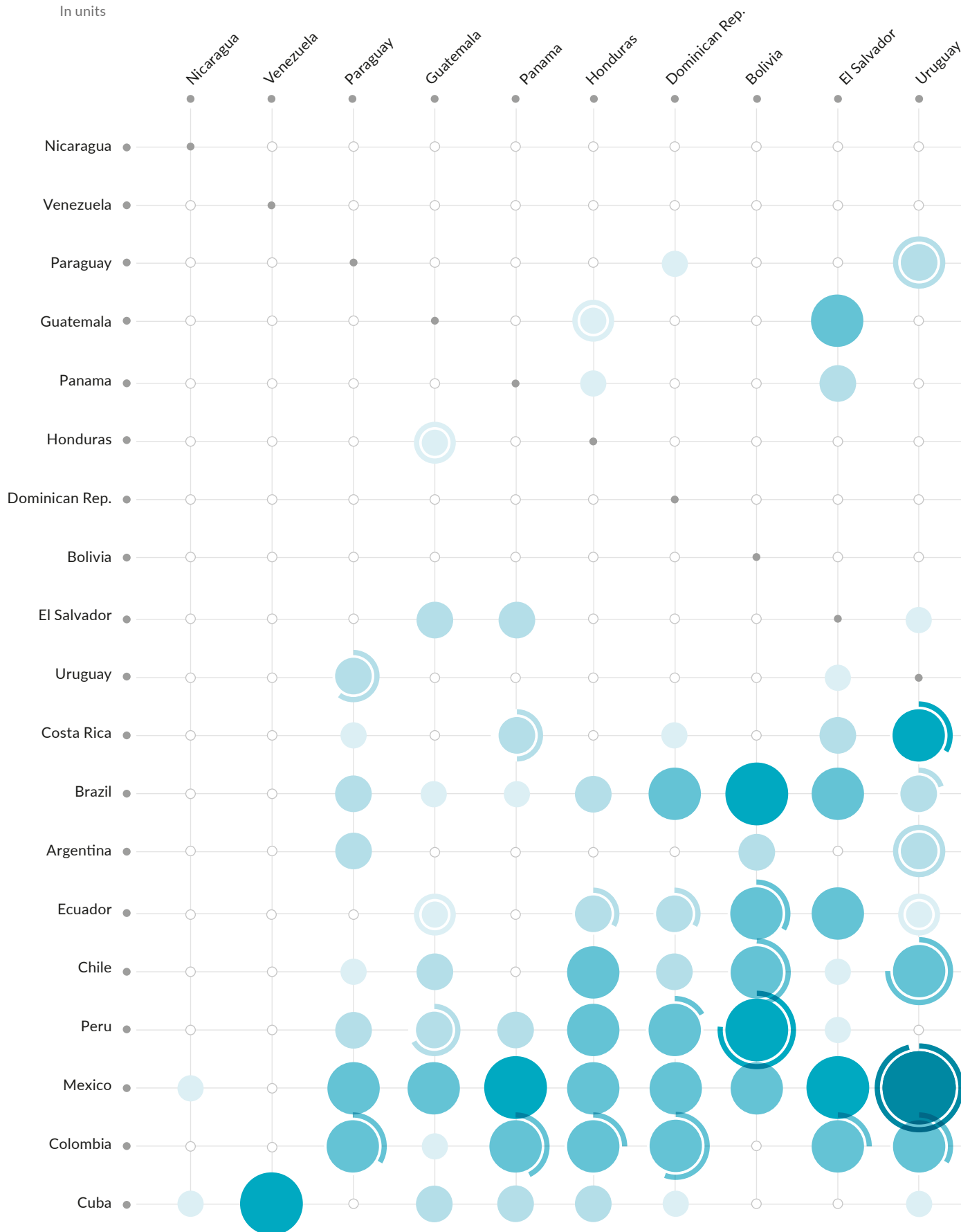


Photo: Lithium extraction and the implementation of industrialization processes to add value to the raw material is the main activity of the state-owned company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos. Through SSC with Argentina, Bolivia improves the yield of this metal and the quality of its by-products. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

// Graph 1.12

Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries according to the different pairs of partners, by role (provider, recipient, both). 2022-2023

In units



Number of initiatives

0

1-2

3-5

6-10

11-20

More than 20



Bidirectional projects



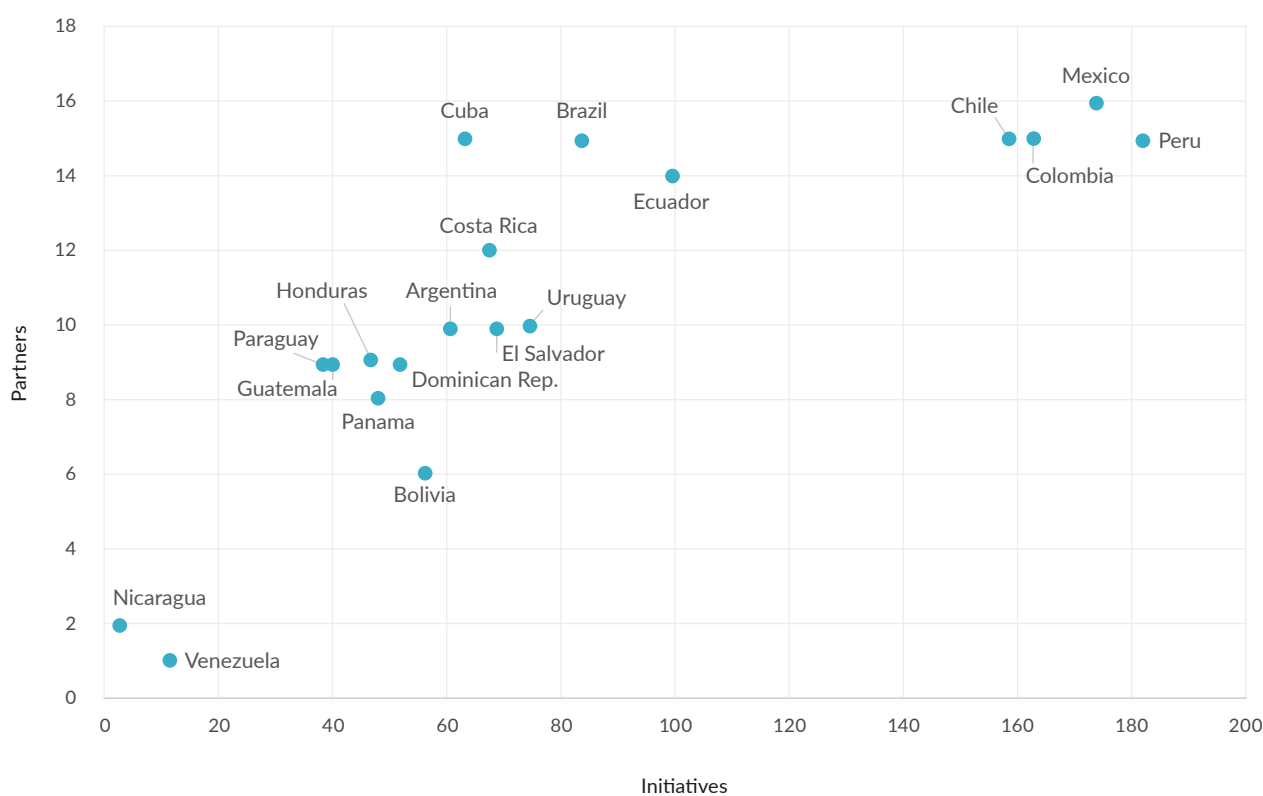
Note: Countries are arranged as the total number of projects in which they participated increases, based on the total number of Bilateral SSC projects executed in the 2022-2023 period.

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

// Graph 1.13

Characterization of Ibero-American countries' intra-regional exchanges, according to the initiatives in which they participate and the partners with which they exchange. 2022-2023

In units



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

Graph 1.13 was prepared to better illustrate the positive correlation between the number of initiatives and the number of partners. This scatter plot arranges the 19 Ibero-American countries according to this combination of variables. As expected, the result is an ascending dispersion of dots. However, several behavioral patterns can be identified as a result of how countries are grouped together. Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru have implemented more than 150 initiatives with 15-16 partners. Cuba, Brazil and Ecuador (between 60 and 100 exchanges with 14-15 partners) can be distinguished from Argentina, El Salvador, Uruguay and Costa Rica (10-12). Paraguay, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic, each associating with 8-9 countries, and Bolivia (6 partners), carried out 40-50 actions and projects. Finally, Nicaragua's and Venezuela's less than 10 initiatives, are explained by their relations with 1-2 countries.

In Graph 1.12, it is also important to analyze how the size and color of the bubbles that are associated with the exchanges between countries change. An increasing progression can be identified, once again, towards the lower right-hand corner. For example, there is a clear contrast between the 1-2 initiatives

exchanged by Honduras, together with Guatemala and Panama, or by Paraguay, together with the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica—in the upper left quadrant—and the more than 20 exchanges registered by Peru, together with Ecuador, Chile and Colombia—in the opposite quadrant (bottom right)—.

Indeed, different intensities have been identified in these exchanges: 30% of the cases correspond to 1-2 initiatives (i.e. specific exchanges); and 3-10 actions and projects account for 56%. Meanwhile, around 15% involve the implementation of a significant number of initiatives (between 11 and 20, and between 20 and even 40 on the most exceptional occasions), suggesting a very solid and dynamic relationship that is likely to be consolidated over time.

It is also worth noting that the most dynamic countries, which have been traditionally associated with the provider role, are increasingly tending to participate as recipients as well. This suggests that these countries are consolidating an increasingly dual role, and it is clearly visible in the significant number of exchanges shown in the last columns of Graph 1.12.

The fact that increasingly more countries —not only the most dynamic ones— are executing the so-called role “both” (which refers to the simultaneous exercise, in the same exchange, of the roles of provider and recipient) also confirms the above, graphically illustrated, in Graph 1.12, by the circles surrounding the bubbles. Indeed, it can be stated that, in 2022-2023 and in about 60% of the partnerships between countries, at least 1 exchange was carried out in the framework of the role “both”. The more dynamic the countries, the higher the proportion of initiatives implemented in this role.

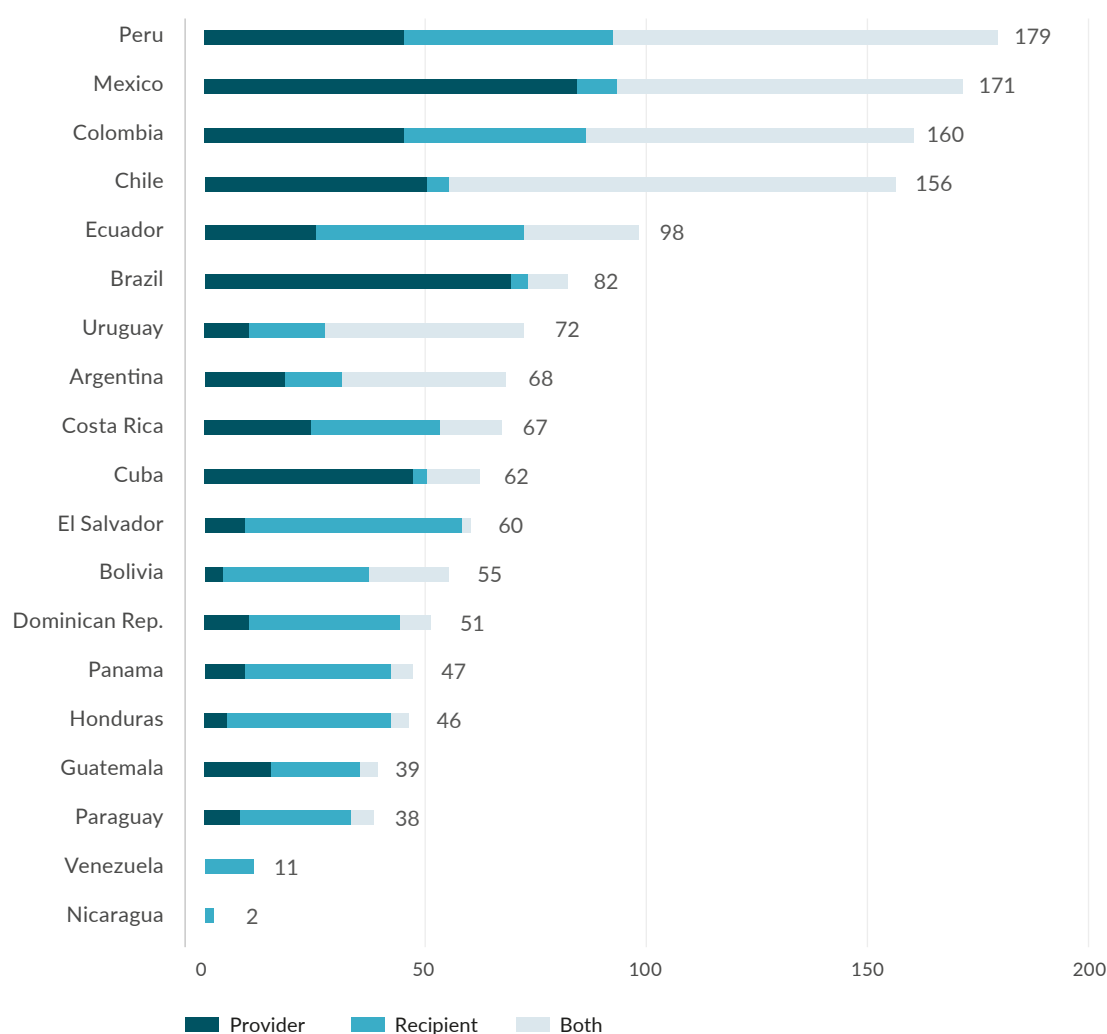
The importance of the different roles (provider, recipient, both) in the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives intra-regionally exchanged by Ibero-American countries is shown in Graph 1.14. In fact, the analysis of this graph, in which countries are arranged in decreasing order

according to the number of initiatives exchanged with other partners of the region, suggests three different behavioral patterns. The first involves those countries that participated in up to 60 exchanges —Nicaragua, Venezuela, Paraguay, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia and El Salvador—, for which the recipient role prevailed. The second corresponds to the most dynamic group of countries (those that were active in more than 100 initiatives) —Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru—, for which the role “both” prevailed. Meanwhile, different dynamics coexisted in a third group of countries, which initiatives fluctuated in the range of intermediate values (from 60 to 100): the provider role prevailed in the case of Brazil and Cuba; the recipient role was predominant in Ecuador’s and Costa Rica’s cooperation; and the role “both” stood out for Argentina and Uruguay.

// Graph 1.14

Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries at the intra-regional level, by role (provider, recipient, both). 2022-2023

In units



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

In short, the specific pattern adopted by a country's participation in Bilateral SSC exchanges is determined by the interaction of a series of elements, including: the number of countries with which it associated; the volume of initiatives exchanged in each case; and the combination of roles through which these exchanges were carried out. The analysis can result in very different relationship patterns. However, the fact that countries may share similar dynamics in terms of the above-mentioned aspects also enables the systematization of the most common types of associations.

Three countries (Peru, Brazil and El Salvador) were chosen to illustrate the above as it was considered they could be representative of the different relationship patterns, according to the possible combinations of the elements that were previously described. They are differentiated by the volume of initiatives in which they participate (over 100, between 60 and 100, and up to 60, respectively) and by the predominance of one role (mainly dual - Peru; predominantly provider - Brazil; and with a significant

importance of the recipient role - El Salvador). The number of countries with which they associated coincides for Peru and Brazil (15), and is lower in El Salvador's case (10).

Thus, a Sankey diagram was plotted for each of them (Graphs 1.15, 1.16 and 1.17 for Peru, Brazil and El Salvador, respectively). This graphic resource enables a quick visualization of the initiatives exchanged between the different partners and the roles played by each of them in these exchanges. In these diagrams, initiatives "flow" from providers (left side) towards recipients (right side). When the two partners play the role "both", the names of the two countries appear together and twice, both on the left and on the right side.

The comparison of the resulting diagrams confirms that it is possible to identify very different relationship patterns, and that the most important difference lies in where countries are situated, and in the direction and dispersion of the initiatives exchanged with other partners.

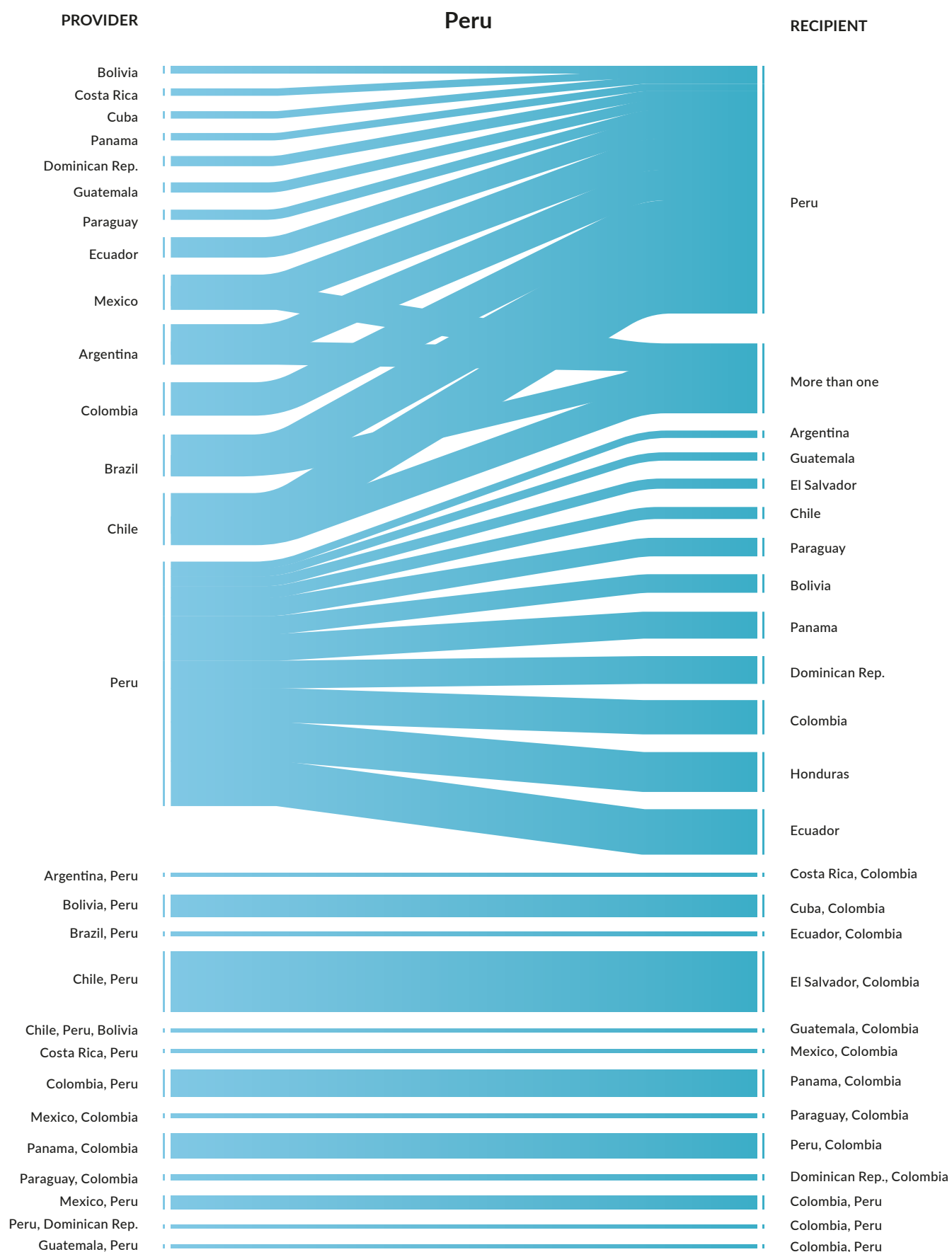


Photo: The objective of this regional cooperation project in which the Dominican Republic participates, is to promote the coconut industry so that Caribbean farmers can diversify their production. Public and private stakeholders are working to strengthen its value chain and open up new commercial opportunities for this product to compete in the international market. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

// Graph 1.15

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Peru at the intra-regional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

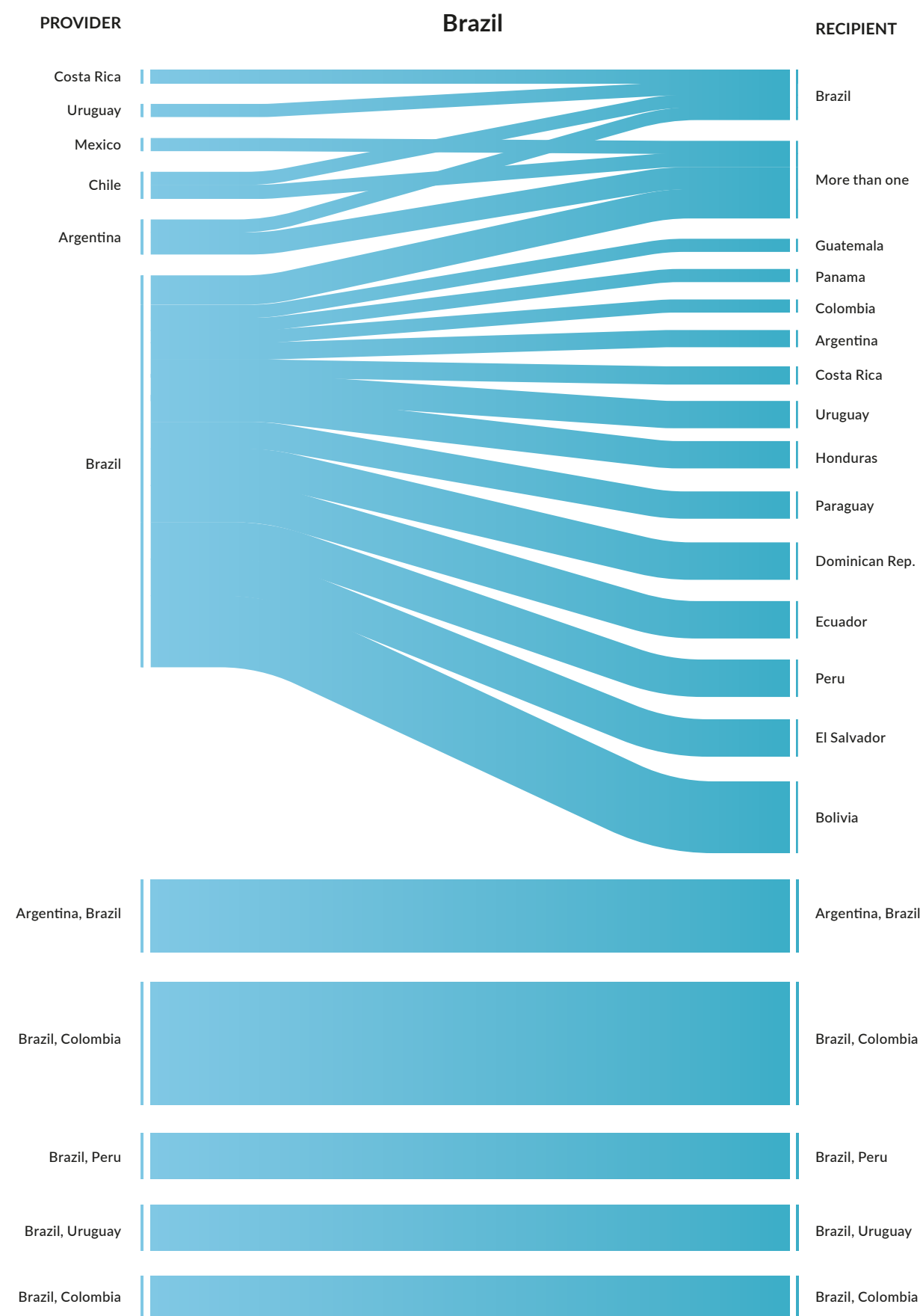
In units



// Graph 1.16

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Brazil at the intra-regional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

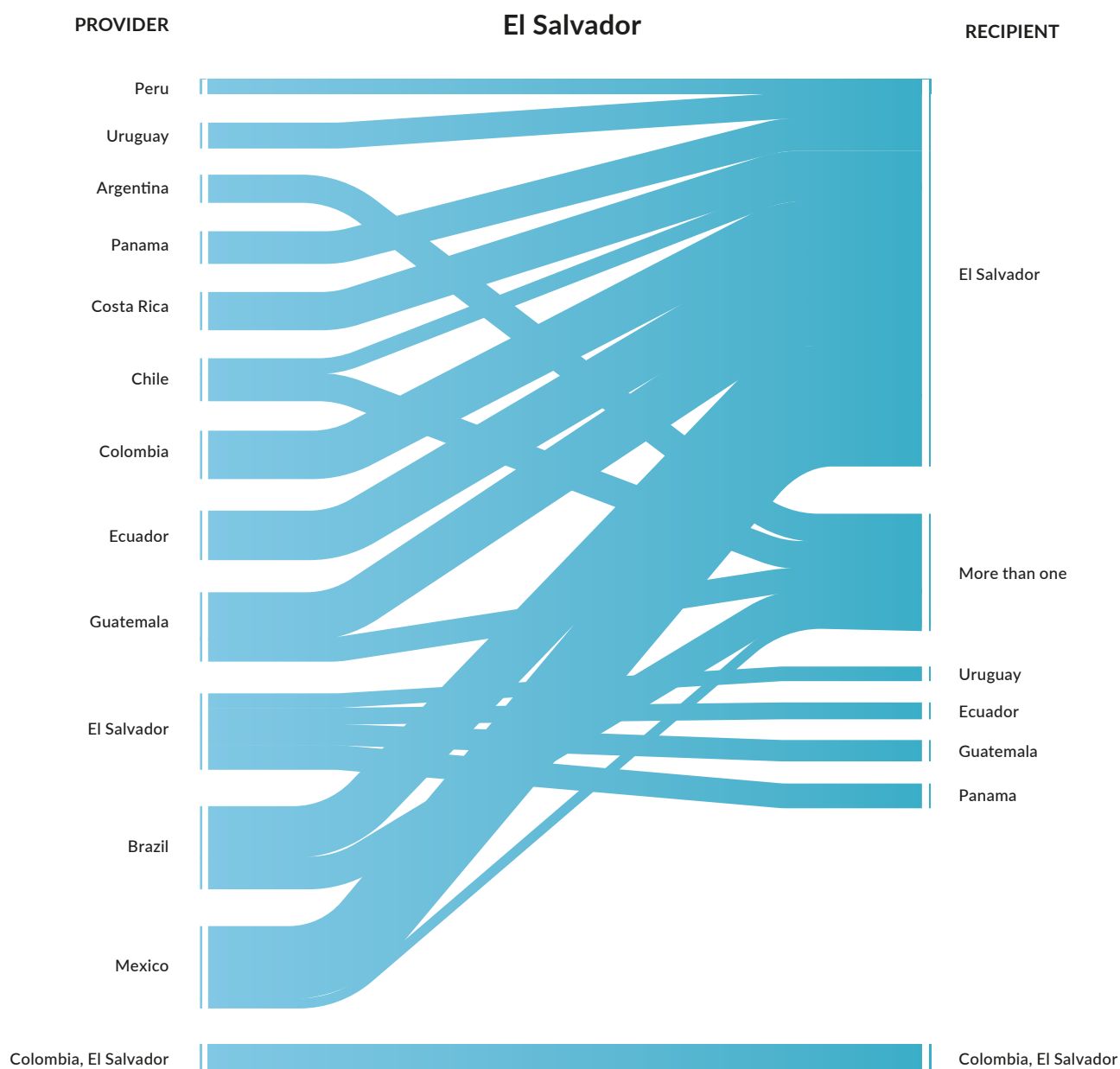
In units



// Graph 1.17

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by El Salvador at the intra-regional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units



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

1.3.2.

Interregional exchanges

Graph 1.18, which distributes the 218 initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 according to the region and its role (provider, recipient, both), was plotted to characterize the exchanges that took place at the interregional level.

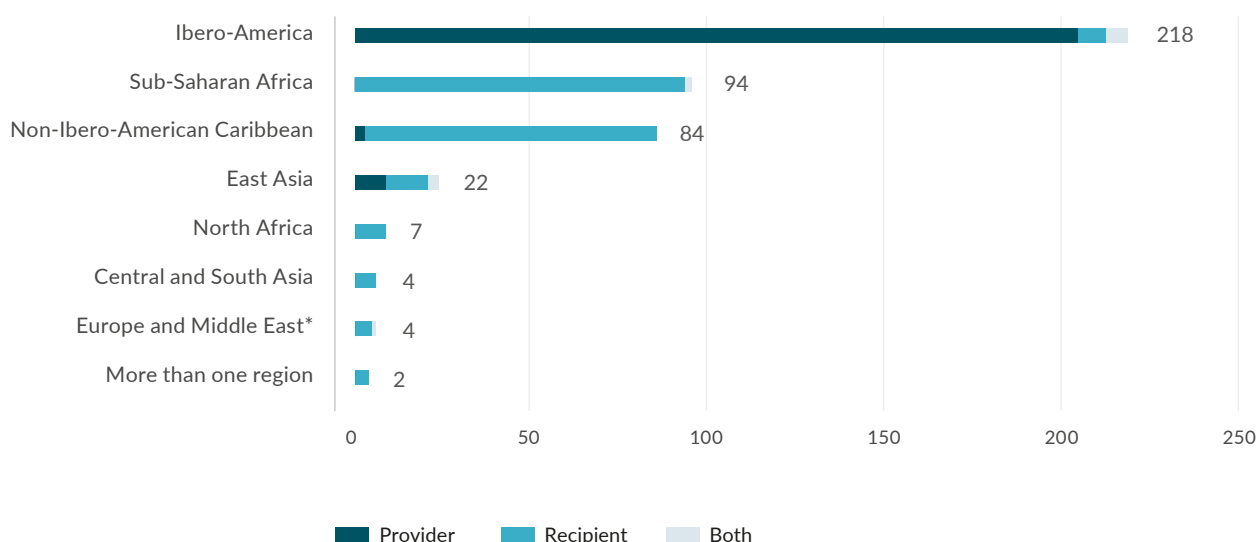
The analysis of this graph shows that, in nearly 95% of the exchanges (204), the distribution of roles was highly polarized, Ibero-America basically acting as provider and

other regions of the Global South acting as recipients of SSC. This pattern was particularly significant with Sub-Saharan and North Africa, the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Central and South Asia and the Middle East, regions for which the reception of initiatives accounted for almost 100% of their cooperation.³ The only exception was East Asia: nearly 75% of the initiatives in which Ibero-America participated in the roles of recipient (8) and “both” (6) are precisely explained by exchanges with this region of Asia.

// Graph 1.18

Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged at the inter-regional level, by region and role (provider, recipient, both). 2022-2023

In units



*Includes Turkey, which in SIDICSS is considered as part of Europe (South) but, in other categories, is considered Middle East. In this case, both regions are combined.

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

Additionally, it should be noted that not all Ibero-American countries were equally involved in these exchanges. In fact, only a few carried out SSC with other regions. At least this is suggested by Graph 1.19, which shows the relative importance that intra- and interregional cooperation had on the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives that each of the Ibero-American

countries executed with partners from all over the world during the 2022-2023 period. As the graph shows, and according to available data, more than half of the countries only registered intra-regional Bilateral SSC, while the rest also implemented cooperation with other regions, albeit with different dynamics.⁴

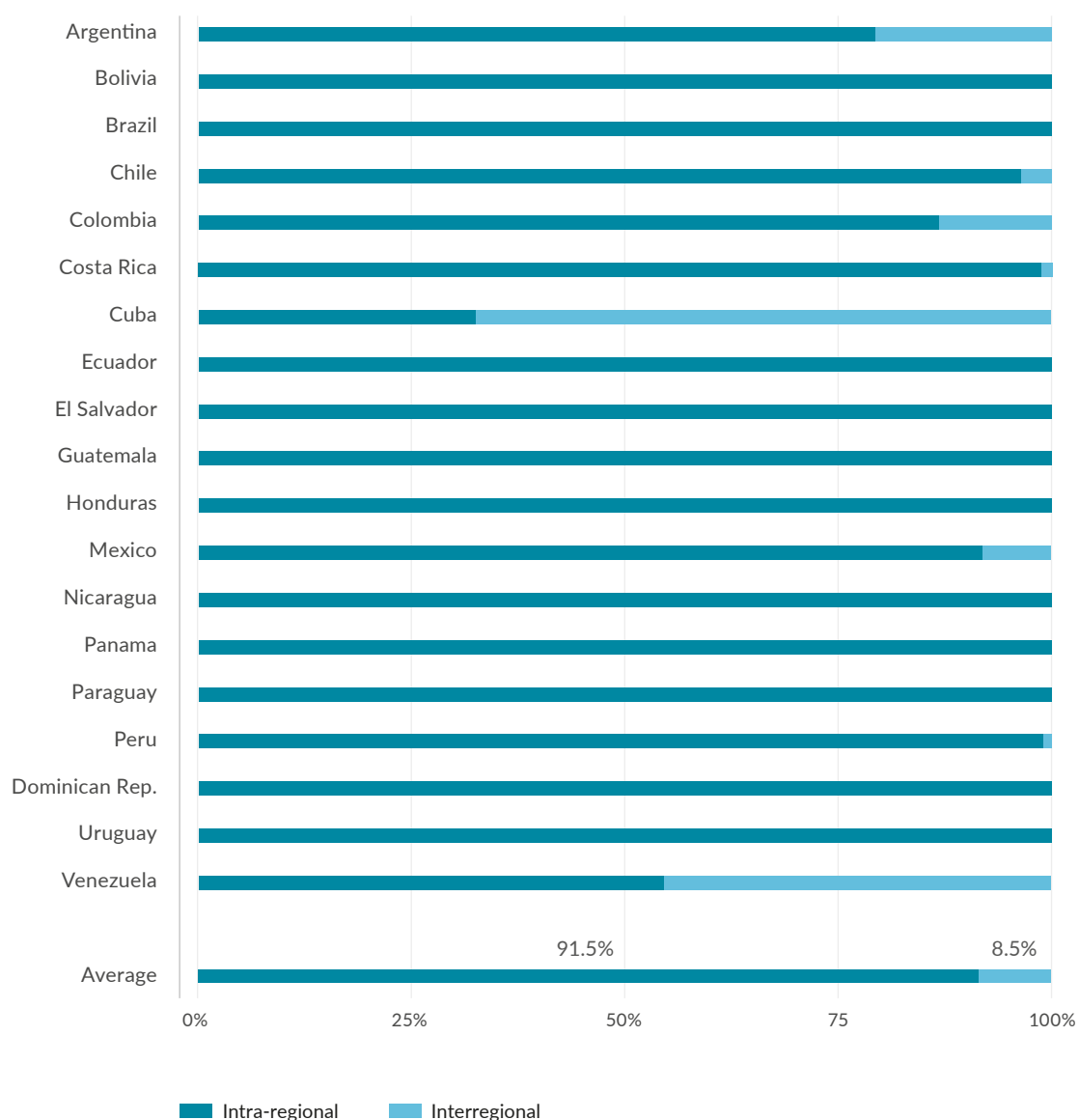
³ Includes Turkey (see methodological note in Graph 1.18).

⁴ It should be noted that some Ibero-American countries only register information on their Bilateral SSC at the intra-regional level. In this sense, data related to interregional SSC is partial and may be underestimated.

// Graph 1.19

Distribution of Ibero-American countries' Bilateral SSC initiatives, by intra- or inter-regional exchanges. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

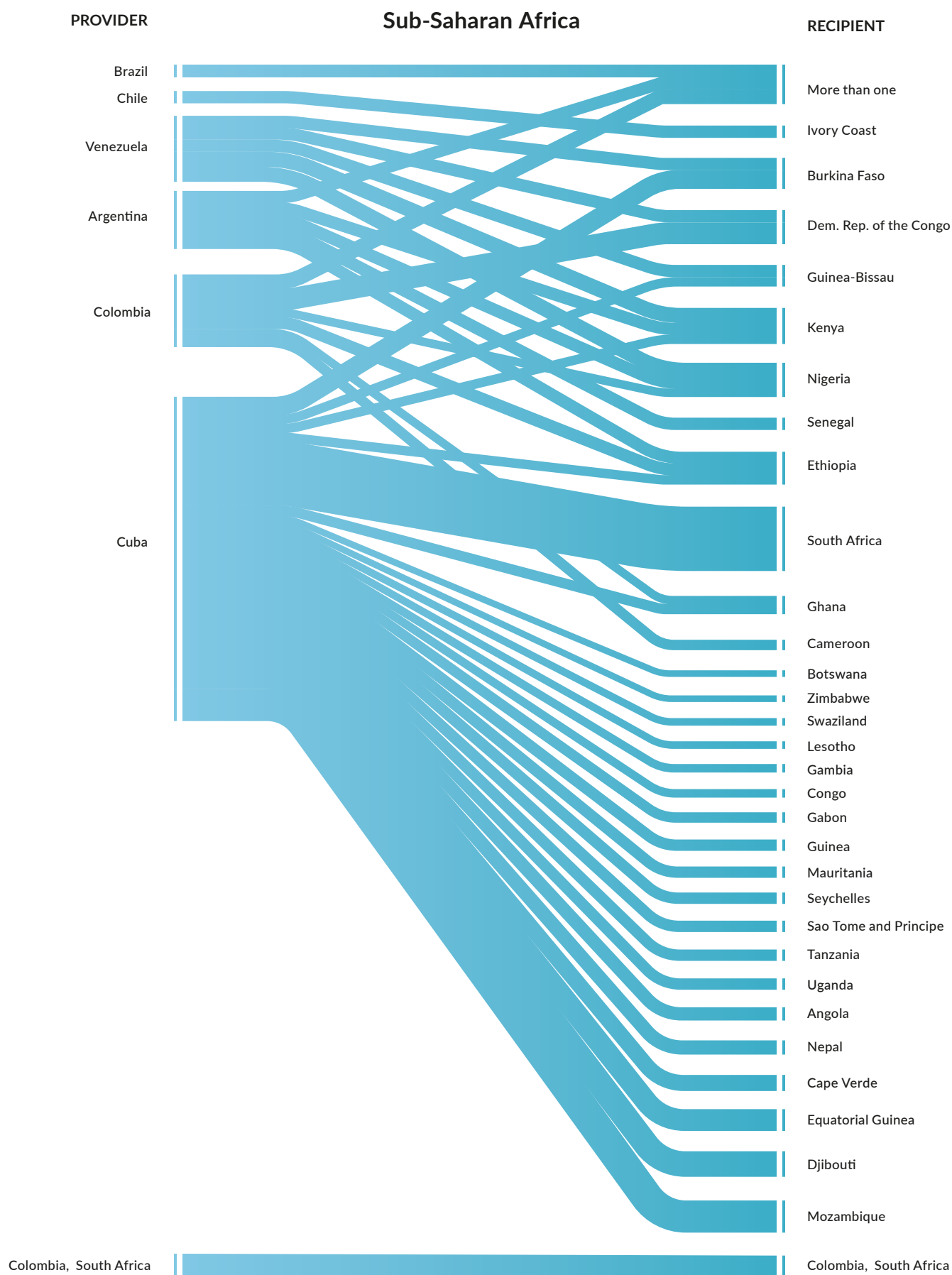
Indeed, during 2022 and 2023, Peru's, Costa Rica's and Chile's interregional exchanges were rather specific, corresponding to less than 3.5% of their total Bilateral SSC. This ratio was more significant in the cases of Mexico, Argentina and Colombia, with percentages of up to 8.2%, 13.3% and 20.8%, respectively. Venezuela and Cuba, however, deserve a special mention. The former

carried out 11 initiatives, a relatively low number but that represents a participation of more than 45% considering the total number its initiatives (24). The case of Cuba is the most exceptional, since almost 2 out of 3 (136) of its 200 initiatives were implemented with partners of other regions of the Global South, including Sub-Saharan Africa and the non-Ibero-American Caribbean.

// Graph 1.20

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American and Sub-Saharan African countries at the interregional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

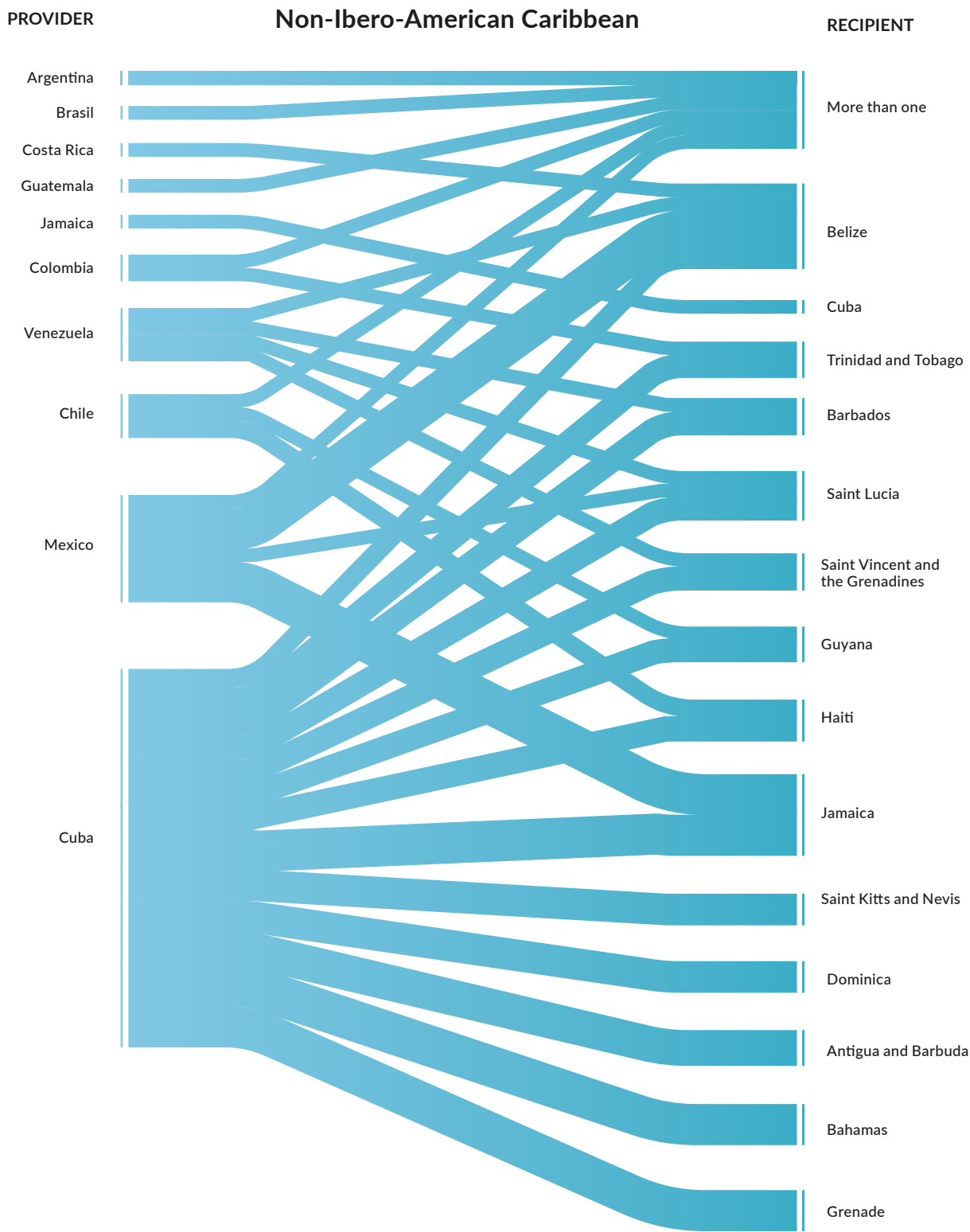
In units



// Graph 1.21

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American and non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries at the interregional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

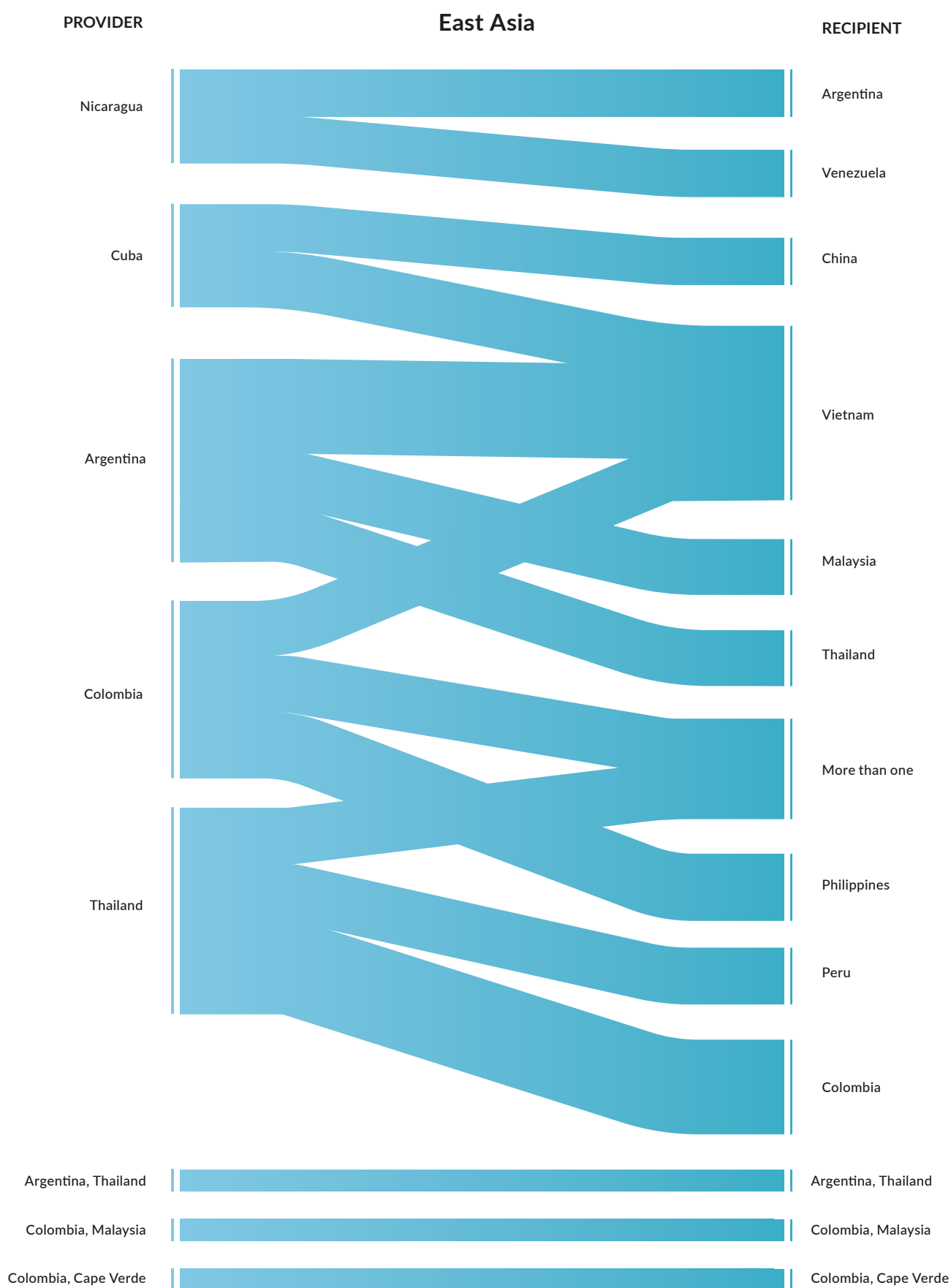


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 1.22

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American and East Asian countries at the interregional level, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units



Graphs 1.20, 1.21 and 1.22 were prepared to illustrate the way in which these interregional exchanges took place and, specifically, to identify the most active countries, its partners, the number of initiatives in which they participated, and their roles. Once again, these Sankey diagrams are an extremely visual resource, based, in this case, on the distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries and their partners in Sub-Saharan Africa (Graph 1.20), the non-Ibero-American Caribbean (1.21) and East Asia (1.22).

1.4

Sectoral analysis of Bilateral South-South Cooperation in 2022-2023

The health emergency of the 2020-2021 period changed the region's South-South Cooperation priorities. In this regard, and in an attempt to overcome these difficult conditions, Ibero-America focused its efforts on taking advantage of the potential of this modality to respond to the crisis, especially in the health field. This explains the fact that more than 30% of the Bilateral SSC initiatives promoted by Ibero-America in that period had *Health-related* problems as their main purpose.

However, the appearance of the first signs of recovery from the crisis caused by the pandemic should be reflected in a new shift of priorities in the 2022-2023 period. This section precisely analyses this issue, in order to understand the focus of the region's SSC efforts once the COVID-19 crisis was over.

To this end, a sectoral analysis of the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-America with all its partners in the 2022-2023 period is carried out at two levels: one related to the region as a whole; and the other related to countries' SSC according to the different roles.⁵ This examination is important in order to understand, on the one hand, the region's sectoral strengths and, on the other, the necessities that tended to be addressed. The comparison between the pre- and post-pandemic periods will help identify the main changes. Findings and trends will be complemented by and described through specific experiences (*Cases*), as well as thematic analyses that may be of particular interest (*Boxes*).

1.4.1

Strengthened capacities

Graph 1.23 distributes the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated during 2022 and 2023, according to the main activity sectors in which they were classified. The analysis of this graph provides a first relevant insight: more than 300 of these initiatives (1 out of 3) aimed to strengthen capacities related to *Health* (17.5%) and *Agriculture and livestock* (another 16.0%).

The high concentration of exchanges in these sectors contrasts with the dispersion of initiatives in others. In fact, other 300 initiatives involve 6 activity sectors of a very diverse nature such as (from highest to lowest relative importance): *Strengthening institutions and public policies* (7.3%) and *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* (6.2%); *Education* (6.1%) and *Other services and social policies* (4.9%); *Environment* (6.2%); and *Culture* (4.1%). The last third is related to 22 different sectors, only three of which have shares above 3% of the total (*Tourism*; *Disaster management*; and *Peace, public and national security and defense*).



More than 300 of the 956 initiatives (1 out of 3) were aimed at capacity strengthening related to *Health* (17.5%) and *Agriculture and livestock* (another 16.0%)

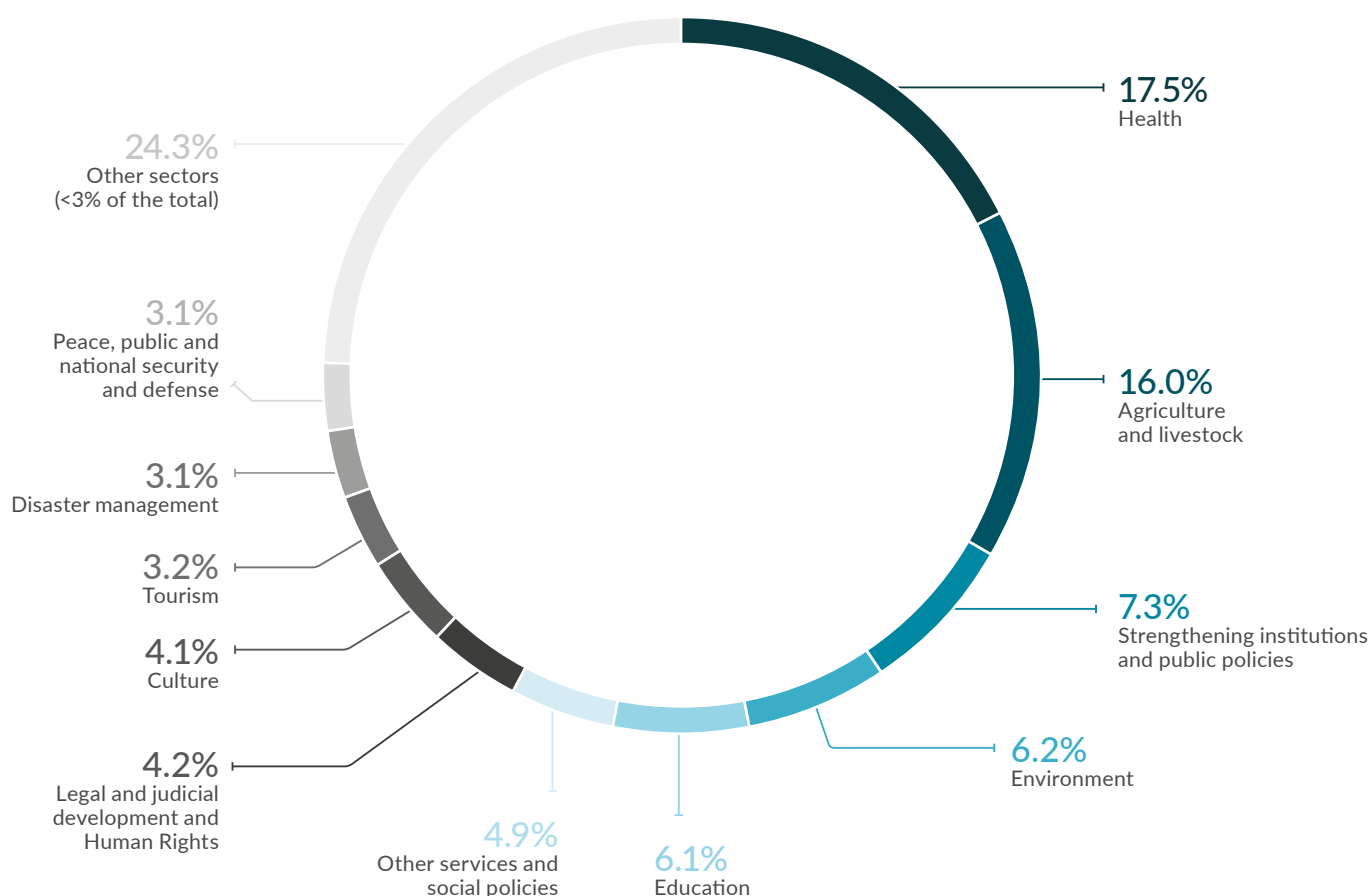


⁵ This section takes the 30 activity sectors recognized in the Ibero-American as a reference, as well as their classification into 6 areas of action (see methodological note at the end of this Report).

// Graph 1.23

Distribution of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives with all partners, by main activity sectors. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

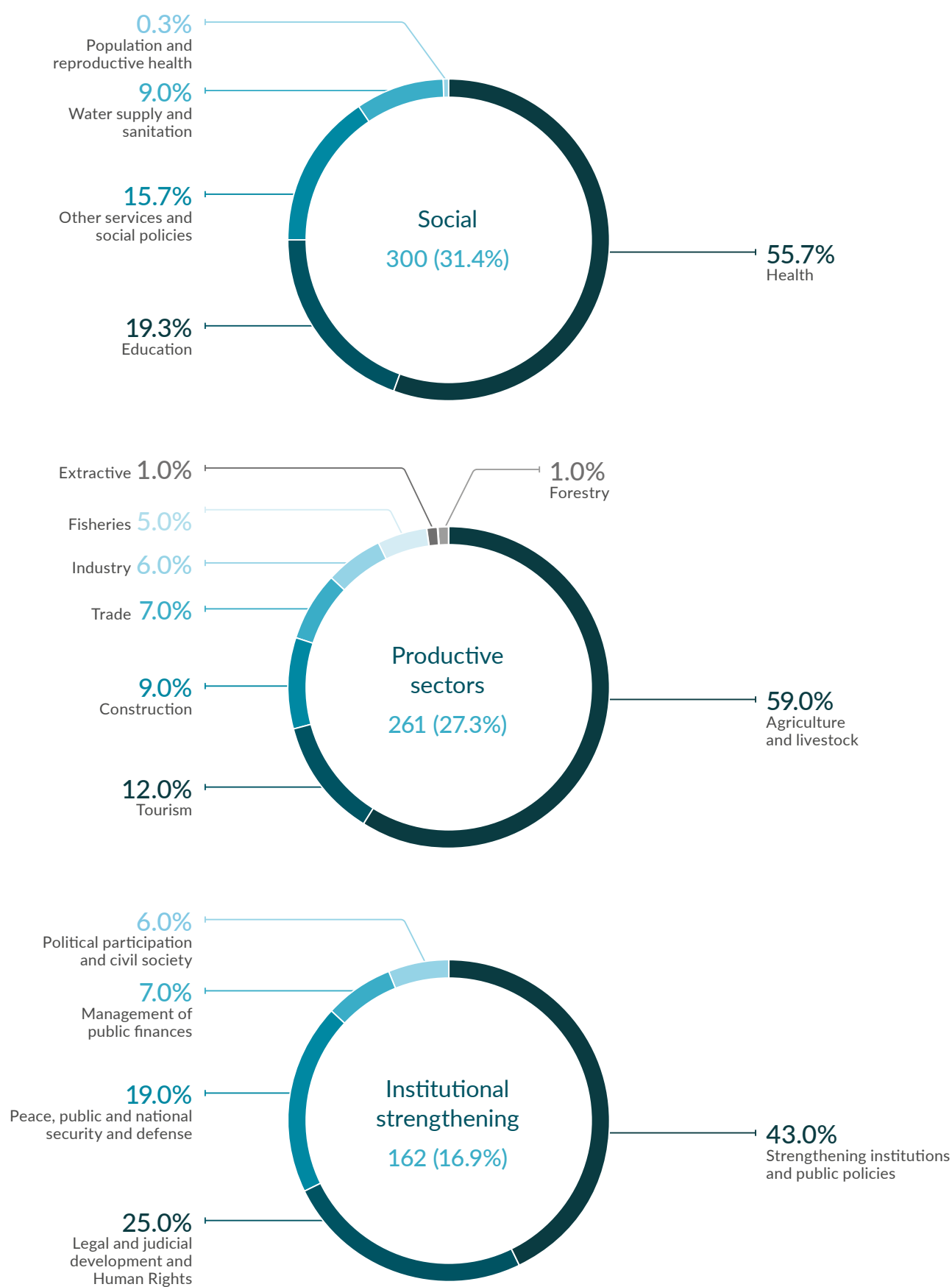
These results find a correlation in Chart 1.24, which once again classifies the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives of the 2022-2023 period by their activity sector, this time according to their relative importance in the framework of their corresponding area of action. The sectoral distribution described above explains the fact that 60% of the Bilateral SSC initiatives registered for these two years are focused on strengthening the Social (31.4%) and Productive sectors (27.3%) area, in which initiatives aimed at *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock* are classified.

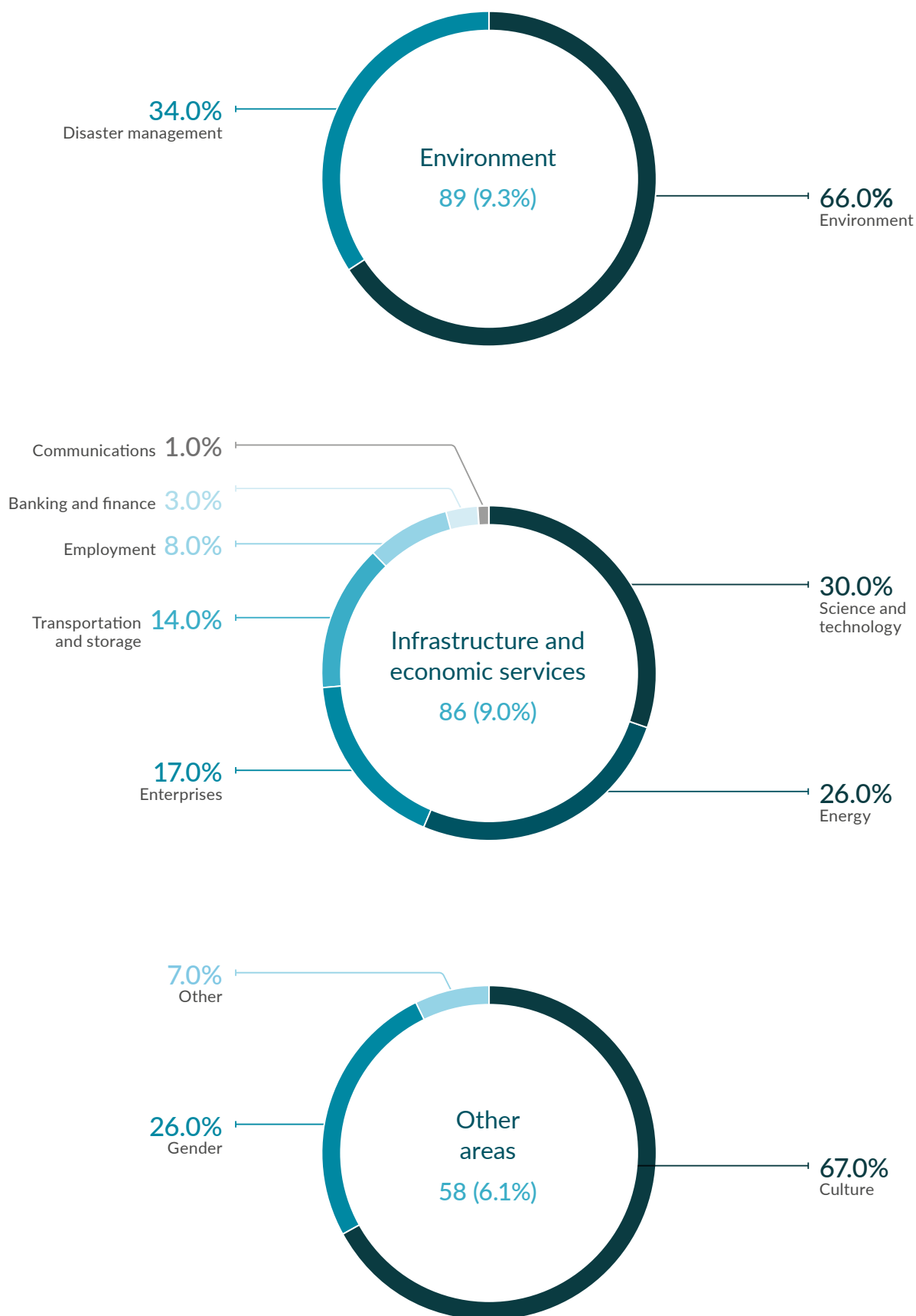
When exchanges related to Institutional strengthening are added to this analysis, 3 out of 4 of the exchanges in which Ibero-America participated in 2022 and 2023 are explained. The remaining 25% refers to Bilateral SSC that supported the generation of Infrastructure and economic services and addressed Environment issues (9% in each case), in addition to focusing on Other areas (6%).

// Graph 1.24

Distribution of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives with all partners, by activity sector, in the framework of the different areas of action. 2022-2023

In units and percentage





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

As mentioned above, and given the extraordinary circumstances related to the pandemic, it is interesting to analyze to what extent the current distribution of SSC efforts and priorities suggests that the region has overcome the crisis. Graphs 1.25 and 1.26 were prepared for this purpose, comparing data of the pre- and post-pandemic years. The first one shows the evolution of the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives that addressed *Health*—both annually and in two-year periods—, between 2018 and 2023. The second shows the variation of the different sectors' relative share over the total number of initiatives, comparing 2022-2023 with 2020-2021. A combined analysis of both graphs suggests a change in priorities, which is materialized by making less focus on the *Health* sector and progressively allocating more resources to other areas, among which *Agriculture and livestock* stands out.

Indeed, Graph 1.25 confirms how the COVID-19 crisis brought the number of Bilateral SSC initiatives dedicated to *Health* to an all-time high, surpassing the threshold of 200 initiatives, in 2020 only, and 300 in the 2020-2021 period. Since then, and as the trend curve suggests, it is possible to identify a clear downward trajectory of successive drops that results in values which are even lower than those of the pre-pandemic period: 126 in 2023 and 167 in 2022-2023.

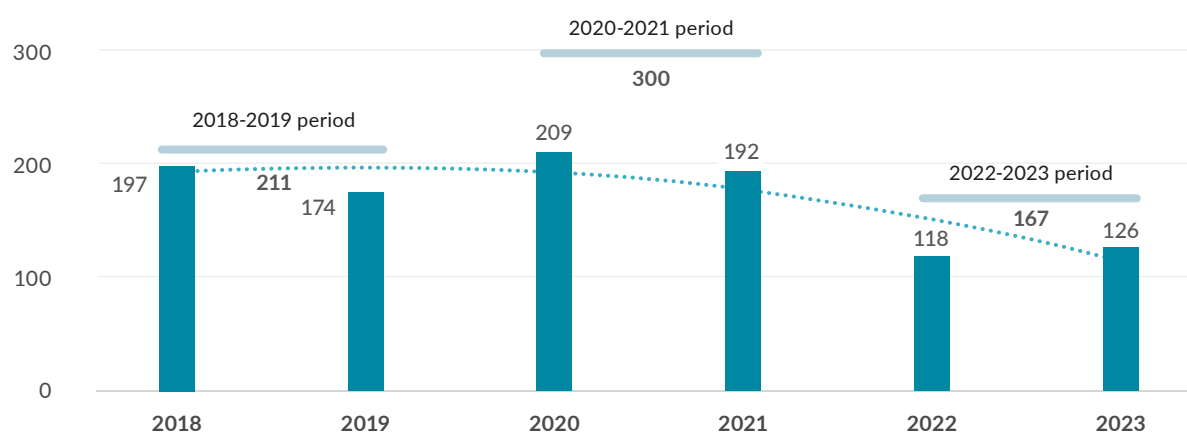
This dynamic leads to a decline of the relative importance of the *Health* sector of more than 14 percentage points comparing the 2022-2023 and 2020-2021 periods. Indeed, and as Graph 1.26 shows, this is the only sector that has experienced a loss in its intensity. The remaining sectors have barely changed their relative share—both in terms of positive and negative variations— by one percentage point. *Culture* and *Construction* were the only exceptions (each gaining 2 percentage points) and *Agriculture and livestock*, which importance increases by up to 5 points, partially offsetting the *Health* sector.

This reorganization of priorities in a new post-pandemic context closes the gap between the two sectors that characterized the most severe period of the COVID-19 crisis. In fact, during 2020 and 2021, *Agriculture and livestock* only accounted for 10% of exchanges, a figure 20 percentage points lower than that of the *Health* sector at the time. Meanwhile, in 2022-2023, the gap was reduced to just 1.5 points (from 16% to 17.5%), which, as already mentioned, placed the strengthening of *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock* at the same level in terms of priorities.

// Graph 1.25

Bilateral SSC initiatives on *Health* implemented during the pandemic crisis, by year and by two-year periods. 2018-2023

In units

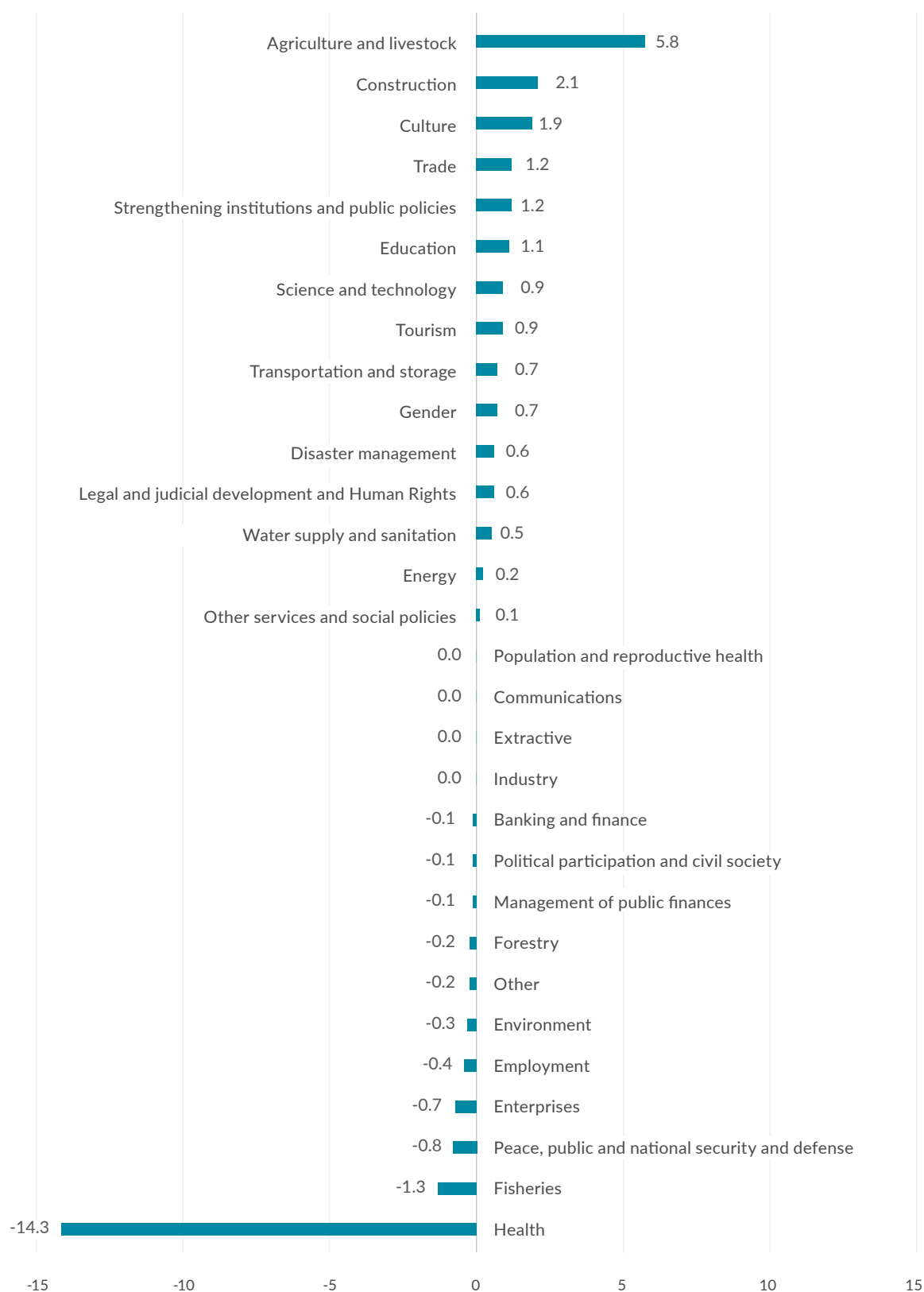


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 1.26

Variation in activity sectors' weight in the total number of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives with all partners, between the pandemic and post-pandemic two-year periods. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In percentage points



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

Finally, a detailed analysis of the topics that were specifically addressed through the Bilateral SSC in which the region participated during the 2022-2023 period gives a more precise idea of the priorities that were set in the new context and the extent to which these have or have not been influenced by the response to the COVID-19 crisis. In fact, this examination provides a better understanding of the capacities that countries transferred in this new stage, as well as the types of necessities that could be addressed as a result of this cooperation.



The analysis of the 167 Bilateral SSC initiatives classified in the Health sector reveals the continued importance of the response to the COVID-19 crisis



Specifically, and once again taking the combined interpretation of Graphs 1.23 and 1.24 as a reference, the thematic analysis begins with the 167 Bilateral SSC initiatives classified in the *Health* sector. As a result of this detailed review, it is important to highlight two aspects: 1) the role played by Cuba (which accounts for more than 60% of the records); and 2) the importance of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, which was still very present, not only in terms of this country's cooperation, but also in at least 15% of the rest of the health-related initiatives.

Indeed, during the 2022-2023 period, and as will be described in the next section —especially through Graph 1.30—, the total number of exchanges in the *Health* sector are determined by the more than 100 initiatives that Cuba carried out with countries of all regions, especially those of the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. Through them, Cuba shared its recognized experience in this area, for example, by giving continuity to long-standing projects, such as the Comprehensive Health Program or Operación Milagro, dedicated to ophthalmologic surgeries for people with limited resources.

Also in this period, Cuba's Henry Reeve Brigade, precisely dedicated to medical care in crisis and emergency situations caused by natural disasters and epidemics, had a remarkable activity. In this sense, and as mentioned above, the way in which the response to COVID-19 continued to determine Bilateral SSC in *Health* is expressed not only through Cuban cooperation, but also through that of other countries in the region. Thus, at least 10 other initiatives have been identified —mainly from

Chile and Mexico and, more specifically, from Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela— which, from multiple perspectives, continued to address the pandemic and its impact, including those that aimed to develop therapeutic alternatives, sharing experiences in treating patients and coordinating clinical trials, among others.

In addition, knowledge continued to be exchanged in other traditional areas associated with the *Health* sector. In this sense, initiatives aimed at strengthening institutions (General Directorates and Superintendencies), providing them with better management tools (regulation and oversight models) and supporting the training of their professionals, are worth mentioning. Another important group of initiatives in this period focused on the development of specific therapies to respond to different types of diseases related to kidneys and lungs, cancer and tuberculosis. Others also addressed malnutrition and other eating disorders. A special reference should be made of the permanent strengthening of Human Milk Banks, experience that Brazil shared with almost all the countries of the region, and which, since the Millennium Agenda, has been a benchmark in the fight against infant mortality.

Almost 90% of the exchanges in the Social area and almost 30% of the total number of exchanges are explained when initiatives related to *Education* and *Other services and social policies* are added to those of the *Health* sector. Part of this cooperation is, once again, determined by Cuba's participation, which promotes numerous educational projects in Ibero-American countries as well as in other regions, including its literacy program, Yo Sí Puedo, which has won several UNESCO awards. Additionally, initiatives dedicated to the exchange of new tools for educational and pedagogical innovation, as well as those that support the development of professional competencies, should be highlighted among other experiences supported by several countries. In all of these cases, it is also possible to conclude that those initiatives which addressed education play an important role as a key instrument to close social gaps and tackle inequalities.

Several topics can be identified in the framework of those initiatives that are classified in the *Other services and social policies* sector. On the one hand, exchanges related to the specific care of certain groups, seeking to guarantee their rights and their full social integration, should be highlighted. This includes cooperation dedicated to early childhood, the elderly, people with disabilities, migrants and indigenous peoples. On the other hand, this sector also includes initiatives related to housing policies and the rehabilitation and recovery of vulnerable neighborhoods. Finally, actions and projects dedicated to the promotion of sports as an instrument for social inclusion, should also be mentioned.

Case 1.1 was prepared in order to provide a detailed description of the above. This example summarizes an initiative between Colombia and Chile in which Colombia shares its experience in a policy that

promotes the recognition of care work performed by women, as well as co-responsibility, ensuring the reconciliation with other aspects of their lives.



Photo: The implementation of the Kangaroo Mother Care Method in hospitals of the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador requires support and actions for its sustainability and strengthening in the technical, administrative and financial areas. As a result of this SSC with Colombia, the Ministry of Health has initiated its implementation in hospitals in order to institutionalize the care for premature or low weight newborns through this mechanism. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

// CASE 1.1

Colombia and Chile cooperate to promote co-responsibility in care work

Colombia

Chile

Caretaking is vital for development. These activities are mostly performed by women in an unpaid manner and they result in the sacrifice of other educational, work and social priorities. In fact, in Latin-America, women dedicate more than twice as much time to (unpaid) domestic and care work than men (ECLAC, 2021).

Some Latin-American countries have designed public policies in order to multidimensionally address this problem. For example, the District Care System of Bogota, in Colombia, has set the strategy *Manzanas del Cuidado*, through which caretakers have time to carry out other activities or can access different services while professionals take care of the people of which they are responsible, all free of charge.

Taking advantage of this experience, Colombia and Chile approved the SSC project *Inhabiting Neighborhood Civic Care Centers*, through which Chile had the opportunity to advance co-responsibility associated with care work by incorporating this approach in its lines of action and programs. This initiative's objective is to place people at the center, through the support and consolidation of various community networks in neighborhoods and territories.

In early 2023, the Neighborhood Recovery Program of the Ministry of Housing and Urbanism of Chile (MINVU by its Spanish acronym), supported by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), had developed an action plan in

Colombia in which a partnership was established with the Secretariat for Women in Bogota. As a result of this process, Chilean authorities became familiar with the experience of the Colombian capital and the opportunity for bilateral technical exchanges based on that city's experience was considered an opportunity (AGCID and APC-Colombia internal documents).

The project began at the end of November 2023, when the first technical visit of the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to six *Manzanas de Cuidado* in Bogota took place, and workshops were held on the management, replicability and evaluation of these initiatives.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC-Colombia by its Spanish acronym), Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID by its Spanish acronym) and Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2021).

In turn, 36% of the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives promoted by the region during the 2022-2023 period addressed different economic fields: in fact, 3 out of 4 (27.3% of the total) were aimed at strengthening Productive sectors; while 1 out of 4 (another 9%) was dedicated to support the generation of Infrastructure and economic services. As mentioned above, *Agriculture and livestock* was the second most important sector, accounting for 60% of the initiatives that had a productive focus. At a great distance, exchanges to strengthen the development of *Science and technology*, *Energy* and *Trade*, as well as *Tourism* —the only one of these four which importance in the total number of initiatives exceeded the 3% threshold—, are also worth mentioning.

Furthermore, and as Graph 1.31 will show, initiatives classified in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector mainly corresponded to exchanges between Ibero-American countries themselves, projects with other regions being more specific. Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, countries

with extensive and recognized experience in this field, were among the most active partners. Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, among others, were also remarkably dynamic, combining the provider and recipient roles.

With regard to the topics that were specifically addressed, most of this SSC aimed to strengthen agriculture, especially in terms of the entire agricultural production cycle, from sowing and cultivation to the distribution and marketing of final products, both at the level of domestic and foreign markets. However, other initiatives were related to livestock (genomic evaluations; traceability; dairy products) and, occasionally, to fields such as beekeeping.

Thus, Bilateral SSC in agriculture was mainly dedicated to providing producers with a wide range of tools and knowledge (innovative cultivation practices; the use of biotechnology; pest management; the search for food safety to ensure food security but also market insertion; agribusiness management models, among others). It should be added that two recurring lines of action could be identified in most cases: on the one hand, a focus on small-scale producers and family farming; and, on the other, an emphasis on the generation of instruments to promote greater capacity to adapt and respond to the adverse effects of climate change. The objective was twofold in this sense: to advance an agriculture that ensures livelihoods for producers, and to do so in an environmentally sustainable manner.

All the above was complemented by other SSC initiatives that provided agriculture with a stronger institutional framework. To this end, these exchanges also addressed legal development; Ministries' digital transformation; the adoption of satellite technologies for crop monitoring; and the promotion of phytosanitary certifications, among others.

Finally, another common feature was the frequent emphasis on regional crops such as sweet potato, coffee, cocoa, potato, corn, soybeans, rice and quinoa, to name a few. In fact, Case 1.2. provides further details on cooperation in the agricultural sector, based on a project that illustrates some of the above, making references to quinoa, small producers, food security and adaptation to climate change. This is also one of the few example of exchanges between regions, in this case involving Argentina and Morocco.

// CASE 1.2

Growing quinoa under extreme conditions for food security



Quinoa is recognized for its nutritional value, but also for its ability to adapt to different environmental conditions. For this reason, and as it can develop under extreme climatic and soil conditions, it is important for present and future food security (FAO, 2023).

Although native to the Andean region, quinoa is currently cultivated in different parts of the world. For example, it was introduced into Morocco in 1999, in the area of Khénifra, through a project of the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II (IAV) (FAO, 2013). Nowadays, this country's rural area is facing serious food security problems due to climate change and land desertification, challenges which quinoa cultivation could help to counteract.

In this context, Argentina has supported Morocco to develop quinoa as a complementary food and non-traditional cash crop, as it adapts to environments that suffer from drought and salinity stress. This South-South Cooperation initiative also aimed to increase small farmers' income, alleviate poverty, generate new employment opportunities and integrate women into the value chain of this seed.

Since 2019, the Argentinian technical team has carried out three missions to Morocco in which *"field experiments were developed in order to learn about and innovate in the management of quinoa cultivation in marginal areas of Morocco (Bouchane and Rabat)"* and *"progress was made with the development of a Field Manual on quinoa cultivation for small producers in French and Arabic"* (INTA, 2022).

During 2021, due to mobility restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project continued virtually with the socialization of harvest results from experimental plots of land (INTA, 2022). The fourth stage took place in April 2023, with the mission of two IAV technicians to different Argentinian provinces (Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja and San Juan), where they were able to visit experimental fields and participate in seminars and technical training. Two more stages are yet to be carried out in 2024.

The project was financed by the Argentine Fund for International Cooperation (FOAR by its Spanish acronym) and is executed by INTA and the Miguel Lillo Foundation (FML by its Spanish acronym). The technical counterpart in Morocco is IAV Hassan II.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Zonda de San Juan Newspaper (2023), FAO (2013) (2023) and INTA (2022).

On the other hand, and in order to continue the analysis of the economic area, initiatives aimed at supporting the development of *Tourism* also deserve a special mention. Part of the Bilateral SSC that was classified in this sector was dedicated to develop tourism as a product —based on the use of natural and historical resources—, by achieving quality and sustainability standards that even sought to position tourism branding. In fact, this SSC was based on the exchange of strategies; staff training and education; and the promotion of quality seals and certifications, among others. Other exchanges in this sector aimed to strengthen public institutions to support several stakeholders. It should be added that, due to the nature of this activity, this cooperation is closely linked to territories, to the local and municipal levels, and even to the cross-border level, as suggested by the initiatives on tourism corridors that involve, for example, Argentina and Chile.

Finally, the Bilateral SSC that in 2022-2023 was associated with *Trade, Science and Technology* and *Energy*, addressed different topics. First, initiatives related to Trade focused on customs, from very diverse but complementary perspectives, for example, the regulation of the entry and exit of products; the fight against illicit trafficking; the management of information platforms; and improvements in tariff systems, which are, in turn, part of States' collection and taxation systems. Second, SSC in *Science and Technology* focused on two main areas: the strengthening of institutions and public policies (national technological development programs; the promotion of innovation environments; science and technology observatories; metrology and standard classifications); and the exchange of innovative practices for different branches of the economy (nanotechnology and quality control techniques for irradiated products with applications in the productive and health sectors). Third, SSC in *Energy* covered from generation to final distribution, always focusing on the transition to renewable and sustainable energies (solar photovoltaic systems; wind farms; thermoelectric plants; lithium treatment; biofuels; energy management; and electricity market models, among others).

Yet, the combined analysis of Graphs 1.23 and 1.24 should be resumed to understand the type of capacities that were strengthened in the Institutional strengthening area. Specifically, these diagrams shed light on the exchanges classified in three sectors, which aggregately account for another 15% of the cooperation that Ibero-American countries carried out in the period: *Strengthening institutions and public policies* (the third most important after *Health and Agriculture and livestock*); *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*; and *Peace, public and national security and defense*.

Indeed, the 70 initiatives that aimed to contribute to *Strengthening institutions and public policies* addressed three major topics: first, the generation and management of the information needed to guide decision-making

(population and housing censuses; the development of cartography and data systems; the management of public documents and archives and their digitization); second, the provision of a quality public service (e-government; training for civil servants; improvements in data protection); and third, the strengthening of International, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (methodologies for the evaluation of programs and projects; the exchange of experiences on SSC and TC Funds; and activities among Agencies themselves).



Other exchanges that focused on the promotion of human rights, with a strong emphasis on the protection of minors, the fight against the worst forms of child labor, sexual exploitation and the prevention of torture, were also important



Additionally, the different initiatives that were promoted in *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* aimed, on the one hand, to work on guaranteeing access to justice; and, on the other, to improve its quality, seeking to alleviate the system by, for example, promoting out-of-court dispute resolution. Other exchanges focused on the promotion of human rights, with a strong emphasis on child protection; the fight against the worst forms of child labor; sexual exploitation; and the prevention of torture. Several initiatives addressed forensic anthropology, including those in which Argentina exchanged its recognized experience in this field with countries from both the Ibero-American region and other regions, especially French-speaking Africa.

In order to complete the analysis of this area of action, mention should be made of the Bilateral SSC initiatives (around 30) that sought to contribute to *Peace, public and national security and defense*. In this sense, experiences related to community police training and education, and those related to historical memory; reintegration; normalization; attention to victims of conflict; and peace-building, stood out. For example, Colombia's exchanges with countries in other regions, such as Cambodia and Vietnam, in this sector, deserve to be highlighted.

The fourth sector in terms of relative importance in Bilateral SSC in the 2022-2023 period is *Environment*, which, together with *Disaster management*, accounts for almost another 10% of all the exchanges. In fact, a wide variety of initiatives that address two major lines of action which are, in turn, complementary, are associated with the former. For example, the protection of biodiversity and the fight against, adaptation to and mitigation of the worst effects of global warming.

Accordingly, a significant part of the Bilateral SSC initiatives promoted by Ibero-American countries in the 2022-2023 period aimed to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Specifically, exchanges focused on the artificial and natural restoration of reefs, soils, mountain and high Andean ecosystems; the implementation of financial mechanisms for the payment for environmental services; and the development

of regulations and protocols for the management of natural resources, among others. In this framework, it is worth noticing an increasing number of exchanges that highlight the important contribution that traditional and indigenous peoples' knowledge can make to this sector (for example, initiatives that use this knowledge for forestry and genetic resource management).

// CASE 1.3

Mexico and Honduras cooperate to protect and conserve forests



"Forest ecosystems provide food, timber, fuel and medical resources; in addition, they serve as tourist and scenic recreation sites and are also important for the socio-cultural activities of their inhabitants" (AMEXCID, 2020). They also contribute to the conservation of water and to biological diversity, climate regulation and carbon sequestration (AMEXCID, 2020).

According to ECLAC (2023), 34% of the planet's primary forests are located in Latin-America and the Caribbean and, at the regional level, Ibero-American countries also work through South-South Cooperation (SSC) to protect this ecosystems. The project *Institutional Strengthening of the Forest Conservation Institute of Honduras in Sustainable Forest Development, Management and Conservation* has

been one of the most representative examples. This Bilateral SSC initiative between Mexico and Honduras has been developed in 3 phases (2013-2015) (2016-2018) (2019-2023).

The last one was approved in 2019 in the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Program between the two countries, and it was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT by its Spanish acronym), through the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR by its Spanish acronym), and the Institute of Forest Conservation of Honduras (ICF by its Spanish acronym).

According to AMEXCID, 8 activities were carried out during the course of the project, benefiting 216 officials and technical and academic

specialists. Participants included experts from the Secretariats of Environment and Agrarian Institutes, as well as universities and forestry and agricultural professional associations, among others (internal document, 2023).

Exchanges in the framework of this third phase addressed best practices in forest restoration and health, and field visits were also carried out to reinforce knowledge and skills in the maintenance of forest germplasm production units, nursery management, mangrove restoration and plant health (AMEXCID, 2022). As a result of the outcomes and of Honduras' interest in continuing to consolidate the exchange, a fourth phase will be included in the 13th Bilateral Cooperation Program with Mexico, in order to continue training in this area.

Source: SEBIG based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID by its Spanish acronym) (2022) (2020), and Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2023).

Cases 1.3 and 1.4 were precisely prepared to illustrate the different approaches through which countries worked together to protect biodiversity and the environment. The first focuses on a project that Mexico and Honduras have been promoting for years to strengthen this Central-American country's Forest Conservation Institute. Case 1.4, which details an exchange between Panama and El Salvador, highlights the importance of training to protect ecosystems.

The above is complemented by cooperation to face global warming, which combines initiatives to mitigate and adapt to its worst effects (drought risk management), with the promotion of technological and institutional resources that provide information for a better management of the climate crisis (satellite platforms and observatories to monitor its impact).

With regard to *Disaster management*, numerous exchanges focused on fire management and firefighter's education and training, partly based on the experience accumulated by Brazil. Training for better risk management and emergency response was also registered. As has been the case, Bilateral SSC in this sector also addressed the development of information systems, in this case focused on the record of damages and losses due to extreme events. Finally, from a damage prevention and minimization perspective, initiatives related to the resilience of infrastructures, especially in the face of fires and seismic movements, should also be mentioned.

Finally, Bilateral SSC that in 2022-2023 was classified in the *Culture* sector accounted for 4.1% of the 956 initiatives. A wide range of exchanges took place in this sense, including those related to the management and conservation of cultural heritage; the fight against illicit trafficking of goods; the promotion of cultural industries; and the development of satellite accounts, among others. Those initiatives that have revalued the culture of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and those that, for example, through youth orchestras, have used culture to promote social inclusion, stood out. Given its importance precisely as an instrument for cohesion

// CASE 1.4

Panama and El Salvador promote the training of environmental leaders



Taking care of the environment is a priority in most Ibero-American countries. In addition to the work carried out by the public and the private sector, it is necessary to involve communities in the protection of nature and the generation of sustainable practices. In this sense, progress can be made towards the preservation of ecosystems through environmental education and community empowerment.

In this regard, in the framework of their 2022-2024 Technical and Scientific Cooperation Program, Panama and El Salvador approved the Bilateral SSC project *Knowledge and technology transfer for environmental volunteers and community leaders*, implemented by the Ministries of Environment of both countries.

The project had 7 activities. These included workshops for volunteers and environmental leaders, and for community organizations, on topics related to environmental management and the implementation of projects on

integrated solid waste management/3R principles (reduce, reuse, recycle), single-use plastics, and watershed conservation, among others. These activities were carried out online between April 2022 and January 2023. During the second phase, technical exchanges are expected to be carried out on-site, in order to approach the implementation of the initiatives in the field. The design of diploma courses to further strengthen knowledge is also planned.

According to the project's document, the initiative was estimated to directly benefit communities that are involved in the protection and improvement of their environments and, additionally, to protect the region's watershed. It also important to mention that this was planned to support the work of fourteen Regional Directorates of the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, which included two indigenous communities that were also interested in joining the Virtual Environmental School of the Ministry of the Environment (MARN by its Spanish

acronym) of El Salvador. This platform was launched in January 2023, in order to provide public access to training, and to strengthen good practices for the conservation of natural resources (*Diario El Salvador*, 2023).

The work carried out in Parque Forestal Los Andes in San Miguelito (near Panama City), where environmental volunteers developed reforestation initiatives and created firebreaks so that fires do not spread and residents are not exposed to soot should specially be highlighted. This group of citizens organized activities to increase protection and awareness on environmental care, in order to preserve the ecosystem of the park.

Through this initiative, Panamá and El Salvador contributed to the alignment of Ibero-American SSC with SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) —main SDG— and with SDG 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water) and 15 (Life on land) —second SDGs—.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Agency for International Cooperation of El Salvador (ESCO by its Spanish acronym) and *Diario El Salvador* (2023).

among peoples, Box 1.1 was prepared to provide an in-depth understanding of the capacities that have been actually strengthened in the *Culture* sector through the exchanges carried out between 2007 and 2023.

The *Culture* sector is included in Other areas, together with *Gender* and the generic sector “*Other*” which together account for 2% of the total number of initiatives that

took place in the 2022-2023 period. The 15 initiatives that promoted gender equality tended to focus on two main topics: the prevention and eradication of violence against women; and the promotion of women's access to economic entrepreneurship. The projects that worked on education from this egalitarian perspective should also be mentioned as they have a significant impact on every society.

→ BOX 1.1

Cooperation on *Culture* as a multidimensional tool for development

Culture is recognized for its important contribution to individual and social transformation. Although no specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is dedicated to *Culture*, the 2030 Agenda makes a cross-cutting recognition of its role to broaden the scope of social, economic and environmental policies, hence, to “leave no one behind” (SEGIB, 2021a, p. 128). Specifically, *culture* is explicitly identified in SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), which refers to the cultural heritage associated with cities, seen as symbolic spaces for the preservation of tangible and intangible assets.

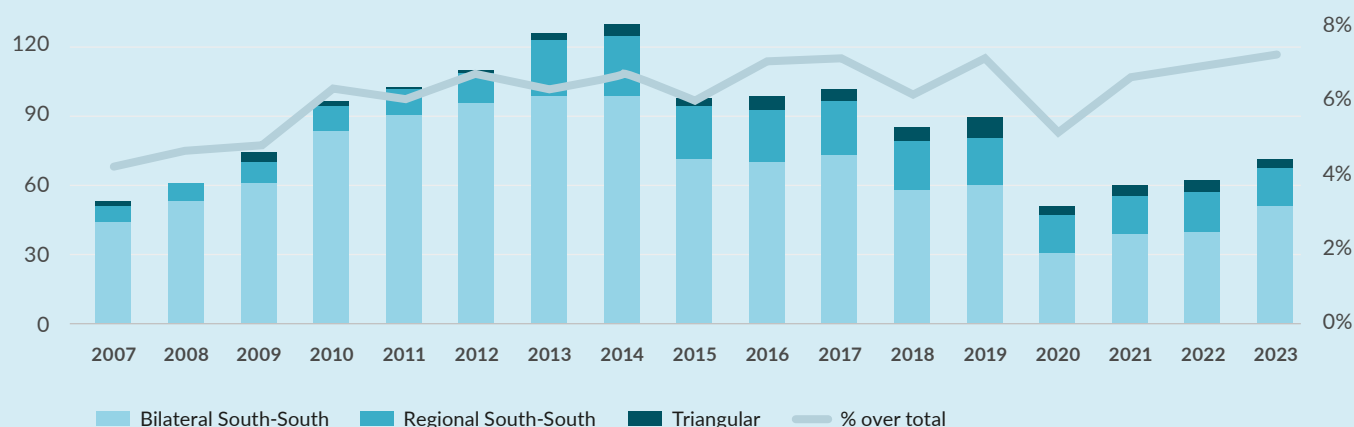
Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation also strengthens the *Culture* sector in this regard. Specifically, 715 initiatives were implemented between 2007 and 2023, which accounted for about 7% of the region's total cooperation in that period. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of this cooperation was implemented in the Bilateral SSC modality (632), while the remaining 12% was carried out through Regional (46) and Triangular (37) Cooperation.

In terms of its evolution over time, the first graph shows initiatives that were associated with *Culture* by cooperation

modality, and their share in the total number of exchanges in the analyzed period. The graph confirms the clear prevalence of Bilateral SSC over the Triangular and Regional modalities. It also shows a steady growth in cooperation to strengthen this sector: specifically, from 2007 to 2023, its participation increased from 4% in 2007 to almost 8% in 2023. This trend has remained constant throughout the entire period, with the exception of the most severe years of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021).

Evolution of SSC initiatives on *Culture*, by modality. 2007-2023

In units and percentage



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

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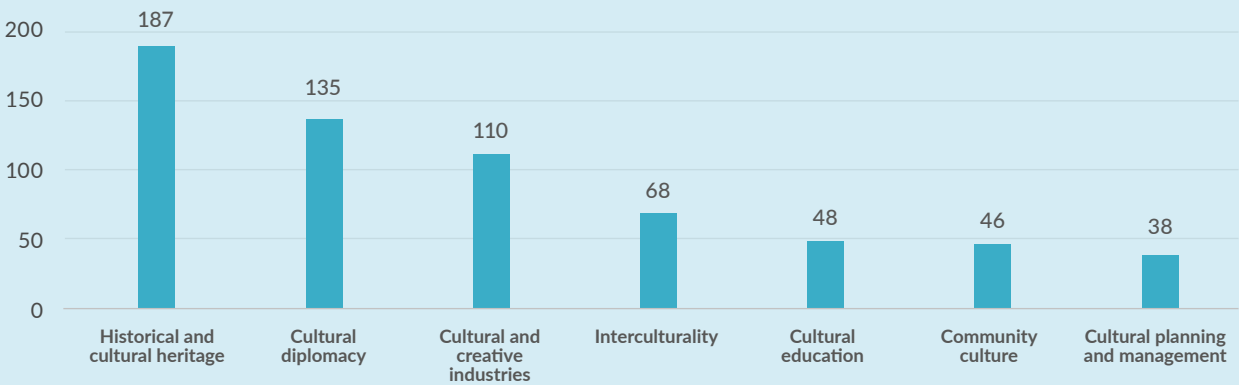
It is also important to understand the specific topics that were addressed by the Bilateral SSC that was classified in the *Culture* sector, and the type of public policies that the different initiatives have strengthened. The second graph shows that almost

30% of Bilateral SSC corresponds to actions, projects or programs related to Historical and cultural heritage. Of this total, the majority specifically contribute to the conservation of tangible heritage, which, according to UNESCO, is considered “impossible to

estimate and irreplaceable because of its historical and cultural value”. This also includes architectural, archaeological, artistic and historical heritage (UNESCO in Institute for Cultural and Artistic Management, 2021).

Thematic categories addressed by Bilateral SSC initiatives on Culture. 2007-2023

In units



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

Initiatives related to Heritage are followed by those on Cultural diplomacy (21%), understood as an instrument to promote intercultural dialogue and to strengthen relations between countries. It should be pointed out that the majority correspond to specific actions in the framework of *Escuelas Chile* and *Escuelas México*. This category also includes exchanges to teach Spanish to public officials, as Colombia does with countries in Asia or the Caribbean Basin.

Initiatives on Cultural and creative industries rank third (around 17%). These address various topics such as arts (cinematography; dance; and theater), crafts (design and marketing of handicraft products; leather goods systems; dyeing of textile and vegetable fibers, etc.), music

(direction of symphonic orchestras and choirs; making and repairing stringed musical instruments; and national music plans), cultural tourism (promotion of cultural tourism routes), and intellectual property.

These are followed by cooperation on Interculturality, which objective is the dialogue between different cultural groups to overcome social asymmetries and cultural discrimination (SEGIB, 2021b, p.15). These exchanges show how *culture* contributes to a greater recognition of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples, with emphasis on the promotion of linguistic diversity; the philosophy of “living well” (“*buen vivir*” in Spanish) and racial equity; and different social programs in health, gender and food security, among others. In this regard, for example,

bilingual intercultural education should be highlighted, as it allows children and indigenous young people to “*learn in contexts of greater equality, in conditions that are adapted to their cultural characteristics, their language, and their conception of the world*” (Ministry of Education of Chile, 2024).

Other initiatives focus on Cultural education, promoting Spanish teaching; the training of teachers in cultural management; institutional strengthening of cultural government institutions; and training in librarianship, among others. It should be noted that many of these exchanges correspond to the training of human capital and cultural advisory services provided by Cuba to various countries (of 48 initiatives, 18 were from this country).

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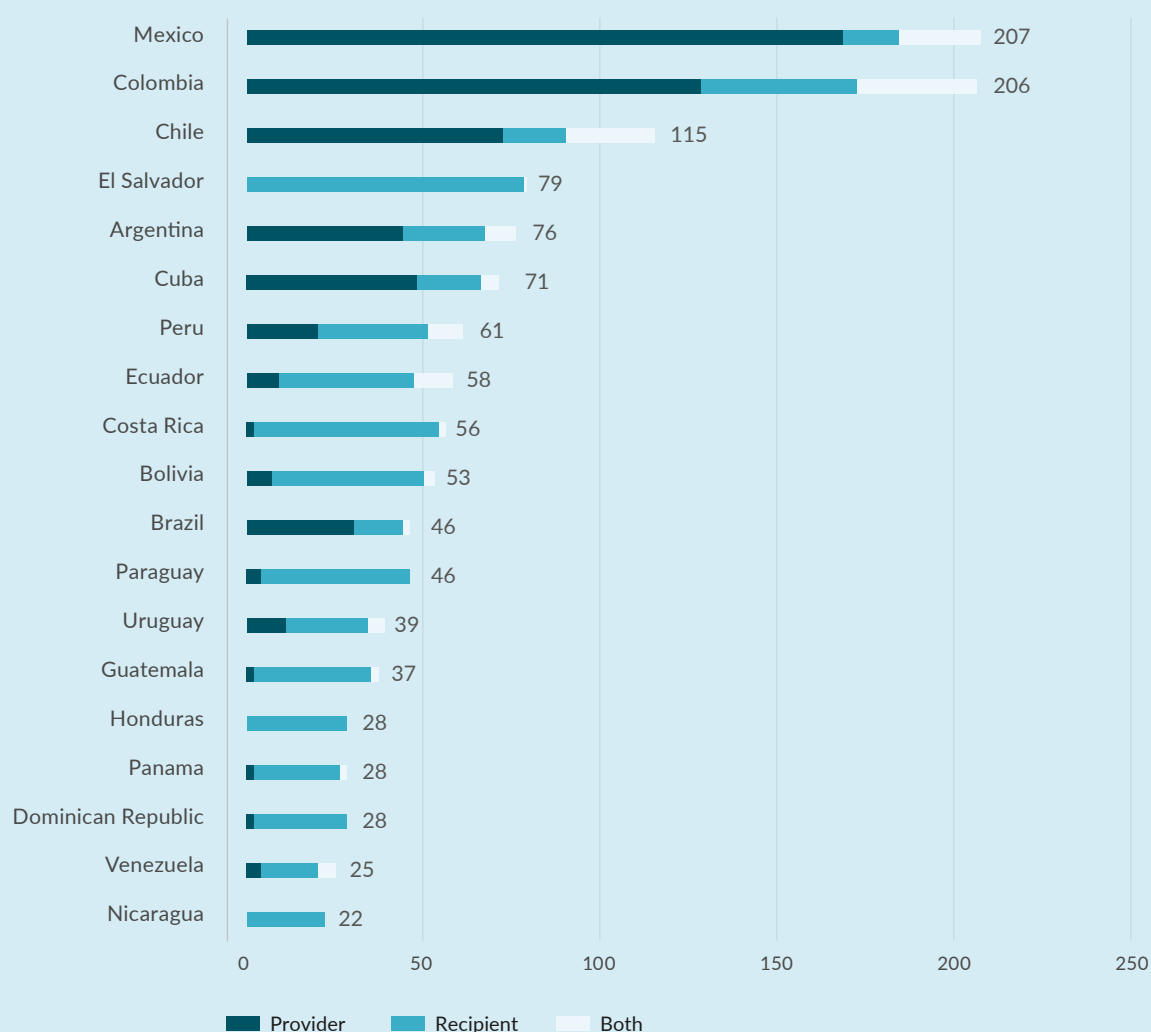
In addition, it is important to highlight those initiatives related to the transforming power of culture for social change and the reduction of gaps and inequality. These include, for example, the strengthening of community libraries, youth choirs and orchestras, and the use of art to prevent violence and promote coexistence.

Finally, other exchanges were related to Cultural planning and management. These, for example, seek to consolidate satellite accounts for culture; optimize legislation in this area; and generate decentralization processes that strengthen culture at the local level.

The third graph shows countries' participation in Bilateral SSC initiatives in the *Culture* sector and their role in this cooperation. The list is led by Mexico and Colombia, for which the provider role prevailed, in most cases.

Ibero-American countries' participation in Bilateral SSC initiatives on *Culture*, by role. 2007-2023

In units



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

Specifically, Mexico focused much of its Bilateral SSC on the preservation of Cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), particularly on the protection of indigenous languages

and cultures; the assessment of the impact of archaeological sites declared as world heritage; and the restoration of murals. It also had a great dynamism fostered by actions

on Cultural diplomacy, where Escuelas México stand out, contributing to the improvement of higher education in several countries of the region.

[Continues >>](#)

Colombia's cooperation especially strengthened Historical and cultural heritage (museums, archives, traditions, etc.); Cultural and creative industries (strengthening craft production chains; performing arts; and music); and Cultural diplomacy (bilingualism programs with countries in the Caribbean Basin). Its cooperation was particularly intense with El Salvador, in community culture, for example, by strengthening choir and youth orchestra systems' capacities.

On the other hand, one third of Chile's cooperation focused on Cultural diplomacy initiatives through the work done by *Escuelas Chile*, which seek to promote the development of a learning and collaboration community for school improvement in Latin-America and the Caribbean (*Escuelas Chile*, 2023). Its participation in Historical and cultural heritage initiatives was also noteworthy, addressing very heterogeneous topics such as the preservation of murals; the recovery and conservation of national monuments and archaeological heritage, among others. Those exchanges that contributed to Interculturality (access of Indigenous peoples to goods and services) and to Cultural and creative industries (music; cinema; ballet; handicrafts; dance) were also significant.

El Salvador, in turn, stands out for its cooperation in terms of Historical and cultural heritage.

These initiatives seek, for example, to preserve monuments and traditional architecture and strengthen museums and archives, among others. In addition, this country was one of the greatest beneficiaries of *Escuelas Mexico* and *Escuelas Chile* (Cultural Diplomacy) and of handicrafts production (Cultural and creative industries).

Argentina stands out as provider in various areas such as the management of Historical and cultural heritage; the strengthening of museums of memory, archeology and forensic anthropology; and in enhancing cinematography, dance, design and innovation in the camelid textile industry (Cultural and creative industries). This country also participated in actions in the framework of *Escuelas Chile* and *Escuelas México* (Cultural diplomacy).

Cuba, in turn, also played an important role in this sector, mainly because of its historical and recognized cooperation in Cultural education (training of human capital and cultural advisory services in general), as well as in Cultural and creative industries, specifically through the strengthening of the audiovisual and music fields. Finally, initiatives on Historical and cultural heritage also stand out in the framework of Cuba's cooperation, such as those that preserve and promote traditional knowledge and strengthen national archives and historical centers.

Regarding the contribution of projects on *Culture* to the 2030 Agenda, from 2015 to 2023, around 40% of the Bilateral SSC exchanges were mainly aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). As mentioned at the beginning of this Box, the prevalence of this SDG is related to heritage conservation, specifically associated with target 11.4 related to "strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard it".

On the other hand, 20% was aligned with SDG 4 (Quality education), through *Escuelas Chile* and *Escuelas México*, the programs to strengthen Spanish teaching, and the scholarships granted by Cuba to Ibero-American students.

Finally, 12% of Bilateral SSC on *Culture* was aligned with SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). These initiatives were mainly associated with Cultural and creative industries, which includes projects to strengthen the value chain of the handicraft industry —especially—; the promotion of gastronomic tourism; and the safeguarding of traditional cuisines, as well as the support for SMEs and mini-SMEs in the ceramics, wood, stone, jewelry and leather fields.

Methodological note: The Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS) was used to carry out this exercise. Based on available data, a first filter was applied in order to search for cooperation initiatives associated with the *Culture* sector and, in addition, a broader search was then carried out by using keywords related to the sector (both in Spanish and Portuguese). This ensured a greater coverage to include information that could also be associated with other sectors. Finally, a review was carried out to check whether these initiatives did indeed contribute to Culture and in order to group them into more refined categories. These were prepared by SEGIB based on the *Ibero-American Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development* and the *2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics*.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Ministry of Education of Chile (2024), *Escuelas Chile* (2023), SEGIB (2021a) (2021b), *Somos Iberoamérica* (2021) and UNESCO in Institute for Cultural and Artistic Management (2021) (2009).



Photo: The project *Studying lithium carbonate crystallization through advanced analysis and characterization techniques*, between Argentina and Bolivia, aims to improve the yield and quality of products derived from this metal. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

1.4.2 Countries' profile

An aggregated analysis of Ibero-American countries specific contributions determines the characteristics of the Bilateral SSC in which the region participated during the 2022-2023 period. In fact, the final result reveals the combinations of the different profiles and the way capacities were exchanged.

The first step in order to define the profile of Ibero-American countries' capacities (transferred, strengthened and shared), is to categorize them according to their role: provider (transferring capacities); recipient (strengthening their own); and both (strengthening and transferring in the same exchange).

A radial/radar chart was plotted for each of these groups of countries: Graph 1.27 for countries that mainly acted as recipients (El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Panama, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Guatemala and Venezuela⁶); Graph 1.28 for countries that mostly participated as providers (Cuba and Brazil); and Graph 1.29 for countries that mainly had a dual role (Chile, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Uruguay and Argentina).

All three graphs have the shape of an hexagon where each vertex is associated with one of the six areas of action recognized in the Ibero-American space. In this type of diagram, values are represented on quantitative axes (as radii) which origin is the same point at the center. The relative importance of the 6 areas of action in the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives in which each country

⁶ Nicaragua is excluded from the analysis as it registered less than 10 initiatives.

participated—in the role being specifically analyzed—, is represented in each of these axes. The connection of the resulting points (i.e. the values of the different axes) shapes a figure that defines the profile of the capacities

that were exchanged, by country and role. It is also possible to identify similarities and differences between the different profiles by comparing these figures.

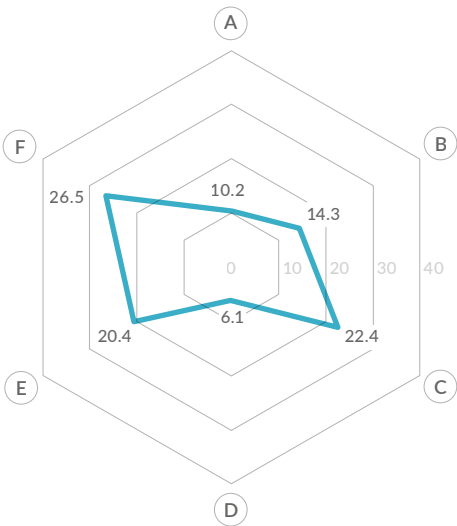
// Graph 1.27

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives of the Ibero-American countries that mainly acted as recipients, by area of action. 2022-2023

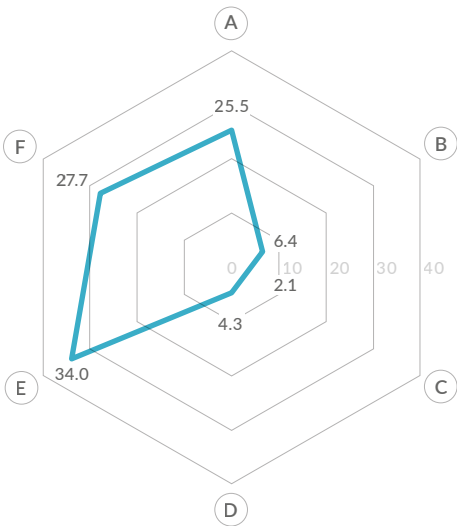
In percentage

- (A) Institutional strengthening
(B) Infrastructure and economic services
(C) Environment
- (D) Other areas
(E) Productive sectors
(F) Social

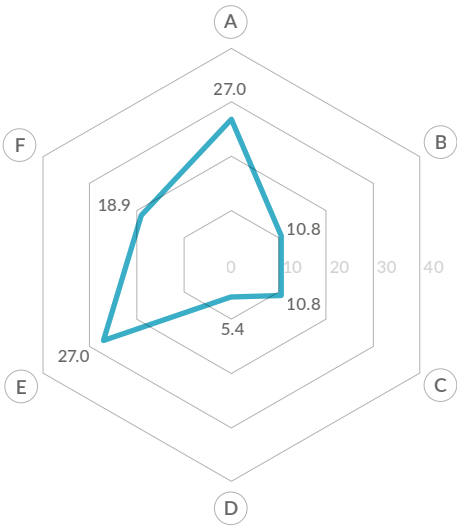
A. El Salvador (49)



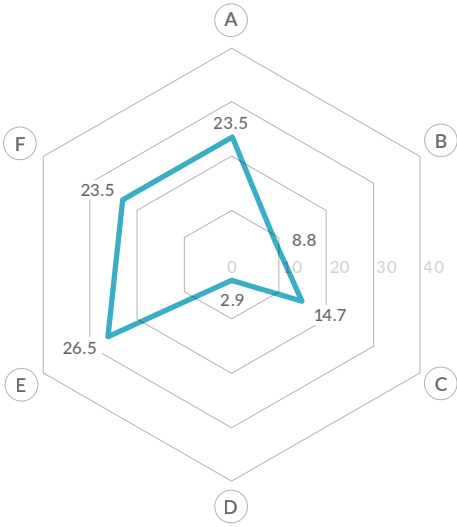
B. Ecuador (47)



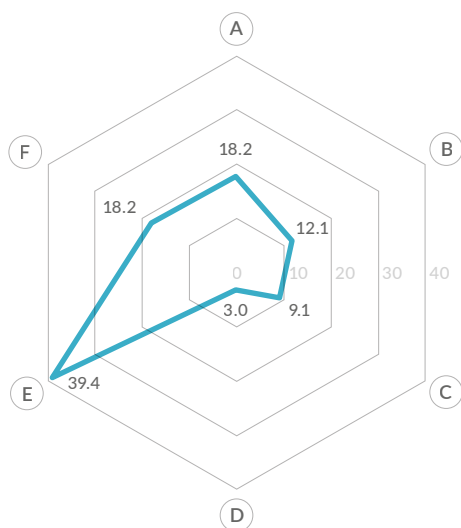
C. Honduras (37)



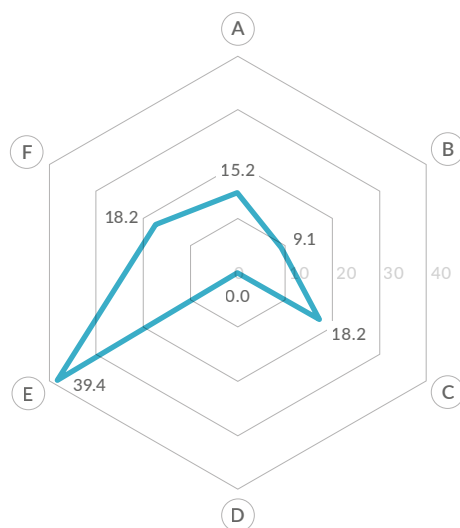
D. Dominican Republic (34)



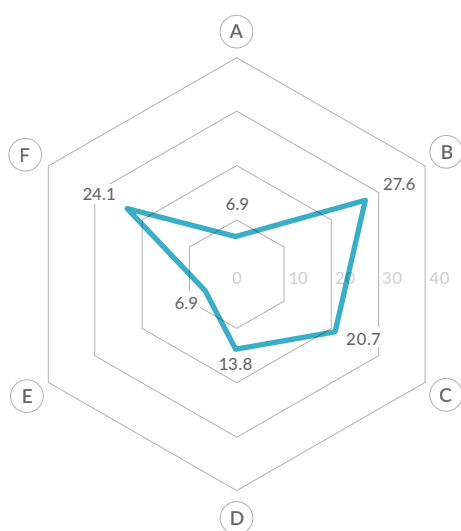
E. Bolivia (33)



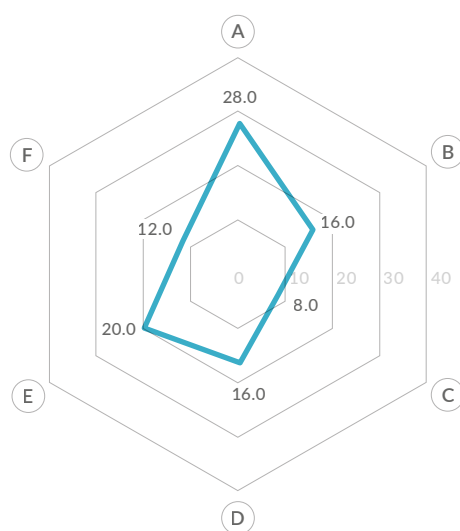
F. Panama (33)



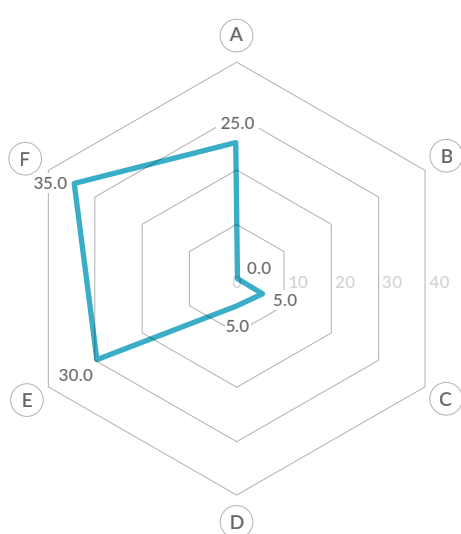
G. Costa Rica (20)



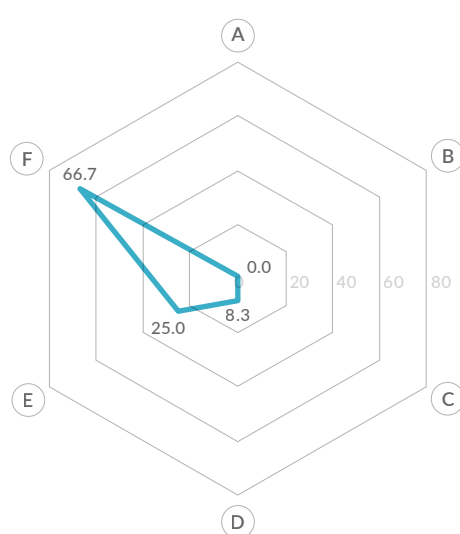
H. Paraguay (25)



I. Guatemala (20)



J. Venezuela (12)



Note: In all charts, the axis ranges from 0% to 40% with the exception of Venezuela. In this case, it ranges from 0% to 80%.

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

Graph 1.27 provides a first approach to the recipient profile of 10 countries. Thus, although with different intensities, three countries prioritized capacity strengthening in the Social area: El Salvador (26.5% of the initiatives in which it participates as recipient), Guatemala (35%), and Venezuela (almost two out of three). In all cases, as expected, the majority of exchanges are focused on the *Health* sector and, to a less extent, on *Education* and *Other services and social policies*. However, it is interesting to make a special reference to El Salvador's case and the importance of this country's initiatives related to *Water supply and sanitation* (in the Social area), but also to the Environment and the Productive sectors areas (an aggregate 40%).

Other countries have a different profile, mainly focused on strengthening the Productive sectors area: Bolivia and Panama (around 40% of the initiatives in which they participated as recipients, respectively); and the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Ecuador (between 25% and 35% of the cooperation they received, in each case). For all these countries, it was essential to receive Bilateral SSC to strengthen their *Agriculture and livestock* sector, which accounts for more than half of the cooperation that was

classified in this area. Initiatives focused on *Fisheries* (Panama) and *Trade* (Ecuador) also stood out.

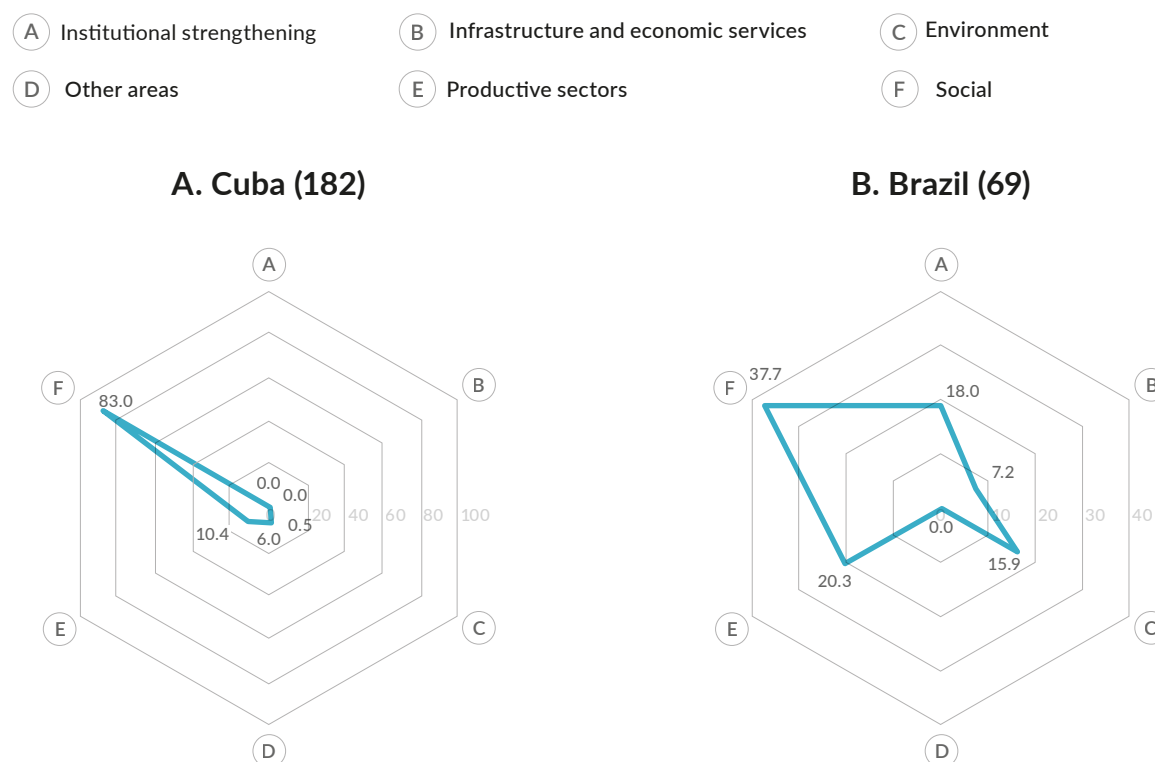
Finally, Costa Rica and Paraguay had the most diverse profiles. Although their cooperation was diversified around different areas of action, half of the Bilateral SSC received by Costa Rica tended to focus on the generation of Infrastructure and economic services (27.6%) together with the strengthening of the Social area (24.1%). Meanwhile, Paraguay placed emphasis on Institutional strengthening (28%) and Productive sectors (another 20%). In terms of sectors, cooperation in *Energy*; *Transportation and storage*; and *Education* stood out in Costa Rica's case. On the other hand, Paraguay's initiatives focused on *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Legal and judicial development and human rights*; *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Industry*.

As Graph 1.28 suggests, the profiles of the two countries that mainly acted as providers (Cuba and Brazil) are significantly different. As seen in the previous section, Cuba had a very specialized profile in the Social area (83% of the more than 183 initiatives in which it transfers capacities to other partners). More than 100 of these are associated with the *Health* sector, in the framework of

// Graph 1.28

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives of the Ibero-American countries that mainly acted as providers, by area of action. 2022-2023

In percentage



Note: The axis ranges from 0% to 100% in Cuba's case, and from 0% to 40% in Brazil's.

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

which Cuba shared its recognized experience. However, those exchanges related to *Education* stood out among the rest. On the other hand, Brazil's profile is more diversified. In spite of this, capacities transferred in the Social area also prevail (more than 35%), complemented by knowledge

sharing in Productive Sectors (20.3%), Institutional Strengthening (18.8%) and Environment (15.9%). Through this, Brazil's shared its recognized experience in *Health*; *Water supply and sanitation*; and in *Agriculture and livestock*.

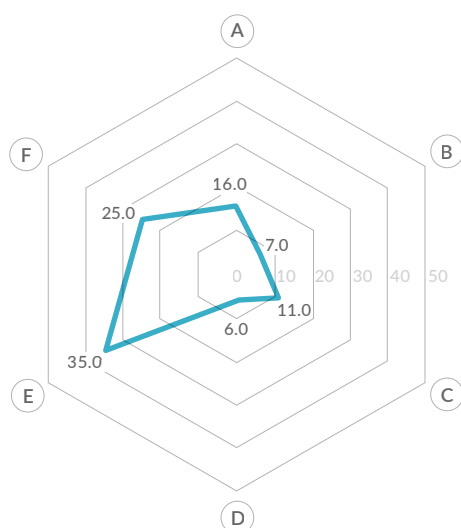
// Graph 1.29

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives, by countries for which the role “both” prevailed, by area of action. 2022-2023

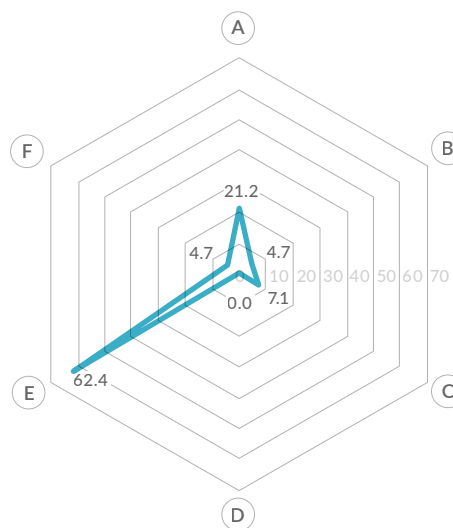
In percentage

- (A) Institutional strengthening
- (B) Infrastructure and economic services
- (C) Environment
- (D) Other areas
- (E) Productive sectors
- (F) Social

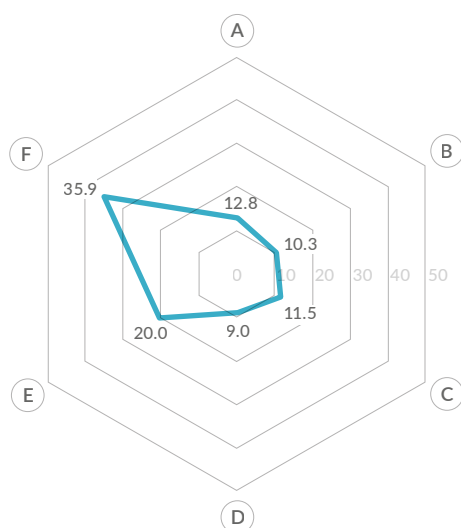
A. Chile (100)



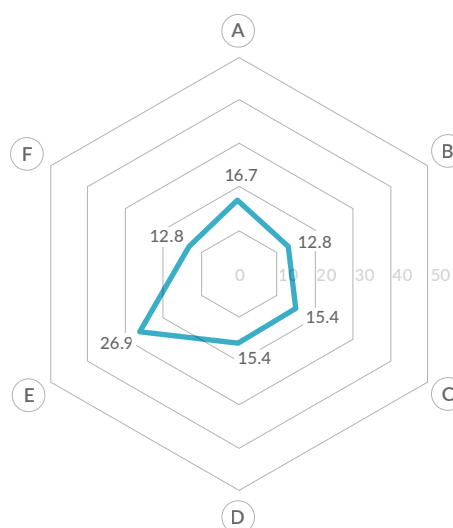
B. Peru (85)



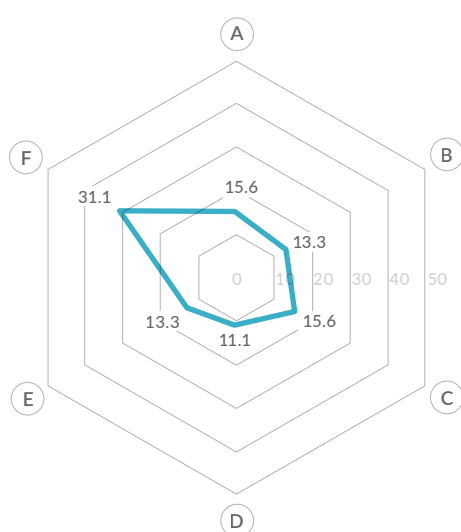
C. Mexico (78)



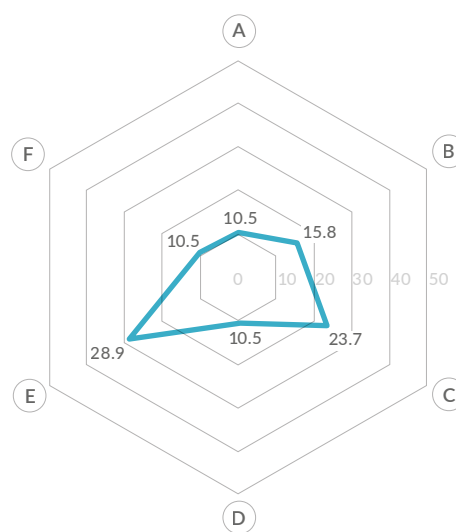
D. Colombia (78)



E. Uruguay (45)



F. Argentina (38)



Note: In all charts, the axis ranges from 0% to 50% with the exception of Peru. In this case, it ranges from 0% to 70%.

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

Finally, Graph 1.29 shows the profile of capacities exchanged by the six countries for which the exercise of the role “both” prevailed. In this sense, it is possible to identify two contrasting patterns: that of the countries which main strength lies in the Social area (Mexico and Uruguay); and that of those which mainly shared its experience in the Productive sectors area (Colombia, Argentina, Chile and Peru). In Mexico’s and Uruguay’s cooperation, the Social area accounts for around 1 out of 3 of the initiatives in which they participated in a dual role. In both cases, the main specialization is associated with the *Health* sector. In fact, some of these exchanges are highly technical and specialized (HIFU technology; the use of biomarkers; therapeutic vectors; serological and molecular tools, among others) and, most importantly, these exchanges are carried out among themselves (Mexico is Uruguay’s partner in 10 out of the 14 initiatives in which it plays the role “both”).

On the other hand, the profile of the capacities shared by Colombia, Argentina and Chile, tended to predominantly focus on the Productive sectors area, which, in each case, accounted for between 25% and 35% of the initiatives in which these countries participated in a dual role. The most relevant sector for Colombia and Chile was *Agriculture and livestock*, followed by *Industry* and *Tourism*.

The importance of the Productive sectors area should also be highlighted in Mexico’s case (20% of the initiatives in the role “both”). Meanwhile, Argentina prioritized Environment (almost another 25% of these exchanges), and Chile focused on the Social area, mainly through a significant number of initiatives in the *Health* sector.

In the role “both”, Mexico and Uruguay prioritized the strengthening of the Social area, while Colombia, Argentina, Chile and Peru prioritized the Productive sectors area

Peru’s case deserves a special mention: this country’s cooperation in the Productive sectors area accounted for more than 60% of the Bilateral SSC in which it participated simultaneously acting as provider and recipient. In 80% of these cases, Peru shared its experience in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector. Additionally, although with a relatively lower intensity (20% of the total under the dual role), those initiatives by which Peru addressed Institutional Strengthening are also worth mentioning.

Finally, Graphs 1.30 and 1.31 were prepared to illustrate how these profiles complemented each other. These two sectoral Sankey diagrams, distribute the total number of Bilateral SSC initiatives implemented during the 2022-2023 period in the *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock* sectors, respectively, according to countries and roles. It should be recalled that, in these graphs, initiatives “flow” from providers (left side) towards recipients (right side), and that when the two countries play the role “both”, the names of the two partners appear both on the left and on the right side.



Photo: Through SSC with Colombia, nutritionists and agronomists work together so that children in the Province of Veraguas in Panama can improve their nutrition and thus promote and enhance their development. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.



The analysis of both graphs shows two different exchange patterns for each of the two sectors that account for almost one third of the initiatives of the region as a whole. Indeed, as already mentioned, the *Health* sector was clearly determined by the role played by Cuba and by its exchanges with countries in other regions. Therefore, these exchanges have a strong interregional component

and an evident provider-recipient profile. In contrast, the pattern of the *Agriculture and livestock* sector is much more diversified and associated with several countries including Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. Intra-regional exchanges prevail in this sector, as well as a greater number of bidirectional initiatives --those in which countries simultaneously act as provider and

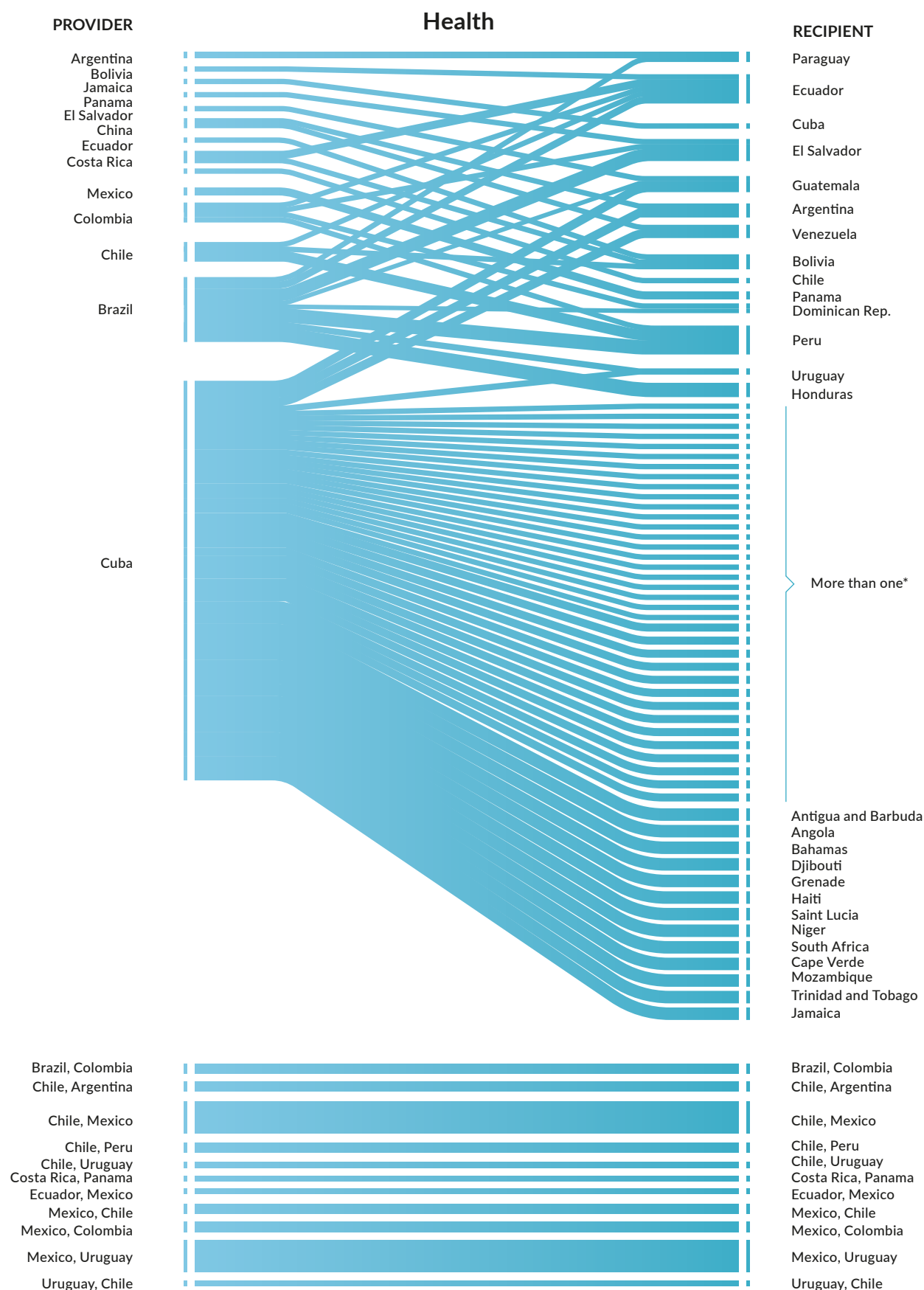


recipient—, precisely led by countries for which, along with those mentioned, a dual role prevails. This last statement suggests that the Agriculture and livestock sector has, as *Health*, a more technical and specialized exchange profile.

// Graph 1.30

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries and all partners in the *Health* sector, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

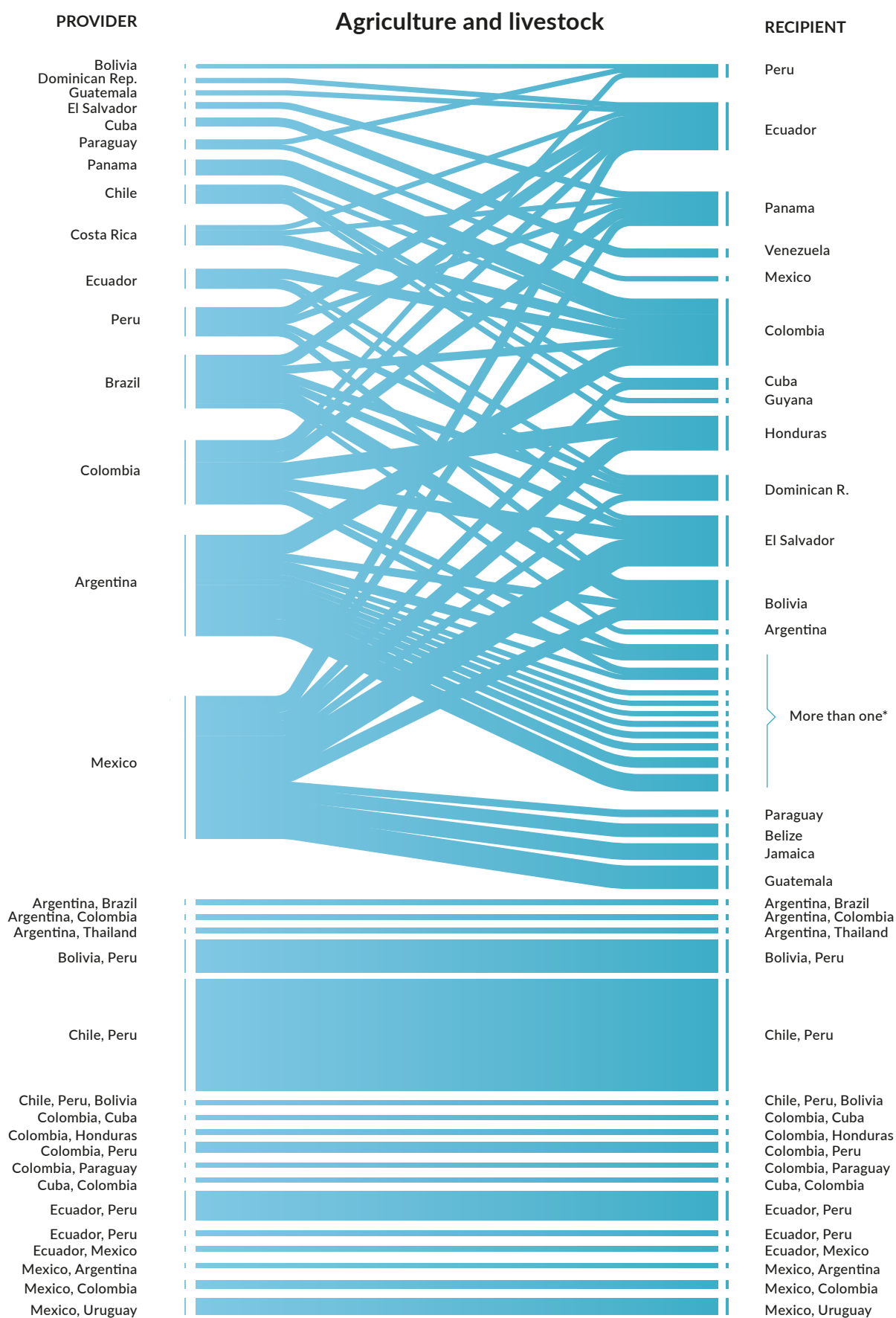


* Algeria, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Congo, Dominica, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Namibia, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

// Graph 1.31

Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries and all partners in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units



* Armenia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Marruecos, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand, Tunisia, Vietnam.


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

1.5

Bilateral South-South Cooperation in 2022-2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals

The complementarity between the capacities that were transferred and strengthened through the Bilateral SSC of the 2022-2023 period enables another interpretation in order to understand how, through these exchanges, the region contributed to close gaps between countries and, ultimately, to “leave no one behind”. Therefore, a final analysis of Bilateral SSC requires focusing on its contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, specifically by studying initiatives’ potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Graph 1.32, which distributes the 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all their partners during 2022 and 2023, by the main and second SDG with which they were potentially aligned, was plotted for this purpose. In fact, according to the records, Ibero-American countries reported that 100% of the initiatives are potentially aligned with a main SDG and that 75% of these (720) are also aligned with one (or up to two) second SDGs. The distinction between main and second SDGs is intended to reflect cooperation’s multidimensional nature by which a single initiative can serve several simultaneous purposes and have an impact on the achievement of more than one Goal.



Ibero-American countries reported that 100% of the 956 initiatives were potentially aligned with a Main SDG and that 75% of these (720) contributed to one (or even two) Second SDGs

The analysis of Graph 1.23 suggests that more than half of these 956 Bilateral SSC initiatives are potentially aligned with the achievement of four SDGs, which are the following (in terms of relative importance): SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), with which up to 18% of exchanges are aligned; SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger), with around 14% each; and SDG 4 (Quality education), which accounts for 1 out of 10 initiatives. According to these data, and

considering the United Nations' classification of the 17 SDGs into the 5Ps, it can be stated that the Bilateral SSC in which Ibero-America participated during the 2022-2023 period paid special attention to advance those Goals that have a more direct impact on People and Peace.

Case 1.4 was prepared in order to describe how Ibero-American Bilateral SSC could be contributing to the achievement of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). Through this project, Colombia shares an innovative strategy to reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates with Ecuador.

Another 20% of the Bilateral SSC initiatives carried out by Ibero-American countries during the 2022-2023 period were aimed at achieving three SDGs, all of which are associated with Prosperity: SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure); and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), each with between 41 and 78 initiatives, depending on the case, corresponding to between 4.3% and 8.1% of the total. Almost another 25% of the Bilateral SSC implemented in recent years is explained when the more specific initiatives related to other two Goals classified in this “P” (SDG 7, Affordable and clean Energy; and SDG 10, Reduced inequalities) are added to the analysis. Case 1.5, which explains the experience of Bolivia and Argentina with regard to an increasingly critical metal as lithium, is an example of the above.

Según se desprende del mismo Graph 1.32, el último 20% de la CSS Bilateral de 2022-2023 se encuentra disperso en torno a la consecución de hasta ocho ODS distintos, la mayor parte de los cuáles tienen una participación sobre el total de las iniciativas inferior al 3%. Las únicas excepciones son el ODS 6 (Agua limpia y saneamiento) y el ODS 17 (Alianzas para lograr los Objetivos), con entre 30 y 35 iniciativas en cada caso, equivalentes al 3,7% y 3,0% de las totales.

As Graph 1.32 shows, the last 20% of the 2022-2023 Bilateral SSC is distributed in the achievement of up to eight different SDGs, most of which have a participation of less than 3% in the total number of initiatives. SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), with between 30 and 35 initiatives in each case, corresponding to 3.7% and 3.0% of the total, are the only exceptions.

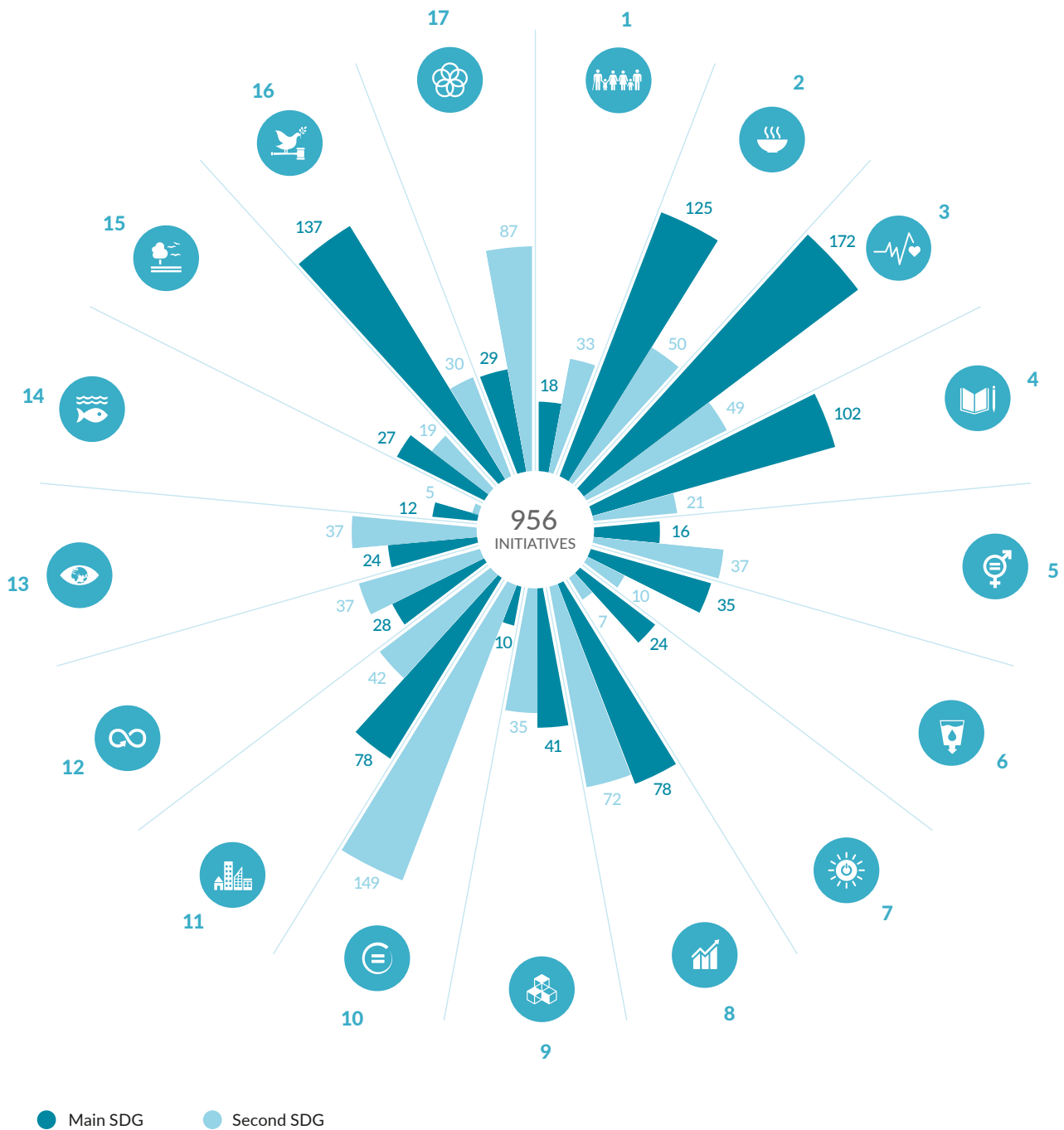
Finally, the analysis of Graph 1.32 confirms that some Goals are being strongly considered second SDGs, a fact that suggests their highly cross-cutting nature. SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) is the best example of the above:

⁷ The 17 SDGs can be categorized into the 5Ps to better assess them: Planet (SDG 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15), People (SDG 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), Prosperity (SDG 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11), Peace (SDG 16) and Partnerships (SDG 17).

// Graph 1.32

Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, by their potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2022-2023

In units



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

this Goal is considered to be the main SDG in 10 initiatives (1.7% of the total) and it is selected as the second SDG in 149 occasions (20% of the 720 exchanges with which this Goal is associated). This SDG tends to be combined with SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 4

(Quality education) and, to a less extent, with SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). In other words, this means that, by supporting the achievement of certain goals classified as main SDGs, countries are also contributing to reduce inequality.

// CASE 1.5

Ecuador and Colombia cooperate to reduce neonatal mortality



According to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), *"in Latin America and the Caribbean, 57% of estimated under-five deaths are concentrated in the first 28 days of life, while globally this figure is 47%"* (PAHO, 2024). Although from 2000 to 2022 the number of deaths of children under the age of five decreased 60%, infant mortality, specifically that affecting newborns, is still present in several countries of the region. However, some of them have managed to generate innovative strategies to mitigate its impact.

For example, four decades ago, the rate of newborn deaths reached 70% in Colombia (Rotary, 2023). The lack of neonatal units for the care of babies led a group of doctors to develop the Kangaroo Mother Care Method (KMC or MMC by its Spanish acronym) to take care of premature or low birth weight babies, which is based on skin-to-skin contact between the child and the mother, exclusive

breastfeeding (as far as possible) and early discharge from the medical center (Kangaroo Foundation, 2024).

The 2021-2025 National Opportunities Plan of Ecuador, in turn, aims to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, focusing on lowering the neonatal mortality rate from 4.6 to 4.0 every 1,000 births. In the framework of this national priority, a partnership was created with the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation and the government of Colombia to transfer knowledge and accumulated capacity from one country to the other, and to support the implementation of the Kangaroo Care Network at the national level in Ecuador, strengthening outpatient neonatal care services.

In addition to providing technical assistance and training for health professionals and awarding the Certification of Excellence to two specialized third-level hospitals, the

initiative also planned to strengthen infrastructure through the provision of 20 positional chairs, 5,000 brochures to advise parents on home care, and a virtual toolbox for training (Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador, internal document, 2022).

At the end of this initiative, recommendations were made to government authorities and hospitals, including: continue with the process of standardizing and strengthening the model in health centers; monitor and periodically provide feedback on the program in hospitals; and strengthen administrative support and budgetary planning.

It should be noted that the Kangaroo Mother Care Method has already been shared by Colombia with countries of other developing regions such as Bhutan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Pakistan (in 2020) and with Kenya and Ghana (in 2015).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Kangaroo Foundation Colombia (2024), Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador (internal document, 2022), PAHO (2024) and Rotary (2023).

Another remarkable case is that of SDG 5 (Gender equality): in fact, the number of initiatives in which this Goal is considered to be the second SDG (37, corresponding to 5% of those associated with this purpose), more than doubles that in which it considered to be the main SDG (16, corresponding to just 1.7% of the 956 initiatives for the 2022-2023 period). Once again, this difference can be interpreted from a cross-cutting perspective, and as an alternative to support projects that, while serving other purposes, also promote gender equality. Indeed, it is usually related to cooperation that addresses economic empowerment and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); training as a instrument for inclusion through SDG 4 (Quality education); and the attention to women who are victims of conflict or violence, through SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

SDG 1 (No poverty) shows a similar dynamic, as its share multiplies when considered a second SDG (from 18 to 33 Bilateral SSC initiatives).

In addition, a final mention to other Goals that, as they are usually considered second SDGs, suggest an important cross-cutting component, should be made. For example, the SDGs that have an impact on sustainability (SDG 12, Responsible production and consumption; and SDG 13, Climate action); those that support economic recovery (SDG 8, Decent work and economic growth; and SDG 9, Industry, innovation and infrastructure); as well as those that favor partnership and joint efforts for shared purposes, such as SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

// CASE 1.6

Strengthening the production of lithium carbonate



In the framework of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 7 focuses on promoting the use of sustainable, affordable and secure energy. Latin-America is very rich in strategic natural resources to make the transition to clean energy, and lithium is currently a commodity which is highly demanded worldwide to drive this transition (UNDP, 2022).

Lithium is a metal than can be found —among other places— in saline deposits, as is the case of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. These countries have large reserves of this metal and are known as the Lithium Triangle. Lithium carbonate has many applications; thus, it has great potential for countries' economic growth (ECLAC, 2017).

In the framework of the Fourth Meeting of the Bilateral Commission for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, held in 2022, the National University

of La Plata (UNLP, 2022), through the Center for Inorganic Chemistry (CEQUINOR by its Spanish acronym), reached a strategic South-South Cooperation (SSC) agreement with the state-owned Bolivian company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (YLB by its Spanish acronym), to study the nucleation and growth of lithium carbonate crystals. Hence, the project *Studying lithium carbonate crystallization through advanced analysis and characterization techniques* will work to strengthen its production.

The first stage of the initiative has been already implemented; a team of CEQUINOR experts visited YLB facilities both in Llapi (Uyuni) and La Palca (Department of Potosi), with the aim of understanding evaporite processes, the variables that affect the crystallization of lithium carbonate and the subsequent analysis techniques. This first activity was a great success, since it not only allowed a technical

approach, but also enabled the Argentine team to present the research lines developed at CEQUINOR.

The start-up of this project is especially relevant since the process of lithium industrialization developed by YLB in terms of lithium carbonate production entails technical-scientific challenges to guarantee products with certified quality and to understand the crystallization stage in greater depth, which is essential for productive development (CEQUINOR, 2023).

It is expected that, through training and knowledge exchange between technical teams, the project will result in the definition of techniques to be used for the crystallization of lithium carbonate, the determination of the optimum conditions for this process and the study of on-line monitoring techniques to strengthen the production of this metal.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2017), United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2022) and National University of La Plata (UNLP, 2022), through the Center for Inorganic Chemistry (CEQUINOR, 2023).



Photo: The objective of the initiative *Escuela Calidad Mujer* between Chile and Peru was to support women's entrepreneurship as a tool to break the cycle of gender violence by promoting economic independence and the recognition of their role as heads of household. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

2 Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation and partnerships for development

Triangular Cooperation is a powerful tool to advance the achievement of Sustainable Development through associations with an increasing and diverse number of stakeholders. These partnerships, mostly based on different instruments, have given this modality an institutional framework and strength that have made it particularly resilient to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. This chapter focuses on Triangular Cooperation in the 2022-2023 period; on the partners, associations and instruments that made it possible; and on its contribution to capacity strengthening for the region's progress towards sustainable and inclusive development. Identifying the network of stakeholders, instruments and thematic priorities that enabled this modality to continue to meet its commitment to development.

2.1

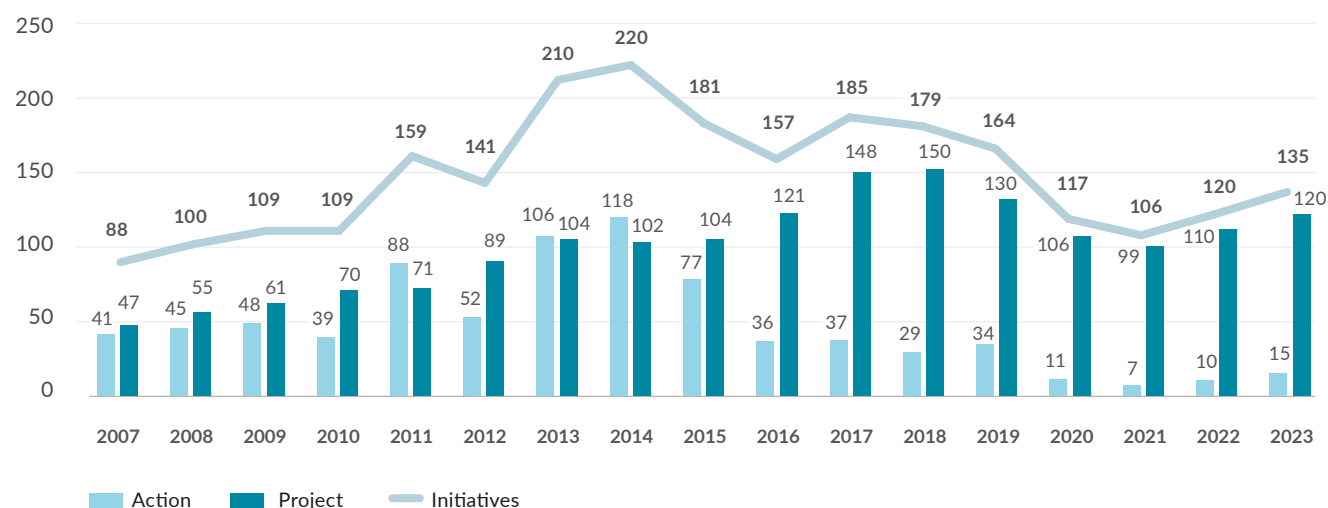
The 2022-2023 period: a resilient and growing Triangular Cooperation

Graph 2.1 was prepared to contextualize and analyze the evolution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation in this two-year period. This graph shows the total number of Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives annually exchanged between Ibero-American countries and all partners between 2007 and 2023.

// Graph 2.1

Evolution of the total number of Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In units



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

As the graph portrays, different stages have been identified in these more than 15 years:

- a) The first, from 2007 to 2014, when Triangular Cooperation had its most dynamic moment, the number of initiatives increasing 150%: from 88 in 2007 to 220 in 2014, an all-time record in the entire period.
- b) A second stage, since 2015, of successive falls — with the sole exception of the 2016-2017 period—, the most intense precisely being associated with the impact caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Thus, between 2015 and 2018, the number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives annually fell, on average, by -5.0%. Additionally, between 2019 and 2021, the rate of decline further intensifies to -20% on average per year, pushing the aggregate number of actions and projects from 164 in 2019 to just over 100 in 2021.
- c) A third stage (the 2022-2023 period), with a dynamic that suggests the beginning of a recovery and a turning point. In fact, during these last two years, a positive growth —12.9% on average per year—, was once again recorded. This result pushes the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives remarkably up to 135 in 2023, however still below the figure of 2019 (164).



The 2022-2023 period marks a turning point, with the beginning of a stage which dynamics suggest signs of recovery

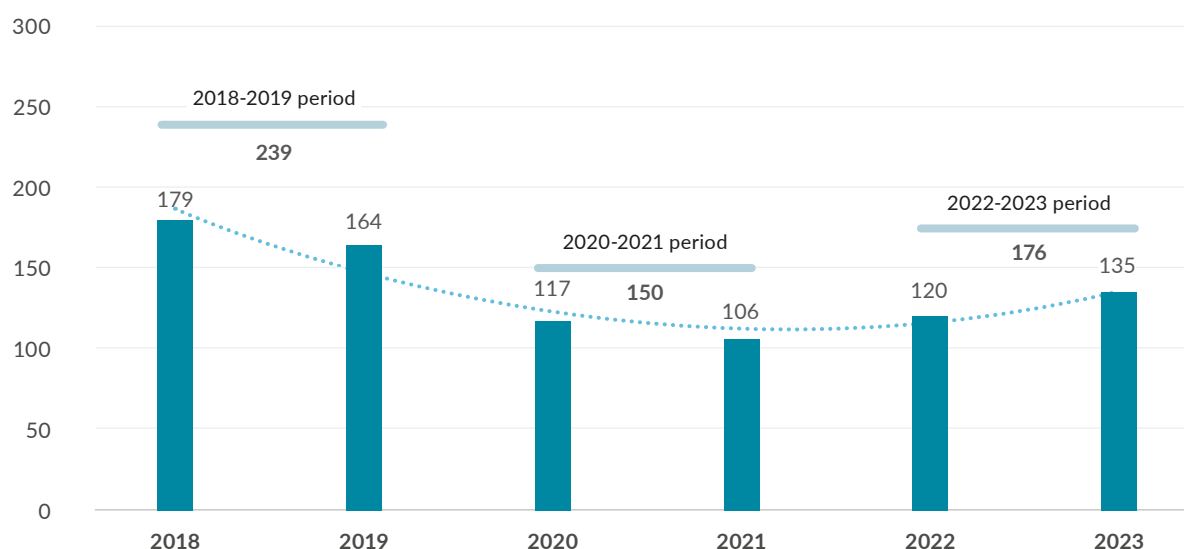


Graph 2.2, which narrows the period of analysis and focuses on the Triangular Cooperation initiatives that countries executed before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis, by year and by the different two-year periods, enables an in-depth examination of the above. The trend line confirms that an upward inflection is only visible after 2021, which, although significant, is still not enough to recover pre-crisis levels. This dynamic is the same in all the two-year periods. Hence, the drop caused by the pandemic (of -37.2%) pushes the total number of actions and projects from 239 in 2018-2019 to 150 in 2020-2021. Meanwhile, in 2022-2023, this number increases (17.3%) to 176, a remarkable figure, but still below that recorded in the preceding years.

// Graph 2.2

Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by year and two-year periods. 2018-2023

In units



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

In addition, and as mentioned in the previous chapter, another indicator of the current state of cooperation and its potential capacity to overcome the impact of the crisis is related to the importance of projects and their implementation. In fact, it is understood that, over time, countries' growing commitment to projects —of a relatively more important scope— to the detriment of actions, reflects a greater capacity to execute their cooperation. Indeed, data available for 2022-2023 suggests that the average time needed to carry out a Triangular Cooperation action (as a dimension indicator) is 49 days, while ranging from 2 (695 days) to about 3.5 years in projects' case.¹

In line with the above, Graph 2.3 compares the relative importance that projects and actions had in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries annually participated during the 2007-2023 period. As expected, and consistent with this process through which countries have strengthened their capacities, this graph confirms that, over time, the importance of these two instruments tend to diverge in favor of projects, the gap between the two ratios progressively widening.

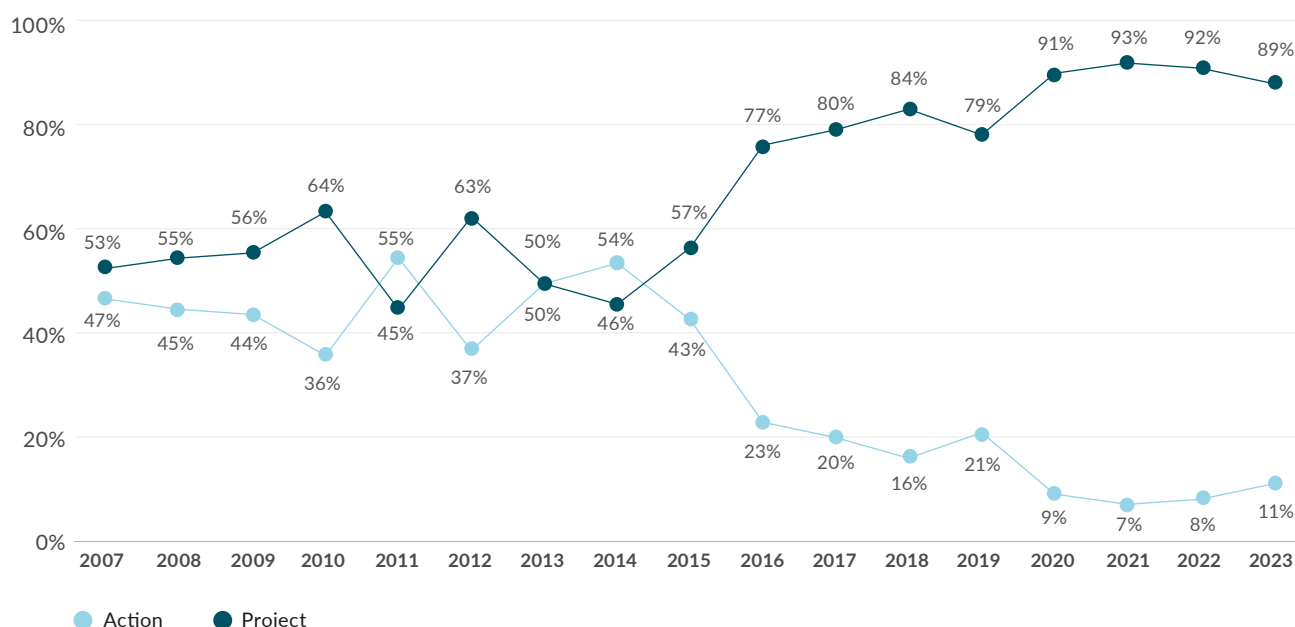
Specifically, in 2007, the ratio between projects' and actions' relative share in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives was close to 53%-47%. In 2021, coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis, the gap widens to a maximum of 93%-7%. During the following two years, the two percentages slightly approached again up to 90% projects-10% actions, in 2023.

The way in which these relation behaved during the COVID-19 crisis and the contrast with that identified in the Bilateral SSC modality is of particular interest, as it suggests Triangular Cooperation adapted to and recovered from the impact of the pandemic in a different manner. During 2020 and 2021, Bilateral SSC was boosted by the implementation of actions and, in 2022-2023, these were again displaced in favor of projects, which consolidated as an instrument to overcome the crisis. Triangular Cooperation had an opposite dynamic: during the crisis — in the 2020-2021 period— projects withstood better than actions, registering respective average drops of -12.5% and -52.0%, respectively; meanwhile, at the beginning of the recovery stage —in 2022-2023—, actions had a greater momentum, with an annual average of 46.4% compared to projects' 10.1%. Triangular Cooperation's

// Graph 2.3

Evolution of projects' and actions' weight in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In percentage



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

¹ Actions' average duration is estimated considering the starting and completion dates, which are available in 90% of those registered for 2022 and 2023. Two different estimations are carried out for projects: on the one hand, based on the dates; and, on the other, based on the difference between the starting and completion years. For both estimations, the available data involves 30% and 46% of the 151 projects systematized for the last two-year period, respectively.

different behavior can be explained, as will be analyzed in the following sections, by its institutional framework, which makes projects more resilient, but reduces the flexibility and dynamism of cooperation actions.

In short, Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out by Ibero-American countries with all partners in 2022 and 2023, increase and show positive growth rates. In contrast to Bilateral SSC, however, this incipient recovery is based on a greater dynamization of actions compared to projects, which nevertheless continue to account for 90% of the exchanges carried out. This figure reveals indeed Triangular Cooperation's strength and resilience.

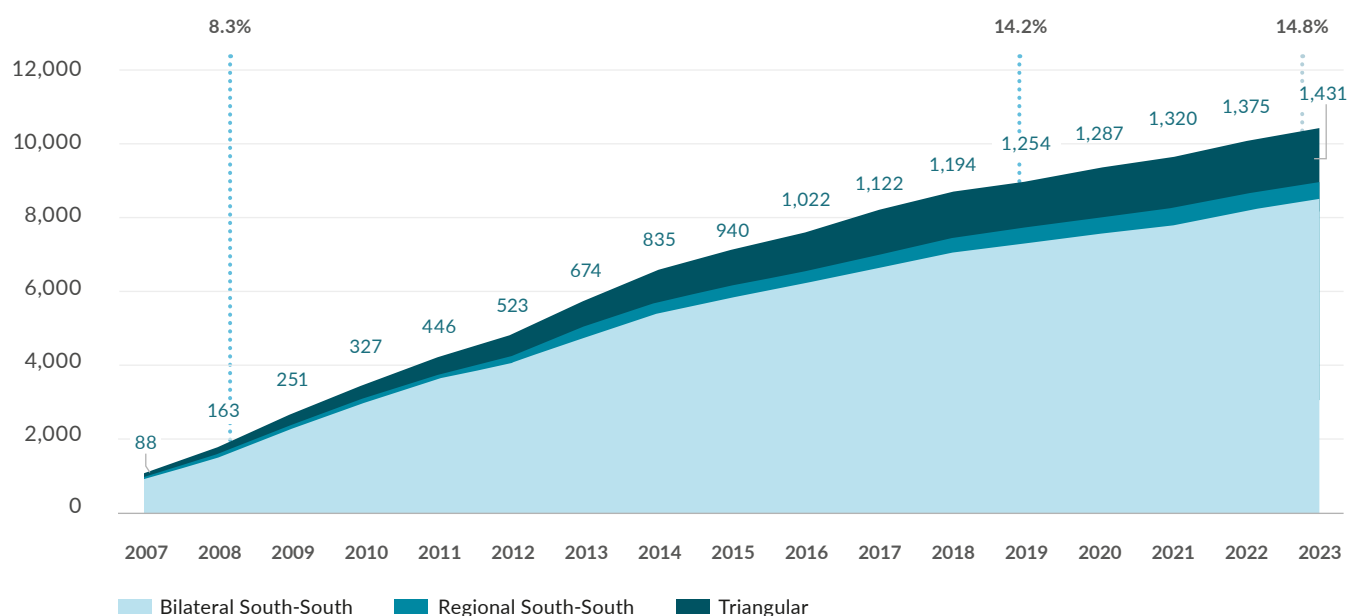
Triangular Cooperation is certainly the modality that has had the best performance in the last 15 years, as suggested by the fact that it is the only one that has gained relative importance overall in the region's exchanges. In this sense, Graph 2.4 portrays the evolution of Bilateral SSC, Regional SSC and Triangular Cooperation initiatives annually aggregated from 2007 to 2023. As shown, while 88 Triangular Cooperation initiatives had been implemented up to 2007, by 2023, this figure had risen to 1,431 actions and projects. This accumulation, at a higher rate than that of the other modalities, leads to an increase in Triangular Cooperation's relative importance in the region's exchanges: from 8.3% in 2008 to 14.2% in 2019, reaching the post-crisis threshold of 15% in 2023.

During 2022 and 2023, Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out by Ibero-American countries with all partners increased and showed positive growth rates

// Graph 2.4

Evolution of the initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries with all partners, annually aggregated, by modality (Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC and Regional SSC). 2007-2023

In units and in percentage



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

2.2

Stakeholders and partnerships for development in the framework of Triangular Cooperation

One of Triangular Cooperation's main strengths is that it facilitates the combined efforts of different countries, which, through a specific distribution of roles and complementing different resources and capacities, are able to search for innovative and shared solutions to common challenges. This feature explains its recognition as a means for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development, as well as its inclusion—in the framework the 2030 Agenda—in SDG 17, precisely dedicated to promote “Partnerships for the goals”.

This section precisely focuses on the associations that, in 2022-2023, enabled the implementation of 176

Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives. Specifically, the analysis will shed light on three aspects: Ibero-American countries' participation; their main partners and their roles; and, the instruments to materialize these partnerships since, as will be seen, the institutional framework on which Triangular Cooperation is based (Funds, Programs, Memoranda) is key to understand its working mechanisms.

2.2.1

Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation between 2022 and 2023

In Graphs 2.5 and 2.6, Ibero-American countries are arranged according to the number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which they participated during the 2022-2023 period.² The former also shows initiatives' distribution by actions and projects, and



Photo: Lithium is a metal than can be found —among other places— in saline deposits, as is the case in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. These countries have large reserves of this metal and are known as the “Lithium Triangle”. One of the ways to commercialize it is by processing it into lithium carbonate. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEIGB-PIFCSS. 2023.

² All graphs in this chapter include the 22 countries in the region, with the only exception of Andorra, which has not yet participated in this type of cooperation.

the latter provides information on the combination of roles (first provider, second provider and recipient) in which this participation took place.

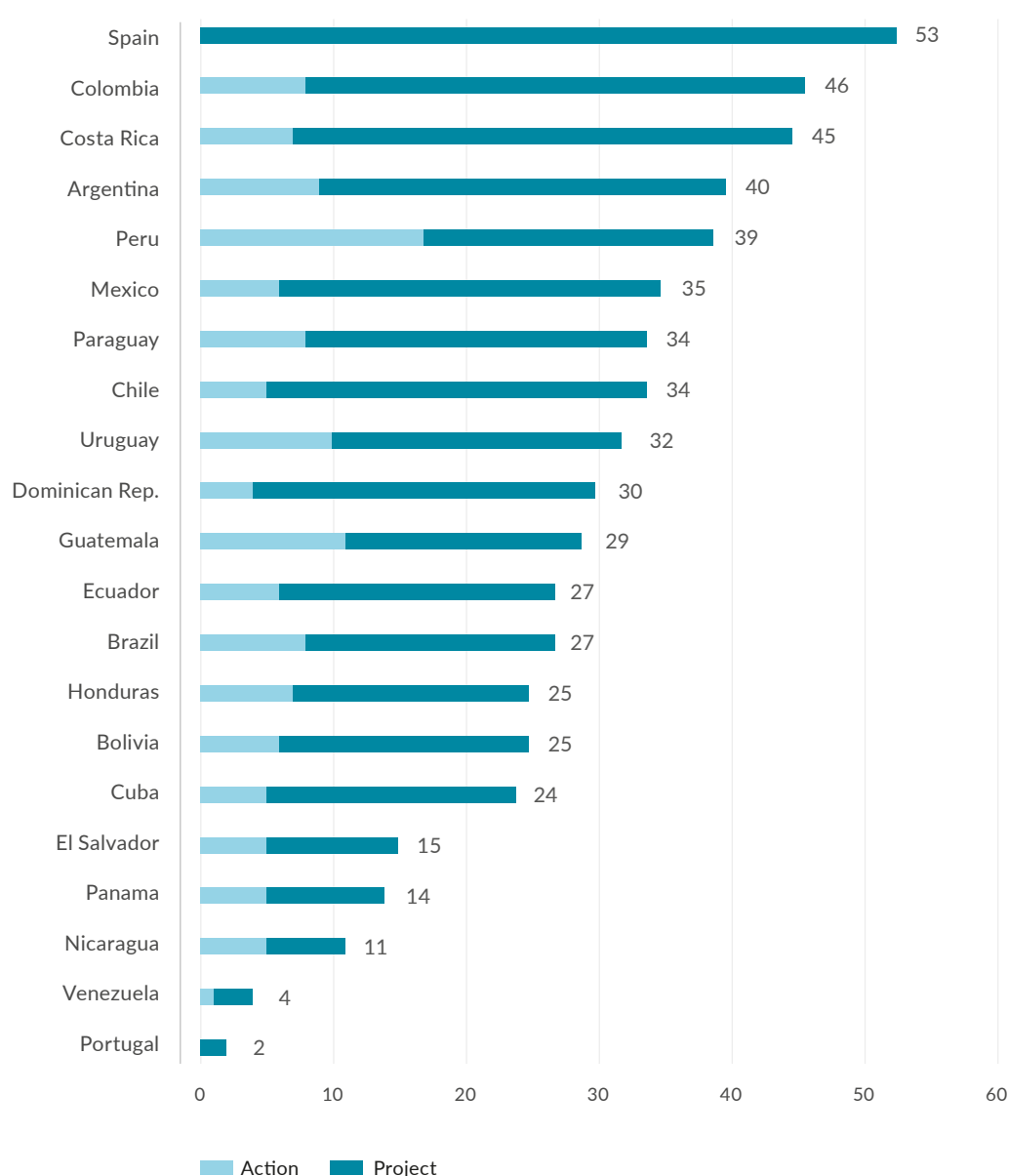
Thus, an initial combined analysis of Graphs 2.5 and 2.6 suggests very different intensities in terms of countries' participation, which, in fact, fluctuate between maximum and minimum values determined by the two Ibero-

American countries that, given their nature, can only participate in Triangular Cooperation as second providers: Spain, the only country that implemented more than 50 initiatives in this period; and Portugal, a country that—as will be seen below—is strongly committed to this modality, but which, in the post-pandemic two-year period, could only implement 2 projects.

// Graph 2.5

Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners, by action and project. 2022-2023

In units



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

Colombia, Costa Rica and Argentina have also been very active, each of them carrying out more than 40 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2022 and 2023. Below that figure —although above 30— are Peru, Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay, along with Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Another group of countries have exchanged between 24 to 29 initiatives (Guatemala and Honduras; and Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia and Cuba). Finally, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador participated in between 10 and 15 actions

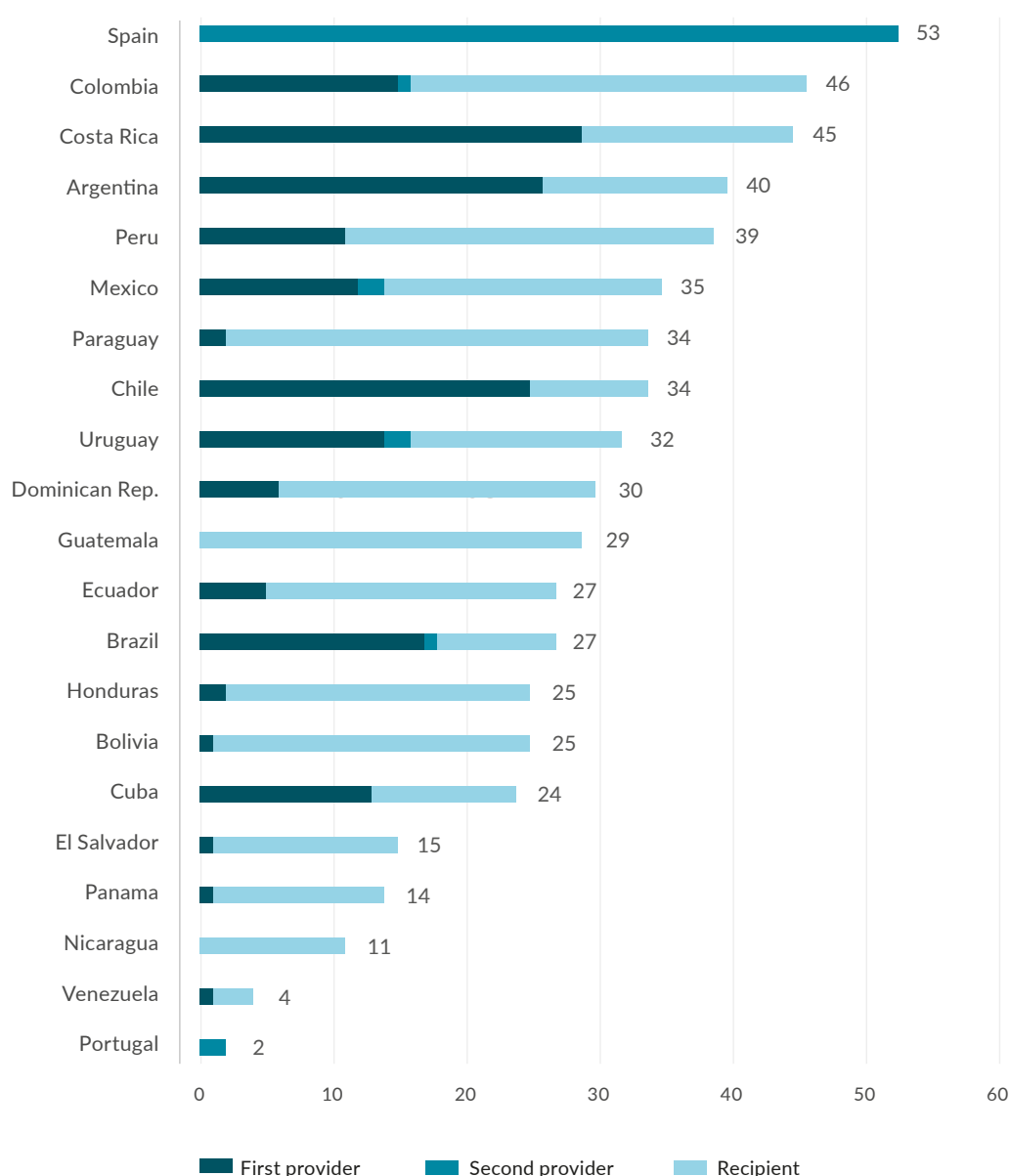
and projects, Venezuela being the only country that, together with Portugal, registered less than 10 exchanges.

In addition, Graph 2.7 was prepared by combining the information on the role in which each country participated (Graph 2.6) and that associated with the type of initiative (Graph 2.5). This scatter plot arranges the 19 Ibero-American countries by using a dispersion of dots. The specific position of each country results

// Graph 2.6

Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners, by role (first provider, second provider, recipient). 2022-2023

In units

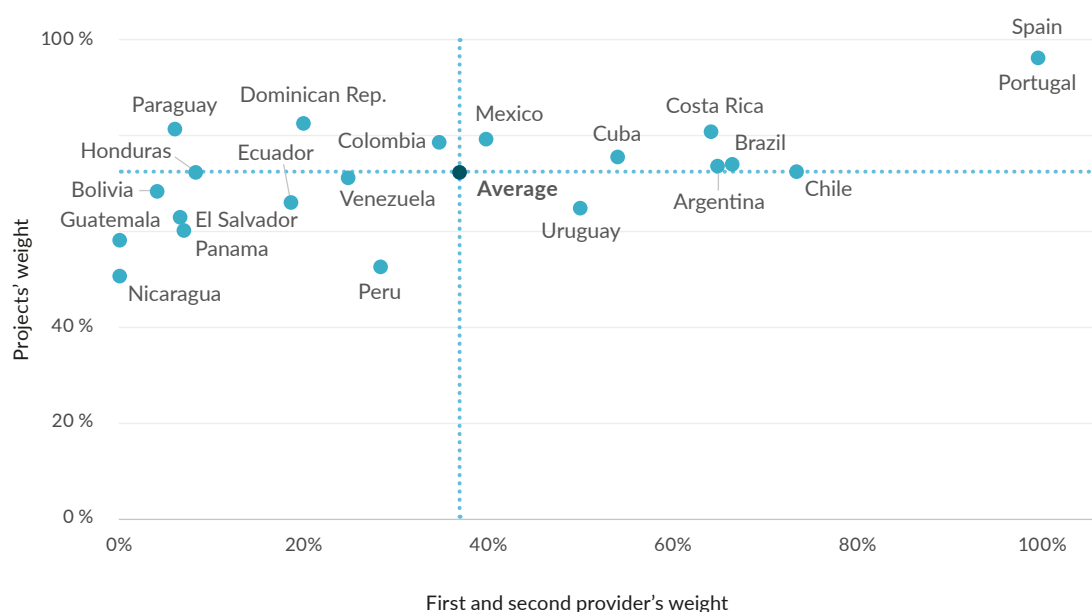


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.7

Relation between the participation of the provider roles and projects' weight, by the Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by each Ibero-American country. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

from the combination of two values: on the one hand, the importance of the first provider and second provider role in the total number of its initiatives —horizontal axis—; and, on the other hand, projects' share in this same total number of exchanges —vertical axis—.

As the graph shows, the resulting dispersion of dots has an upward trend, which suggests that providers tend to prioritize initiatives' execution through projects rather than actions. One dot is also added to represent the regions' average profile, according to which, 36.8% of the total number of initiatives are being promoted by first and/or second providers, and 76.1% of this total is carried out through projects. In addition, when taking this value as a reference, the graph can be divided into quadrants and countries can also be grouped according to different participation profiles.

Thus, the participation of almost 10 Ibero-American countries was above the regional average value (36%). In these cases, the range varies from 40% in Mexico's cooperation to 100% in the cases of Spain and Portugal. Specifically, these three countries, together with Cuba, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil and Chile, executed more than 76.1% of their Triangular Cooperation initiatives through projects, also above the average. Uruguay was the only exception, with a predominantly provider profile but a relatively lower project execution (68.8%).

Other 12 countries' participation as providers was below the regional average, and their profiles are partly diverse. On the one hand, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Colombia implemented more than 85% of their Triangular Cooperation as first providers through projects which, however, had very different relative shares: 5.9%, 20.0% and 34.8%, respectively. Of the remaining countries —all below-average— Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama and Honduras can be distinguished from Ecuador and Venezuela, which differ in the number of times they participate as providers (less than 10% in the first cases; around 20%-25% in the second ones). Peru deserves a special mention within this group, as one of the countries with the highest participation ratio as a provider (28.2%) and one of the lowest in terms of project execution (56.5%).

It should be added that, for most Ibero-American countries, 2022-2023 figures were better than those of the previous two-year period, when the COVID-19 crisis was in its most severe moment. Specifically, in 2022-2023, almost all countries registered an increase in the number of the initiatives implemented, ranging from 3.8% in Brazil's case (from 26 to 27 Triangular Cooperation exchanges between the two periods) to 140.9% in Spain's, which projects more than doubled (from 22 in 2020-2021 to 53 in 2022-2023). Ecuador, which carried out the same number of initiatives (27), as

well as Panama, which exchanges dropped by -6.7%, along with El Salvador, Portugal and Venezuela (all three with falls of more than -20.0%), were the only exceptions.

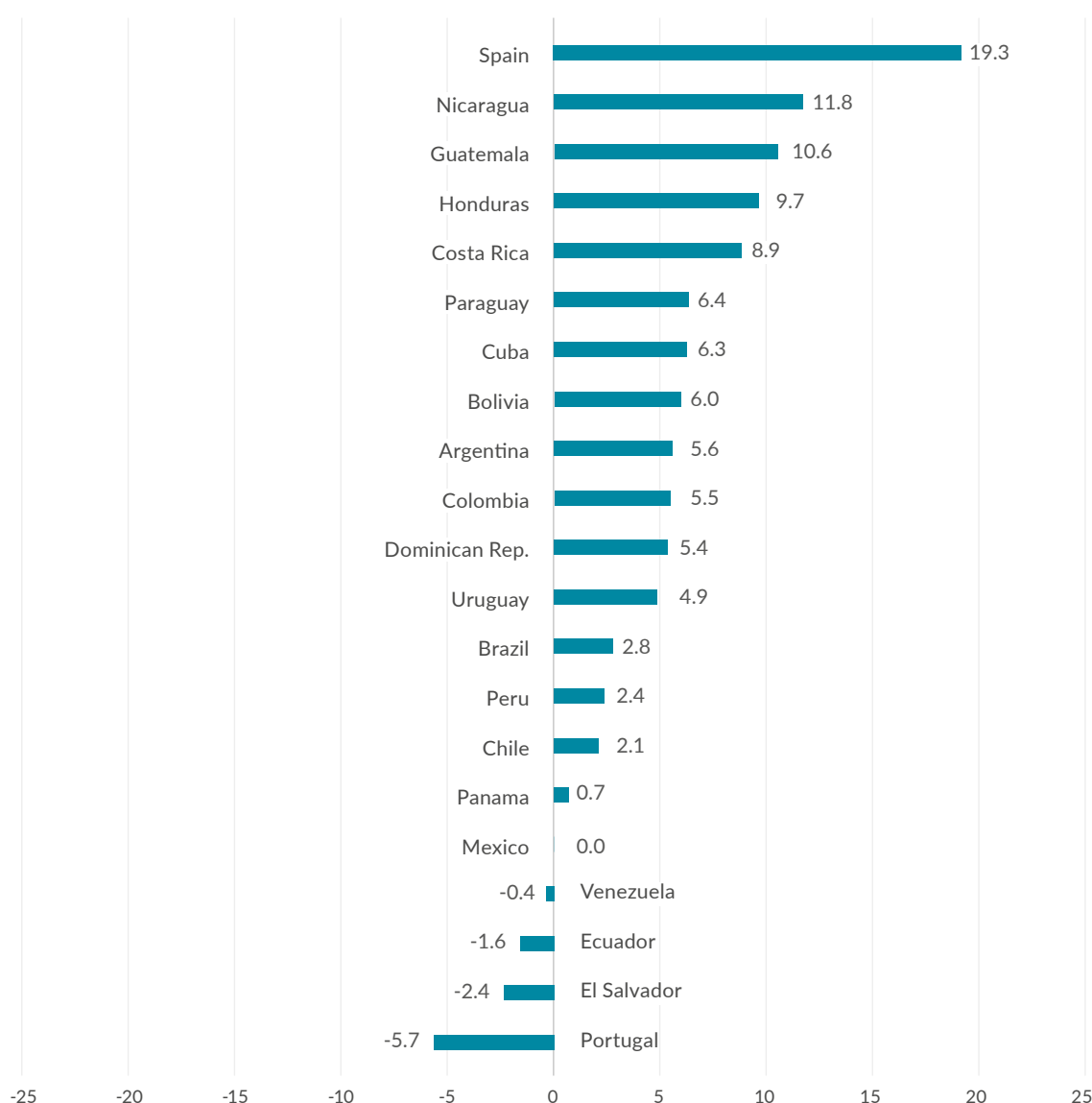
The above suggests that, after the pandemic, Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation tends to recover. This dynamic contrasts with Bilateral SSC's,

in the framework of which only 5 countries (including Ecuador and Panama) registered an increase in their number of initiatives (Graph 1.8). This different behavior by modality can be summarized in one figure: the increase of Triangular Cooperation's share in the total number of exchanges. Indeed, Graph 2.8, shows the variation experienced by each country after the crisis.

// Graph 2.8

Variation in Triangular Cooperation's weight in the total number of initiatives, by Ibero-American country, between the pandemic and post-pandemic two-year periods. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In percentage points



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

In short, as Graph 2.8 shows, during the 2022-2023 period, the Triangular Cooperation of more than 15 countries increased its relative share in the total number of their initiatives. The most significant change corresponds to Spain, which Triangular Cooperation raised by almost 20 percentage points. Other remarkable cases were Costa Rica's, Honduras', Guatemala's and Nicaragua's, which growth was close to 10 percentage points (or higher). Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba had a 5-6 percentage point variation. Meanwhile, Panama, Chile, Peru and Brazil registered a still positive but rather smaller, increase. Finally, Triangular Cooperation's share remained unchanged for Mexico; while it is possible to identify negative variations in the cases of Venezuela, Ecuador, El Salvador and Portugal.

2.2.2 Partners and roles in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation

Graphs 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 were prepared to analyze the associations on which Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation was based during the 2022-2023 period. Each of them shows the partners (Ibero-American countries; other regions' countries; and organizations) that participated in the 176 initiatives exchanged, in each of the possible roles (first provider, second provider and recipient).

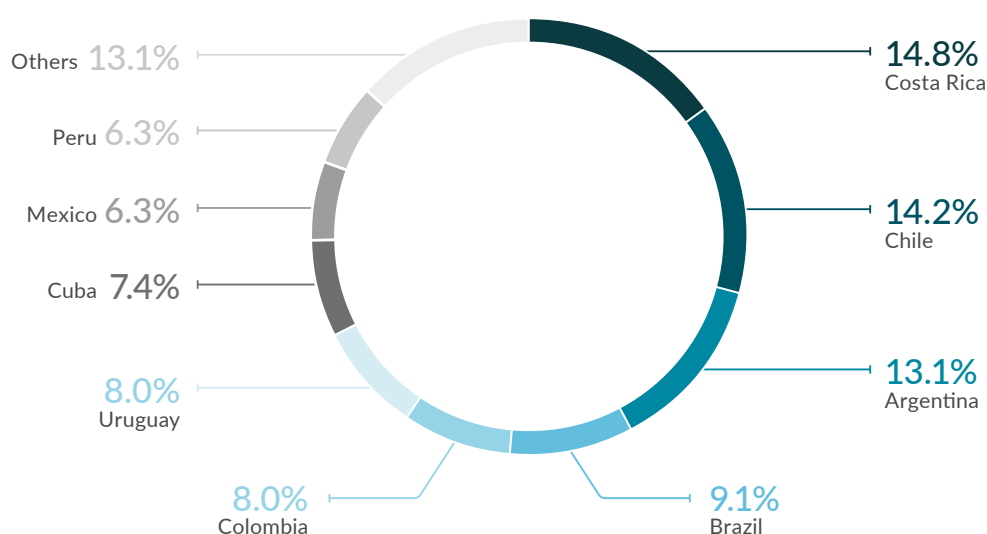
Thus, Graph 2.9 shows the countries that mainly acted as first providers. Costa Rica, Chile and Argentina were the most dynamic countries in these years, each with between 23 and 26 initiatives that aggregately account for 4 out of 10 of the total number of exchanges of 2022 and 2023. They were followed —at a certain distance— by Brazil (16 Triangular Cooperation actions and projects as first provider), as well as by Colombia, Uruguay and Cuba (13-14 in each case). Mexico and Peru also stood out in this role, participating in more than 10 initiatives. These countries accounted for another 45% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation exchanges in this period.

In order to complement the above, the remaining 13.1% corresponds to other different first providers. The Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Paraguay stood out among these, transferring their capacities in 5, 4 and 2 initiatives, respectively. Honduras', Panama's and Venezuela's interventions were more specific (1 initiative), in addition to those of other countries of the Global South, such as Cambodia and India. The case of seven (7) initiatives in which the role of first provider was simultaneously exercised by two countries of the region is also worthy of mention. This are interesting exchanges, as they involved the generation of more partnerships, for example: Costa Rica associated in different and initiatives with Argentina, Mexico and the Dominican Republic; Argentina did so with Brazil and Colombia; and Bolivia and Ecuador, and El Salvador and Honduras worked together through specific associations.

// Graph 2.9

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries that participated as first providers. 2022-2023

In percentage

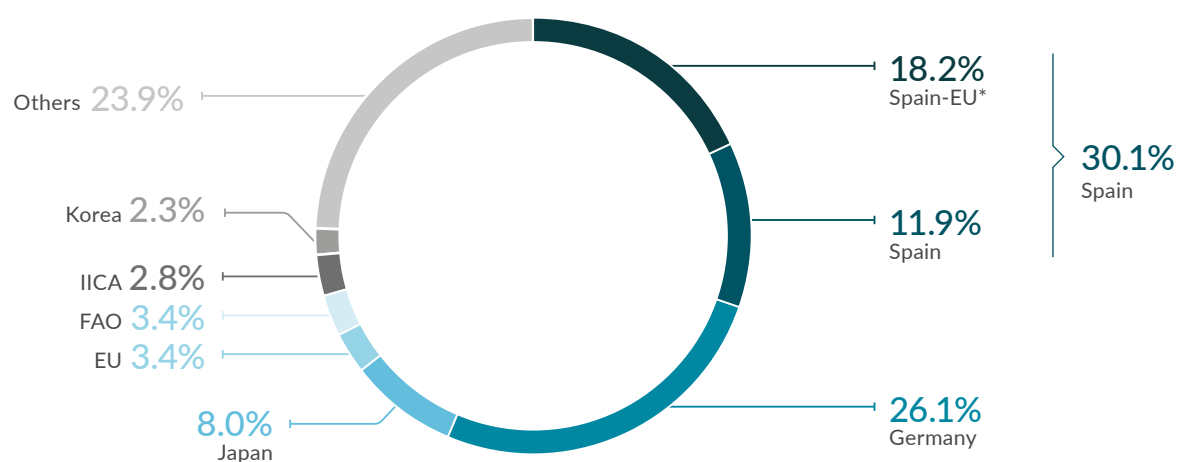


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.10

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries and organizations that participated as second providers. 2022-2023

In percentage



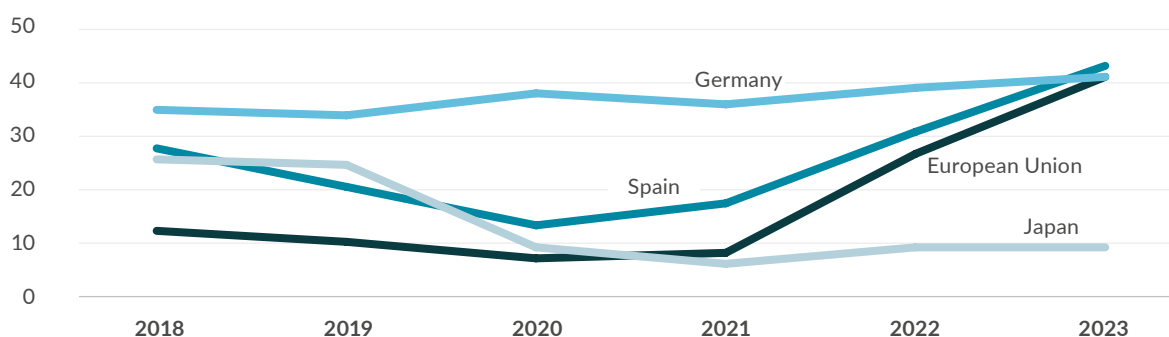
*Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden and the Netherlands participate in 5 of these initiatives, respectively.

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

// Graph 2.11

Evolution of the participation of Triangular Cooperation's main second providers in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by partner. 2018-2023

In units



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

Graph 2.10, in turn, distributes the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented in 2022-2023 according to the partners (countries and organizations) that acted as second providers. In this case, and as can be seen, Spain (the only country with more than 50 initiatives) participates in this role in 30% of the total number of exchanges: in 4 out of 10 of these, it does so individually, while in the remaining 60%, it does so together with the European Union (EU). Germany closely follows, with 46 initiatives, corresponding to another 26% of the total. Japan is at a remarkably distance behind, participating as second provider in another 8% of the exchanges. Almost 70% of the

Triangular Cooperation implemented in 2022-2023 is explained when the 3.4% of the initiatives in which the EU plays this role without partnering with other stakeholders is added to the analysis.

In fact, the relative participation of these four main second providers in the 2022-2023 period results from a combination of very different dynamics as a consequence of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and their adaptation and response strategies. At least this is suggested by Graph 2.11, which shows the evolution of the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Spain, the EU,

Germany and Japan participated in the role of second providers,³ between 2018 and 2023 (before, during and after the pandemic). Thus, Germany showed an enormous resilience in the face of the crisis, probably due to the strength of its Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean (LAC), in the framework of which—as will be seen—, most of its initiatives were implemented. Japan, on the other hand, suffered a sharp decline from which it slightly recovered in 2023 (reaching once again the level it had in 2020).

Spain and the EU, which combine declines (sharper for Spain) with a strong recovery, deserve a special mention. This rebound starts earlier in Spain's case which, between 2020 and 2021, registered an increase of 30.8% compared to the 14.3% of the EU. However, between 2021 and 2023, the increase of Spain's and the EU's exchanges tends to converge. This is probably explained—as will be further detailed in other sections—by the thrust of their association as second providers in several projects carried out in the framework of the Adelante Program for EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation.

Finally, Graph 2.10 also shows a sharp contrast between the fact that 68% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation exchanges carried out in 2022-2023 are concentrated in just 4 partners, while the remaining 32% suggests a

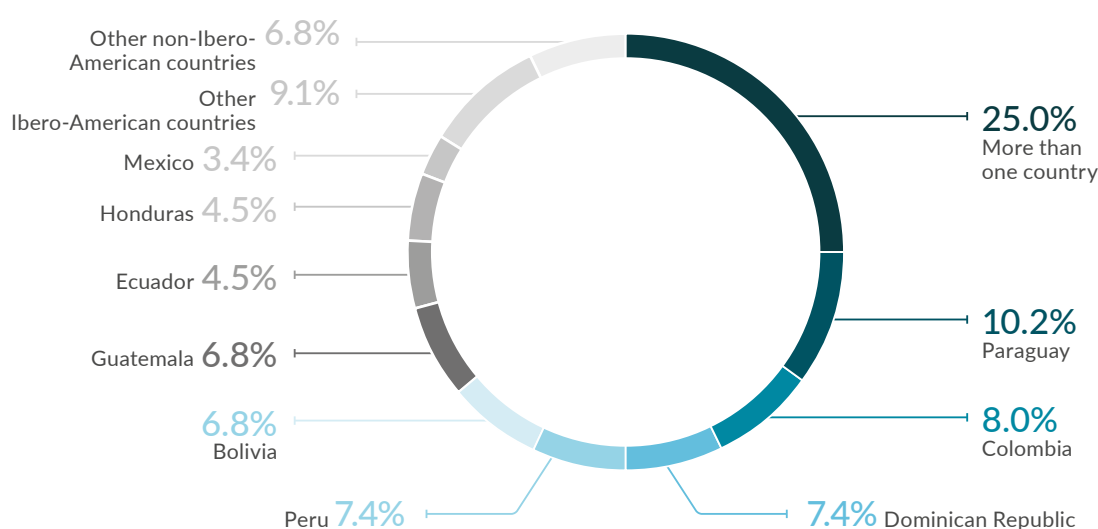
huge dispersion between more than 30 second providers, acting either individually or combining in pairs or even in groups of three. Some Ibero-American countries (Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Portugal) follow this pattern, as well as other regions' countries (from Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland to Canada, the United States and Korea); and several regional organizations (IICA, IDB, OAS) and different United Nations agencies and programs (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNDP), to name a few.

On the other hand, Graph 2.12 shows the distribution of recipient countries' participation. In fact, and as has been the case, Triangular Cooperation usually involves several recipients simultaneously, this being the case of 44 initiatives (25% of the total) in the 2022-2023 period. Likewise, up to 60% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in these two years was distributed between 9 different Ibero-American countries which acted as recipients. Paraguay was the country that most often played this role individually,⁴ in 10% of the exchanges. Meanwhile, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, together with Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, accounted for between 7% and 8% in each case. They were followed, in terms of relative importance, by Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico, which acted as recipients in between 3% and 5% of the initiatives.

// Graph 2.12

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries that participated as recipients. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

³ In this case, initiatives are "individualized" for each partner, so that, for example, an initiative in which Spain and the EU are associated as second providers is counted once for each stakeholder.

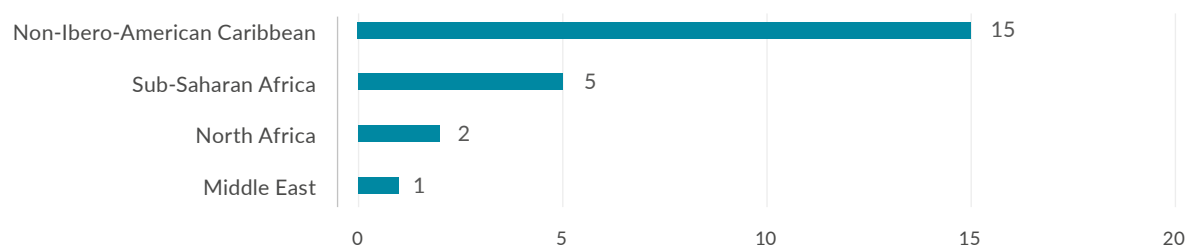
⁴ In methodological terms, it should be clarified that initiatives in which countries are associated with others in the exercise of the recipient role are considered in the "more than one country" category.

// Graph 2.13

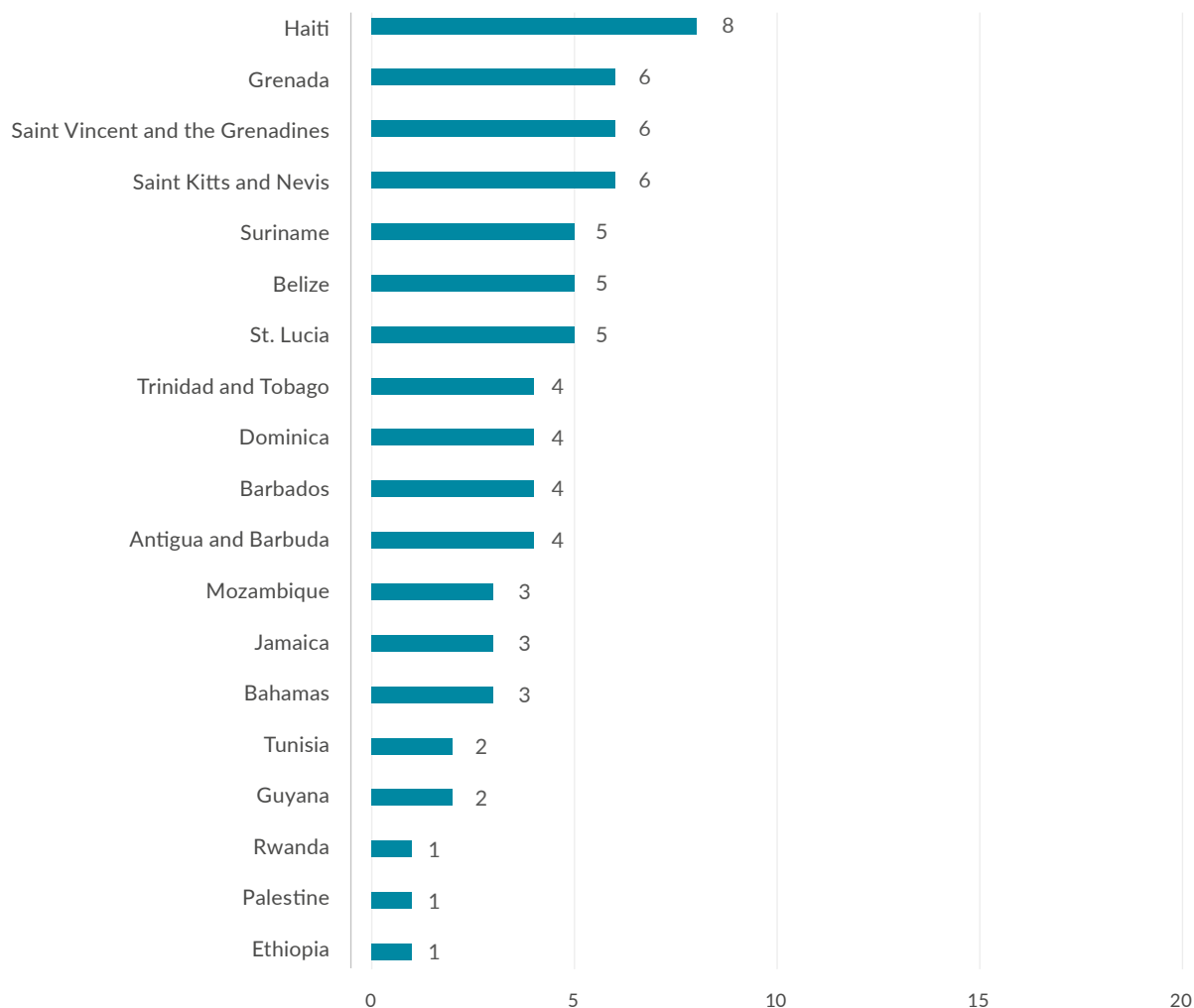
Participation of the Global South, as recipient, in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by region and main countries. 2022-2023

In units

A. Regions



B. Countries



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



Photo: Lithium carbonate has many applications, from being an essential element for the manufacture of batteries (computers, telephones, electric cars) —due to its high energy storage capacity—, to being used in the pharmaceutical industry for certain drugs. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

The remaining 16% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 are distributed in two groups: those implemented by Ibero-American countries (16 exchanges) and those of other regions of the Global South (12). Within the first group, and considering the number of initiatives in which these countries individually participated without associating with others, some stood out: Argentina and El Salvador (3 each); Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama and Uruguay (2); and Brazil and Chile (1). Likewise, Graphs 2.13 A and B were prepared in order to better understand the participation of the Global South.

In fact, around twenty countries of other developing regions participated in 23 of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period. In 11 of these, they shared the recipient role with other Ibero-American partners (this explains the fact that, in Graph 2.12, they are included in the “more than one country” category), while they individually participated in the remaining 12 initiatives (the last 7% of the same graph).

Graph 2.13 distributes the 23 Triangular Cooperation initiatives according to the region of the South and the country of the South that acted as recipient (A and B, respectively). As shown, most of the exchanges (65%) involved non-Ibero-American Caribbean

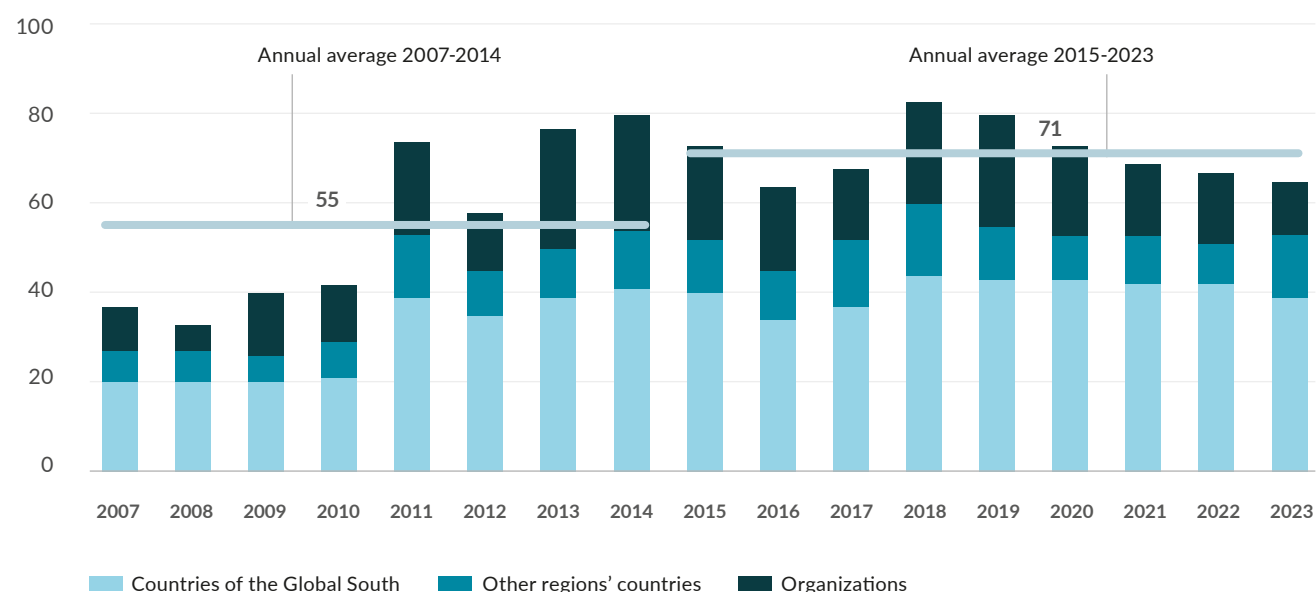
countries, among which Haiti was particularly active (8 initiatives); as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, together with Grenada (6 in each case); and Saint Lucia, Belize and Suriname (5). The analysis should be completed with countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, which participated in 8 initiatives involving Mozambique, Tunisia, Rwanda, Palestine and Ethiopia.

Finally, the dynamic of the participation described for each role confirms Triangular Cooperation’s great potential to generate associations between a growing number of stakeholders of diverse nature. Specifically, Graph 2.14, which refers to the 2007-2023 period, shows the number of partners (countries of the Global South; other regions’ countries; and multilateral organizations) that were annually participating in Triangular Cooperation initiatives. As can be seen, before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, total annual exchanges tended to involve 55 stakeholders. Since 2015, this figure has risen to 71 stakeholders per year. In both phases, more than half of these exchanges were carried out by countries of the Global South, including the 19 Ibero-American countries. Also, and despite the impact of the pandemic, in 2022-2023, up to 74 different stakeholders participated in this modality (42 countries of the South, 14 from other regions and 18 multilateral organizations).

// Graph 2.14

Number of different partners (countries of the Global South; other regions’ countries; and organizations) that annually participated in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners. 2007-2023

In units



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

2.2.3

Triangular Cooperation partnerships and instruments

More than the commitment of the parties is required to materialize the implementation of Triangular Cooperation initiatives through the association of a growing and diverse number of stakeholders. In fact, the evidence suggests that, on many occasions, these partnerships are possible due to the instruments/mechanisms that facilitate them. These are usually Cooperation Programs, Funds, Memoranda or Agreements which, promoted by a country or organization –or by a partnership between some of them–, set an action framework that contributes to enable and boost –also through financial resources– the implementation of exchanges.

Graph 2.15 was prepared to make an in depth analysis of the instruments on which Triangular Cooperation was based between 2022 and 2023. This graph distributes the 176 initiatives in which Ibero-America participated during the last two-year period according to the type of instrument (Program, Fund, Memo/Agreement) and the partners that were involved (Ibero-American, LAC or other regions' country or international organization).

As the graph portrays, more than half of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in the 2022-

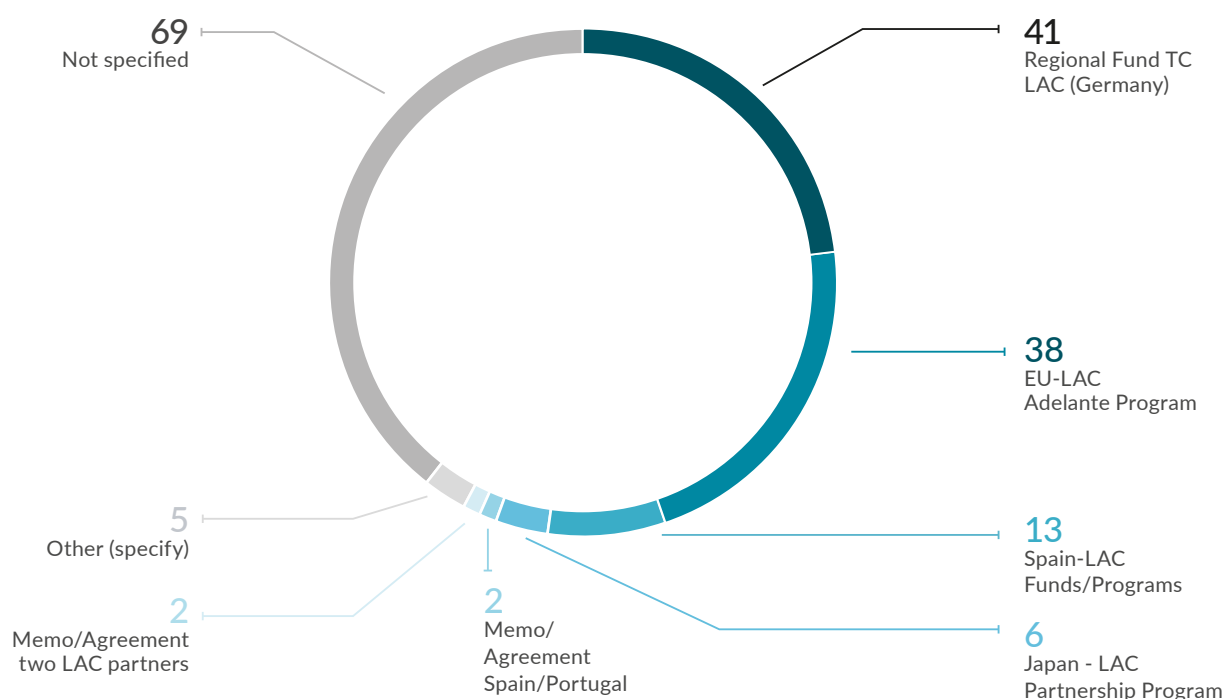
2023 period were institutionally facilitated by three instruments: Germany's Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean (41 projects, accounting for more than 23% of the total); the European Union Adelante Program for Triangular Cooperation with LAC (38 initiatives, corresponding to almost another 22%); and Spain's Mixed Funds and its Programs for Triangular Cooperation with LAC (specifically with Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay) (7.4% of the total).

It should also be added that the initiatives related to the EU Adelante Program are associated with two different instruments: the so-called Adelante Window and the bilateral *Triangular Cooperation Funds* that the EU has signed with several countries of the region. Of the 38 initiatives registered in the 2022-2023 period in the framework of the Adelante Program (Graph 2.15), 20 were financed through the calls for proposals of the Adelante 2 Window; on the other hand, 18 correspond to projects carried out through the EU Funds with Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay. Box 2.1 was precisely prepared to provide a better understanding on the way this flagship Program works, as well as the mechanisms that facilitate the partnerships that are implemented in its framework with Latin-America. It provides detailed information on the partnerships between the EU, European countries (especially Germany and Spain, which act as implementing partners) and Latin-American countries,

// Graph 2.15

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by the instrument in the framework of which they were carried out (Program, Fund, Memorandum). 2022-2023

In units



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

and the way they are promoted; on prioritized areas of action or topics; and, in short, on the financial mechanisms that boost the Triangular Cooperation that is implemented through this bi-regional association.

Given the fact that countries are not necessarily required to register the information related to Triangular Cooperation mechanisms, the data on the other half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in the 2022-2023 period is only partial. For this reason,

in about 40% of the records, the possible instruments are "Not specified". However, and considering the stakeholders that were involved, it can be stated that some Triangular Cooperation initiatives are not framed in a specific instrument, for example: some Spanish and German cooperation projects outside the aforementioned mechanisms, and several initiatives promoted under the Brazil-FAO International Cooperation Program for Triangular Projects on food security, among others.

→ BOX 2.1

The European Union's Triangular Cooperation Program - ADELANTE: promoting EU-LAC bi-regional Triangular Cooperation

In 2015, the European Union (EU) created the ADELANTE Program to promote —through Triangular Cooperation— horizontal partnerships between Latin-American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, and between these and Europe, through the exchange of capacities and experiences in the search for solutions focused on sustainable development. This initiative had a budget of over €10 million and co-financed 8 projects between 2015 and 2020, involving 93 organizations from 22 countries in Europe and LAC.

Building on the lessons learnt during the first phase, in 2021, the EU launched ADELANTE 2 with the aim of "contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, through interventions that reflect the most modern approaches to Triangular Cooperation" (ADELANTE 2, 2024). ADELANTE 2 is structured around three components:

a) Operational support component

This component is implemented through the ADELANTE Window, which seeks to mobilize and channel EU resources towards EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation partnerships or alliances, which ultimate goal is to achieve the 2030 Agenda and a more inclusive and sustainable development (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

Four annual Windows have been opened in the framework of ADELANTE 2 between 2021 and 2024, and each one had some different characteristics (in terms of budget, prioritized topics, duration) for multi-stakeholder and multilevel partnerships to apply. As this innovative program is intended to be agile and "responsive", one of its main features has been the approval of short-term initiatives. Over the past four years, the EU has mobilized more than €5 million in 47 Triangular Cooperation initiatives, involving 27 EU and LAC countries, as well as 258 different institutions (public, private, social, among others), having direct impact on 17 SDGs (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

b) Analytical support component

Through the analysis and thematic study of Triangular Cooperation, the UE aims to assess the impact of this modality between the European Union and LAC, and reflect on how to add more value to this bi-regional partnership. The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) has led this component since 2020 by implementing two projects focused on knowledge generation on TC, the first of which was An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for a New Development Agenda.

Currently, SEGIB is carrying out the second project (Generation of Knowledge and New Instruments in EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation) and, through this initiative, it is developing specific analyses on TC (with other regions of the Global South, on environmental issues, artificial intelligence or science and technology). This project follows up on the results of the previous initiative (An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for a New Development Agenda) and of two of its thematic studies (Indigenous Peoples and Decentralized Cooperation), through the design of concrete instruments to materialize TC in these areas.

c) Institutional support component

This component consists of six funds between the EU, European stakeholders to manage financial resources (Germany through GIZ and Spain through AECID), and six Latin-American countries. All these funds co-finance TC projects in which six selected countries participate: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay.

A particular feature of how this component works is that each fund has different characteristics and mechanisms, not only regarding the total budget, but also in terms of the areas that are prioritized for the applications. They may also differ

Continues >>

in the financial instrument adopted for the execution of resources.

The Trilateral Cooperation Instrument Brazil - European Union - Germany, is implemented through GIZ and three projects have been approved in its framework with the Dominican Republic, Honduras and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this case, projects always had to include Brazil, at least another partner of LAC, and one or more partners of the EU, but it had no thematic restrictions other than being aligned with national and global development agendas (GIZ, 2024).

On the other hand, the Chile-European Union Triangular Cooperation Fund is implemented by the Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID by its Spanish acronym). This fund finances projects in areas related to the European Green Deal and the fight against climate change. Its working mechanisms are based on the “partnership” principle, in which both parties equally contribute with the same budget, and two projects will be selected (AGCID, 2022).

Colombia, in turn, participates in this component through the Tripartite Triangular Cooperation Mechanism, with GIZ as the implementing partner. This instrument has received applications twice: in 2022 and 2023. Projects had no thematic restrictions, but should be focused on promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships (GIZ, 2022). This mechanism seeks to encourage horizontal management and has evolved in its two calls. In the first one, the EU and Germany participated in the role of facilitators, while Colombia could act as provider or beneficiary. However, in 2023, the three partners took on the same role as facilitators and made equal financial contributions.

The European Union - Costa Rica - Latin-America and the Caribbean Triangular Cooperation Fund is implemented by AECID. This fund had two calls for proposals, one in 2023 and the other launched in the summer of 2024. In the first one, six projects —aligned with the thematic areas specified in the call (ecological transition; green recovery and decarbonization; and digitalization and innovation – ADELANTE 2,

2024)— were financed. The evaluation of the final proposals of the last call was in progress by November 2024, and probably a maximum of 5 projects will be supported by this fund. Through this mechanism, Costa Rica aims to strengthen its dual role in Triangular Cooperation.

Cuba is also taking part in this component through the European Union - Cuba - Latin-America and the Caribbean Triangular Cooperation Fund, also implemented by AECID. This mechanism finances six projects focused on biotechnology and its uses for public health and food security. By promoting Triangular Cooperation projects, Cuba aims to promote its role as recipient and provider of technical cooperation (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

The sixth and last instrument is the Triangular Cooperation Fund Uruguay-European Union for Sustainable Development, which consists of four projects in which Uruguay is the first provider. The fund is focused on capacity building in public policies in terms of health, education, digitalization and environment (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, AGCID (2022), ADELANTE 2 (2024) and GIZ (2002, 2023 and 2024).

Finally, Japan's Partnership Programs with Argentina and Chile, dedicated to promoting cooperation with third countries, stand out in the remaining 8.5% of Triangular Cooperation exchanges between 2022 and 2023.

The institutional framework described above explains some countries' more active participation; their main roles; and their most common associations, among many other aspects. Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 were prepared to illustrate the aforementioned and to better understand

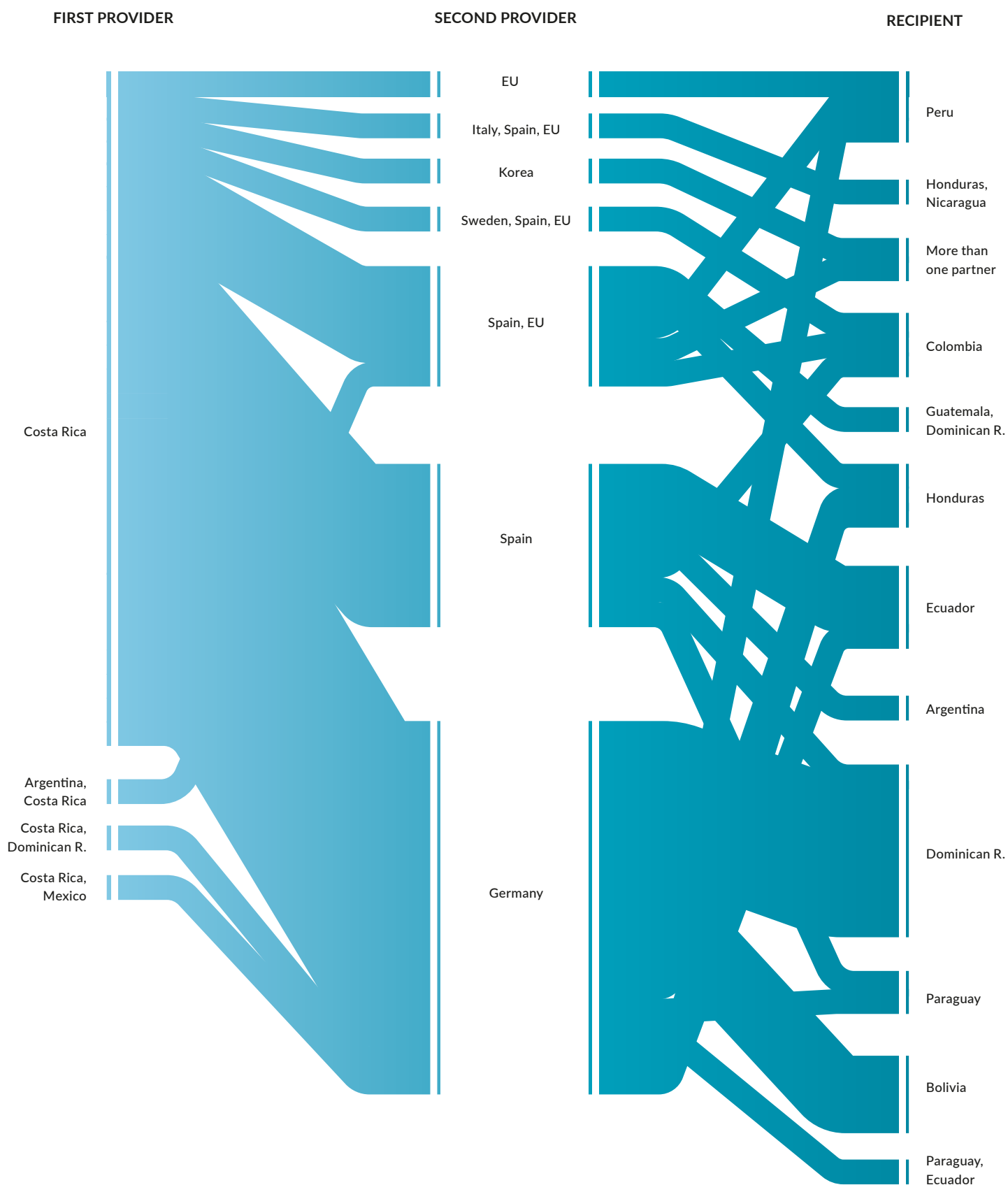
the positive correlation between the existence of Triangular Cooperation instruments, the materialization of certain partnerships, and the implementation of initiatives. These diagrams show the flow of exchanges of the three Ibero-American countries that, in 2022-2023, were most active in the roles of first provider (Costa Rica), second provider (Spain) and recipient (Paraguay).⁵ In each graph, the flow of initiatives connects the different partners according to their role: first provider (left flow), second provider (middle flow) and recipient (right flow).

⁵ In methodological terms, it should be noted that, Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 are based on the following total number of initiatives: 29 for Costa Rica; 53 for Spain; and 32 for Paraguay. These figures are obtained by adding those in which each country plays their corresponding role individually (26, 21 and 18, respectively, as shown in Graphs 2.9, 2.10 and 2.12), with those in which they share these roles with other partners (3, 32 and 14, in each case).

// Graph 2.16

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Costa Rica as first provider, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

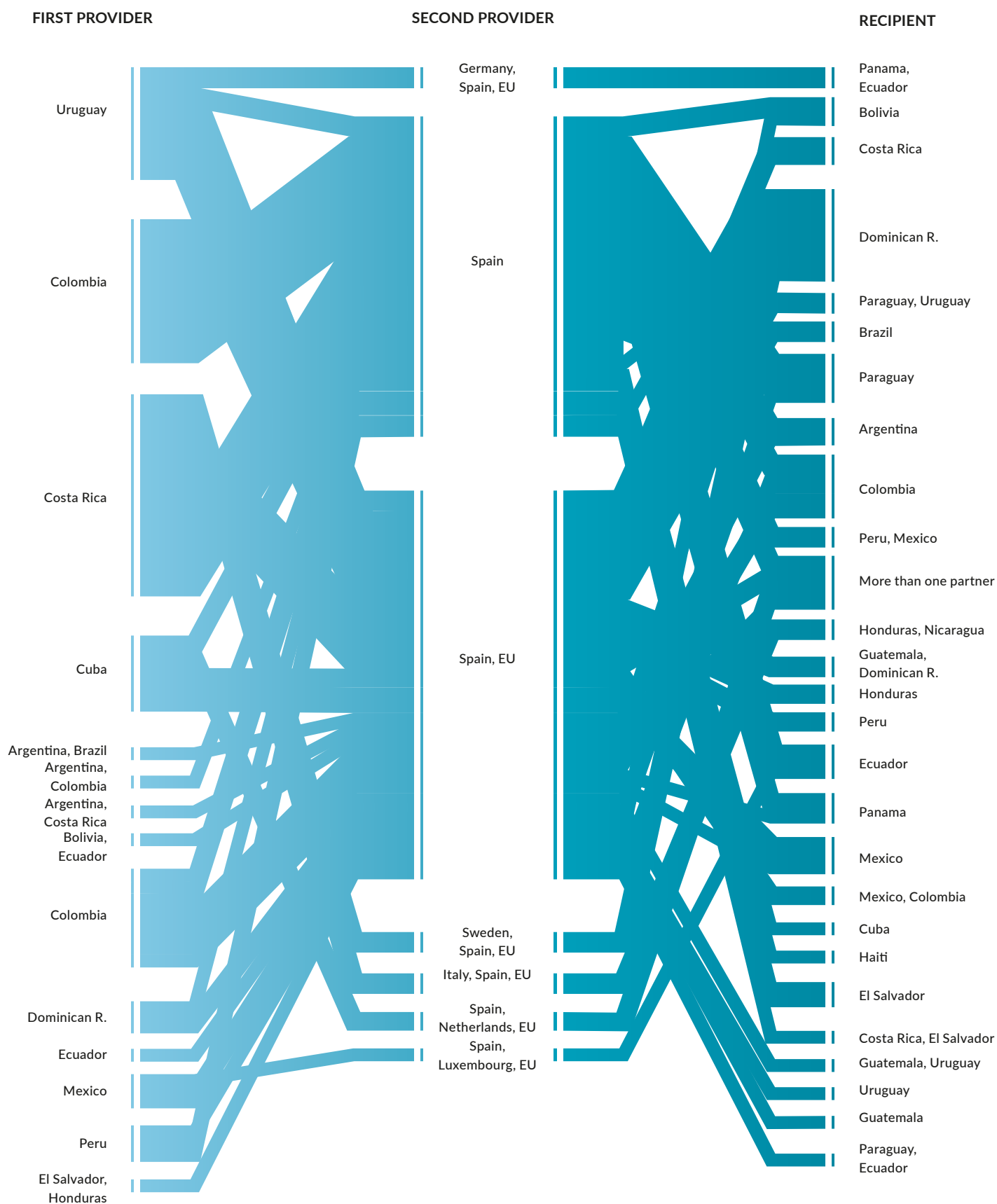


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.17

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Spain as second provider, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

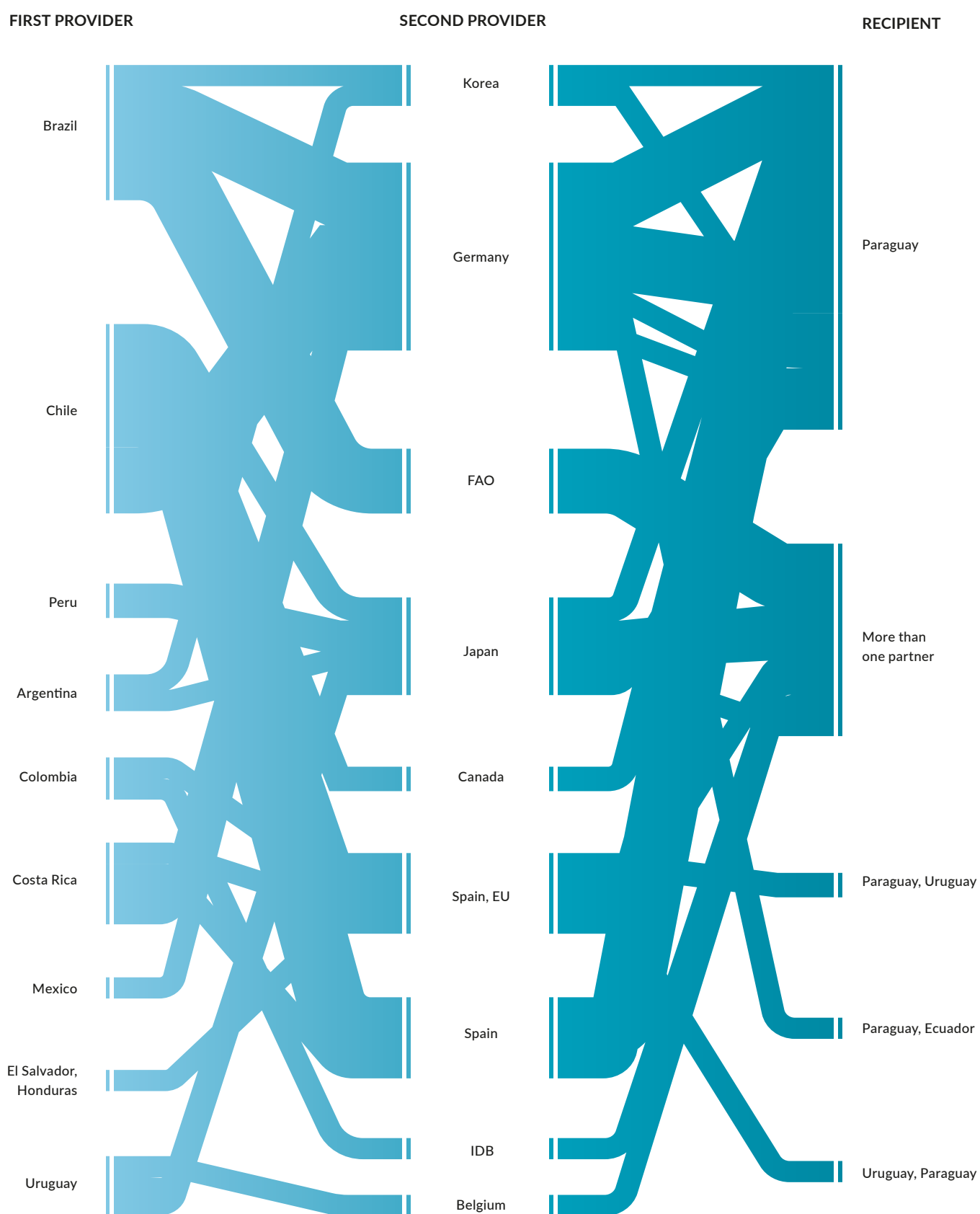


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.18

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Paraguay as recipient, by partner and role.

In units



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

As Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 show, most of the exchanges of each of these three countries are determined and explained by the instruments that were previously analyzed. For example, the Triangular Cooperation that Costa Rica carries out with Spain, the EU and Germany is facilitated by the Adelante Program and, especially, by its bilateral fund with the EU (which implementing partner is AECID); by its Program for Triangular Cooperation with LAC, with Spain; and by the German Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in LAC, in the framework of which it participates in several initiatives.

The partnerships between Costa Rica and Spain through the aforementioned instruments are also shown in Graph 2.17. Spain's Mixed Funds and its Programs for Triangular Cooperation with LAC —promoted over

the years with Chile and Uruguay—, as well as the rest of its partnerships fostered in the framework of the Adelante Program (individually or associated with the EU and other countries), are also key in this country's Triangular Cooperation as second provider.

In Paraguay's case, the role played by Germany's Regional Fund, the Spain-Chile Mixed Fund, Japan's Partnership Programs with Chile and Argentina, and the Brazil-FAO Triangular Cooperation Program for food security, among others, are particularly noteworthy.

Finally, new instruments have been promoted in 2024 that will certainly dynamize Triangular Cooperation in the coming years: for example, the Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean of



Photo: The Armila Community in Guna Yala (Panama) is the fourth most important leatherbacks' nesting area in the world, a sanctuary for this endangered sea turtle species. Volunteers of the indigenous Guna community, together with the Ministry of the Environment, conserve and protect the nesting of this species on their beach and share their knowledge with El Salvador. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID by its Spanish acronym), and the Portugal-LAC-Africa Triangular Cooperation Fund, financed by the *Instituto Camões da Cooperação e da Língua* and managed by SEGIB. Boxes 2.2 and 2.3

provide detailed information on how these instruments work, emphasizing the former's innovative features, and the capacity of the latter to create interregional partnerships with Portuguese-speaking African countries.

→ BOX 2.2

Spain's Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean

In 2024, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID by its Spanish acronym) has launched its Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean, conceived as an instrument to generate partnerships in the framework this modality, which Spanish Cooperation has been supporting for years in the region. Spain is committed to this type of cooperation and will continue to strengthen it due to its enormous capacity to foster strategic and horizontal associations that, through dialogue and joint work, promote the region's inclusive and sustainable development.

This program was conceived on innovative bases and is also driven by Triangular Cooperation's capacity to simultaneously address the challenges of both Spanish and Latin-American cooperation, in the current context. Indeed:

a) On the one hand, this program is launched the year after Spain approved its new Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity. This law reflects Spain's commitment to continue working with Latin-America and the Caribbean, as well as the importance of doing so with a focus on development in transition. This requires innovation and progress in terms of the cooperation modalities and instruments that have been traditionally used.

b) On the other hand, horizontal cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean is fully consolidated, and the region is demanding increasingly specialized technical cooperation, adapted to its development level and potential. The region needs new strategies and transforming partnerships that can materialize in technical cooperation, as well as in knowledge generation and transfer for sustainable development.

In this context, the future commitment of Spanish Cooperation with Latin-America and the Caribbean is to promote an advanced Triangular Cooperation, which supports the achievement of the SDGs, based on a more innovative work scheme, on processes, and on transforming elements, in order to be better aligned with the region's current needs and challenges.

This innovative approach—which resulted from reflection and from the identification of the different areas that needed to be improved in the framework of this modality—has determined the conception and design of the Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean, as an instrument to facilitate the generation of alliances for mutual benefit, responsibility and learning.

Accordingly, the Program is based on the concept of PARTNERSHIP, pivoting on three key aspects:

a) Demand. Actions should originate in country's themselves and in their identification of their challenges, either through individual processes or through collaborative processes among the different partners.

b) Horizontality. Spain is considered to be a technical partner in this model; i.e. it does not only provide financial support but also actively participates in knowledge exchange and sharing, and benefits from the other partners' experience.

c) Knowledge management and innovation. These are key elements to disseminate, share, and improve, in addition to being essential tools to promote dialogue to design public policies.

In order to combine these purposes and principles, the program is designed based on two lines of action: the support to Triangular Cooperation exchanges that promote partnerships in the search for solutions to Sustainable Development challenges; and a cross-cutting component aimed at fostering and improving the modality and the program itself.

Twenty-four (24) initiatives were approved in the framework of its first call for proposals. These involve institutions from 18 Latin-American countries, and create and foster strategic associations with a participatory, horizontal, multi-stakeholder and multilevel approach. The table below provides a summary of these 24 projects (names, main partners, and roles).

Projects of Spain's Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America

| PROJECT | PARTNERS* |
|--|------------------------------|
| Capacity strengthening for the monitoring, early warning and control of mosquito-borne diseases. | Argentina, Paraguay |
| Strengthening the sustainable tourism planning process of Valverde (Dominican Republic) and Pallcapampa (Bolivia). | Bolivia, Dominican Republic |
| Strengthening strategic partnerships to promote the creation of hydro-social territories in Colombia and Peru. | Colombia, Peru |
| Coffee Innovation Network for the implementation of regenerative agriculture practices in the Mocoties River Basin, Mérida (Venezuela). | Colombia, Venezuela |
| Program for the generation of institutional capacities and to accelerate and promote intra-entrepreneurship among SMEs for the operationalization of innovation. | Costa Rica, Brazil |
| Capacity building for the management of international cooperation. | Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico |
| Capacity building in mental health care with a specialized approach: an international collaboration model between Spain, Cuba and Mexico. | Cuba, Mexico |
| Strengthening institutional capacities in Chile and Costa Rica to improve the implementation of Sport for Development indicators. | Chile, Costa Rica |
| Cooperation program between Ecuador's and Peru's justice systems to prevent and eradicate human trafficking. | Ecuador, Peru |
| Local transboundary public strategy for the sustainable management of Carchi and Nariño natural protected areas (Colombia-Ecuador). | Ecuador, Colombia |
| Management of development cooperation with an innovation approach. | Guatemala, Chile |
| Strengthening the Honduran Standardized Curriculum and Qualification System for fire management. | Honduras, Guatemala |
| Strengthening the Honduran Coffee Tourism Product. | Honduras, Colombia |
| Strengthening the regulatory framework related to renal transplantation and organ donation in SICA member states. | El Salvador, Panama |
| Network of LAC experts for the effective implementation of the "One Health" approach at the human/animal/environmental interface in RIMAS member countries. | Mexico, Chile, Paraguay |
| Strengthening "I+P+P" (Innovation + Promotion + Payment) capacities to restore degraded soils in the Western region of the Panama Canal. | Panama, Cuba |
| Sustainable development of coastal communities through climate-smart beekeeping in mangrove ecosystems. | Panama, Peru |
| Integration of data and practices for the development and environmental sustainability of the Paraguayan Chaco. | Paraguay, Costa Rica |
| Triangular Cooperation for the management of early warnings to identify possible victims of femicide. | Peru, El Salvador |
| Transforming the food industry by applying biotechnology for production and consumption. | Peru, Brasil, Mexico |
| Strengthening human resources to address climate change / Capacity building for teachers to address climate change. | Dominican Republic, CARICOM |
| Strengthening dialogue and knowledge exchange on public policy for Dominican Republic's and Ecuador's export of sustainable, deforestation-free cocoa. | Dominican Republic, Ecuador |
| Strengthening mental health services in Uruguay, Guatemala and Honduras, based on the ECHO methodology and on Spanish experiences. | Uruguay, Guatemala, Honduras |
| Strengthening capacities for decision making in digital public policy: measurement, and impact and results assessment. | Uruguay, Guatemala |

*According to the Program's terminology, the proposing partner is named first.
Source: SEGIB and AECID.

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



Photo: Colombia and Costa Rica have protected areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR by its Spanish acronym). These countries are working together to protect and conserve the biodiversity and marine and coastal resources of these areas. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

→ BOX 2.3

Portugal and SEGIB: Facilitating Triangular Interregional Cooperation between Ibero-America and Africa

At the end of 2023, based on a Memorandum with SEGIB, Portugal launched the Portugal-Latin-America-Africa Triangular Cooperation Fund. The aim of this fund is to support projects that are focused on strategic capacity building and the exchange of experiences between Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOPs) and Ibero-American countries, in the following areas: education, health, gender equality, climate change, food security, culture, social cohesion, digital transformation and education for development. The budget of this

fund, for a two year period (2024-2025), amounts to €1,000,000.

This fund is considered to be innovative for two main features: on the one hand, for the way in which initiatives have a specific focus on knowledge; and, on the other, for its vocation to promote an interregional partnership between Europe, Latin-America and Africa. These projects must precisely address either *Knowledge generation and dissemination* (Category I), or *Training, capacity*

building and/or knowledge transfer (Category II). In addition, initiatives must have at least three partners (Portuguese, Latin-American, and African) which favor the integration between these geographic areas.

The call for proposals was open for two months, and both public and private entities applied. At the end of the period, 340 initiatives were evaluated. This not only demonstrates Ibero-America's great interest in Triangular Cooperation, but also in promoting partnerships

Projects of Portugal-LAC-Africa Fund (2024-2025)

| PROJECT | PARTNERS |
|---|---|
| Cocoa biodiversity for conservation and climate resilience: research on good practices between Colombia, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe. | Colombia, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe |
| Creating partnerships: initiatives to strengthen Ibero-American and African professional nursing education. | Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Colombia, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay |
| Triangular Cooperation between Argentina, Portugal and Angola for innovation and for the exchange of good practices in Education for Development. | Angola, Argentina, Portugal |
| Global circuits for the sale of second-hand clothing: sustainability, greenwashing and circular economy. | Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal |
| Triangular partnership for Príncipe's digital transformation. | Argentina, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe |
| Cities of knowledge. | Argentina, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal |

Source: SEGIB and Camões-Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua

Six projects were selected in this first call (detailed in the table prepared for this purpose), which implementation must be completed by December 2025. These involve 30 institutions from Latin-America, Portugal and Africa and cover the following areas: Climate change (1); Digital transformation (1); Health (1); Education for Development (2) and Culture (1). Regarding the two mentioned categories, 4 projects are associated with Category I, and 2 projects with Category II.

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

2.3

Sectoral analysis of Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America in 2022-2023

A better understanding of Triangular Cooperation partners, their roles, associations and instruments is also decisive to explain the different capacities that have been strengthened in the 2022-2023 period and this modality's contribution for the region to advance sustainable and inclusive development.

Thus, the following section provides a detailed analysis of the Triangular Cooperation in which Ibero-America participated in the 2022-2023 period according to the sectoral purposes and challenges it addressed. This is carried out from a twofold perspective: the first one is related to the region as a whole; and the second one is related to the capacity profiles of the most active countries. Likewise, in order to draw better conclusions and to understand how the COVID-19 crisis and its response may still be impacting the region's priorities, this two-year period is, on some occasions, compared with the preceding ones.

2.3.1 Strengthened capacities

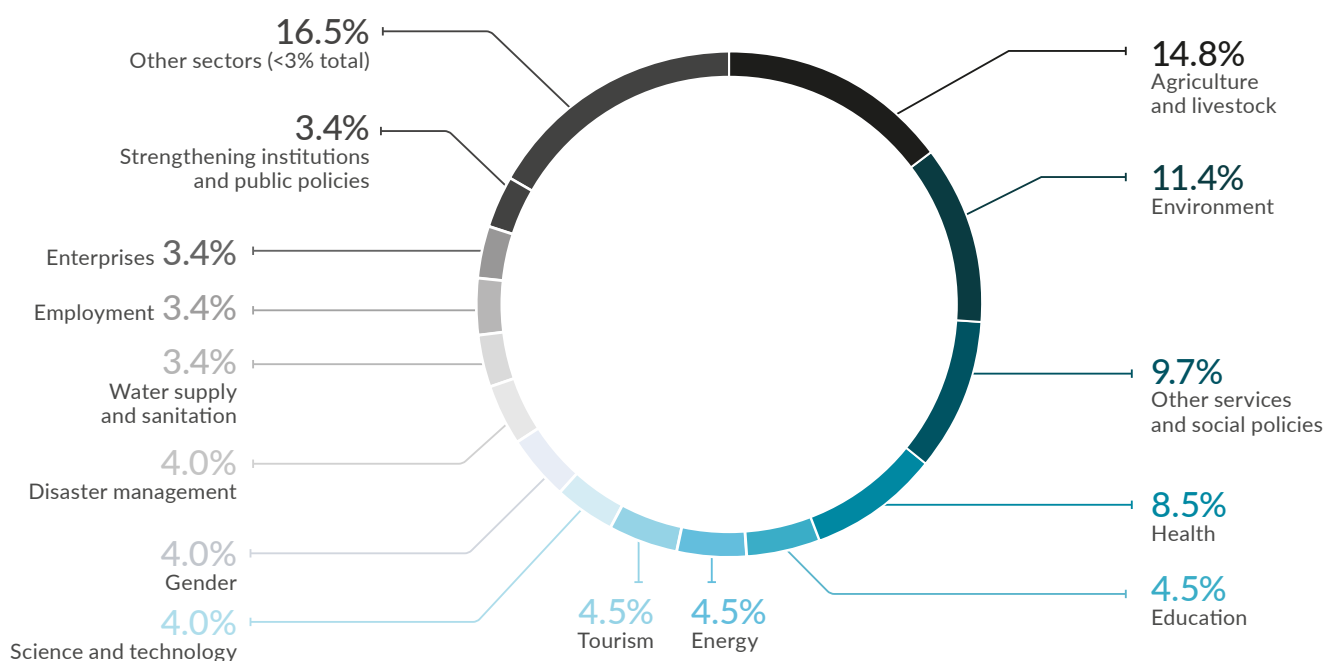
Graph 2.19 distributes the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners during 2022 and 2023, by activity sector. As shown, in these two years, the region focused on challenges related to the *Agriculture and livestock* (26 initiatives, corresponding to 14.8% of the total) and the *Environment* (another 11.4%) sectors; as well as on those associated with the Social area, specifically related to *Other services and social policies*, *Health* and *Education* (each of these had relative shares of between 5% and 10% in the total number of exchanges). These five sectors together account for nearly 50% of all the initiatives.

The other 50% of the 2022-2023 initiatives are distributed in up to 20 different activity sectors. Among these, those that aim to strengthen economic areas, either because they contribute to the generation of Infrastructure and economic services (*Energy*, *Science and technology*, *Employment* and *Enterprises*) or to Productive sectors (*Tourism*), all with relative shares between 3% and 4.5%, should be highlighted. As Graph 2.19 shows, the remaining sectors with this relative importance place emphasis on different purposes, such as *Gender equality*, *Disaster management*, *Water supply and sanitation*, and *Strengthening institutions and public policies*. Below this threshold and

// Graph 2.19

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by the main activity sectors. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

with the same institutional focus, the *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* sector should be highlighted, with 5 initiatives that account for another 2.8% of the total amount exchanged in the 2022-2023 period.

On the other hand, Graph 2.20 shows the extent to which the post-pandemic period has changed the priorities that were addressed in the framework of Triangular Cooperation. This graph portrays the evolution of the relative importance that the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors have annually had in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented between 2018 and 2023; i.e. during the pandemic and in the pre- and post-COVID-19 periods. It also sheds light on another interesting aspect: it analyzes the same

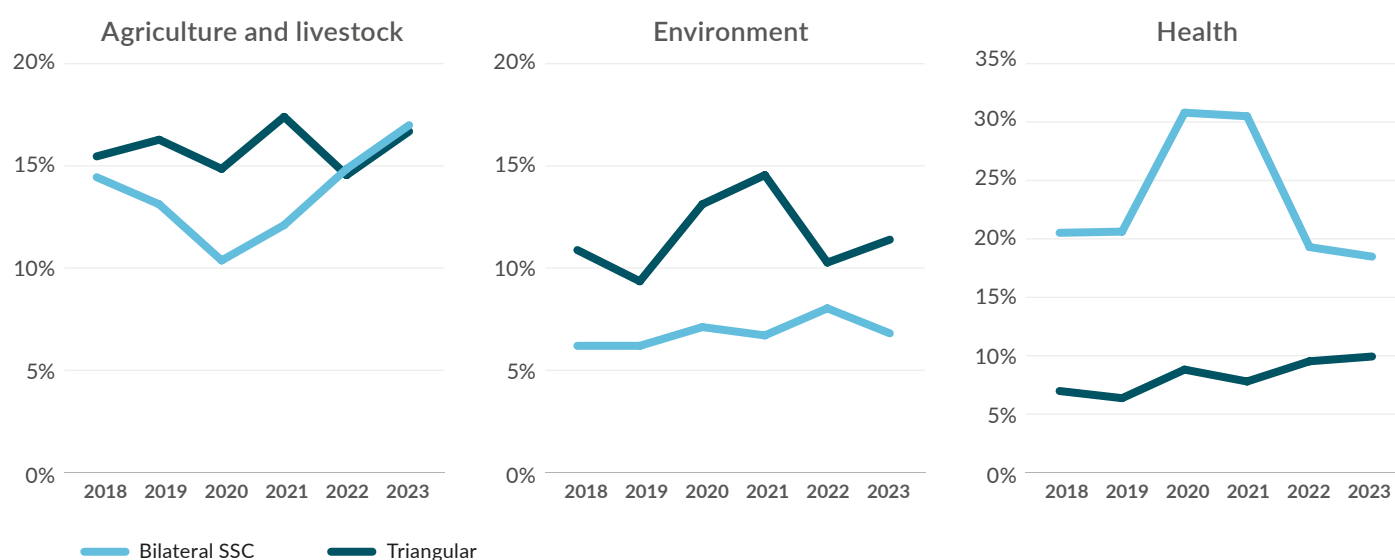
evolution in terms of Bilateral SSC. Hence, it is possible to compare both trajectories and conclude that these two cooperation modalities had different sectoral priorities.

The analysis reveals some important trends. First, the graphs show that each modality tends to address the challenges associated with each of the sectors in a different manner. Thus, Triangular Cooperation prioritizes *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment*, while Bilateral SSC places more emphasis on *Health*. Specifically, the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment* sectors account for between 10% and 15%-17% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out each year, while the importance of *Health* in Bilateral SSC initiatives is in a higher range (20%-30% per year).

// Graph 2.20

Evolution of the weight of the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors in the total number of initiatives exchanged during the pandemic and in the pre- and post-COVID periods, by modality. 2018-2023

In percentage



*Vertical axes range from 0-20%, except in the graph related to Health, where it ranges from 0-35%.

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

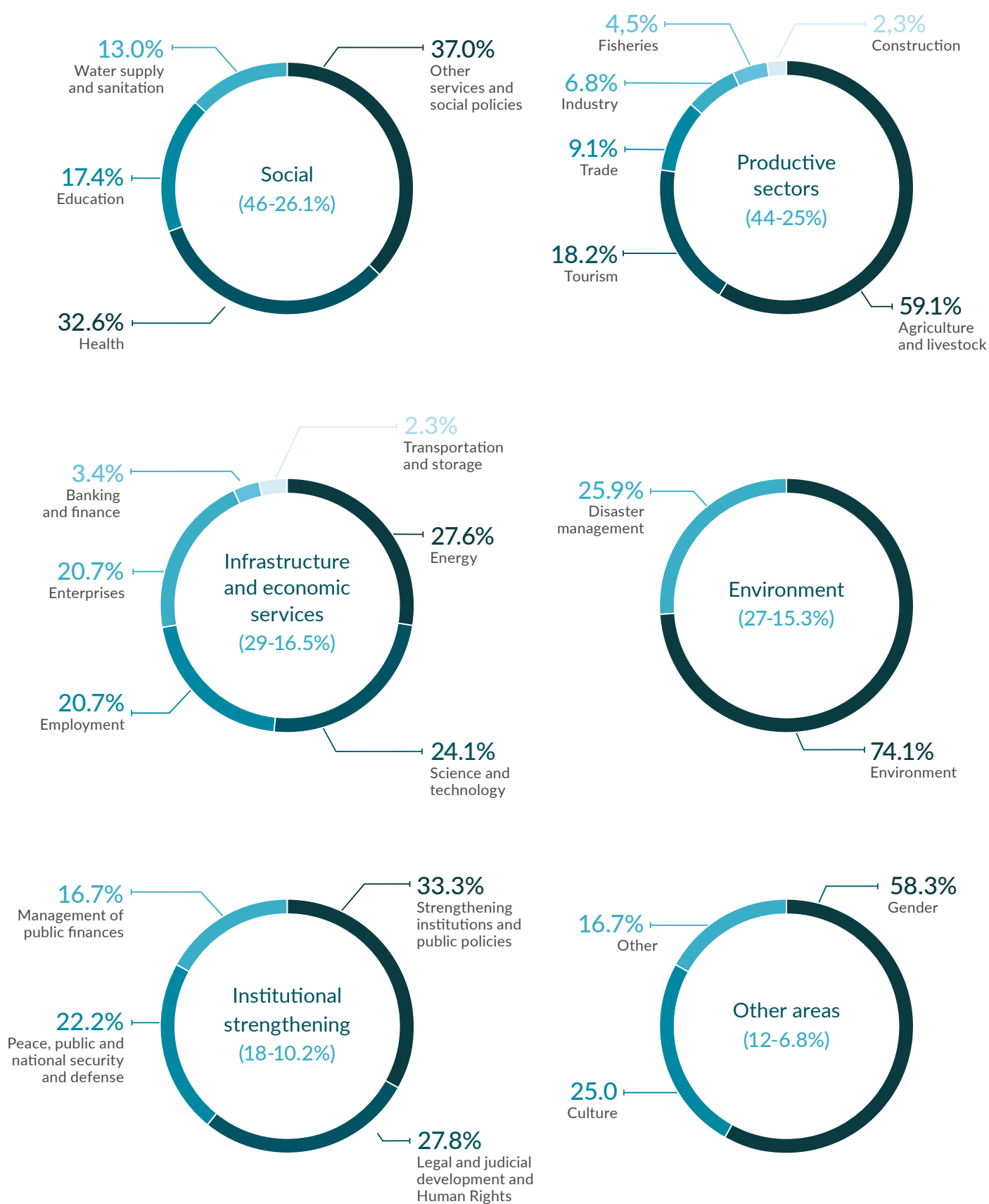
This different behavior by modality is also explained by a second trend, related to the gap between the two lines that illustrate the evolution of Triangular Cooperation and Bilateral SSC in each of the considered sectors, which, indeed, differs in each case. In fact, the importance of the *Agriculture and livestock* sector in Triangular Cooperation is 2.2 percentage points higher than in Bilateral SSC. In the case of *Environment*, the gap between the two trajectories widens to almost 5 percentage points. On the other hand, Triangular Cooperation is below Bilateral SSC, at an average distance of up to 15 percentage points, in terms of *Health*.

Finally, Graph 2.20 also provides information on the evolution of Triangular Cooperation in these sectors during the post-pandemic period. In this regard, between 2021 and 2022, significant declines can be identified in terms of *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment*. These declines are fully or partially offset, depending on the case, from 2022 to 2023. In addition, during the 2022-2023 period, the number of *Health*-related initiatives increased—for two consecutive years—, which is also evident in terms of participation, although figures remain below the 10% threshold.

// Graph 2.21

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by area of action and activity sectors. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

This first analysis of the capacities that were prioritized in the framework of Triangular Cooperation in the 2022-2023 period is completed with Graph 2.21, which shows the distribution of the 176 initiatives by activity sector, according to their relative importance in terms of the area of action in which they are classified. It is also possible to make a detailed examination of the main topics addressed during these years.

Specifically, Graph 2.21 shows that more than half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2022-2023 aimed to strengthen the Social (46 exchanges, 26.1% of the total) and Productive Sectors (44, corresponding to another 25.0%) areas. Likewise, and in line with what has already been advanced, two thirds of the exchanges

in the Social area are explained by the strengthening of *Other services and social policies* (37.0%) and *Health* (32.6%). Meanwhile, almost 70% of the Triangular Cooperation dedicated to Productive Sectors is focused on *Agriculture and livestock* (59.1%) and *Tourism* (18.2%).

More than half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 were aimed at strengthening matters related to the Social and Productive sectors areas

// CASE 2.1

The Creation of the National Network of Waste Collectors of Bolivia: linking employment and social protection



One of the major challenges brought about by the great growth of cities is waste management. Many Latin-American cities lack an effective recycling system; waste ends up in landfills and its life cycle is utterly reduced. In this context, it is important to highlight the work of waste collectors, who make profit of the small amount of recyclable waste, reducing pollution and contributing to a better use of these resources. However, the recognition of the economic activity of these workers is insufficient and it usually corresponds to a sector of the informal economy. This means that many families have no guaranteed access to basic social rights, as well as to care and social protection systems.

In order to tackle this issue, an initiative was approved—in the framework of the Adelante Window—for the formalization of a network of waste collectors in Bolivia, as an instrument for social action, political advocacy and the protection of their rights (Adelante 2, 2024). Thus, the

Association of Solid Waste Recyclers *Bolivia Unida*, as the recipient institution, led the coordination—with the country's different associations of recyclers—to generate the conditions for the formalization of the national network. The National Network of Recyclers of Ecuador (RENAREC by its Spanish acronym), in turn, as the first provider, provided training and capacity building based on its process, origins, formalization and first years of management. The Spanish institution Roots for Sustainability (R4S) also contributed, as second provider, to capacity strengthening through training.

The project was implemented between 2022 and 2023 and included eight activities, mostly onsite. A series of workshops were held in five Bolivian cities (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Sucre, Potosí, Tarija and Cochabamba), where the benefits of associativity were presented. A seminar was then carried out in Sucre, where each city shared its expectations for this future network.

Following this exchange, another cycle of workshops was held in the five cities, which focused on the requirements for the formalization of associations, and on training for association management. A second seminar for leaders of the associations of waste collectors was organized in Cochabamba to complete the training process and in order to present the progress made for the formalization of the future national network. The entire activity was supported by two consultancies that provided legal support to set up the national network, and IT support for the creation of the network's web page and app.

The project concluded with a seminar in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, with all the associations that participated in the process and with relevant public and private stakeholders. The results of the initiative, which directly benefited 1,098 people, were socialized during this event, and the creation of the Bolivian Network of Waste Collectors was finally formalized.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation and Adelante 2 (2024).

// CASE 2.2

Triangular cooperation for sanitation in intermediate cities: the COTRISAN strategy



Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda (UN, 2023) and one Ibero-American countries' top priorities.

In 2021, Bolivia and Costa Rica identified mutual learning opportunities related to sanitation that could be effectively addressed, within 3 years, through Triangular Cooperation. In this framework, the Andean country would strengthen its knowledge of solid waste management regulations, and the Central-American country would increase its capacity in wastewater and sanitary sewage.

With Germany's support —through the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean— it was then proposed to “manage sanitation strategies in two intermediate cities in Costa Rica and one in Bolivia, as a disease detection and prevention measure; and improve sanitation through a comprehensive strategy that includes capacity building, regulation and social participation” (GIZ, 2022).

According to figures of the Regional Fund, the initiative *Sanitation strategy in intermediate cities: COTRISAN* had a total contribution of around one million euros, and it was developed through 4 lines of action (GIZ, 2023, p.3). Specifically:

1. The first was related to collecting information for the development and implementation of a strategy for the management of disposals from household septic tanks. In this regard, a pilot project on household fecal sludge management in Santa Cruz (Bolivia) was used as a reference; a technical sanitation roundtable was formed with entities from both countries; and courses on septic tanks and other related topics were implemented.
2. The second line of action contemplated the design of a proposal for leachate regulation, as a measure to protect water resources. Sampling was carried out in Bolivian localities for this purpose, resulting in the generation of two technical guideline documents on urban solid waste and urban sanitary landfills.

3. Third, given that the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to be present in human waste for a long period of time, an inter-institutional committee was formed to set *Procedural Guidelines for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater* for the generation of an *Early Warning System*. Moreover, laboratory equipment and materials were provided in addition to training in detection and biosafety techniques (GIZ, 2023, p. 5).

4. Finally, Costa Rica, through the Institute of Aqueducts and Sewage, supported the Vice-Ministry of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation of Bolivia in the organization of the 6th LATINOSAN Conference. During the event, countries presented the outcomes of the diagnosis of the sanitary situation of excrement management in the canton of San Pablo de Heredia and the district of Liberia in Costa Rica, and they also presented the results of the application of the Bolivian model for the Management of Household Fecal Sludge (GLFD by its Spanish acronym) in two cities of the Central-American country (GIZ, 2023, p. 5).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Cedeño (2022), World Bank (2022), GIZ (2023) (2022) and UN (2023).

In the framework of *Other services and social policies*, is it possible to highlight those initiatives that, from complementary perspectives, focus on the inclusion of minors. These projects, for example, were dedicated to child care and attention; the use of sports as a tool for peaceful coexistence; income transfers; and school feeding programs. Initiatives to promote the development of housing and inclusive urban spaces also stood out. Another interesting experience, detailed in Case 2.1, refers to a project that, under the Adelante Window, allows Spain and Ecuador to support Bolivia in its experience to advance the labor formalization of people who work in the National Network of

Waste Collectors, understood as the best solution to guarantee social protection for many families.

In the *Health* sector, several Triangular Cooperation initiatives related to nutrition and food improvement have been identified, including a project for the comprehensive care of pregnant women and early childhood, which is considered a preventive intervention and key to make progress on the fight against child malnutrition. Exchanges in this modality also supported the development of different treatments and therapies for cancer, infectious and neurodegenerative diseases, as well as the early detection and rehabilitation of neurodevelopmental

disorders in breastfed infants. Likewise, and still as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, other exchanges promoted a network of laboratories to prepare the countries of the region to respond to potential epidemics and pandemics.

The remaining 30% of the 46 initiatives related to the Social area were carried out in the *Education* and *Water supply and sanitation* sectors. In this case, countries prioritized the improvement of teaching skills (recognition systems; technical-pedagogical innovations; virtual tools), as well integrated water resource management, universal access to drinking water and improved wastewater treatment. For example, Case 2.2 describes a Triangular Cooperation initiative between Costa Rica and Bolivia in the framework of the Regional Fund implemented by the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ by its German acronym) dedicated to the promotion of water sanitation in intermediate cities.

On the other hand, most of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives in the Productive Sectors area, associated with the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, gave priority to agriculture, those that aimed to strengthen livestock and beekeeping being more specific. The exchanges that focused on improving the management of the sector's resources, including water, soil, technology and access to financing —through the specific development of more accessible credit formulas for small producers—, stood out. Some of these exchanges also placed emphasis on specific regional crops, such as avocado, coffee, cocoa and citrus. The added value of specialized multilateral organizations (IICA, IFAD and FAO) in this sectors' Triangular Cooperation is especially noteworthy, as they were able to tackle other topics, such as value chains or the transfer of advanced genetic manipulation techniques, in addition to providing a comprehensive approach to the link between agriculture and food security.



Photo: Artisanal fishermen work in the pink shrimp harvest in Castillos Lagoon, in Rocha, in the East of Uruguay. This community participated in a pilot experience of inclusive and sustainable development to improve their quality of life and ensure the sustainability of fishing, respecting the environment and mitigating the adverse effects that climate events have on the marine resources on which their income depends. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

// CASE 2.3

Dual training and MSMEs: the case of the furniture and wood industry in Peru



Dual training combines technical and theoretical learning in the training center with practical and applied learning in a company (German Technical Cooperation – GIZ, 2020). Thus, the use of this type of training becomes key for certain industries to be able to count on qualified human capital. Applied in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), it also has the advantage of reducing training costs which, under other formulas, tend to be very high (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2022).

In this regard, with the support of German cooperation, the Triangular Cooperation project *Strengthening the ecosystem of the wood and furniture industry: knowledge transfer for dual training stakeholders* was approved in 2021, in response to a strong demand for qualified people in the wood and furniture industry in Peru. At the institutional level, the

Technological Institute of Production (ITP by its Spanish acronym) through the Center for Productive Innovation and Technology Transfer in wood (CITEmadera by its Spanish acronym) of Peru, the Trainers Corporation of Ecuador, the Ecuadorian Association of Wood Manufacturers (AIMA by its Spanish acronym) and GIZ (Germany), participated in this experience.

The initiative, implemented between 2022 and 2024, was based on the dual training program for operators in the wood and furniture industry (at auxiliary, technical and professional levels), implemented by the Program *Contribution to the Environmental Goals of Peru - ProAmbiente II*, from 2019 to 2021 (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2022). During those years, CITEmadera and other institutions of the forestry sector learned about dual training in carpentry in Germany and Ecuador. In addition, they

designed the program's curriculum, study plans and implementation methodologies for companies (German Technical Cooperation - GIZ, 2020).

In addition, in June 2023, representatives of public institutions, associations and companies from the two Ibero-American countries traveled to Bonn, Stuttgart and Reutlingen (Germany) to learn about the opportunities and challenges of dual training in technological and sustainable development in the wood industry (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2023). Furthermore, in August that year, CITEmadera Lima held an event on *Progress and challenges of dual technical and professional training in the wood and furniture industry*, in the framework of EXPODECO 2023, where students and entrepreneurs shared their experiences and lessons learned.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, GIZ (2020) and Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation (2022) (2023).

Exchanges in *Tourism* were also remarkable in the framework of the Productive sectors area. In this sense, initiatives aimed to develop and improve the management of different tourism products, mainly based on nature and culture. These collaborations also focused on mainstreaming the sustainability and resilience of this important activity. In addition, and even more specifically, several initiatives to strengthen *Fisheries and Industry* are worthy of mention. Indeed, one of these experiences is detailed in Case 2.3, concerning a dual training project between Peru, Ecuador and Germany in the wood and furniture industry.

Still from an economic perspective, as Graph 2.21 portrays, the support for the generation of Infrastructure and economic services accounts for another 16.5%

of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the 2022-2023 period. These exchanges were focused, in close respective proportions, on *Energy, Science and technology, Employment and Enterprises*, including a wide range of topics such as energy transition (with a special focus on solar energy and electric mobility); green recovery after the COVID-19 crisis; the development of geospatial information platforms for economic purposes; employment and entrepreneurship; support for MSMEs; and aspects related to business conduct and competitiveness. Additionally, as explained in Case 2.4 below, the development of statistics to guide business decision-making was also addressed by two experiences involving Spain, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and the EU.

// CASE 2.4

Triangular Cooperation to strengthen business statistics with a gender approach



During the 2022-2023 period, and in the framework of the EU Triangular Cooperation Program Adelante 2, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and Spain identified a partnership opportunity through the project *Strengthening Business Statistics* (Adelante 2, 2024). This initiative highlighted the value of generating data and statistics, not only to advise decision-making in the design, implementation and evaluation of any public policy, but also to guide the strategies of any economic stakeholder, in this case, focusing on companies.

As a result of its successful outcomes, the three countries decided to promote a new project, which was also joined by the National Institute of Statistics (INE by its Spanish acronym) of Guatemala, in order to tackle the importance of applying a gender perspective in statistics measurement. In this regard, for example, it is difficult to have access to reliable information to use and interpret economic statistics properly (ONE, 2024, p. 7). This jeopardizes

the possibility of making differences and inequalities visible and of generating comprehensive responses that contribute to close gaps.

Thus, this second project, dedicated to *Promoting business statistics with gender indicators*, was approved in 2023. In this initiative, the National Statistics Institutes of Uruguay and Guatemala act as recipients and the National Office of Statistics (ONE by its Spanish acronym) of the Dominican Republic as the first provider. The Foundation for the Strategic Analysis and Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Spain (FAEDPYME by its Spanish acronym), in turn, participates as the second provider.

In this case, ONE has long-term experience in measuring the gender approach in statistics. On the other hand, since 2020, FAEDPYME has been working on the use of data to generate business indicators with a gender and youth perspective, also making its environmental

impact visible (Adelante 2, 2024).

Finally, to achieve its objective, between 2023 and 2024, six visits were carried out to the Latin-American countries to learn first-hand about the needs of the recipients, and to design a clear and effective roadmap. In addition, two specialized studies were completed, one of which included the design of a *Methodology to measure business statistics with a gender perspective* (ONE, 2024). Finally, the project concluded with an international seminar in the Dominican Republic, in March 2024, where the objectives and outcomes of this triangular experience, which directly benefited approximately 120 people, were presented.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Adelante 2 (2024), IDB (2021), ECLAC (2024) and ONE (2024).

A similar proportion of initiatives (27, corresponding to another 15.3% of the total) were aimed at strengthening countries' capacities to face challenges related to the Environment. Three (3) out of 4 of the exchanges in this area focused on nature protection, while the remaining 25% addressed *Disaster management*. In fact, two different but interconnected main topics have been identified: the preservation of biodiversity (genetic resources; germplasm banks; biological corridors; conservation and restoration of marine-coastal areas and coral reefs); and the fight against climate change and the mitigation of and adaptation to its worst effects (monitoring of the atmosphere; glaciers; environmental impact assessment and follow-up, among others). The analysis of this area is completed by projects dedicated to strengthen risk management (especially seismic risks); to combat forest fires; and to promote Early Warning Systems (EWS).

The remaining 30 initiatives (another 17% of the total) are associated with Institutional strengthening (18 exchanges) and Other areas (12). In terms of the former, as Graph 2.21 shows, exchanges are distributed in four different activity sectors, with emphasis on issues related to access to justice; the promotion of Human Rights; the exchange



Two different but interrelated main aims were identified in the Environment area: the preservation of biodiversity and the fight against climate change, specifically its mitigation and the adaptation to its worst effects



of experiences in the management of public procurement; and the strengthening of development cooperation itself. Meanwhile, most of the experiences classified in Other areas are dedicated to *Gender* equality. In this case, initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of women; those that seek to prevent and combat all forms of violence against them; as well as those that work for the full incorporation of gender approaches to different dimensions of public policies, stand out.

2.3.2

Profile of the main stakeholders

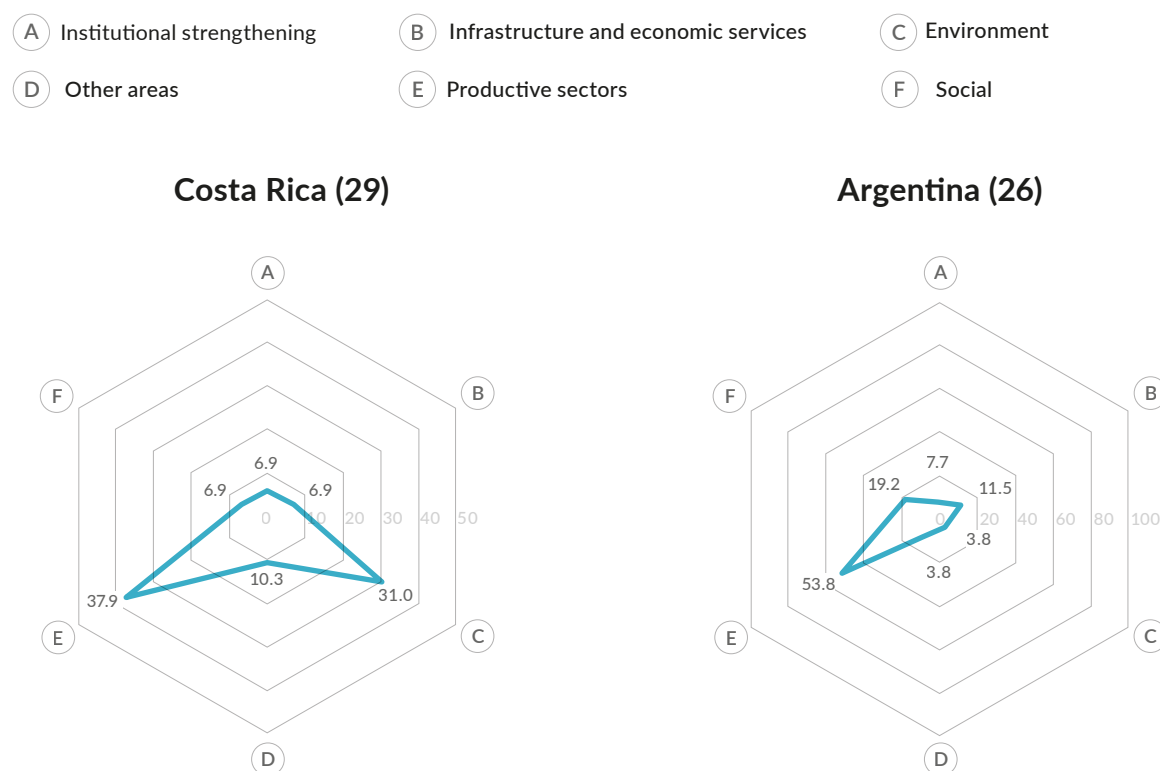
The analysis of the capacities that were strengthened through the Triangular Cooperation in which Ibero-America participated in the 2022-2023 period can be complemented with a second perspective which identifies the combination of the different partners' specific contributions.

Graphs 2.22, 2.23 and 2.24 were prepared for this purpose. The first shows the distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which each of the most important first providers⁶ participated, by the area of action in which they were classified. A radial/radar chart with the shape of an hexagon was plotted to illustrate the aforementioned. In this charts, each vertex represents one of the six areas of action recognized in the Ibero-American space. Likewise, the percentage of the initiatives that were carried out by the different countries in each of these areas (over their total number of exchanges) is represented on the axes that go from the center to each of the vertices. The connection of the resulting values shapes a figure that defines each partners' profile. Since the same resource is used in all cases, the profiles of each partner are easily comparable. Graphs 2.23 and 2.24 correspond to second providers and recipients, respectively.

// Graph 2.22

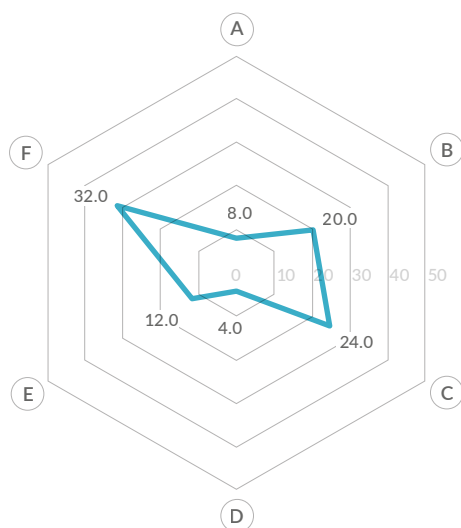
Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main first providers, by area of action. 2022-2023

In percentage

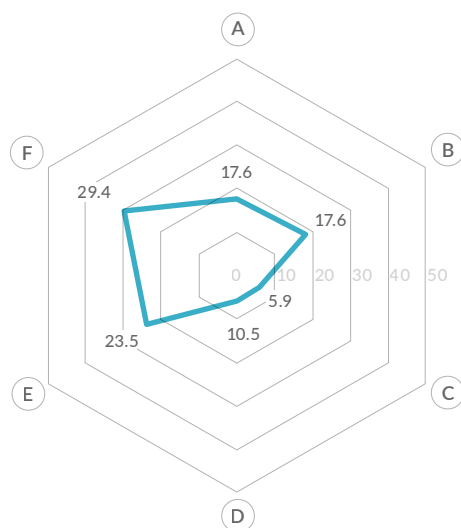


⁶ As explained in the methodological note of Graph 2.22 (as well as in that of Graphs 2.23 and 2.24), the eight countries that were selected have the highest participation in this role and have also implemented more than 10 initiatives.

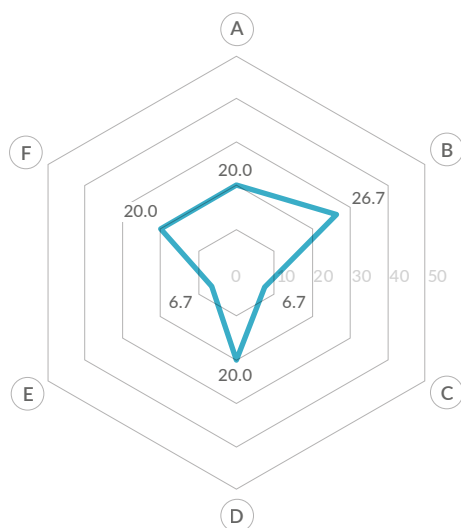
Chile (25)



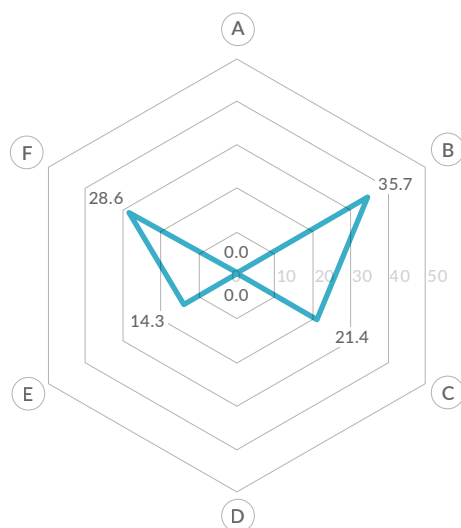
Brazil (17)



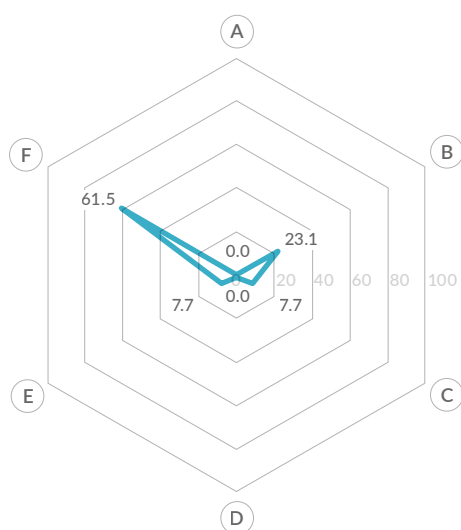
Colombia (15)



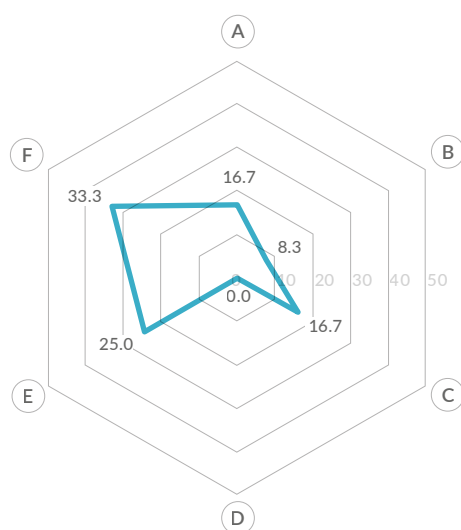
Uruguay (14)



Cuba (13)



Mexico (12)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 first providers, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each first provider is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%, with the exception of Argentina's and Cuba's, which range between 0-100%.

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

In this sense, Graph 2.22 suggests the coexistence of different profiles among the main first providers, depending on the area of action that was prioritized (social or economic) and the degree of specialization or diversification within these areas. Thus, through Triangular Cooperation, Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay mainly transferred economic-related capacities; while Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba focused on the Social area. Among these, Argentina and Cuba also showed a highly specialized profile in a single area, which contrasts with the diversification of the strengths of the rest of the first providers.

Specifically, Costa Rica dedicated most of its cooperation (nearly 40% of its initiatives) to transfer capacities in the Productive sectors area, mainly through the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* sectors. This country also had the opportunity to share its recognized experience in terms of *Environment*.

Colombia's and Uruguay's Triangular Cooperation (26.7% and 35.7% of their exchanges in this role, respectively) also prioritized the economic area, in this case focusing on supporting the generation of Infrastructure and economic services. The experience in *Employment* and *Enterprises* was noteworthy in Colombia's case, while Uruguay's initiatives stood out in terms of *Science and technology*. Colombia's Triangular Cooperation was also

diversified in the following sectors: *Education*, *Peace, public and national security and defense*, and *Culture*. Uruguay, in turn, placed emphasis on *Health and Environment*.

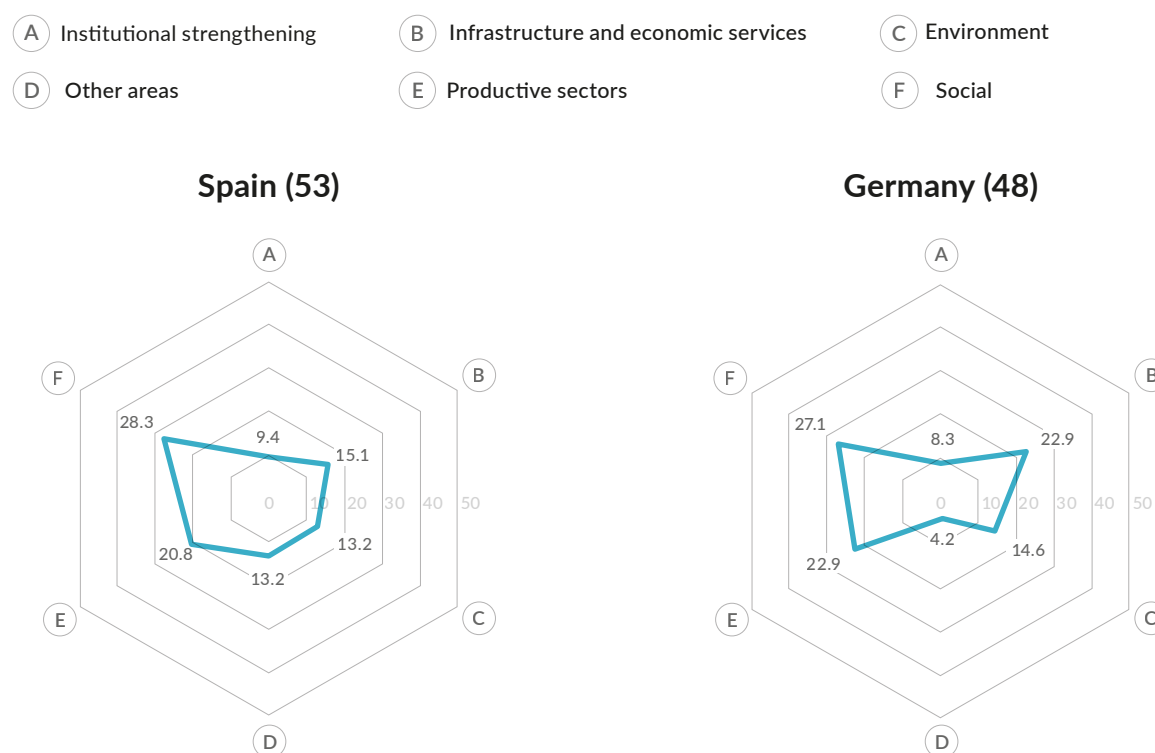
On the other hand, approximately one third of the Triangular Cooperation in which Chile, Brazil and Mexico participated as first providers was aimed at addressing Social issues. In the cases of Chile and Mexico, the profile is determined by their respective experiences in the *Other services and social policies* sector. Chilean cooperation also supported *Environment* and *Disaster management*, while Mexico's capacity in *Tourism* was of particular importance. In contrast, Brazil's Social initiatives were diversified in a wide range of sectors (*Education*, *Health*, *Water supply and sanitation* and *Other services and social policies*), *Agriculture and livestock* being the one that actually concentrated the largest number of exchanges in this country's cooperation.

Argentina's and Cuba's Triangular Cooperation as first providers deserves a special mention due to its high level of specialization. Precisely more than half of the exchanges in which Argentina participated were aimed at strengthening the Productive sectors area, while the initiatives that Cuba dedicated to support the Social area were over 60% of its total. These profiles are based on the recognized experiences of Argentina in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector (specifically, in beekeeping), and of Cuba in *Health*, especially in biotechnology applied to medicine.

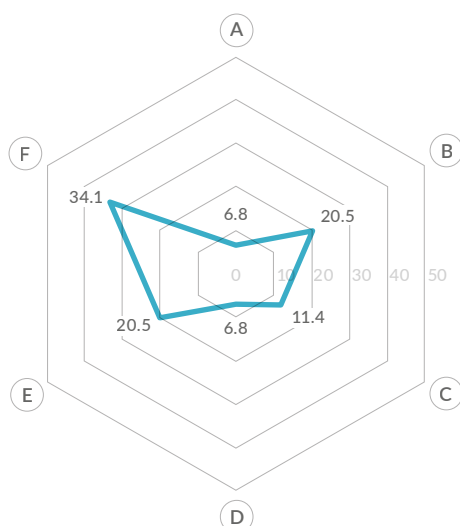
// Graph 2.23

Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main second providers, by area of action. 2022-2023

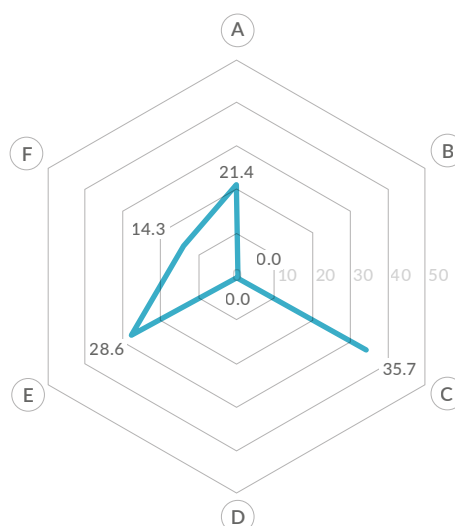
In percentage



European Union (UE) (44)



Japan (14)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 second providers, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each second provider is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%.

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

Graph 2.23 shows that, in 2022 and 2023, Spain's, Germany's and the EU's Triangular Cooperation prioritized supporting the Social area (all of them with more than 40 initiatives). Meanwhile, Japan —with less than 15 exchanges— placed emphasis on Environment. In all cases, the participation ratios of these main areas were in the 25%-35% range, a figure that also suggests the possibility of a significant sectoral diversification.

In fact, almost 30% of the 53 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Spain participated in 2022 and 2023 as second provider sought to support different purposes in the Social area, especially in terms of *Health*, *Other services and social policies*, and *Education*. Another 20% of the exchanges favored capacity transfer in the Productive sectors area, especially in the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* sectors. Other significant experiences of Spanish cooperation strengthened other countries in *Gender equality*, *Enterprises* and the protection of the *Environment*.

A first analysis of the sectoral composition of Germany's Triangular Cooperation, in turn, suggests it prioritized challenges of a Social nature (27.1% of the 48 initiatives in the 2022-2023 period), especially in the *Other*

services and social policies sector. However, when the initiatives associated with the Productive sectors and the Infrastructure and economic services areas are added, it is possible to state that 45% of Germany's total number of exchanges actually served to strengthen its partners' economic situation. In this sense, this country's experience in *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* stood out, as well as in *Energy*, the latter being one of the most important sectors in Germany's cooperation (up to 8 projects).

As Graph 2.23 shows, the EU has a similar profile to Germany's in terms of the areas of action, but its sectoral diversification is different. Indeed, the Social area accounts for 34.1% of the 44 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which the EU participated in 2022-2023 as second provider; but the total associated with economic-related matters rises to 41%. The EU's Triangular Cooperation in these areas is distributed in almost 15 different activity sectors, although the transfer of experiences in *Health* (50% of Social area), *Agriculture and livestock*, *Science and technology* and *Enterprises* (50% of economic-related matters) stand out.



Photo: One of the aims of this SSC project between Peru (INAIGEM) and Ecuador (FONAG) is to monitor research to assess the impacts of the interventions based on the restoration and management of natural grassland and wetland ecosystems implemented in INAIGEM research plots, on the provision of water services. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

Finally, more than one third of the Triangular Cooperation in which Japan participated in 2022 and 2023 as second provider mainly supported the Environment, specifically through its recognized expertise in *Disaster management*. Almost 60% of the 14 initiatives exchanged by Japan are explained when those initiatives related to the *Agriculture and livestock* sector are added.

Graph 2.24 completes the analysis of the profiles of the most dynamic Triangular Cooperation partners in the 2022-2023 period, in this case based on those which stood out as recipients. Once again, the different countries can be grouped according to the relative importance of each area of action in their respective total number of exchanges.

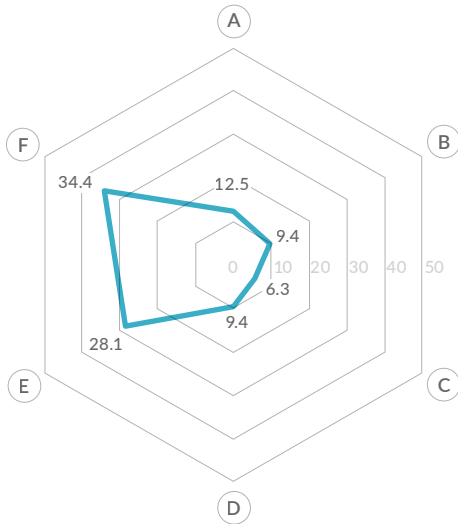
// Graph 2.24

Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main recipients, by area of action. 2022-2023

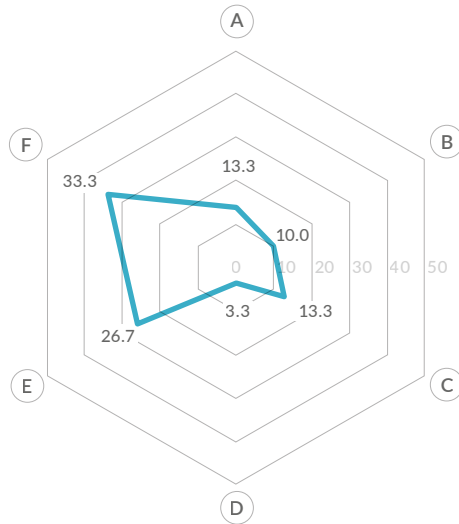
In percentage

- (A) Institutional strengthening
- (B) Infrastructure and economic services
- (C) Environment
- (D) Other areas
- (E) Productive sectors
- (F) Social

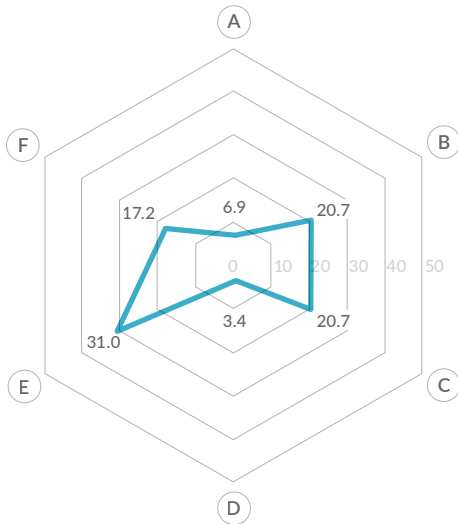
Paraguay (32)



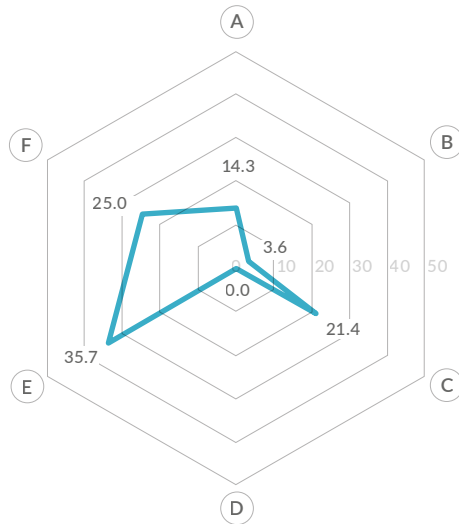
Colombia (30)



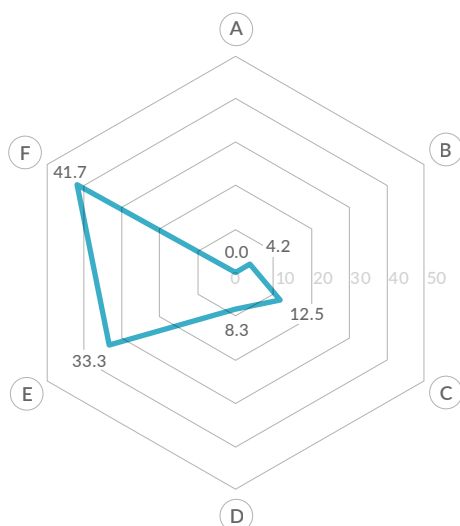
Guatemala (29)



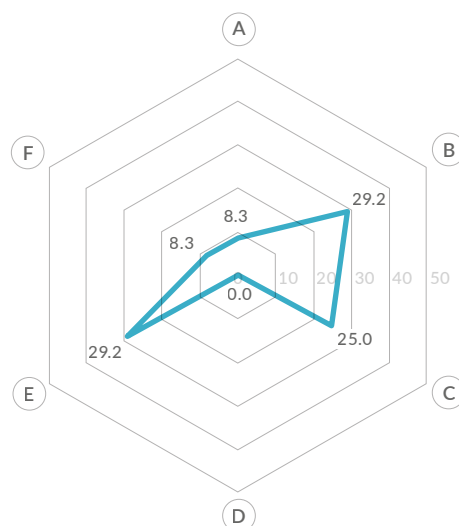
Peru (28)



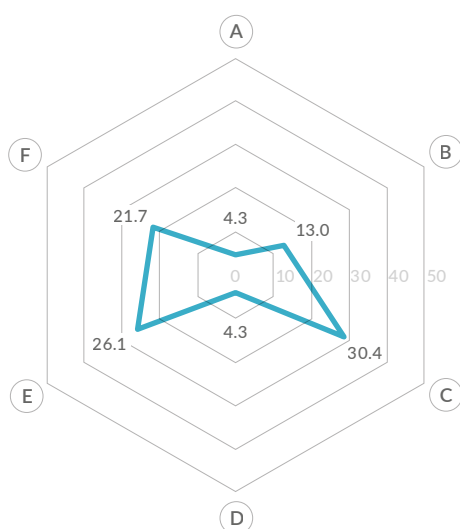
Bolivia (24)



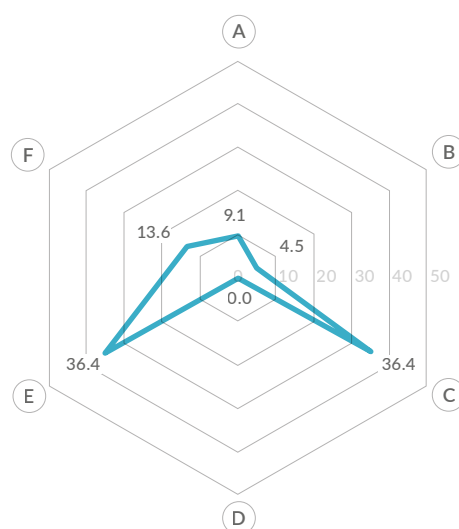
Dominican Rep. (24)



Honduras (23)



Ecuador (22)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 recipients, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each recipient is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%.

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

As Graph 2.24 illustrates, more than two-thirds of the Triangular Cooperation in which Paraguay, Colombia and Bolivia participated as recipients enabled these countries to strengthen their capacities in the Social (34.4%, 33.3% and 41.7% of these exchanges, respectively) and Productive Sectors (28.1%, 26.7% and 33.3%, respectively) areas. The *Agriculture and livestock* and *Other services and social policies* sectors were decisive in these profiles. The initiatives that aimed at improving *Water supply and sanitation* were also relevant for Bolivia.

Meanwhile, between 30%-35% of the nearly 30 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Guatemala and Peru participated as recipients strengthened the Productive sectors area, especially through those classified in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector. The rest of their respective exchanges were very dispersed, but Guatemala received cooperation in *Employment* and *Disaster management*, while Peru strengthened its capacities in the *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Environment* sectors.

The Productive sectors area is also the most important for the Dominican Republic and for Ecuador, accounting for around 30% and 36%, respectively, of the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives received by each of them. In both cases, this participation percentage is equal to that corresponding to Infrastructure and economic services, in the Dominican Republic's profile (closely followed by Environment); and to Environment, in Ecuador's case. Thus, the two countries share the reception of significant support in *Agriculture and livestock*, but also in *Environment* and *Disaster*

management. In the case of the Dominican Republic, the *Science and technology* and *Employment* sectors stand out, and *Tourism* is more significant for Ecuador.

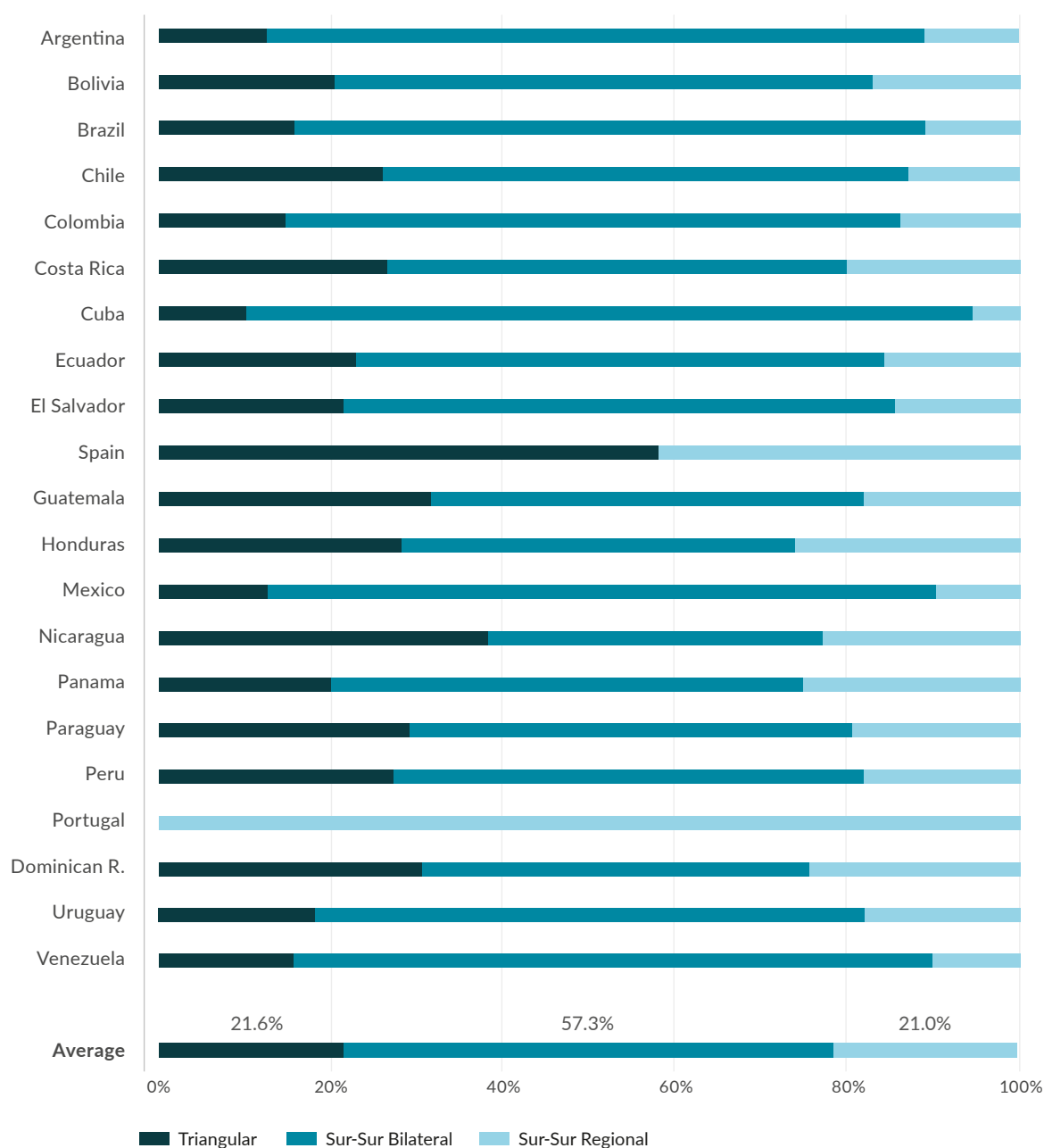
Finally, 75% of the Triangular Cooperation in which Honduras participated as recipient in 2022 and 2023 focused on (in order of relative importance) the Environment, Productive sectors, and Social areas. In terms of sectors, this country strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*, *Energy*, *Environment*, *Disaster management* and *Water supply and sanitation*.

// Graph 2.25

Weight of Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC and Regional SSC in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, before and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda. 2007-2014 and 2015-2023

In percentage

A. 2007-2014



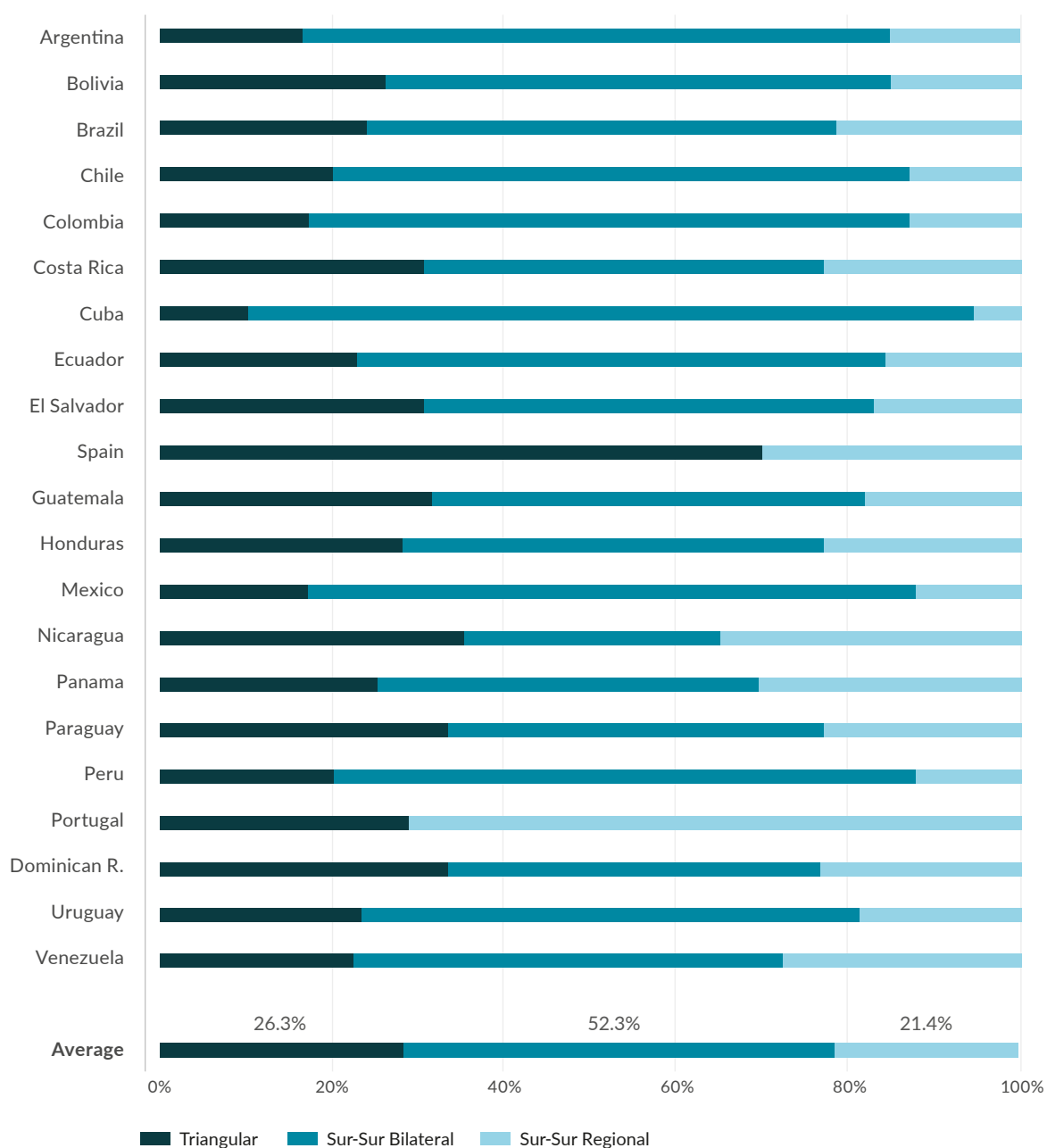
2.4

Triangular Cooperation in 2022-2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals

As it was previously mentioned, the approval of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 recognized Triangular Cooperation as a means to advance the implementation

of Sustainable Development through partnerships with an growing and diverse number of stakeholders. Since then, the commitment to Triangular Cooperation as an instrument for development has been reflected in an increase of this modality's relative importance in terms of the total number of exchanges carried out by the region in the three modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space. At least this is suggested by the combined analysis of Graphs 2.25 and 2.26.

B. 2015-2023



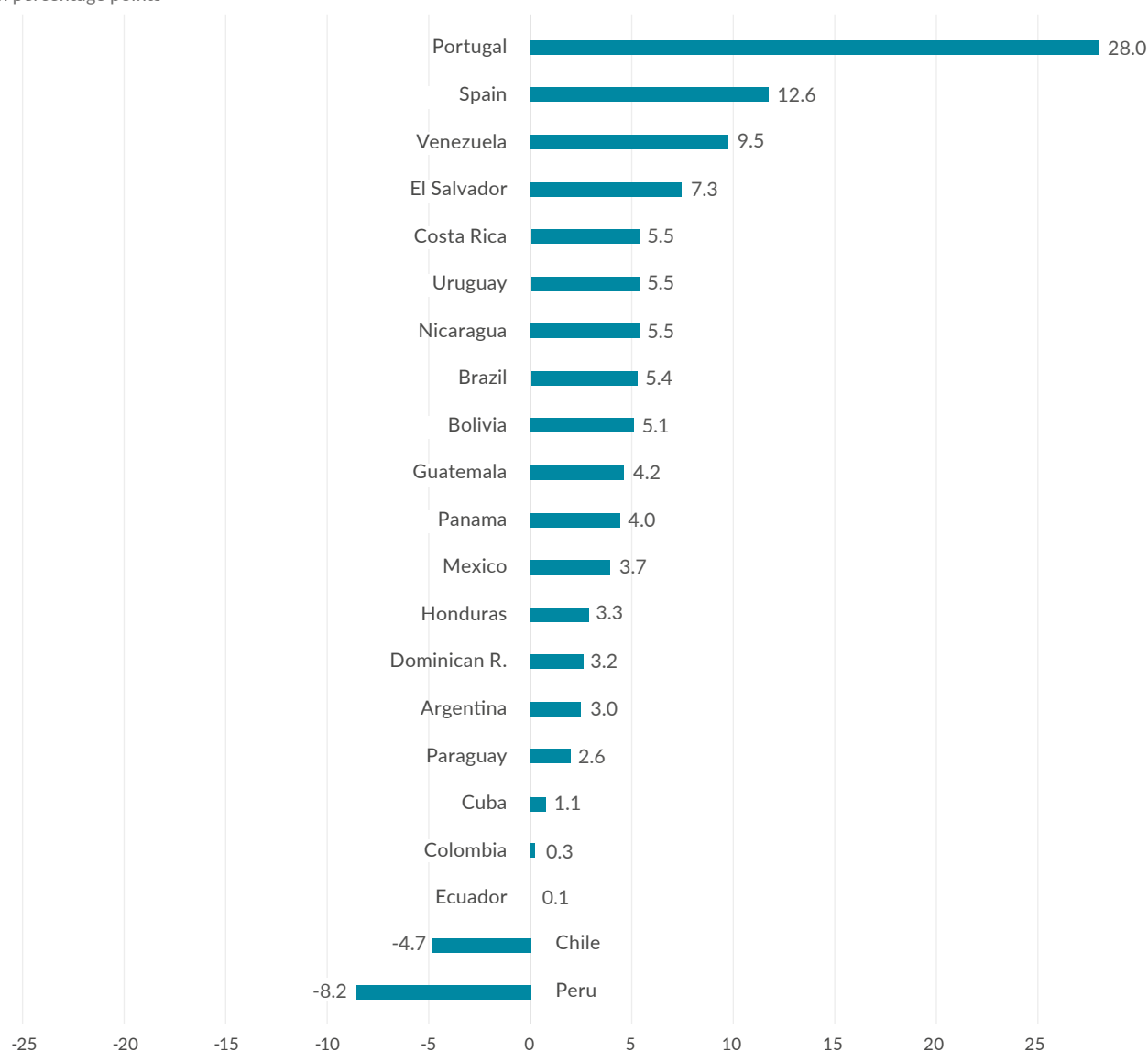
Indeed, Graphs 2.25 A and B show the distribution of the initiatives in which each Ibero-American country participated in the framework of Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC or Regional SSC, before (2007-2014, 2.25 A) and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda (2015-2023, 2.25 B). The contrast between the two periods shows the variation of Triangular Cooperation's relative importance in the total number of initiatives exchanged. This difference, expressed in percentage points, is detailed in Graph 2.26, in which countries are arranged from highest to lowest, according to this variation.

The combined examination of both graphs confirms that, after the approval of the 2030 Agenda, Triangular Cooperation has gained importance in the total number of Ibero-American countries' exchanges to the detriment of Bilateral SSC, which has tended to be displaced. This increase is close to 5 percentage points on average for the region. In addition, and as the graphs show, almost all countries have a positive variation in terms of Triangular Cooperation's share, ranging from the highest levels of Portugal and Spain (28 and 12.6 percentage points, respectively) to the

// Graph 2.26

Variation in Triangular Cooperation's weight in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, before and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda. 2007-2014 and 2015-2023

In percentage points



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

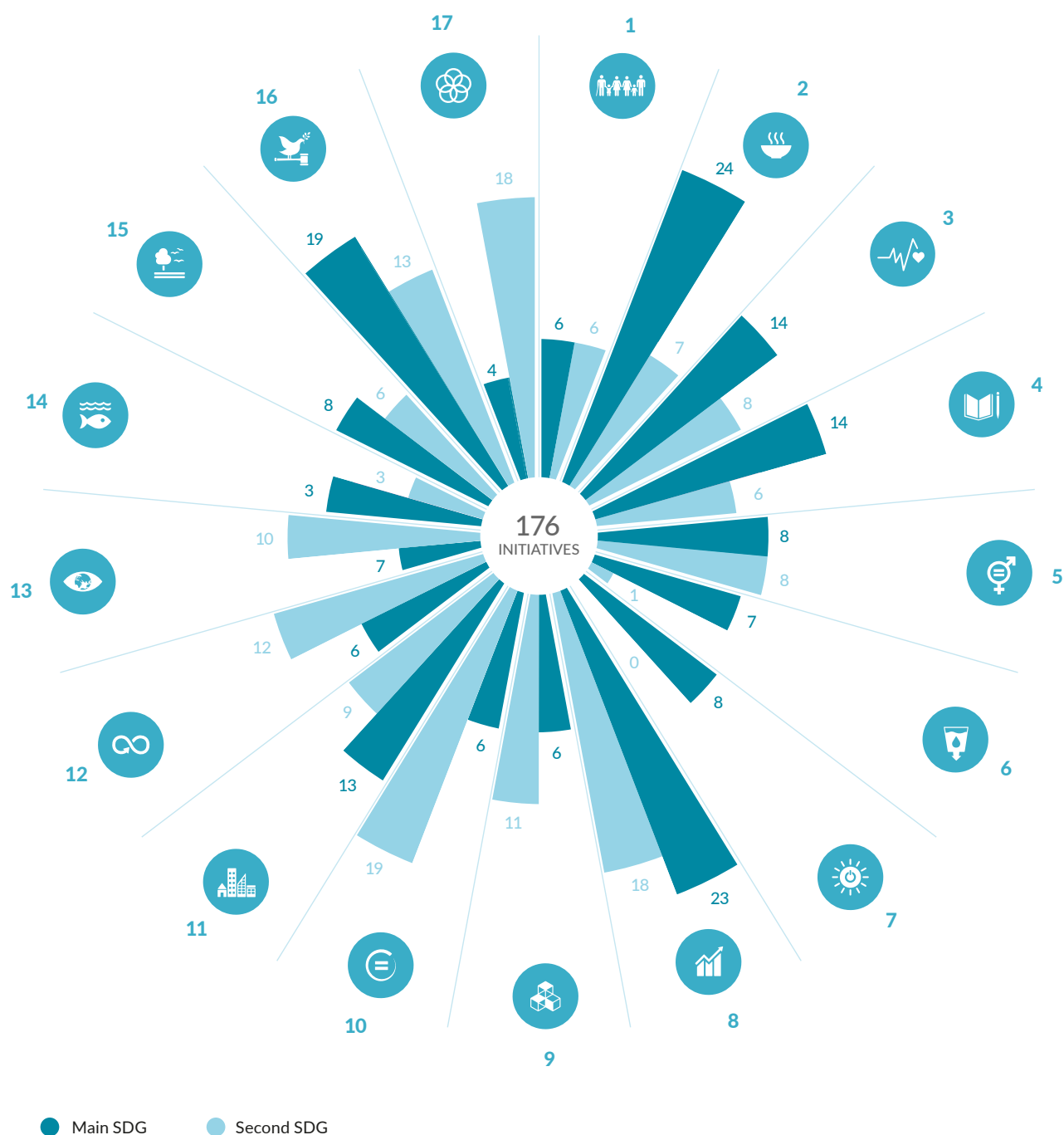
lowest figures in Ecuador's and Colombia's cases (both below one percentage point). Chile and Peru are the only exceptions since, in recent years, their Bilateral SSC has been particularly dynamic, gaining importance to the detriment of Triangular Cooperation, which still remains strong, its shares being above the 20% threshold.

In this context, it is also important to consider the way in which Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation during the 2022-2023 period could have contributed to the region's commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve Sustainable Development. Graph 2.27 shows the distribution of the 176 initiatives that were carried

// Graph 2.27

Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, by their potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2022-2023

In units



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



Photo: Technicians and scientists from Brazil and Colombia exchanged experiences on animal welfare, environmental education and participatory conservation. Through SSC, these countries also aim to strengthen the social role of zoos as a key element to raise awareness of biodiversity and the importance of existing ecosystems, contributing to environmental preservation. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

out during these two years according to their potential alignment with one main Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and with up to two second SDGs.

Thus, the analysis of the initiatives according to the main SDG with which they are potentially aligned reveals multidimensional results, consistent with the sectoral distribution described above. In this sense, and as shown in Graph 2.27, most of the Triangular Cooperation actions and projects executed between 2022 and 2023 (37.5%) were predominantly aligned with three main Development Goals: SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); in all cases associated with 20-25 exchanges, with relative shares above 10%.

The diversification of topics and purposes suggested by the alignment with these SDGs seems to be confirmed when other 41 Triangular Cooperation

initiatives are added to the analysis. This cooperation is understood to be aimed at achieving three other goals that are also dimensionally different: SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 4 (Quality education); and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), all three associated with between 13-14 initiatives, with relative shares between 7.5% and 8% of the total.

The remaining 40% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented by Ibero-American countries during 2022 and 2023 are distributed in up to 11 different SDGs. In this case, it should be noted that the number of initiatives potentially aligned with these other SDGs is in the range of 6 to 8, the highest value corresponding to SDG 5 (Gender equality); SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy); and SDG 15 (Life on land). The only exceptions were SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals); and SDG 14 (Life below water), with 4-3 exchanges each.

Case 2.5 precisely describes an experience that aims to advance SDG 7 in Honduras, through a Triangular Cooperation that promotes the use of solar thermal energy, 100% renewable and non-polluting, in this country's hospital system.



Most of the Triangular Cooperation actions and projects that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period were aligned with three main Development Goals: SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)



Finally, and with reference to the analysis of the “second” SDGs, Graph 2.27 confirms a trend that was also identified in the bilateral modality: some Development Goals, of a more cross-cutting nature, strongly increase their participation when considered second SDGs. This would be the case of SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), which values are 3 and 4 times higher when selected as second SDGs.

Other interesting cases involve SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), on the one hand; and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Climate action), on the other. Most of these goals are the second SDGs in initiatives associated with SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), the main goals to which these would be contributing.

// CASE 2.5

Solar thermal energy and Honduras' progress on the achievement of SDG 7



During the COVID-19 crisis, Honduras' hospital system was strained by an increased energy demand. One option, with multiple advantages, was to promote the use of solar thermal energy. This is one of the most efficient alternatives for the production of domestic hot water (DHW) and heating. In addition, it is a 100% renewable, inexhaustible and free source of energy that does not release toxic or polluting substances (Baxi, 2024).

In this context, an opportunity was identified to implement a Triangular Cooperation project for Honduras (recipient) to take advantage of Panama's experience (first provider)

in the development of an entire solar thermal energy market, supported by Germany's cooperation (through GIZ) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as second providers.

Based on the expertise of Panama's National Energy Secretariat and through UNEP's Regional Office for Latin-America and the Caribbean, three lines of action were proposed. First, review and strengthen the regulatory framework for solar thermal technology in Honduras to promote its implementation. Second, once this was done, provide training for the design and installation of water heating projects. Third and finally, reinforce energy security in the

hospital system by preparing studies to identify potential energy savings and develop pilot projects in emblematic hospitals and in the industrial sector (Project's document, 2020).

In this context, the Honduran Ministry of Health (SeSal in Spanish) selected six hospitals for the installation of solar collectors to meet the demand of hot water for sanitary use by patients in certain prioritized wards (*Energía Estratégica*, 2022). GIZ and UNDP, in turn, contributed to design, equipment acquisition and the installation of the systems in hospitals, reducing costs, optimizing processes and providing greater comfort to patients (*Energía Estratégica*, 2022).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Baxi (2024) and *Energía Estratégica* (2022).



Photo: The Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR by its Spanish acronym) goes from Costa Rica to Ecuador, with an extension of two million square kilometers. Through SSC, Ibero-American countries such as Colombia and Costa Rica contribute to responsible tourism and to the preservation of the biodiversity of these ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022

3 Ibero-America and Regional South-South Cooperation: common challenges, shared solutions

Regional SSC requires bringing multiple and diverse stakeholders together (countries of the South, other regions' countries, and multilateral organizations) to search for shared solutions in the face of common challenges. This capacity to generate partnerships to contribute to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development is certainly one of its great strengths. These associations, and the instruments through which this modality is put into practice, explain the fact that Regional SSC showed a relative resilience during the COVID-19 crisis. Since then, however, this SSC has been on a downward trend that shows no signs of recovery. In this sense, this chapter analyzes Ibero-American Regional SSC in the 2022-2023 period, contextualizing it and identifying the network of stakeholders, instruments

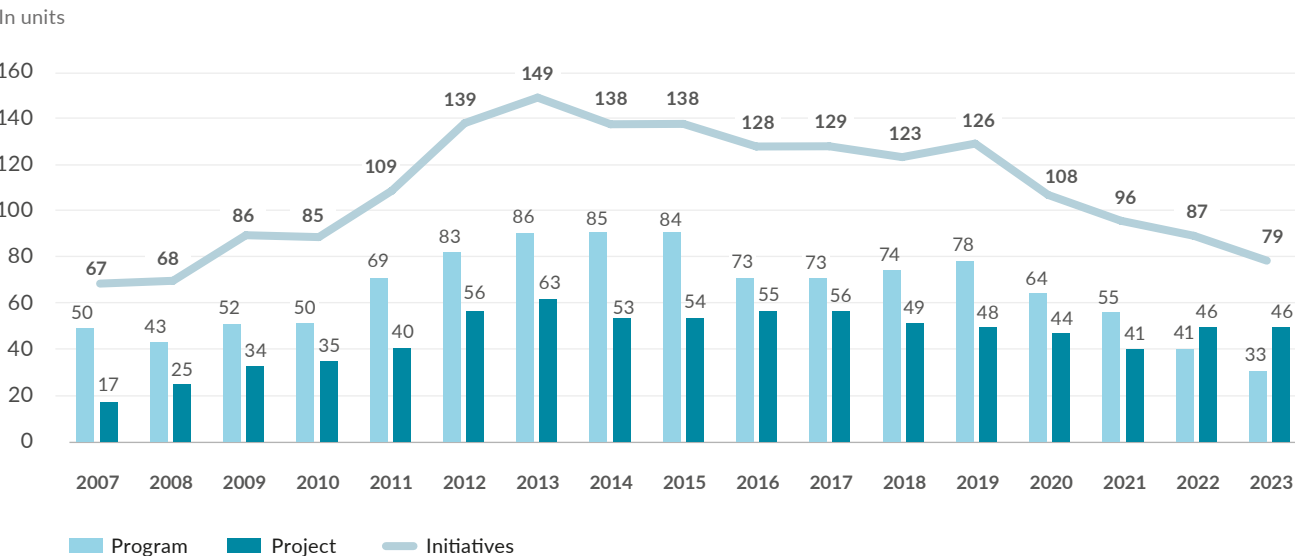
and thematic priorities that enabled this modality to continue to meet its commitment to development.

3.1 Regional SSC in Ibero-America in 2022 and 2023: a context analysis

Graph 3.1 was prepared to analyze the Regional SSC that was carried out in the 2022-2023 period, in the framework of the historical evolution of the exchanges that have taken place in this modality over the last 15

// Graph 3.1

Evolution of the total number of Regional SSC projects, programs and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023



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

years. To this end, the graph shows the total number of Regional SSC projects, programs and initiatives in which Ibero-American countries have annually participated since 2007 to 2023. A first approach suggests the succession of different stages of opposite sign: the sharp increase registered between 2007 and 2013 is followed by a series of declines, strongly intensified after the beginning of the pandemic.

Specifically, between 2007 and 2013, Regional SSC initiatives had an average growth rate of 15.0%, bringing the final number of exchanges from 67 to an all-time high close to 150. Since then, a series of successive decreases (-2.7% on average per year up to 2019) will severely intensify after the impact caused by the COVID-19 crisis, reaching an average of -11.0% in 2020-2023. As the graph shows, this dynamic pushes the final number of Regional CSS initiatives down to 79 in 2023, a value that is almost one half of the historical maximum registered in 2013.

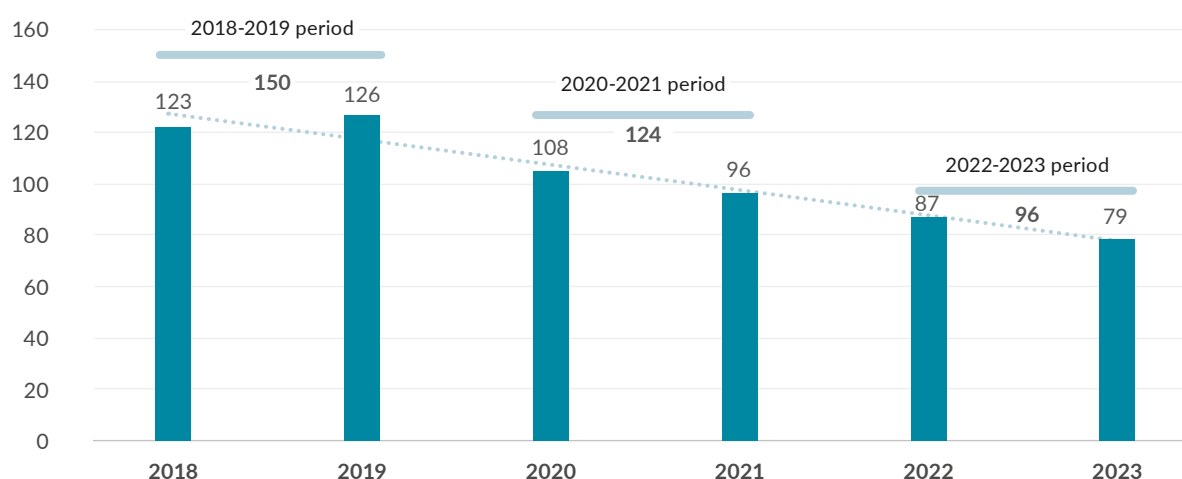
Graph 3.2 reviews this evolution once again, this time focusing on the specific context of the pandemic, between 2018 and 2023, both annually and on a two-year period basis. This enables the analysis of three key periods: before (2018-2019), during (2020-2021) and after the COVID-19 crisis (2022-2023).

Indeed, in Graph 3.2, the trend line that corresponds to the Regional SSC initiatives that were implemented from 2018 to 2023 has a distinctly downward trajectory. The analysis by two-year periods ratifies the above and shows that this tendency even intensifies in the post-pandemic years. In fact, between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021, exchanges fell by -17.3% (from 150 to 124). Meanwhile, from then on and after overcoming the crisis, that figure drops even more (by -22.6%), pushing the final number of initiatives in 2022-2023 to 96, below the threshold of 100.

// Graph 3.2

Regional SSC initiatives implemented in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by year and two-year period. 2018-2023

In units



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

The loss that Regional SSC's relative importance has had in recent years and, specifically, during the 2022-2023 period, is precisely explained when comparing this dynamic with that registered in terms of Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation in the same period. In order to illustrate the above, Graph 3.3 shows the annual evolution of the relative importance of the three modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space in the region's total number of initiatives in the 2018-2023 period. Indeed, the graph was plotted with a double vertical axis so as to better compare them: Triangular Cooperation's and Regional SSC's shares are placed on the left axis —percentages ranging

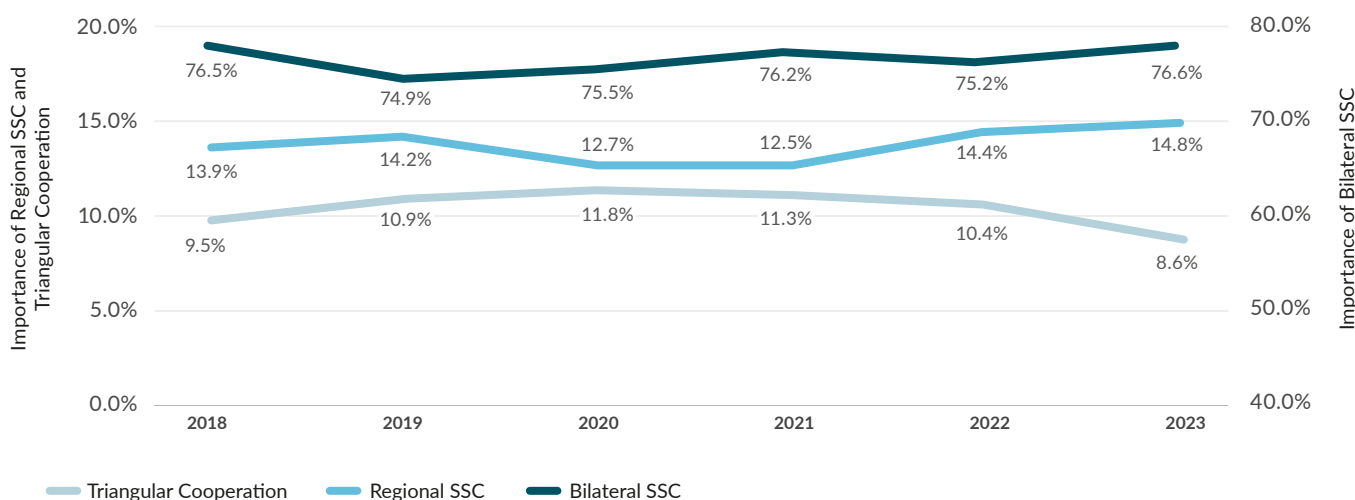
between 0% and 20%—; and Bilateral SSC's is located to the right and ranging between 40% and 80%.

Between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021, exchanges fell by -17.3%; meanwhile, from then on and after overcoming the crisis, that figure drops even more (by -22.6%)

// Graph 3.3

Evolution of the weight of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, in the pre- and post-COVID crisis. 2018-2023

In percentage

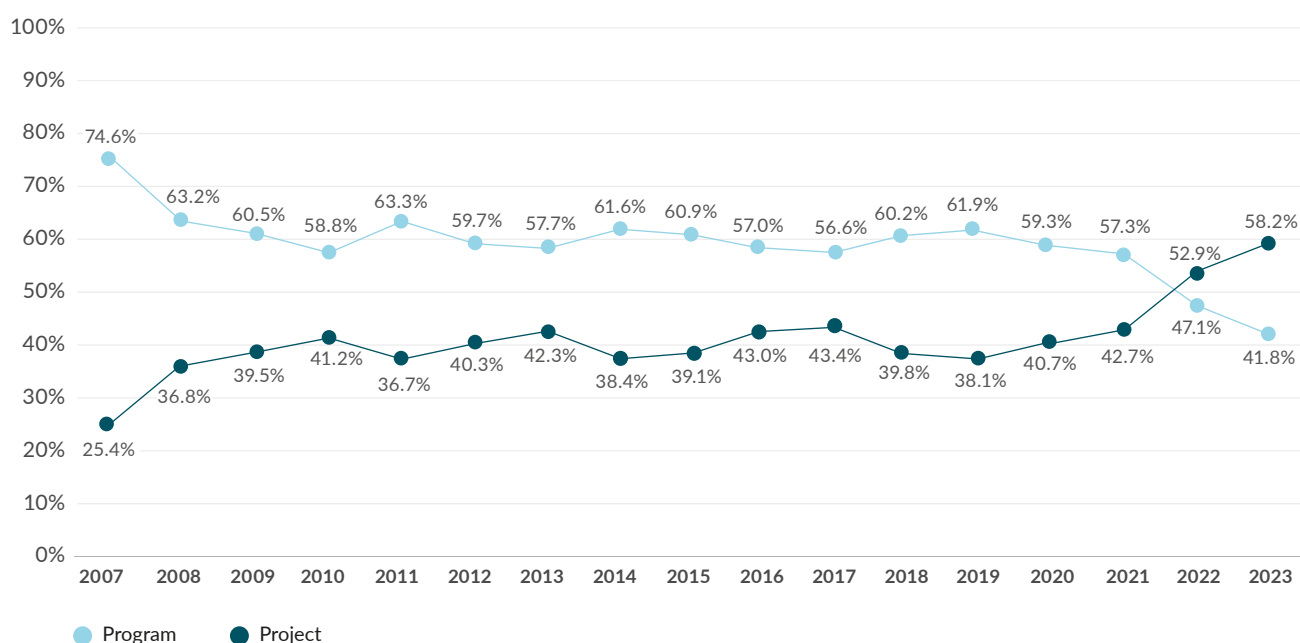


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 3.4

Evolution of projects' and programs' weight in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In percentage



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

Graph 3.3 confirms several trends in this sense. First, the predominance of Bilateral SSC in the region exchanges as a whole, since, in the entire period, this modality has a relative share of over 75%. Second, the graph shows that in the midst of the crisis –and despite the fact that the pandemic had an impact on the three modalities, all

of them having a reduction in the number of initiatives in their framework–, Triangular Cooperation suffered the greatest shock, while Regional SSC held up comparatively better, as shown by an increase in its relative share of nearly two percentage points. Third, and in contrast, Bilateral SSC's and Triangular Cooperation's recovery

(more and less intense, respectively), combined with Regional SSC's remarkable fall, explains the inevitable displacement of this modality, which loses more than 3 percentage points (8.6% of the total), a figure which is even lower than that of the pre-pandemic period.

In short, in 2022-2023, Regional SSC has not only failed to stop the drop caused by the crisis triggered by COVID-19, but also loses relative importance in the region's exchanges as a whole, where it is displaced by the Bilateral and Triangular modalities, especially by the latter. It should be added that this dynamic also takes place in the context of an increasing discontinuation of some Regional SSC programs which, since 2020, have been successively falling, on an annual average close to -20.0% (see Graph 3.1). Meanwhile, projects decreased in the pandemic, but recovered during 2022 and 2023. This contrast is shown in Graph 3.4, which reveals the evolution of both instruments' annual relative importance in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives implemented in the 2007-2023 period. As can be seen, the programs-projects' ratio had been remarkably stable until the outbreak of the pandemic (60%-40%). The COVID-19 crisis, however, represents a turning point that completely reverses this relation in favor of projects which, by the end of 2023, already account for 6 out of 10.

3.2

Partners and associations for development in the framework of Regional SSC

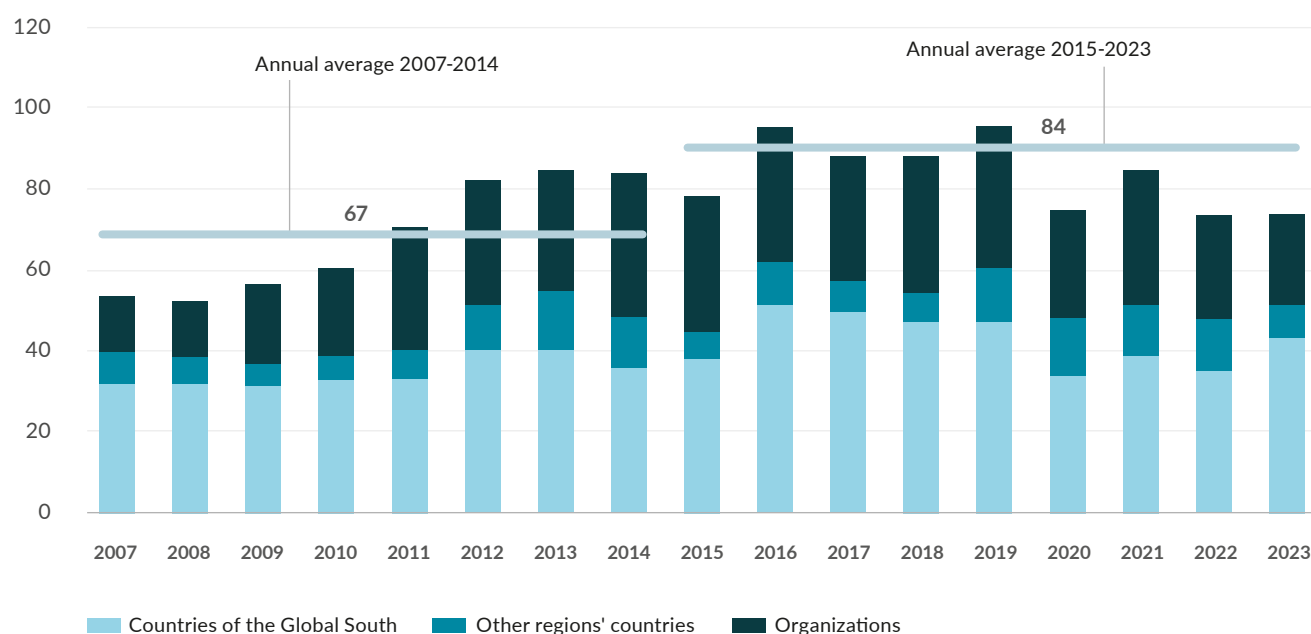
As Triangular Cooperation, the Regional modality has the potential to bring an increasingly larger and more diverse set of stakeholders together and facilitate the generation of partnerships to search for shared solutions to common challenges. In this sense, Graph 3.5 shows the evolution of the number of different partners that have annually participated in Regional SSC in Ibero-America between 2007 and 2023, differentiating between the countries of the South, those of other regions and multilateral organizations.

The graph shows an upward trend in this period, as a result of an increase in the number of stakeholders that participated in this modality before and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda. Thus, the average raises from 67 (2007-2014) to 84 (2015-2023). The evolution of this figure, however, is also affected by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the declining dynamics of the total number of exchanges. In fact, between 2015

// Graph 3.5

Number of different partners (countries of the Global South; other regions' countries; and organizations) that annually participated in Ibero-American Regional SSC initiatives with all partners. 2007-2023

In units



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

and 2019, the number of different stakeholders that —on average— took part in this Regional SSC reaches 89, while dropping to 77 in 2020-2023. Nevertheless, this number is still remarkably high and is even higher than that of the pre-2030 Agenda stage.

The same graph also shows that the importance of the different types of stakeholders has been rather stable. Specifically, in 2015, countries of the Global South were active in nearly 50% of the initiatives; those of other regions participated in 10%; and multilateral organizations were present in just over 40%. In 2023, the most significant change was related to the two main groups of stakeholders, organizations losing certain relative importance in favor of countries of the South (32% and 57% of the initiatives, respectively).

The following section analyzes Ibero-American countries' participation in the 96 Regional SSC initiatives carried out in the 2022-2023 period, as well as that of those of other regions. It also sheds light on the multilateral organizations that participated in their implementation and which, to a large extent, provided

these exchanges with an operational framework that is decisive to understand the partnerships and the shared challenges that were addressed.

3.2.1

Ibero-American countries and other regions' countries in the 2022-2023 period

Graph 3.6 places all Ibero-American countries on a map in which they are associated with a different color. As the number of Regional SSC initiatives in which each country participated during the 2022-2023 period increases, the color becomes more intense. The graph also shows the importance (%) of each partner's exchanges in the 96 programs and projects that the region executed in this modality during those years.

A first analysis reveals Colombia's dynamism, which in 2022-2023, participated in 69 Regional SSC



Photo: The project *Studying lithium carbonate crystallization through advanced analysis and characterization techniques*, between Argentina and Bolivia, aims to improve the yield and quality of products derived from this metal. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

// Graph 3.6

Ibero-American countries' participation in Regional SSC initiatives exchanged with all partners, by number and relative weight in the total. 2022-2023

In units and percentage



Number of Regional SSC initiatives in which each country participated in 2022-2023

● 60 or more ● Between 50 and 59 ● Between 30 and 49 ● Between 20 and 29 ● Less than 20

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

initiatives, accounting for more than 70% of the 96 exchanges. This country is followed by Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico, all of these having implemented more than 50 initiatives.

Meanwhile, approximately 10 countries were involved in between 30-40 Regional SSC projects and programs. This is the case of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic in Central America and the Caribbean; of Ecuador and Bolivia in the Andean region; and of Paraguay and Brazil in the Southern Cone. On the other hand, Honduras,

Nicaragua, Cuba, Venezuela and Spain participated in between 20 and 30 exchanges. The analysis is completed with Portugal and Andorra, which records for this period are below the threshold of 20 initiatives.

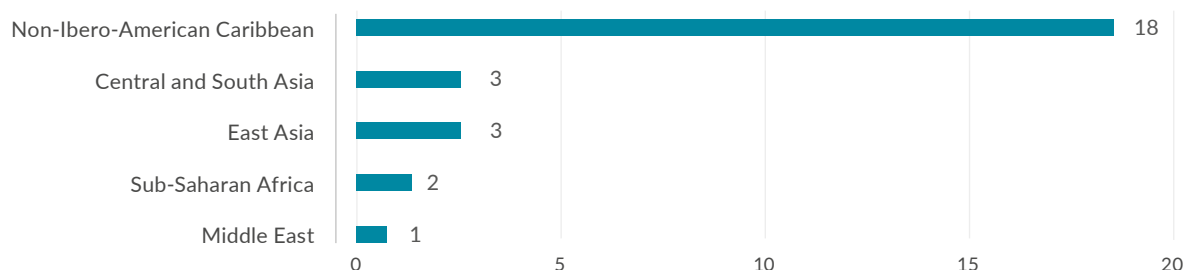
Up to 30 different countries of other regions of the Global South also participated in 22 of the 96 Regional SSC initiatives that were finally carried out in 2022 and 2023. Graphs 3.7 A and B, which detail the number of exchanges implemented by region and by country, illustrate the above.

// Graph 3.7

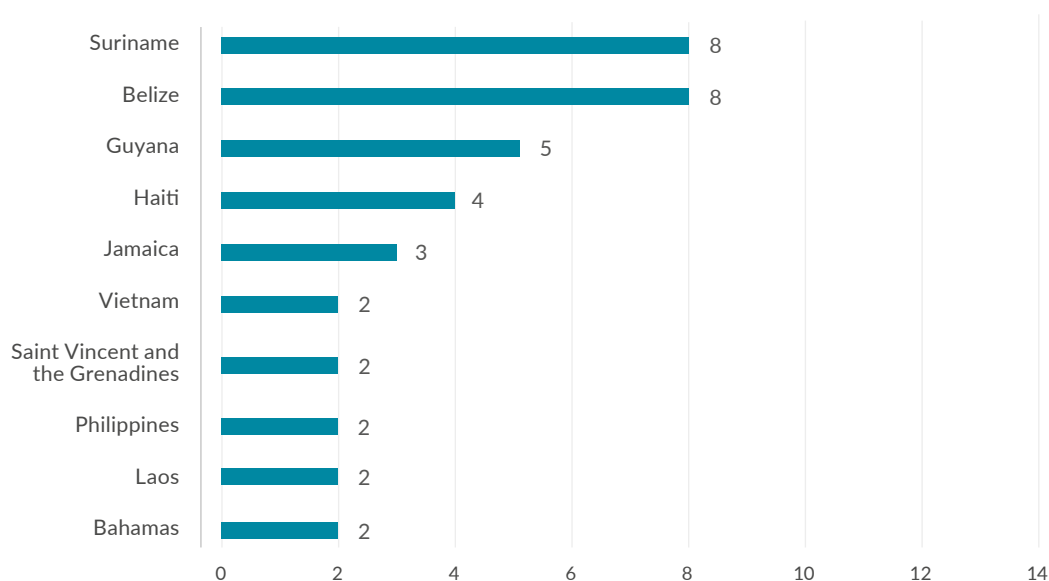
Participation of the Global South in Ibero-American Regional SSC initiatives with all partners, by region and main countries. 2022-2023

In units

A. Regions



B. Countries



Methodological note: The number of initiatives is counted individually for each region and country, and it may coincide in some of these.

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

As both graphs show, partnerships with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean stood out the implementation of these 22 Regional SSC programs and projects, accounting for up to 18 exchanges, in which Suriname, Belize, Guyana and Haiti were particularly active, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bahamas had more specific participations. The associations with Central and South Asia, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East were also less frequent, ranging from 3 to 1 initiatives. In this sense, the participation of Vietnam, the Philippines and Laos, with 2 initiatives, is worth mentioning. Other countries of the Global South which participation was less frequent were Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Tanzania and East Timor, to name a few.

3.2.2 Multilateral organizations, partnerships and instruments

The associations on which Regional SSC is based, the groups of countries that tend to work together, and the topics that were addressed, are closely related to the role played by multilateral organizations in this modality. Their participation is determined by the commitment of several countries to face shared challenges of a very different

nature, especially political, economic, geographic and even sectoral. These stakeholders, with their own supranational and intergovernmental governance systems, often also have instruments to promote cooperation among their member countries. Hence, the analysis of their involvement and the instruments on which Regional SSC is based—which provide it with operational frameworks, financial mechanisms and even define thematic priorities—is key to better understand this modality.

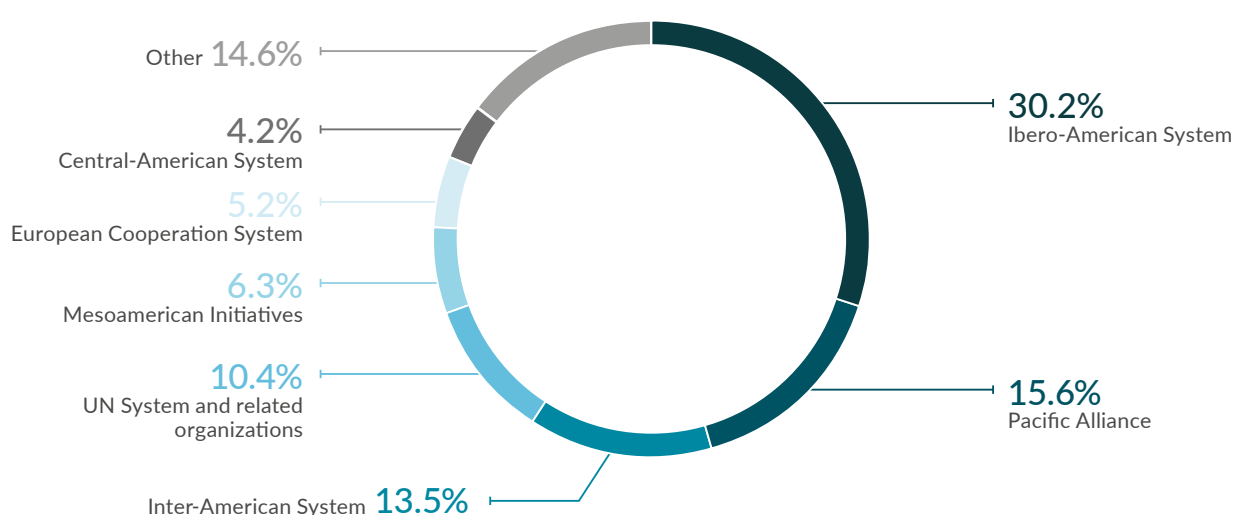
In this regard, Graph 3.8 shows the distribution of the 96 Regional SSC initiatives that Ibero-American countries carried out with all partners during the 2022-2023 period, according to the multilateral cooperation system in which these exchanges took place. These systems are categorized based on the multilateral organizations that are part of them.

The graph shows that 30.2% of the Regional SSC carried out in 2022-2023 is explained by the dynamics of the Ibero-American cooperation System. These initiatives are mainly exchanged between countries that work together to address a common challenge through the promotion of Ibero-American Cooperation Programs, Initiatives and Ascribed Projects (PIPAs by their Spanish acronym), which are always approved in the framework of the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government. In this type of cooperation countries are supported by the organizations that are part of this multilateral

// Graph 3.8

Multilateral cooperation systems' weight in the implementation of Ibero-American Regional SSC initiatives with all partners. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

system, mainly the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) and, more specifically, the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI by its Spanish acronym) and the Ibero-American Organization for Social Security (OISS by its Spanish acronym).

Almost another 30% of the 96 Regional SSC exchanges are explained by the importance of the Pacific Alliance (15.6%) and the Inter-American System (13.5%). In the first case, initiatives were promoted within the Pacific Cooperation Platform, launched in 2011, following the signing of a Memorandum between Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Peru, which sets their operational, financing, coordination, follow-up and thematic framework. Meanwhile, in the Inter-American System, it is possible to identify Regional SSC projects implemented through the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO by its Spanish acronym) and the Regional Public Goods (RPG) Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) also participated in this cooperation on specific occasions.

Meanwhile, 10.4% of the Regional SSC implemented in 2022-2023 is explained by the intervention of the United Nations System and its related organizations. Up to 7 different multilateral organizations participate in these exchanges, often associating with each other and/or with those of other cooperation systems. The Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), as well as several specialized agencies, such as FAO (food and agriculture), UNIDO (industrial development), WHO/PAHO (health) and ILO (labor), should be highlighted in this framework, to which the Global Environment Facility (GEF) must also be added.

Another 10.5% of the Regional SSC in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners in the 2022-2023 period is explained by Mesoamerican Initiatives (6.3%) and the Central-American System (4.2%). These two are connected through their participation in the Central-American Integration System (SICA by its Spanish acronym). Specifically, SICA promotes the Central-American System's Regional SSC through various instruments, while its member countries participate, together with Mexico and Colombia, in the Mesoamerican programs under the Tuxtla Mechanism for Dialogue and Coordination. Another framework, the Mesoamerica Project, completes the map of these 6 Mesoamerican Initiatives.



Almost another 30% of the 96 Regional SSC initiatives that were carried out in 2022 and 2023 are explained by the importance of the Pacific Alliance (15.6%) and the Inter-American System (13.5%)



The European Cooperation System also deserves a special mention (5.2%). Those experiences that in 2022-2023 were supported and/or promoted either by the European Union (EU) or by its member countries' cooperation agencies (AECID or the French Development Agency -AFD by its French acronym) are part of this category. The Spanish Program INTERCOONECTA or AFD's CLIMAT AMSud, which are respectively dedicated to innovation for the strengthening of public policies and to the generation of R&D networks —and even to financing to fight against climate change—, are two examples of the above.

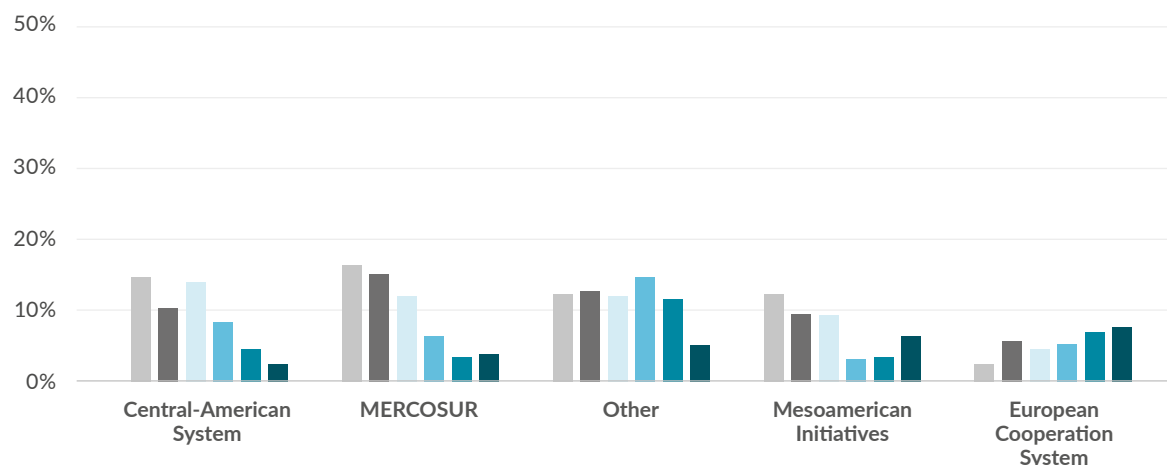
The remaining 14.6% of the exchanges combine the participation of other cooperation systems and its implementation does not follow any specific operational framework. Although these are very diverse initiatives, the specific intervention of some organizations is worth mentioning, for example: the Andean Community (CAN by its Spanish acronym); the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR); the Development Bank of Latin-America (CAF by its former acronym); the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS by its Spanish acronym); the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Union of Universities of Latin-America and the Caribbean (UDUAL by its Spanish acronym), among others.

// Graph 3.9

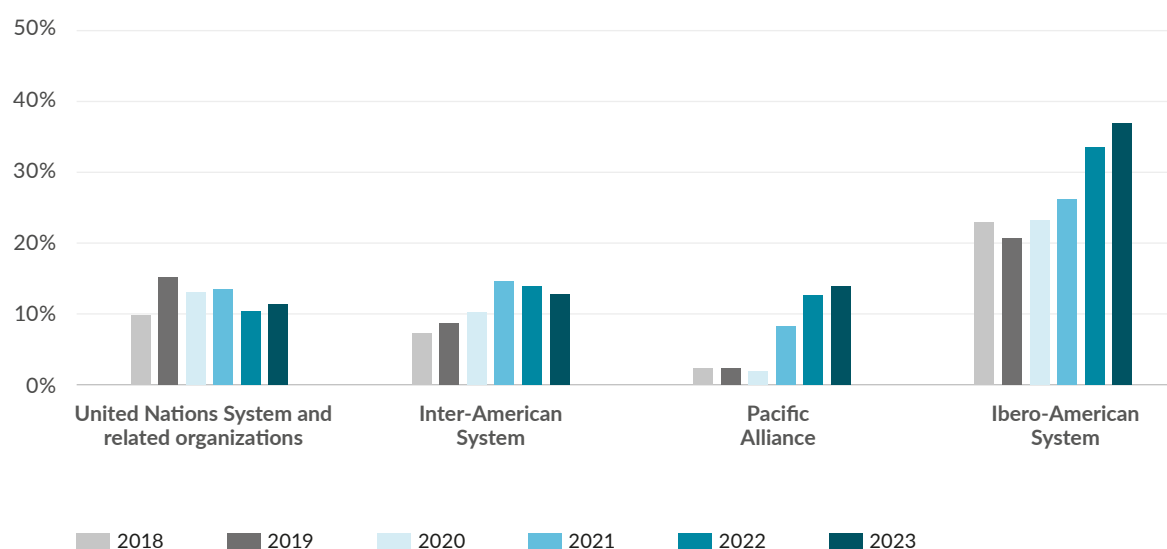
Evolution of the importance of multilateral cooperation systems in Regional SSC initiatives in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by system. 2018-2023

In percentage

A. Systems which relative weight was below 10% of the total in 2023



B. Systems which relative importance was higher than 10% of the total in 2023



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

Likewise, the relative importance of the different multilateral cooperation systems in the 2022-2023 period is determined by the combination of the different impacts that the COVID-19 crisis had on them. Graphs 3.9 A and B, which show the evolution of the relative importance that the main systems have had from 2018 to 2023, were plotted in order to understand

the most significant changes. The first one (3.9 A) refers to those systems which accounted for less than 10% of the exchanges in 2023. The second (3.9.B) makes reference to those which relative importance after the crisis exceeded the 10% threshold.

As Graph 3.9 A shows, in 2018 (before the pandemic), exchanges within the Central-American System, MERCOSUR and Mesoamerican Initiatives had relative shares that were close to or even higher than 15%. The COVID-19 crisis pushes down the number of exchanges in the framework of these systems, causing their importance to be reduced to 2.5%, 3.8% and 6.3% by 2023, respectively. On an aggregate basis, the participation of these systems in Regional SSC falls from 43.1% in 2018 to 12.7% in 2023.

In a context in which Regional SSC has been successively reduced, these systems are displaced in favor of others that are gaining relative importance. Indeed, as Graph 3.9 B shows, the Pacific Alliance, the Inter-American System, and the Ibero-American System were those that increased their participation the most between 2018 and 2023 (from 2.4% to 13.9%; from 7.3% to 12.7%; and from 22.8% to 36.7%, respectively). In fact, this can also

The Pacific Alliance, the Inter-American System, and the Ibero-American System were those that increased their participation the most between 2018 and 2023

be explained by different dynamics: the only framework that has experienced a significant increase in terms of the number of initiatives is the Pacific Alliance (from 3 to 11); meanwhile the Inter- and Ibero-American systems have been significantly resilient (around 10 and 30 exchanges, respectively), a behavior that, in a context of a generalized decline, can only translate into an increased participation.

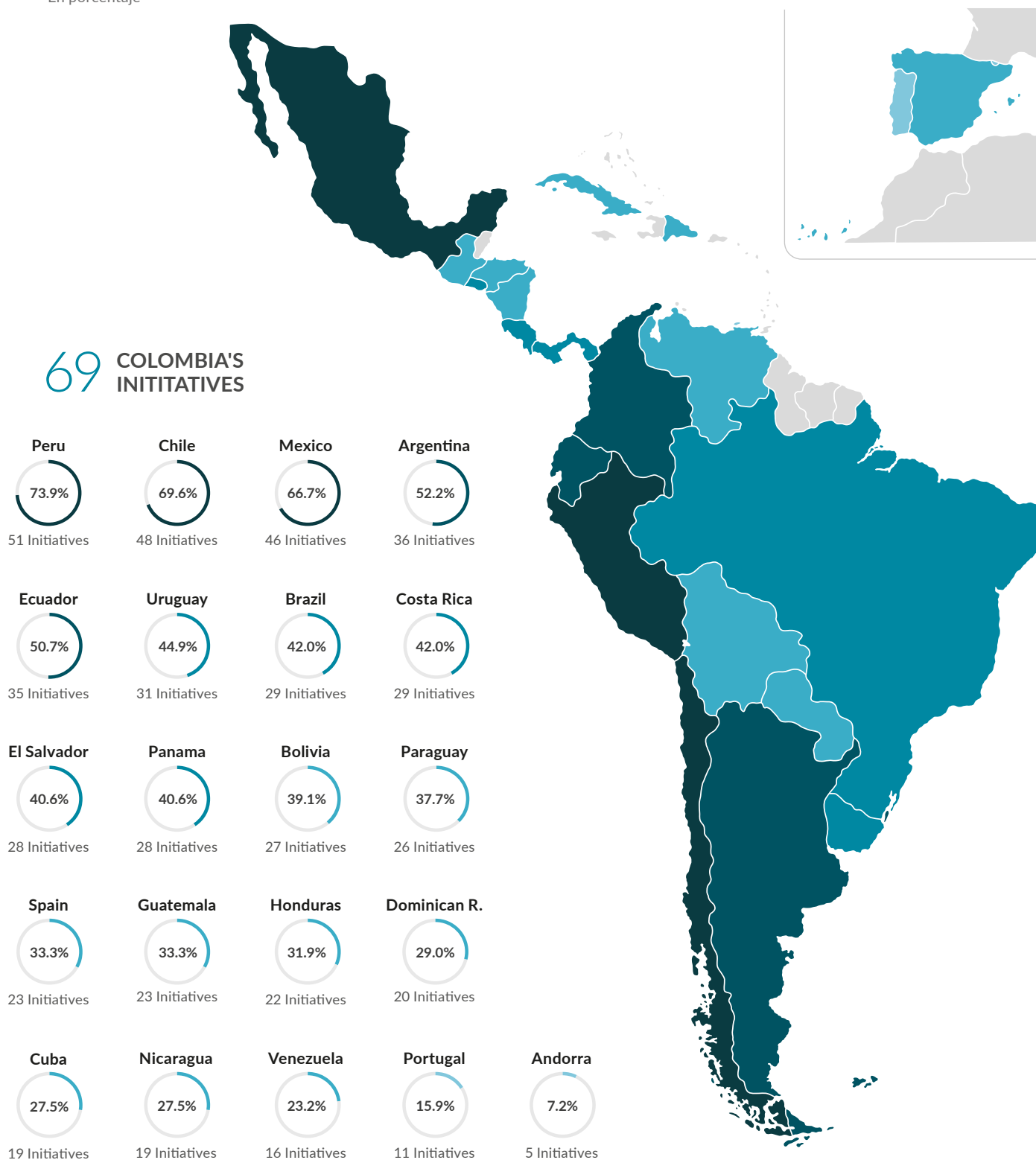


Photo: Students and academics of the University of Morelos work on the sound and audiovisual recording of 100 bird species in order to disseminate the natural heritage of the area and preserve the knowledge of the biodiversity resource of birds in the indigenous communities of San Andrés de la Cal and Coatetelco, Morelos, Mexico. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

// Graph 3.10

Map of Colombia's associations with other Ibero-American countries, by the total number of its Regional SSC initiatives and the weight of each partner in this total

En porcentaje



Weight of Regional SSC initiatives in which the two countries coincide, in the total number of Colombia's initiatives (69 in the 2022-2023 period).

More than 60% 50%-59% 40%-49% 30%-39% Less than 20%

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

Finally, Graph 3.10 was prepared in order to conclude this analysis and illustrate the way in which these dynamics, and being part of these systems, influences countries' relationship profile (their partnerships and their partnerships' intensities). The map shows the number of initiatives in which Colombia (which in 2022-2023 participated in up to 69 Regional SSC exchanges, corresponding to 72% of the total) associated with the other 21 Ibero-American countries. According to the legend, colors' intensity increases when the number of exchanges moves to a higher range of values.

In this sense, the number of initiatives in which Colombia participates is higher when it associates with other countries that are members of the same multilateral system. Hence, more than 60% of the 69 Regional SSC initiatives in which Colombia participated in 2022-2023 were carried out in the framework of the Ibero-American System (40.6%) and the Pacific Alliance (21.7%). Indeed, it is the latter that makes the difference in the map, since the three countries with which Colombia has a higher level of association (in more than 2 out of 3 exchanges) are precisely those which are part of that integration scheme: Mexico, Peru and Chile.

The rest of Colombia's Regional SSC is mainly implemented within the European Cooperation System (8.7%) and the Mesoamerican system

(another 8.7%). It is also based on a variety of other instruments (15.9%), including collaborations in the framework of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN by its Spanish acronym) and the ACTO.

3.3

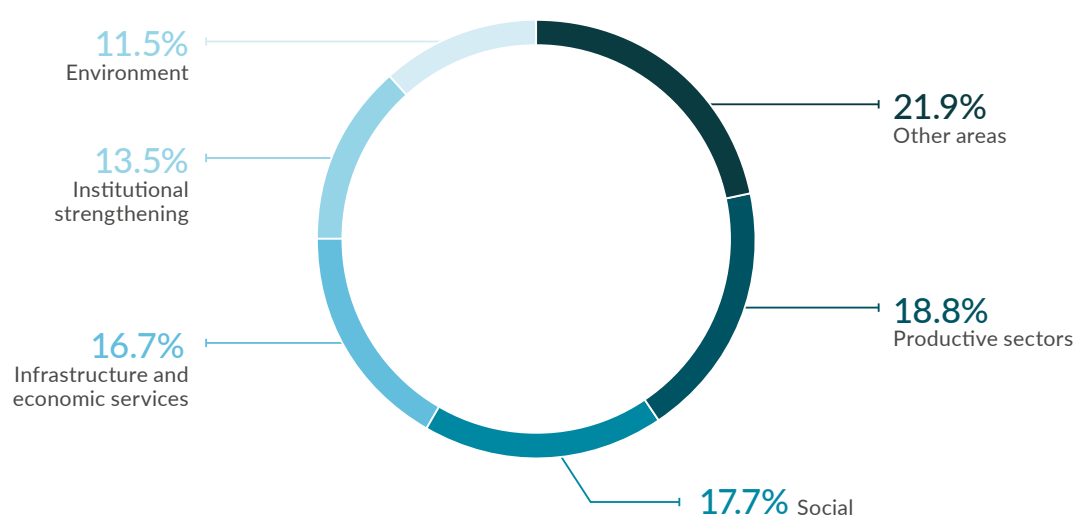
Sectoral analysis: operational frameworks and thematic priorities

The support provided by multilateral organizations to Regional SSC is also decisive to understand the thematic priorities addressed by this modality, the challenges it faces and the type of solutions it provides. Thus, and in order to understand the above, a sectoral analysis of the initiatives that were implemented in this modality in the 2022-2023 period is developed. This examination is carried out from a double and complementary perspective: first, in terms of all the exchanges that took place in the period; and second, in terms of the initiatives that were exchanged in the framework of the main multilateral cooperation systems. This enables a correlation between these and the priorities that were addressed.

// Graph 3.11

Distribution of Ibero-American Regional SSC initiatives with all partners, by area of action. 2022-2023

En porcentaje

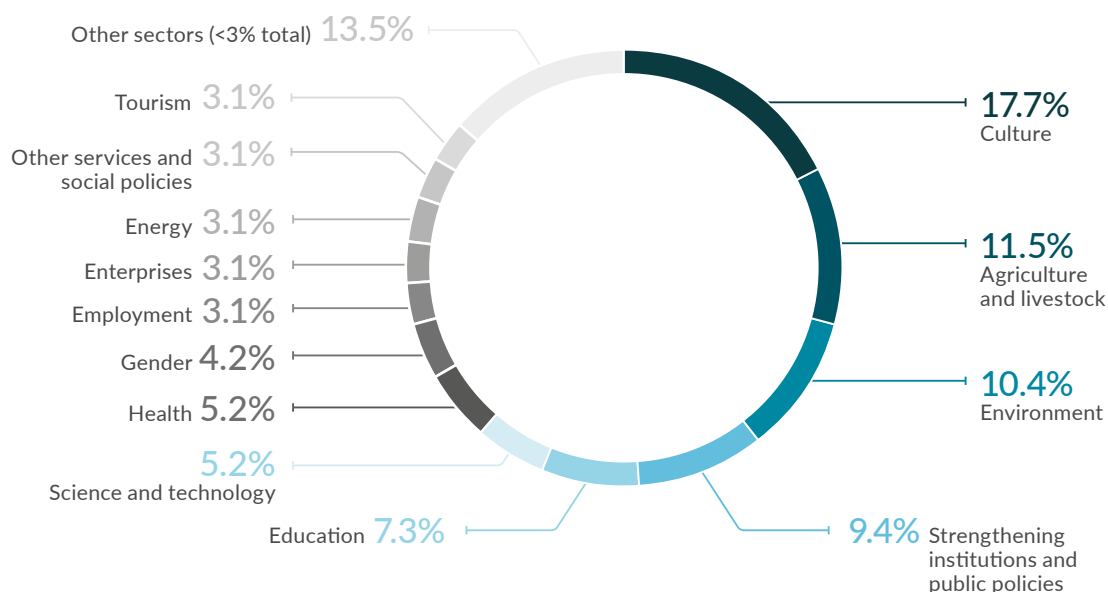


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 3.12

Distribution of Ibero-American Regional SSC initiatives with all partners, by activity sector. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

Indeed, Graphs 3.11 and 3.12 show the distribution of the 96 Regional SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated in 2022 and 2023, according to the area of action and the activity sector with which they were associated. A combined analysis places *Culture* as the purpose that the highest number of initiatives addressed (17). Meanwhile, 21.9% of the Regional SSC initiatives —mainly classified in *Other areas*—, are explained when the exchanges that aimed to promote *Gender* equality (4) are added to the above.

Agriculture and Livestock (in the Productive sectors area) is the second most important sector, accounting for 11.5% of the total number of exchanges. The rest of the initiatives classified in this area (which aggregate percentage reaches 18.8%) had a more specific nature in the following sectors: *Tourism* —the only one which share exceeds 3%—, together with *Industry*, *Fisheries* and *Transportation and storage*, all below this threshold.

On the other hand, around 10 Regional SSC projects and programs were dedicated to protect the *Environment*. A similar number (9 exchanges) focused on *Strengthening institutions and public policies*. Accordingly, as shown in Graph 3.12, these were the third and fourth most important sectors in this period. However, the fact that the remaining initiatives were rather specific (such as *Disaster Management*, on the one hand; and *Peace, public and national security and defense*, on the other), explains that the Environment and Institutional strengthening areas are, according to Graph 3.11, those with the least relative importance during these years (11.5% and 13.5%, in each case).



Agriculture and Livestock is the second most important sector, accounting for 11.5% of the total number of exchanges in the 2022-2023 period



Additionally, Graph 3.12 shows how, following *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, the distribution of Regional SSC initiatives in which Ibero-American countries have participated in 2022 and 2023 is dispersed around different sectors which, nevertheless, share two main priorities: the attention to Social matters and the generation of Infrastructure and economic services, two areas which relative importance is, in both cases and according to Graph 3.11, approximately 17%. In the Social area, the Regional SSC that focuses on *Education* (7.3%), *Health* (5.2%) and *Other services and social policies* (3.1%) stands out. Meanwhile, the initiatives that supported *Science and technology* (5.2%), *Employment*, *Business* and *Energy* (3.1% each), should be highlighted in the framework of economic purposes.

Finally, as mentioned at the beginning of this section, a full understanding of the thematic priorities addressed by Regional SSC must be contextualized considering multilateral organizations' instruments and operational frameworks. In order to make a more detailed analysis,

Graphs 3.13 A-D show the distribution of Regional SSC initiatives that in 2022-2023 were supported by the main multilateral cooperation systems (those that account for more than 10% of exchanges), according to the area action in which they were classified. These are radial/radar charts that have the shape of a hexagon. Each graph has six axes, associated with the different areas of action. The relative importance of the areas is shown by a percentage in this axes, and the connection of the resulting values shapes a figure that defines each systems' priority pattern.

Thus, Graph 3.13 A shows the distribution of the 30 Regional SSC initiatives that took place in the framework of the Ibero-American System. More than half of these (51.7%) are cooperation programs, projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening *Culture* and, specifically, at promoting Gender equality, two of the sectors that are classified in *Other areas*. This analysis is complemented by the support provided by Ibero-American Cooperation to the Social (20.7%) and Institutional strengthening (17.2%) areas (almost 40% of the initiatives).



Photo: Family producers in the Paraguayan village of La Colmena work in the care and reproduction of bees, as well as in the collection, processing and marketing of beekeeping products (honey, pollen, propolis, wax). Through SSC, Paraguay and Colombia contribute to increasing this sector's competitiveness and productivity, ensuring food security for the families that are involved in this activity. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

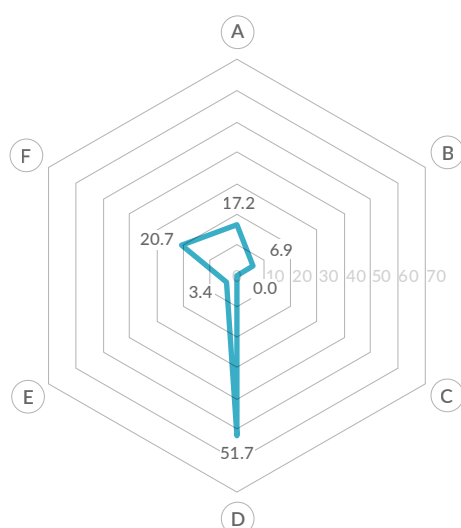
// Graph 3.13

Distribution of Regional SSC initiatives carried out in the framework of the main multilateral cooperation systems, by area of action. 2022-2023

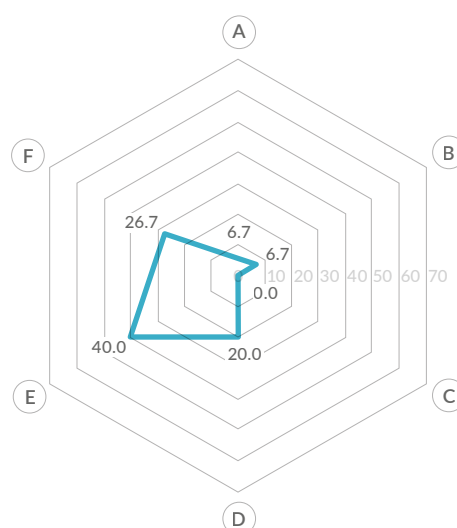
In percentage

- (A) Institutional strengthening
- (B) Infrastructure and economic services
- (C) Environment
- (D) Other areas
- (E) Productive sectors
- (F) Social

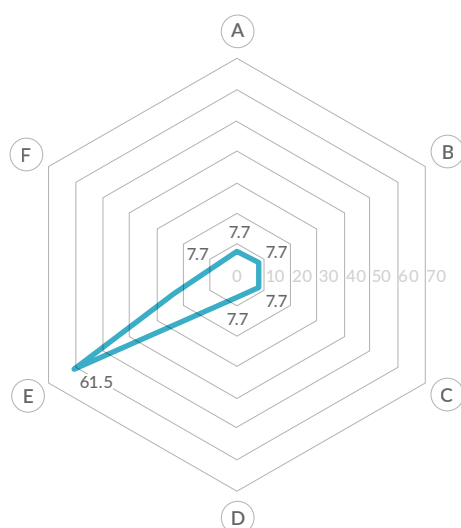
A. Ibero-American System (30)



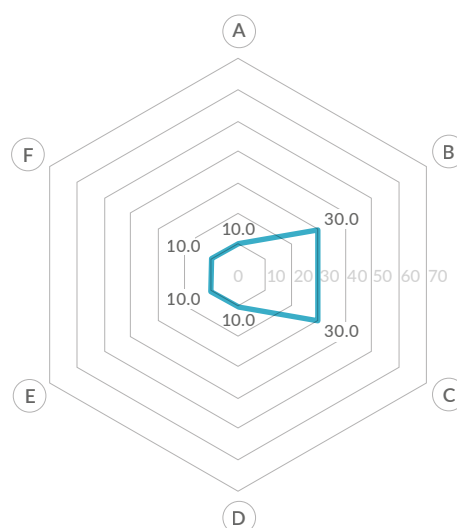
B. Pacific Alliance (15)



C. Inter-American System (13)



D. United Nations System and related organizations (10)



Methodological note: All axes range between 0 and 70%.

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

The above is consistent with the commitments adopted by Ibero-American countries' Heads of Cooperation during the 15th Summit held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), in 2016, where the three specialized spaces were created

(Culture, Social Cohesion and Knowledge). In fact, and as stated in the Operating Manual of this cooperation, Ibero-America is committed to these areas in order to "turn culture into a cross-cutting axis of development"; "support

social programs and policies to achieve more inclusive societies"; and "transform Higher Education, research and innovation to provide higher quality services and goods, and improve the region's competitiveness" (SEGIB, 2016; p.8).

Therefore, the thematic priorities that are addressed by the Ibero-American System (Graph 3.13 A) are aligned with these purposes and have a correlation with the Regional SSC that was carried out in the 2022-2023 period. Two experiences that were recently promoted were selected to illustrate the aforementioned: the Ibero-American

Institute of Indigenous Languages Initiative (IIALI by its Spanish acronym) and the Ibero-American Program on Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development. The former, detailed in Case 3.1, promotes the cultural and linguistic rights of indigenous societies from an approach that, combining traditional uses and new technologies, contributes to greater social inclusion. The latter, described in Case 3.2, supports values education as a means to advance sustainable development, providing regional and global citizens—as key stakeholders in this process—with tools to face the challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

// CASE 3.1

Ibero-America's commitment to advance the promotion and preservation of indigenous languages



According to the report *The Revitalization of Indigenous Languages*, more than 500 of the languages that are still spoken in Latin-America face some kind of threat. This, in turn, represents a risk even to the existence of indigenous peoples (IIALI, 2024a).

The Initiative Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages (IIALI by its Spanish acronym)—approved in 2021, during the 27th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Andorra—seeks to promote the use, preservation and development of the indigenous languages that are spoken in Latin-America and the Caribbean (LAC), supporting indigenous societies and States in the exercise of cultural and linguistic rights (SEGIB, 2024). Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico are part of this Ibero-American Initiative, which also has Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru as observer countries. IIALI's Technical Unit is managed by the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin-America and the Caribbean (FILAC by its Spanish acronym), an international public law organization—created in 1992 during the 2nd Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Madrid (Spain)—that has been supporting indigenous peoples' self-development processes for more than 30 years.

Thus, the Institute provides technical support in the "design and implementation of linguistic and cultural policies for indigenous peoples and (facilitates) informed decision-making on the use and vitality of their languages" (OEI, 2022). This Institute officially began its work in February 2022 and, since then, it has developed several processes and steps to achieve its goals. Specifically, different initiatives have been developed in 2023 and 2024, such as the Trinational *Kukama* Project in the Amazon or the Multinational *Qhapaq Ñan* Project for cultural and linguistic revitalization in the Andes, through innovative means such as art and technology.

Technical assistance was also provided to the Central-American Integration System (SICA by its Spanish acronym) to design the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Additionally, IIALI contributed to the preparation of the Latin-American Atlas of Indigenous Languages in Danger and the Laboratory on the Vitality and Use of Indigenous Languages in LAC (IIALI, 2024a).

In April 2024, the Atlas of Indigenous Languages in Danger began its implementation in the Bolivian Amazon, the results of which would be available

in early 2025. In addition, actions were carried out to launch the *Saq B'e* Project—with five Mesoamerican countries—, which revalorizes indigenous child-rearing patterns and highlights the role of indigenous mothers in preserving the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, wisdom, culture and language.

A series of regional and international meetings were held—apart from the aforementioned projects—, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders. For example, high-level government authorities of Guatemala, together with the Directors of UNESCO and OEI in that country, carried out a working visit to promote intercultural bilingual education, cultural and linguistic revitalization and intercultural health. Additionally, the event *Native Languages: Protectors of the Thought and Memory of the Peoples* was held in Bogotá in order to highlight the role of indigenous languages in the fight against racism and discrimination. In this activity, IIALI's Coordinator, highlighted the role that second and third generation youth are playing by using information technologies to strengthen their languages, recover them and even teach them (IIALI, 2024b).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation and the Initiative Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages (IIALI, 2024a) (2024b), OEI (2022) and SEGIB (2024).

// CASE 3.2

Values education as an instrument to advance Sustainable Development



In the framework of the 27th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Andorra in 2020, the countries of the region approved the Ibero-American Program on Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development (CGpDS by its Spanish acronym), which objective is to contribute to raise Ibero-American citizens' awareness of their role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on a global scale (SEGIB, 2021a).

This Program places educational processes at the core, for people to be better prepared to face global problems and to provide answers and solutions to generate the necessary social change to achieve development (SEGIB, 2021b). In addition, it is considered that, in order to advance sustainable

and inclusive development on a global scale, it is also essential to make the interconnection and interdependence between the global and the local levels visible, as well as to promote collaboration and solidarity between individuals and States (SEGIB, 2021b).

Chile, Andorra, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Uruguay, Spain and Portugal have participated as member countries since its constitution. It was launched on December 1st, 2022, at the Municipality of Maldonado (IDM by its Spanish acronym) in Uruguay, with the participation of the Portuguese Presidency, authorities of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI by its Spanish acronym) and representatives of member countries'

cooperation agencies, as well as other government organizations.

Activities began in 2023, through the design of a communication and visibility plan; the preparation of national and regional diagnoses and mappings on CGpDS; and the dissemination of the initiative with other prioritized stakeholders in these countries. In 2024, representatives of the Ministries of Education, Environment and Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Chile and the Dominican Republic had a series of technical meetings with their Portuguese counterparts in Lisbon where Portugal presented its Global Citizenship Agenda.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation and SEGIB (2021a) (2021b).

On the other hand, Graph 3.13 B focuses on the profile of Regional SSC in the framework of the Pacific Alliance. In this case, of the 15 initiatives carried out during the 2022-2023 period, 40.0% aimed to contribute to strengthen the Productive sectors area; 26.7% addressed Social issues; and 20.0% were associated with Other areas. Specifically, this Regional SSC was focused on supporting *Tourism, Education, Other services and social policies, and Gender equality*.

With reference to the *Education* sector, it should be added that one of the most outstanding experiences in the framework of this modality is related to the Student and Academic Mobility Platform of the Pacific Alliance, a scholarship program launched in 2012 which purpose is to contribute to the training of human capital and

to promote academic integration among its member countries. Indeed, scholarships are an important instrument for development which, however, has not been given enough visibility in the framework of SSC initiatives. Accordingly, Ibero-American countries have promoted an exercise to define and characterize the scholarships that are exchanged in the framework of the region's South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as to clearly differentiate them from other instruments (actions, projects and programs). As a result, a conceptual and methodological work has been advanced that will have an impact on the information that will be systematized for the next and subsequent Reports. This process was led by a group of countries (Working Group on Scholarships) and its main outcomes are summarized in Box 3.1.

→ BOX 3.1

Methodological progress on Ibero-American SSC: scholarships as a new type of initiative

In order to prepare the *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America*, the region has promoted a process to collectively define a conceptual and methodological framework for this cooperation, based on consensus. This process, in which each and every Ibero-American country participates, is continuously being reviewed and progress is being made always considering both technical and political features. The resulting agreements have enabled the definition of several aspects, for example: the three SSC modalities that are systematized in this document (Bilateral, Triangular and Regional); the type of initiatives that are implemented (actions, projects, programs); and the 30 activity sectors in which they are categorized. Through this process, the region has also designed a methodology that facilitates the identification of the alignment of these initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In recent years, Ibero-American countries – together with the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS by its Spanish acronym) and with the technical leadership of SEGIB—, have been working “on a conceptual and methodological approach to (SSC and Triangular Cooperation) scholarships in order to improve their registration and systematization in SIDICSS” and consider them as a new type of initiative (SEGIB, 2024; p. 2).

Scholarships —a cooperation instrument of enormous importance for some countries in terms of their South-South and Triangular Cooperation— were being registered in SIDICSS in a very heterogeneous manner, without a unified criterion that would allow their correct systematization. These experiences were often related to the training of human capital; however, additional information was not available in order to determine if these were actually scholarships. This could lead to inaccurate interpretations making this instrument impossible to measure. In this context, where the systematization of this powerful cooperation instrument was an important challenge, Ibero-American countries agreed on setting a series of minimum common criteria to approach this type of initiative and make its importance in South-South and Triangular Cooperation visible. In line with the above, the exercise promoted in the Ibero-American space aimed to make progress on:

- a) A definition and conceptual framework of what is understood to be a South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarship;
- b) An agreement on *how to register them* and on whether to consider (or not) a different approach with respect to other cooperation initiatives (actions, projects and programs);

- c) A consensus on the necessary information that has to be registered on each scholarship's record.

The second step would involve making the necessary changes in SIDICSS for this to be properly uploaded.

Considering all the above, the Ibero-American space began its work to materialize the political mandates (adopted in the successive PIFCSS' Intergovernmental Councils), through a series of technical activities, mainly workshops. The need to promote a specific Working Group on Scholarships was also soon identified, of which Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico have been members since its inception. The following chart details the mandate, activities and main achievements of this Group, which action has been key to provide inputs for the agreements that were finally adopted —collectively and always by consensus—, by the 22 Ibero-American countries.

Continues >>

Working Group on Scholarships: mandate, activities and main achievements (2021-2025)

JULY 2021: PIFCSS INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (VIRTUAL)

The Working Group on Scholarships is officially created and joined by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico.

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2021: WORKING SESSIONS (VIRTUAL)

Session 1. Background presentation: reasons to create this group; main outcomes of the first workshop held in Panama City, in 2018; goals; roadmap.

Session 2. Each country made a presentation on the following aspects:

1. Institutional framework on scholarships (especially in the framework of Cooperation Agencies and Directorates-General).
2. Elements that define a scholarship.
3. Information associated with a scholarship.
4. Scholarships' operational framework.
5. Particular features/changes as a consequence of the impact of the pandemic.

Similarities and differences were identified in terms of countries' different approaches. This was key to define the main aspects that should be considered when working on a regional conceptualization of South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarships.

Session 3. Guest countries (Spain, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic) were invited to make a presentation of the same aspects that were addressed in session 2.

Session 4. The main outcomes of sessions 2 and 3 were presented. The group identified a series of questions to make progress on a definition of this type of scholarships.

Sessions 5 and 6. During both sessions, countries agreed on a definition that will enable the systematization of the information on South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarships.

MAY 31ST AND JUNE 1ST, 2022: WORKSHOP TOWARDS A BETTER DEFINITION AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS IN SIDICSS (II) (MADRID, SPAIN)

The members of the Working Group agree on how to characterize and define scholarships in the scope of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as the features that differentiate them from other instruments to finance or support the training of human capital, which are also carried out through other SSC and TC mechanisms.

MAY 16TH-17TH, 2023: SEGIB-PIFCSS WORKSHOP TOWARDS A BETTER DEFINITION AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS IN SIDICSS (III) (LIMA, PERU)

The progress of the Working Group is presented for the consideration of all countries. Consensus is reached on: 1) the definition of South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarships; 2) their approach as a new type of initiative (scholarship); 3) the registration unit (call for application); and 4) the associated information (type of training, number of scholarships awarded associated with each call, among others). Initial guidelines were defined on how to make the necessary changes in SIDICSS. A pilot exercise would be conducted once the registration is possible.

2024 AND FIRST QUARTER OF 2025: PILOT EXERCISE

A pilot exercise is being promoted with the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Portugal. The objective is to confirm whether the aspects that were defined result on a better systematization of this instrument. It is also intended to carry out a first analysis to provide an overview of South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarships in the 2022-2023 period.

Source: SEGIB

Continues >>

As a result of this effort and as shown in the following picture, countries agreed that a South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarship is defined based on:

- a) The participation of at least two countries that act as provider and recipient.
- b) The contribution to the training of human capital for inclusive and sustainable development.
- c) The existence of a financing mechanism to facilitate access to training.
- d) A framework of a call for applications, which must set the conditions to award the scholarship.

The call for applications is assumed as the registration unit of the scholarships. Likewise, scholarships are considered a new type of initiative, with a different approach from that of cooperation actions, projects and programs. The definition of other aspects that are understood to contribute to a better categorization of the scholarships (type of training, target population, duration, face-to-face or virtual format, number of scholarships awarded, among others) are part of the associated information which should be registered to better understand this instrument.

At this point, in 2024 and in order to test these conceptual and methodological agreements, some countries began a pilot exercise to register the calls for application of the 2022-2023 period and the number of scholarships in their framework. Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Portugal also participated in this exercise in addition to the countries of the Working Group. A specific analysis of South-South and Triangular Cooperation scholarships, which is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2025, will be the final outcome of this process.

Defining elements of a SSC and Triangular Cooperation scholarship (2023 Workshop, Lima)

EXCHANGE BETWEEN COUNTRIES



It requires the concurrence of at least 2 countries that exchange from the roles of provider and recipient.
Offer: From a government institution of a country.
Receiving: To people from a country other than that of the provider.

OBJECTIVE: K-H TRAINING



It must contribute to the formation of human capital to contribute to the inclusive and sustainable development of the countries.

GRANT/FINANCING ELEMENT



It accompanies the instrument and is conceived precisely to facilitate and guarantee access to training.

EXISTENCE OF A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



It governs all scholarship award conditions (who can apply, from which country, for what type of study, with what financial support, among others).

Source: SEGIB and Working Group on Scholarships (+countries that joined the pilot exercise).

[Continues >>](#)

Regional SSC in the framework of the Inter-American System (3.13 C) deserves a special mention as it focuses, as well as that of the Pacific Alliance, on supporting the Productive sectors. However, in this case, this area accounts for more than 60% of the 13 initiatives that were registered, only a few exchanges having other purposes. All these are dedicated to strengthening countries' capacities in *Agriculture and livestock* by combining partnerships that promote innovation and the transfer of technology applied to livestock farming and agriculture, while at the same time mainstreaming two recurring topics: sustainability and Food and Nutritional Security (FNS). In fact, the importance of FNS in Regional SSC is enhanced by the participation of specialized organizations such as FAO, IICA and FONTAGRO. Box 3.2 approaches this issue by analyzing the contribution of SSC in Ibero-America –over the last 15 years, and especially

after the approval of the 2030 Agenda– to generate innovative solutions to address this enormous challenge.

Finally, Graph 3.13 D shows the profile of the 10 Regional SSC initiatives that in 2022-2023 were supported by the UN System and its related organizations. In this case, 3 projects and programs that respectively strengthened the generation of Infrastructure and economic services –specifically through the promotion of Employment– as well as the protection of the Environment, should be highlighted. These sectoral priorities are closely related to the participation, in the first two initiatives, of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and, in the second, of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) created on the eve of the “Earth Summit” held in Rio, in 1992, and made up of the 183 signatory countries of the different UN Agreements and Conventions.

→ BOX 3.2

SSC' approach to the challenge of Food and Nutritional Security (FNS)

The prevalence of hunger and poverty in Latin-American and Caribbean was prioritized in the regional development agenda. According to the 2023 *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition*, between 2021 and 2022, the number of people affected by hunger in the region is estimated to have fluctuated between 38.5 million and 51 million. Considering the mid-range of this estimate, 43.2 million people suffered from hunger in 2022 (FAO et al., 2023, p. 2). These data suggest an important challenge: strengthen Food and Nutritional Security (hereinafter FNS). This means that all people should have physical and economic

access to safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and to have an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996).

Given this complex context, it is necessary to generate effective and innovative mechanisms to mobilize financial and technical resources to mitigate this problem. Indeed, South-South Cooperation, through its different modalities, can serve as an instrument to strengthen FNS and, as the following data suggests, Ibero-American countries have accumulated a significant experience in this topic. According to the information available in the Ibero-American Integrated

Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS by its Spanish acronym) and as shown in the following chart, between 2007 and 2023, Ibero-American countries have implemented 1,055 initiatives that focused on FNS, corresponding to 10% of the region's total cooperation. By modality, cooperation on FNS accounted for around 10% of Bilateral and Triangular exchanges, and represented 7.6% of Regional SSC initiatives. Of these 1,055, 66.8% were projects (705), 32.7% were actions (345) and 0.5% were programs (5).

Initiatives on Food and Nutritional Security (FNS) and total number of initiatives, by cooperation modality. 2007-2023

In units and percentage

| MODALITY | INITIATIVES FNS | TOTAL | FNS/TOTAL |
|---------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| BILATERAL SSC | 875 | 8,504 | 10.3% |
| TRIANGULAR | 142 | 1,431 | 9.9% |
| REGIONAL SSC | 38 | 497 | 7.6% |
| TOTAL | 1,055 | 10,432 | 10.1% |

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

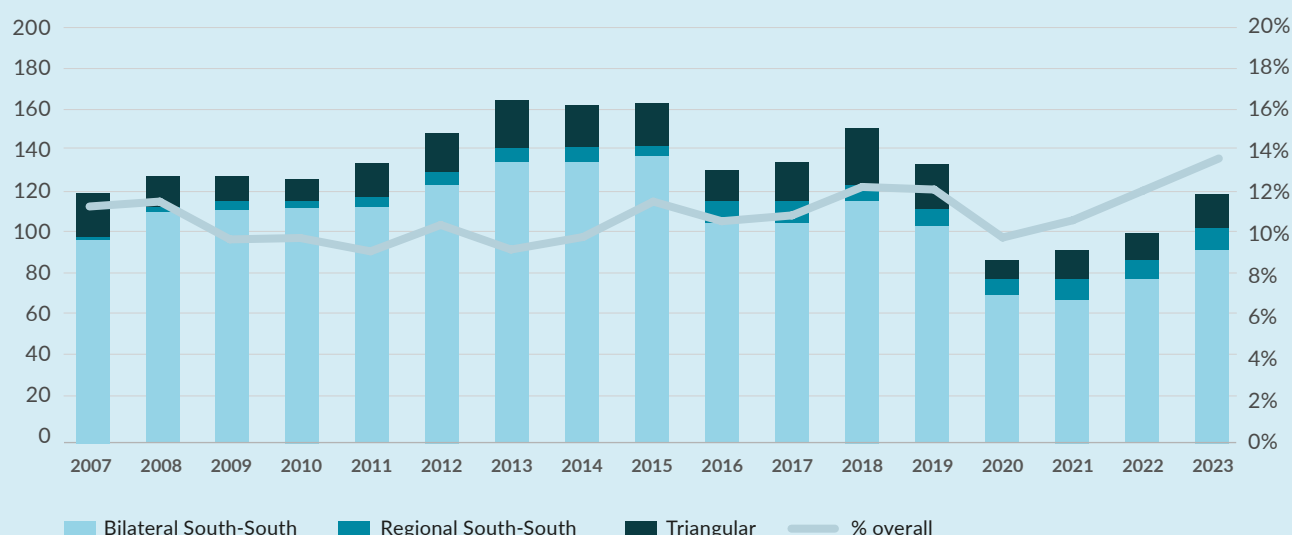
A first graph was prepared in order to understand this cooperation's behavior over time. The diagram shows the

evolution of the number of initiatives on FNS that were implemented each year—in the 2007-2023 period—, by

modality. It also illustrates the evolution of their importance in the total number of exchanges, on an annual basis.

Evolution of the initiatives on FNS, by cooperation modality and percentage in the total number of initiatives. 2007-2023

In units and percentage



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

Thus, between 2007 and 2015, it is possible to identify a 36% growth in initiatives on FNS (from 125 to 170), which are followed by two significant drops, one in 2016 and others in 2020, coinciding with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. However, the graph

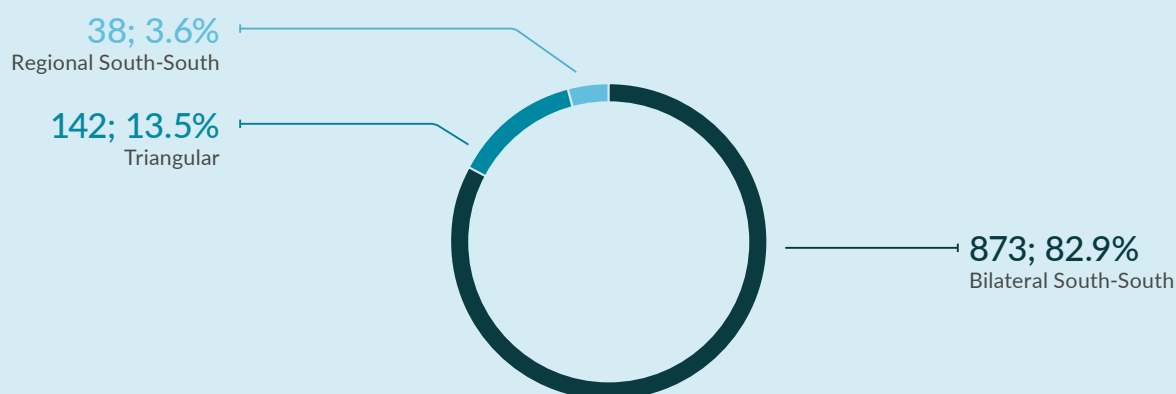
shows that, after this last decline, cooperation on FNS is recovering, with a positive increase of 29% in the 2021-2023 period, a percentage which is higher than that corresponding to all cooperation (8%). As a result, the importance of FNS as a percentage

of the total number of initiatives has increased over the last three years to 14%, a figure 4 percentage points above the average of previous years.

The second graph illustrates the distribution of the total number of

Distribution of the initiatives on FNS, by cooperation modality. 2007-2023

In units and percentage



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

Continues >>

initiatives on FNS by cooperation modality in the 2007-2023 period. It suggests that, of the 1,055 initiatives that served this purpose, 83% were implemented through Bilateral SSC, 13% through Triangular Cooperation and 4% through Regional SSC.

On the other hand, a third graph was prepared to identify the Ibero-

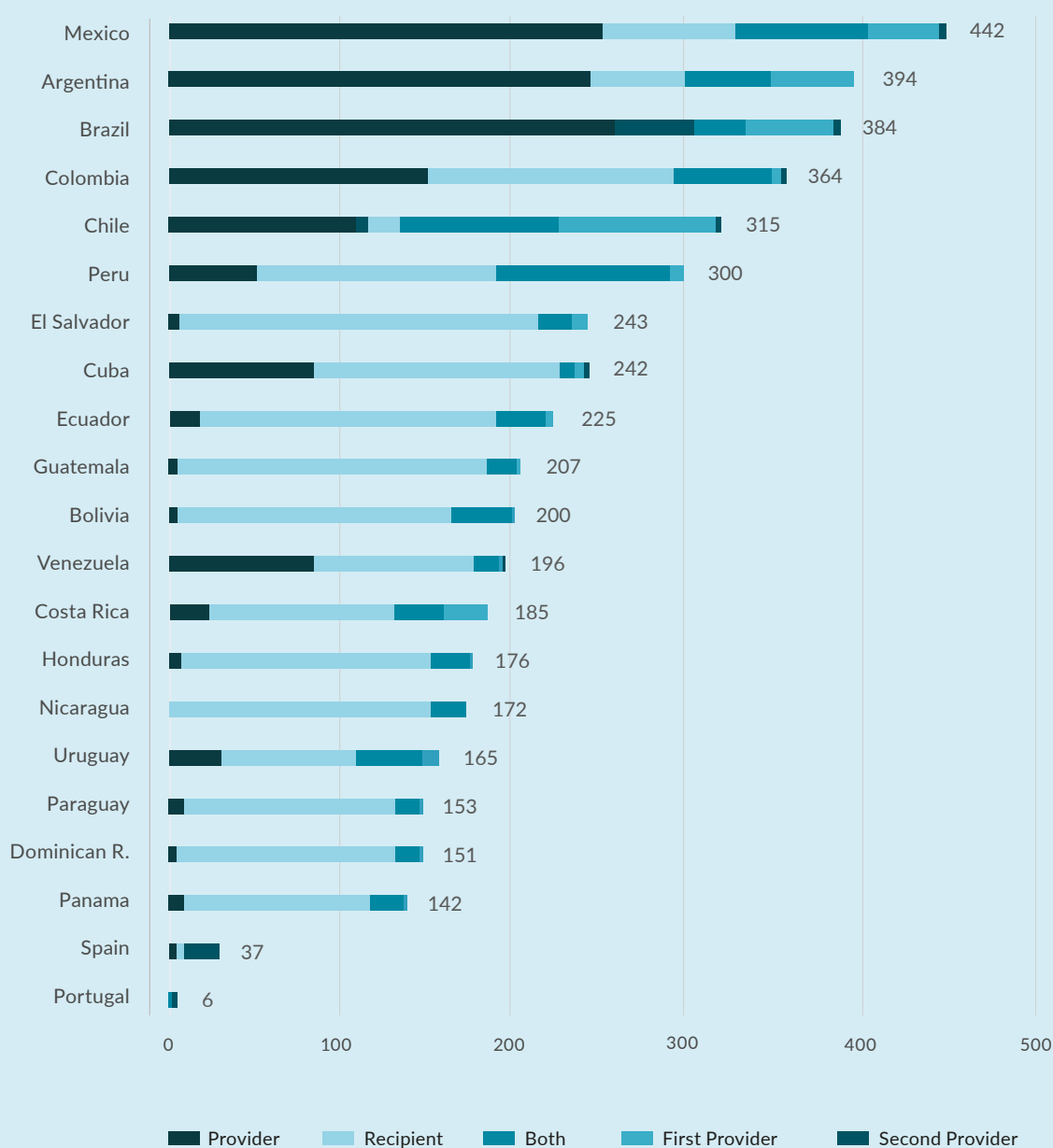
American countries that most actively participated in this cooperation. This graph shows the number of initiatives that, between 2007 and 2023, were dedicated to this topic, by country and by the different roles.

It is possible to identify three groups of countries: first, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile

and Peru, all with more than 300 exchanges; second, El Salvador, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Panama, with between 100 and 300 exchanges; and third, Spain and Portugal, with less than 100 exchanges.

Ibero-American countries' initiatives on FNS, by role. 2007-2023

In units



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

[Continues >>](#)

The majority of the most dynamic countries participated as providers in this cooperation, Colombia and Peru being the only exceptions. The former predominantly had a dual role, combining its participation as provider and recipient, while the latter mainly stood out as recipient.

Within this group, Mexico shared its experience in FNS in the framework of almost 450 initiatives, through a wide range of projects such as *Sembrando vida*, an initiative that this country has transferred to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize and

Cuba, which seeks to address the multidimensional problem of rural unemployment and its impact on irregular migration (UNDP, 2022, p.19).

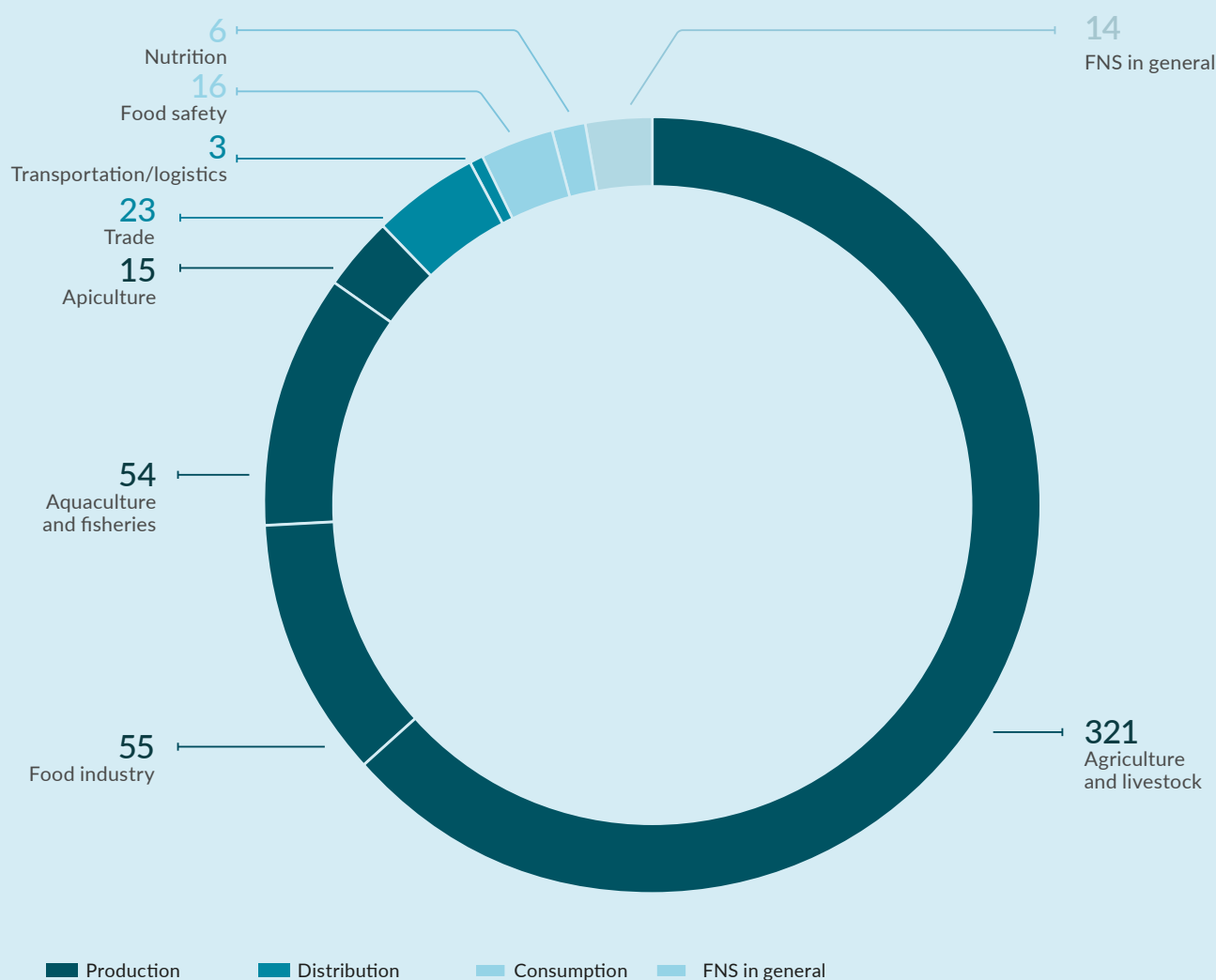
In turn, Argentina—which in 2021 and according to the World Bank (2024) was the world's third largest food exporter and its agricultural sector accounted for 15.7% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—shared its recognized experience (also at the interregional level) through almost 400 exchanges. The National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA by its Spanish acronym) participated in

many of these projects and according to INTA itself, between 2010 and 2022, 158 projects were carried out that technically strengthened more than 1,100 professionals (Barreto and Torres, 2022, p. 13).

Brazil, the fourth largest agricultural producer in the world (IFAD, 2023), also stands out for its contribution to regional FNS. Specifically, Brazil has 232 Human Milk Banks and it has supported nutrition and the reduction of neonatal mortality by sharing its experience in this topic with most Ibero-American countries

Distribution of the initiatives on FNS, by category and subcategory. 2015-2023

In units



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

Continues >>

and other Portuguese-speaking countries such as Cape Verde, Angola and Mozambique (Lisbon, V. 2019).

Meanwhile, Colombia participated in 364 exchanges in which its role was mainly dual. For example, as provider, it was able to technically assist Paraguay in the creation of its *National Food and Nutrition Survey*, a key instrument to diagnose the nutritional status of a society and facilitate better targeting of public policies and budgets (University of Antioquia – UDEA by its Spanish acronym -, 2016). As recipient, it strengthened its capacities in beekeeping as a result of, precisely, Paraguay's knowledge transfer.

Chile, which has more than 4,200 kilometers of coastline in the Pacific Ocean and a maritime area of 3.15 million km² (ICEX, 2020, p. 3), especially stood out in the promotion of aquaculture and fisheries, particularly in terms of technological development; the management of hydrobiological resources; and the prevention of illegal fishing, through 315 initiatives. Indeed, the Chilean experience has been acknowledged and, between 2003 and 2018, the country has been recognized for being the eighth largest producer of fish in aquaculture in the world, according to FAO (ICEX, 2020, p. 3).

Finally, Peru took advantage of its participation in 300 exchanges to strengthen its own capacities in a wide range of areas, including sustainable bovine production for small and medium-scale livestock farming; the management of aquaculture production systems; the management of native genetic resources and the development of ornamental varieties; the promotion of family farming; and the implementation of phytosanitary controls.

Additionally, a special mention should be made of FNS after the approval of

the 2030 Agenda and the inclusion, in this framework, of SDG 2 (Zero hunger), as well as the international community's call to reverse the forecast that *"more than 600 million people worldwide will be facing hunger in 2030"* (United Nations, 2024). In this regard, the graph above was plotted in order to understand the way in which SSC in Ibero-America has responded to this challenge. This diagram distributes the 506 initiatives that between 2015 and 2023 addressed FNS, according to their thematic priorities. For this purpose, the exchanges are classified in 4 different categories covering the entire food cycle (Production, Distribution, Consumption, and FNS in general), also taking the key concepts on FNS provided by FAO, as a reference (availability; stability; access and control; consumption and biological utilization). Each category is then divided into subcategories, for example: Agriculture and livestock; Food industry; Aquaculture and fisheries; and Beekeeping, correspond to Production. Thus, in the concentric circles diagram, the main categories are in the inner ring and the subcategories are in the outer ring.

As the graph shows, 88% of the exchanges (445) were aimed at strengthening *Production*, those dedicated to *Distribution* (25, corresponding to 5%), *Consumption* (22, accounting for 4.3%) and *FNS in general* (14, representing 2.7%) being more specific. In turn, these 445 initiatives focused on supporting the Agriculture and livestock (72%) sector and, to a less extent, Food industry (12.4%); Aquaculture and fisheries (12.2%); and Beekeeping (3.4%).

The initiatives that supported family and subsistence agriculture to improve their productivity, competitiveness and the capacities of small-scale producers stood out in terms of Agriculture and livestock. Projects that addressed the recovery of degraded soils; the efficient use of

water for agricultural production; and irrigation techniques, were also frequent. Additionally, the exchanges on animal and plant health and those related to integrated pest and livestock disease management should not go unmentioned. Finally, in terms of biotechnology, the genetic improvement of agricultural products and livestock to increase productivity and resistance to adverse weather conditions—which are becoming increasingly frequent as a result of climate change—, also deserves a special reference.

On the other hand, initiatives associated with the Food industry subcategory mainly focused on agrifood production chains and productive and territorial development models; on strengthening agroforestry and vegetable systems; on generating capacities, technologies and best practices in agroindustry; and on promoting the association of agricultural producers in cooperatives. Special emphasis was also placed on the strengthening of the dairy chain and the processing of foods such as cocoa, avocado, rice, cassava and coffee.

In turn, initiatives on Aquaculture and fisheries reinforced capacities in regulations and fisheries management models (prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing); sustainable livestock production; the promotion of fisheries and aquaculture's circular economy; research on the intensive management of shrimp and tilapia; and the development of electronic fishing logs on industrial vessels for spatial management in fishing areas.

Between 2015 and 2023, the second most recurrent category was *Distribution*. These initiatives were mainly dedicated to Trade (92%) and Transportation and logistics (8%). In general, the exchanges focused on strengthening rural cash registers;

developing traceability systems for agricultural, aquaculture and fishery goods; modernizing bovine certification processes; assessing risks in import processes; and applying alternative technologies for post-harvest grain storage, to mention a few examples.

This category is followed by initiatives aimed at strengthening Consumption, distributed in topics related to Safety (73%) and Nutrition (27%). The former addressed the different aspects which are necessary to ensure that food and water are safe for human consumption, specifically through the strengthening of regulatory frameworks for activities with Genetically Modified Organisms

(GMOs); the generation of capacities in official inspection systems and quality management to guarantee safety; and the management and handling of pesticide and micro-plastic residues. In terms of Nutrition, the main topics included breastfeeding; nutritious food in childhood; obesity prevention; and food labeling, among others.

The 14 initiatives that were classified in the FNS in general category heterogeneously tackled various aspects for a comprehensive strategy on the sector, including hunger reduction and rural development.

Finally, and mainstreaming the above, it should be added that up to 77 of the 506 initiatives on FNS between 2015 and 2023 incorporated a sustainability approach. This cooperation focused on organic food production; the use of bio-products; and the promotion of sustainable, resilient and adaptable agriculture in the face of climate change. This becomes especially relevant because, according to the Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *"agriculture, forestry and land use" account for "22% of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions"* (IPCC in FAO, 2023).

Methodological note: The Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS) was used to carry out this exercise. Given that the information available in the system does not include a specific marker on FNS, it was decided to make a first filter with the initiatives that could be related to this topic, such as those in the Agriculture and livestock and Fisheries sectors; those associated with SDG 2 (Zero hunger) as the main SDG; and those that included at least one of the 113 keywords extracted from the literature review on the topic and adapted to the regional context (in Spanish and Portuguese). Subsequently, and in order to carry out an analysis in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, a classification was made by subcategories—for the 2015-2023 period—selecting the specific category with which the initiatives were associated: production, distribution and consumption.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Barreto and Torres (2022), FAO et al (2023), FAO (1996), FIDA (2023), ICEX (2020), IPCC (2023), Lisboa, V. (2019), United Nations (2024), UNDP (2022), UDEA (2016) and World Bank (2024).

3.4 Regional SSC in 2022-2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals

The capacity of Regional SSC to bring together a growing number of diverse stakeholders in the search for shared solutions to promote sustainable development is confirmed by the fact that the 96 Regional SSC initiatives that took place in the 2022-2023 period involved, on average, between 9-10 different stakeholders, including countries of the South, other regions' countries and multilateral organizations.

In this sense, the analysis of how these efforts contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2022-2023 period—and halfway to achieving the targets to which the international community is committed in the framework of the 2030 Agenda—is especially significant. Graph 3.14 was prepared for this purpose. This radial bar chart distributes the 96 Regional SSC initiatives of this period according to the Main and Second SDG with which they were aligned.

As the graph portrays, one half of the Regional SSC of the 2022-2023 period was aligned—in almost identical proportions and in a preferential manner—with SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 4 (Quality education) (24%), on the one hand; and with SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals)

(25%), on the other. The other half aimed to support the achievement of up to 11 different Development Goals (with which between 5-6 initiatives were associated), such as SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 12 (Responsible production and consumption); and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). It should be added that, in 2022-2023, no initiative specifically addressed SDG 1 (No poverty).



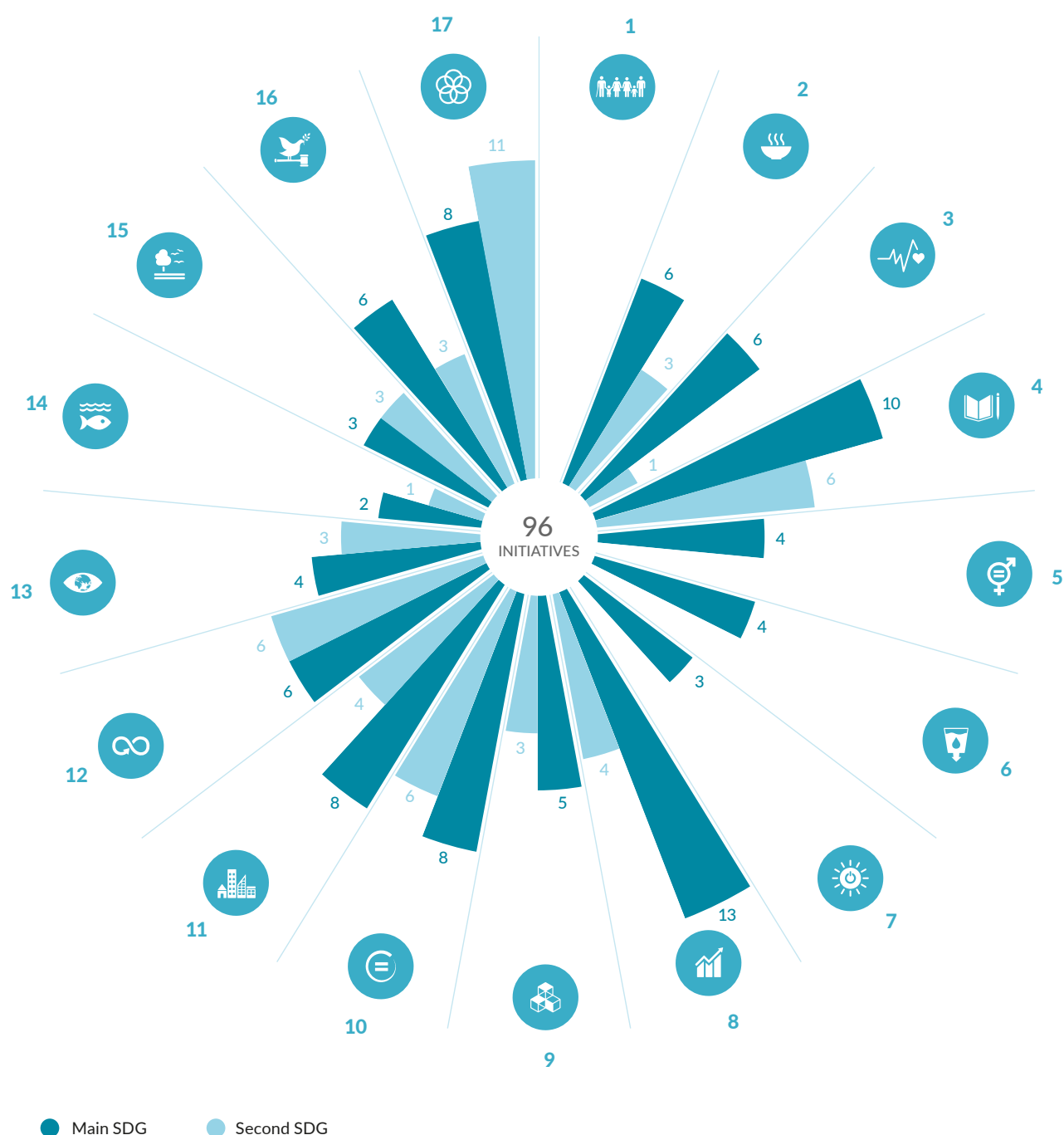
Each of the 96 Regional SSC initiatives that took place in the 2022-2023 period involved between 9-10 different stakeholders on average, including countries of the Global South, of other regions and international organizations



// Graph 3.14

Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, by their potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2022-2023

In units



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



Photo: Since 2014, *Ibercocinas* has been working to rescue and promote traditional cuisine, its knowledge and meanings, sustainable production chains and culinary innovation. One of its specific objectives is to strengthen intercultural communities. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

The Second SDGs with which Regional SSC was aligned deserve a special mention. More specifically, in 2022 and 2023, countries associated 56% of the 96 initiatives that were implemented with a second SDG. Their identification is important as it provides information on those purposes that – although not a being a priority– tend to mainstream cooperation. Therefore, Graph 3.14 suggests that, through these second SDGs, the region prioritizes cooperation's contribution to generate partnerships (SDG 17); to reduce inequalities (SDG 10); and to promote sustainability, both in terms of production and consumption models (SDG 12) and for cities and communities (SDG 11).

Finally, the relevance of SDG 17 should also be highlighted. This goal ranked first among the other “second” SDGs of this period, and third in terms of those that were selected as main SDGs. Its importance reveals a strong interrelation between SSC and Development, which goes

beyond the recognition of the potential of this modality to generate partnerships and strengthen capacities that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This link had its most important expression in 2019, coinciding with the celebration of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, which commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), considered a founding milestone of this modality.

The dialogue between both agendas becomes a key input to better understand how this cooperation can support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, Box 3.3, which reviews the nearly 450 events on SSC that have been held globally in the 2015-2023 period, was prepared for this purpose. This Box defines, categorizes and systematizes all these activities –which have positioned this cooperation as a strategic instrument to advance Sustainable Development– and highlights the important role that the Ibero-American community has played in this ongoing connection between SSC and Development.

→ BOX 3.3

SSC in the development agenda: an analysis based on global events (2015-2023)

In recent years, SEGIB has promoted a new process to define and categorize global events on SSC in order to make a systematization and, through this, have a better understanding of the relationship between South-South Cooperation and the International Development Agenda. This exercise follows-up on previous efforts, which most relevant outcomes were the document *Chronology and History of South-South Cooperation* –precisely prepared by SEGIB and edited by PIFCSS in 2014–, and the infographic that summarizes the sequence of the most outstanding activities that took place between 1955 and 2019, which is included in the book *A Decade of South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America*, published by SEGIB in commemoration of the tenth edition of this Report.

Indeed, in 2023, SEGIB promoted a systematization of the global events on SSC that have been held since the approval of the 2030 Agenda in 2015,

to date. The first step in this sense was to design the *Methodological guidelines to systematize and categorize the events on South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation*. This document defines the concept of an “event on SSC” and the necessary information to better categorize it. Accordingly:

- a) It is understood that an “event on SSC” meets four criteria: 1) it is an activity to work or debate on SSC; 2) it has an intergovernmental character; 3) it takes place in the framework of platforms that have a political-technical relevance; and 4) its objectives, title and/or denomination make direct reference to or explicitly address some dimension associated with this cooperation modality.
- b) It is necessary to have information on the year of the event, its geographical scope, and the objective and the format (on-site, virtual or hybrid). Likewise, and

in order better understand the event's nature and its approach, it is essential to add data related to its potential “Contribution (to Development)”, as well as the contribution it may make to strengthening the “Governance”, “Instrumentation” and “Visibility” of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation.

As a result of this exercise, it was identified that 444 “events on SSC” were held between 2015 and 2023. Their evolution by year, differentiated by the so-called “main” events from the “parallel” ones, is shown in the first graph. Its analysis suggests a series of several different moments marked by a record in 2019 which coincided with the celebration of the BAPA+40 event. Thus, a relative growth stage is identified before 2019, followed by a decline and a stabilization phase from 2020 onwards, as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

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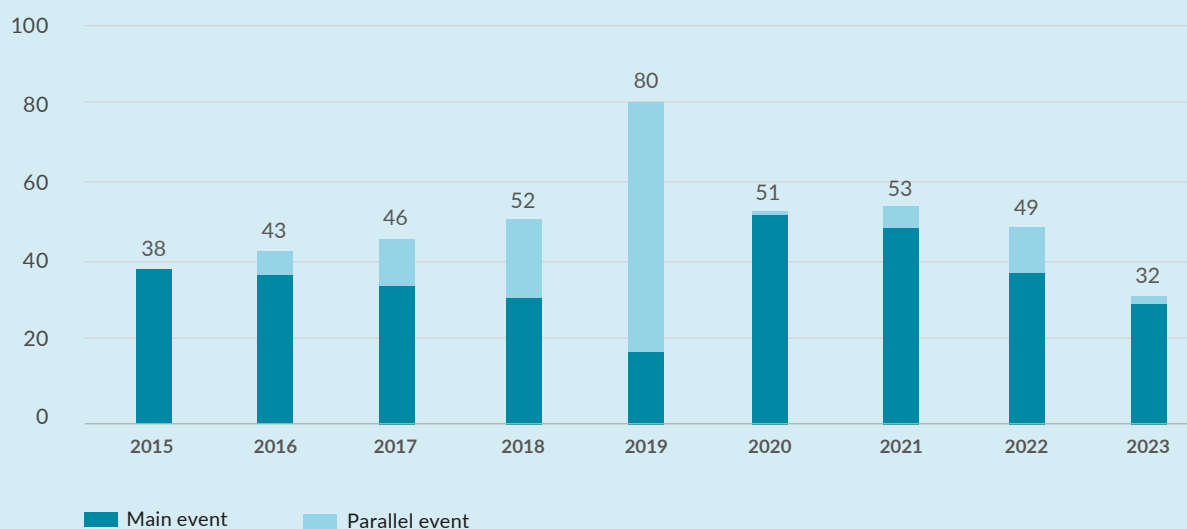
As mentioned above, the same graph distinguishes between the way in which the total number of events was influenced by the “main” and the “parallel” events, the latter being understood as those generated as spaces for simultaneous debates in

the framework of others of a higher rank. The importance of these parallel meetings finds its maximum expression precisely in 2019, with side events that, in the framework of BAPA+40, account for 77.5% of the total registered. Other relevant moments

in terms of these side events coincide with the Development Cooperation Forum (2016 and 2018) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2021, 2022 and 2023).

Main events and Parallel events on SSC. 2015-2023

In units

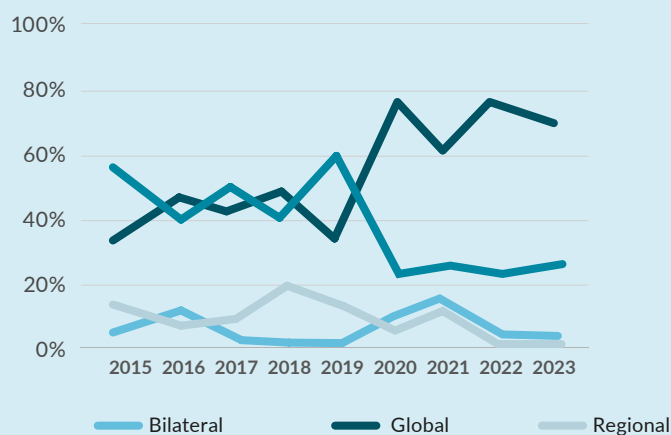


Source: SEGIB (2024)

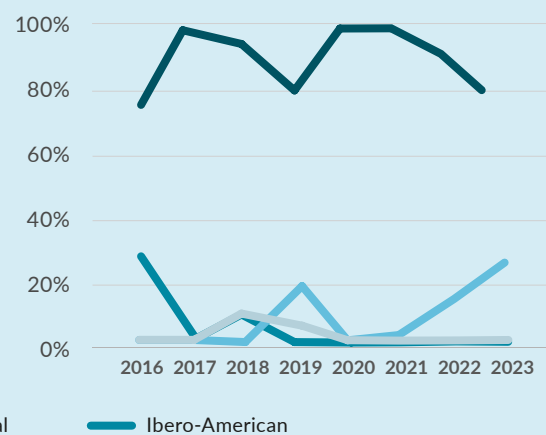
Evolution of the Main events and the Parallel events on SSC, by the scope of action in which they were carried out. 2015-2023

In percentage

A. Main events



B. Parallel events



Source: SEGIB (2024)

[Continues >>](#)

Another significant analysis in relation to the 444 events on SSC that took place between 2015 and 2023, refers to the scope of action under which these meetings were framed: Global, Regional, Ibero-American and Bilateral. Specifically, most of these meetings (64%) were Global, the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies having a strong role in specifically 4 out of 5 of these activities. This percentage was followed by that corresponding to the Ibero-American space (a remarkable 26%), with SEGIB and PIFCSS playing a decisive role. The last 10% of the meetings were Bilateral (6%) and Regional (4%), 2 out of 3 of which were attended by ECLAC.

Two other graphs were prepared in order to provide detailed information on the above. These diagrams show the evolution of the relative importance of each of these four

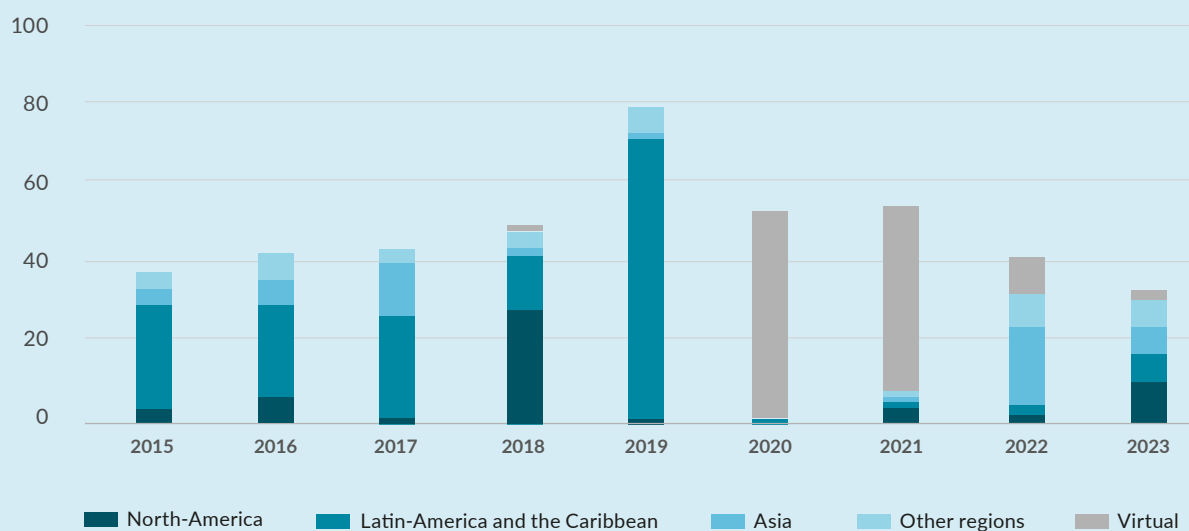
scopes of action in the total number of main events and parallel events. The combined analysis of these two graphs reveals that, between 2015 and 2019, the Ibero-American space was the most important promoter of the main events on SSC, annually accounting for between 40% and 60% of them. This situation changes as of 2020, when that figure drops to just over 20%, the Global scope taking absolute leadership, in which most of the parallel events were also framed.

These 444 events on SSC can also be distributed according to the region in which they were held: North-America; Latin-America and the Caribbean; Asia; and Other regions; also considering a Virtual category, which is associated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis. The contribution of each of these regions to the total number of meetings annually held

between 2015 and 2023 is shown in the third graph. Its examination confirms that Latin-America and the Caribbean is the region where the largest number of events on SSC were hosted (167) —with great importance of the Ibero-American space itself—; followed by North-America (56) —most of these held at the UN headquarters in New York (United States)—; as well as Asia (56) and Other regions (Europe, 35; Africa, 10 and Oceania, 1). The activities in other regions were also mainly driven by the United Nations and its regional agencies, as well as by the OECD and the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI). In addition, about 120 events were virtual, an option that will be particularly frequent in 2020-2022. In 2023, face-to-face events were once again the most common, although hybrid activities —which combine face-to-face and virtual formats—, also gained strength.

Face-to-face/hybrid and virtual events on SSC, by the region in which they were held. 2015-2023

In units



Source: SEGIB (2024)

[Continues >>](#)

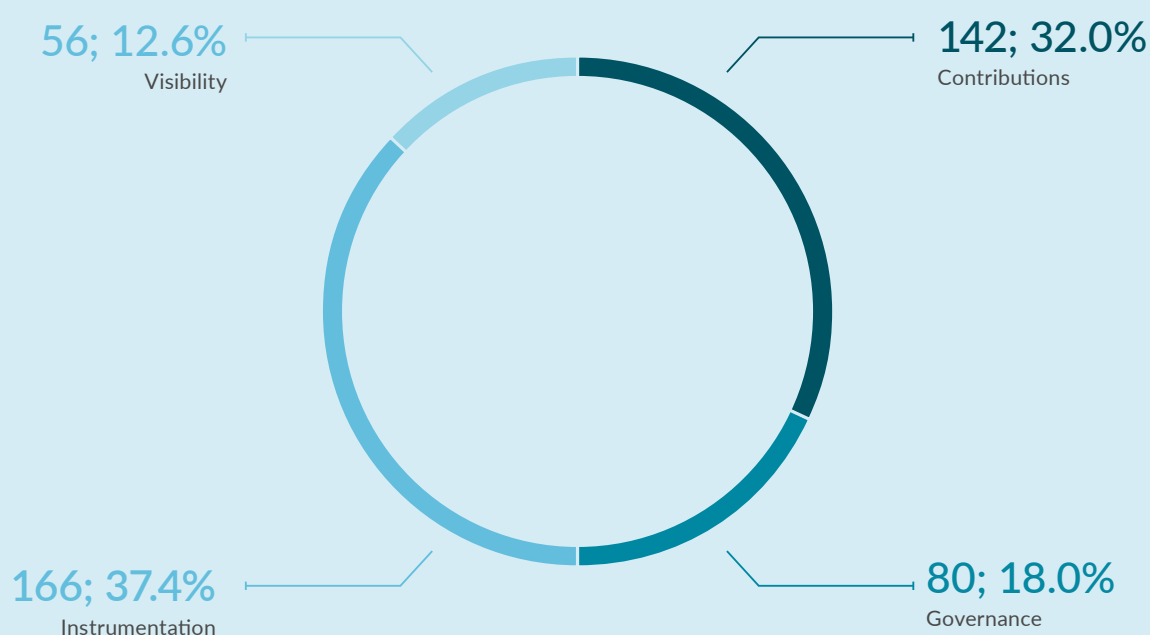
Finally, the 444 events on SSC carried out in the 2015-2023 period were systematized according to their potential Contribution (to Development) and their possible support to SSC Governance, Instrumentation and Visibility. The graph suggests that, in 37% of the

cases, these meetings contributed to the promotion of new Instruments for SSC (from Funds and Programs with financial resources to tools for their better management; measurement and evaluation; and those that were promoted to try to respond to the COVID-19 crisis). Another remarkable

32% is explained by the events that addressed the Contribution of these modalities to sustainable and inclusive development. The remaining 31% is divided between those that strengthened SSC's Governance (18%) and those which improved its Visibility (13%).

Distribution of the Events on SSC, by their potential contribution to SSC's development and strengthening. 2015-2023

In units and percentage



Fuente: SEGIB (2024).

The last graph replicates the same distribution by category, specifically for the 115 events that took place between 2015-2023 in Ibero-America, by year. The events that provide new and better Instruments for SSC in Ibero-America, especially before the COVID-19 crisis, stand out. These should be certainly associated with

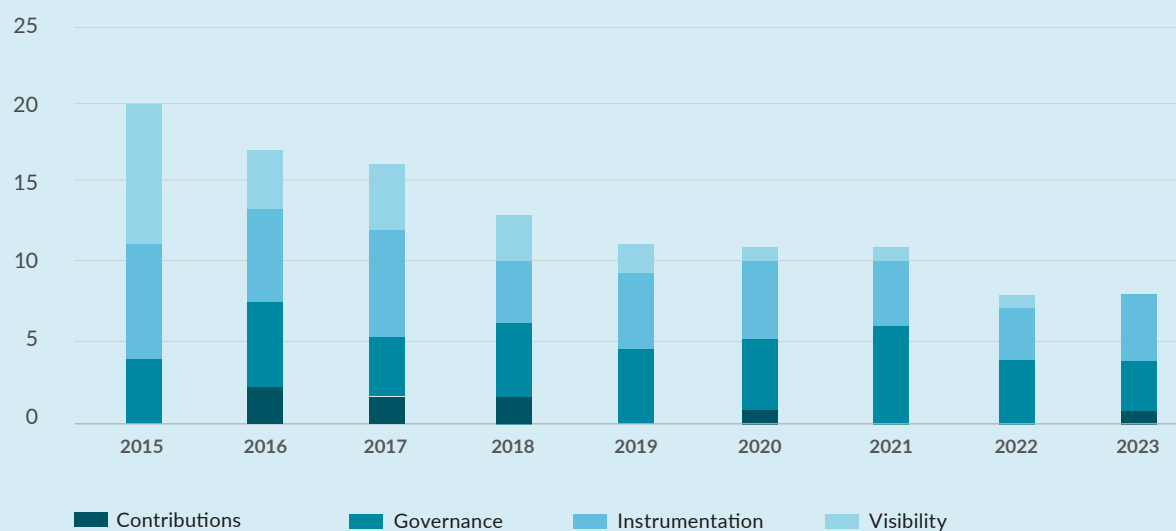
the coordinated work between SEGIB and PIFCSS, which, for almost 15 years, have been promoting activities to strengthen SSC in the region. Those meetings which purpose was to support SSC's Governance followed, with an average of 4-5 per year. Ibero-American events on Visibility stand out third, which, however, have

tended to decline. Finally, even less frequent were the events dedicated to understanding the potential Contribution of SSC to sustainable and inclusive development, this being one of the challenges in which to continue working in the future.

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Evolution of the Events on SSC carried out in Ibero-America, by their potential contribution. 2015-2023

In units



Source: SEGIB (2024)



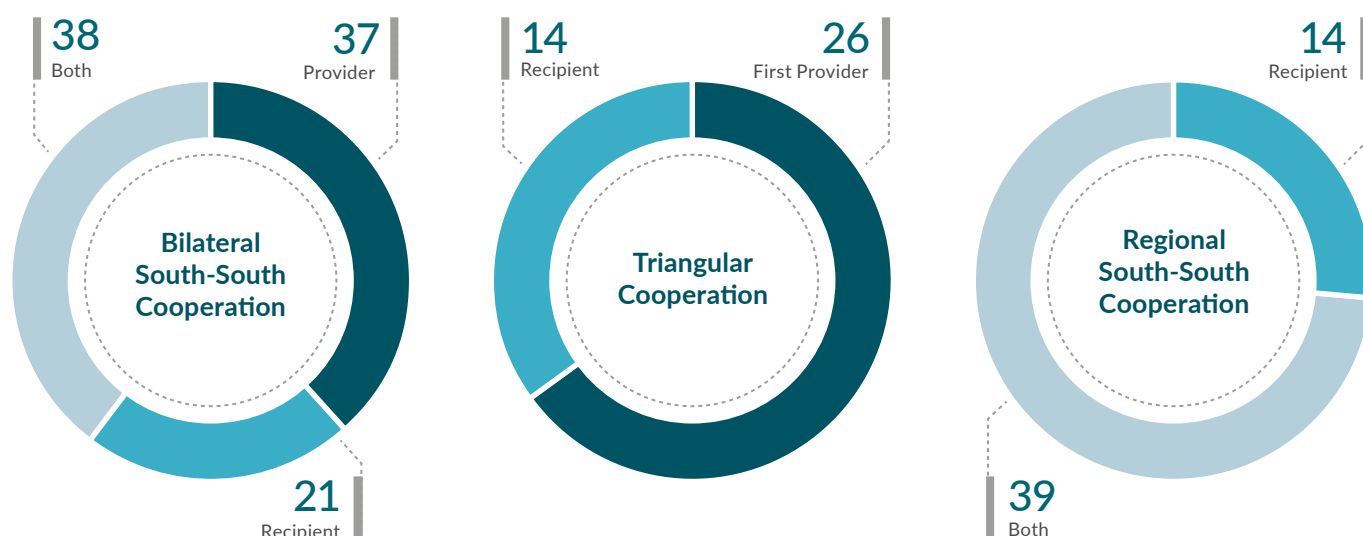
Photo: Scientists and students from universities and research centers; high school teachers and students; and agricultural producers, work together to promote agriculture and food security through improved resource management. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.



Photo: Through SSC, the National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems of Peru (INAIGEM by its Spanish acronym) and the Environmental Fund for Water Protection of Ecuador (FONAG by its Spanish acronym), exchange experiences to strengthen strategies for the conservation and recovery of water services in mountain ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

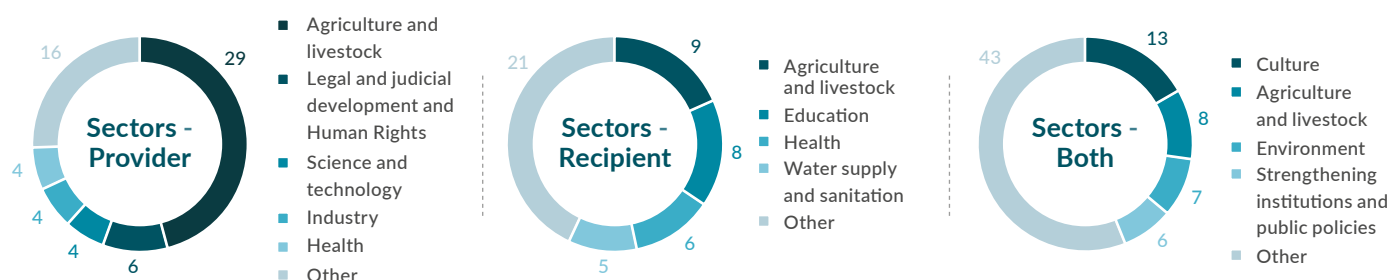
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 2, 16 and 8



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Argentina carried out 189 cooperation initiatives. Fifty-one percent (51%) of these corresponded to Bilateral SSC and the other half was distributed between Regional SSC (28%) and Triangular Cooperation (21%). Argentina mainly played a dual role in Bilateral and Regional modalities (38 out of 96 initiatives and 39 out of 53, respectively) while, in Triangular Cooperation, the role of first provider prevailed (26 initiatives out of 40).

As provider, Argentina mostly transferred capacities related to the following sectors: *Agriculture and livestock*; *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*; and *Science and technology*. At the same time, it

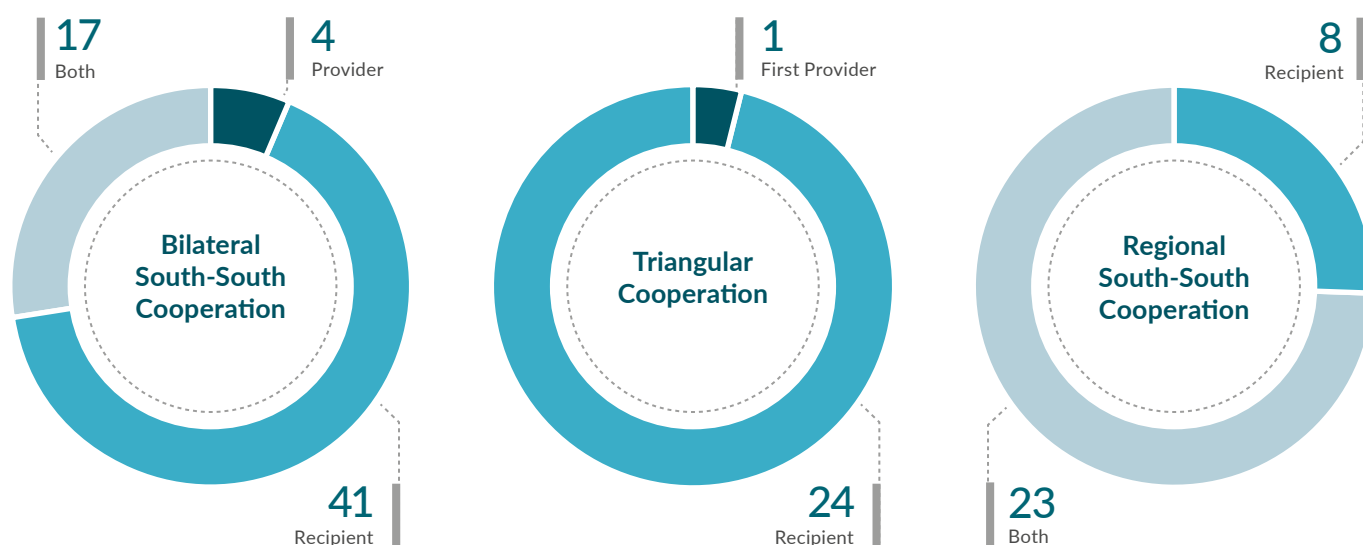
strengthened its own experience in the *Agriculture and livestock*; *Education*; and *Health* sectors, among others. When it played the role “Both”, exchanges were more frequent in *Culture*; *Agriculture and Livestock*; and *Environment*.

Argentina's main partners between 2022 and 2023 were Chile, Uruguay and Colombia. This country's cooperation mainly contributed to the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 2, 16 and 3



Main partners



In the 2022-2023 period, Bolivia implemented 118 actions, projects and programs. Fifty-two percent (52%) of these corresponded to Bilateral SSC. The remaining percentages were distributed between Regional SSC (26%) and Triangular Cooperation (22%). In terms of roles, Bolivia mainly acted as recipient in Bilateral SSC (41 out of 62 initiatives) and in Triangular Cooperation (24 out of 25); while its dual role prevailed in Regional SSC (23 out of 31).

As provider, it strengthened different partners' experience in sectors such as *Agriculture and livestock*; *Education*; and *Other services and social policies*. In turn, as recipient, Bolivia enhanced its capacities

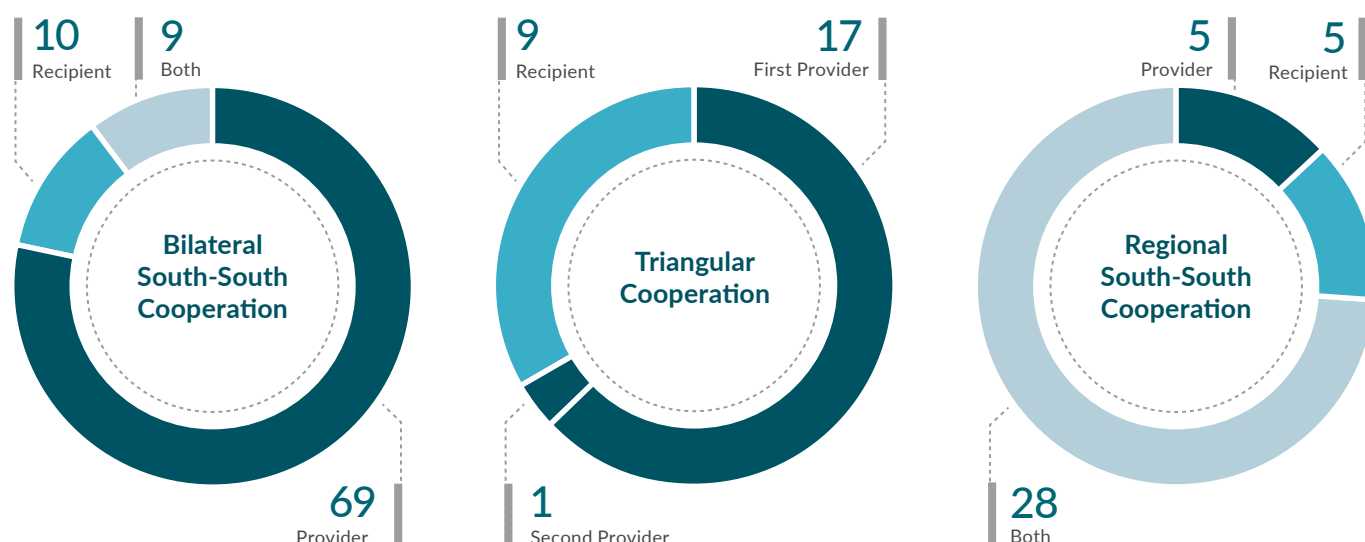
in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment*; and *Health*, among other topics. Additionally, when it played the role "Both", it contributed to exchanges in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Science and technology*.

Peru, Brazil and Ecuador were Bolivia's main partners during this two-year period. Bolivia's Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC contributed to the region's alignment with SDG 2 (Zero hunger), 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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 3 and 2



Main partners



Of the 153 initiatives in which Brazil participated between 2022 and 2023, 57% were implemented through Bilateral SSC, 25% through Regional SSC and 18% through Triangular Cooperation. Brazil acted as provider in almost 80% of its bilateral exchanges and in 2 out of 3 of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives. The role "Both", in turn, prevailed in its participation in Regional SSC.

As provider, this country transferred its experience in the *Health*; *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Water supply and sanitation* sectors, among others. As recipient, it strengthened its capacities in *Education*; *Environment*; and *Agriculture and livestock*. Finally, when it played a dual

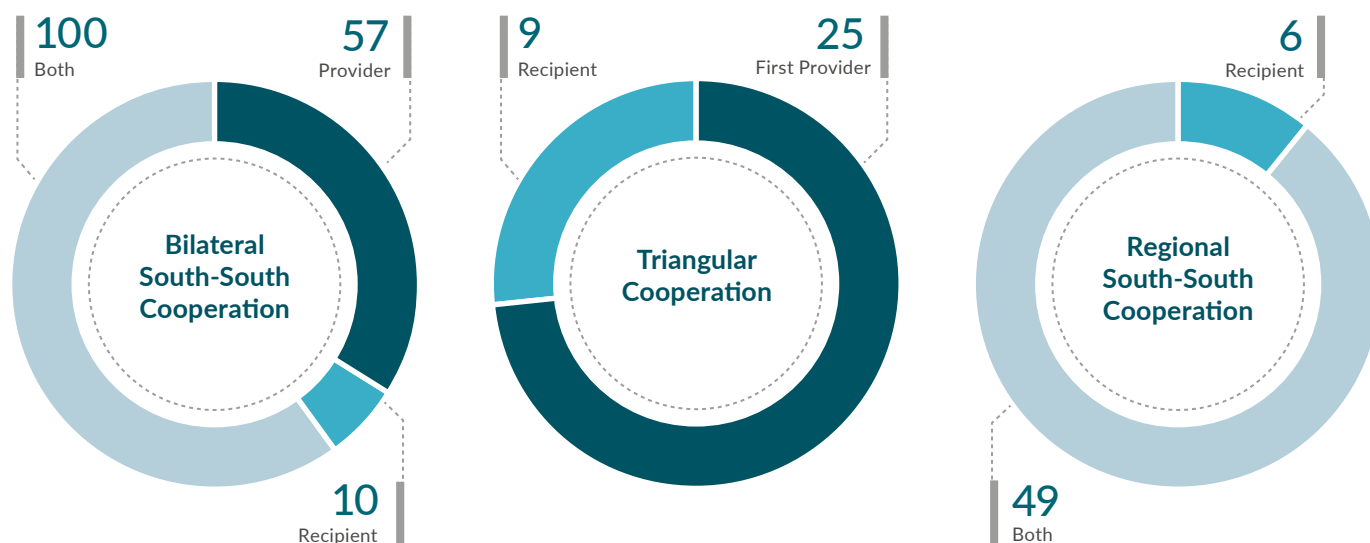
role, Brazil contributed, for example, to *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Environment*.

Brazil's main partners between 2022 and 2023 were Peru, Argentina and Colombia. With its cooperation, it contributed to the region's alignment with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger).

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

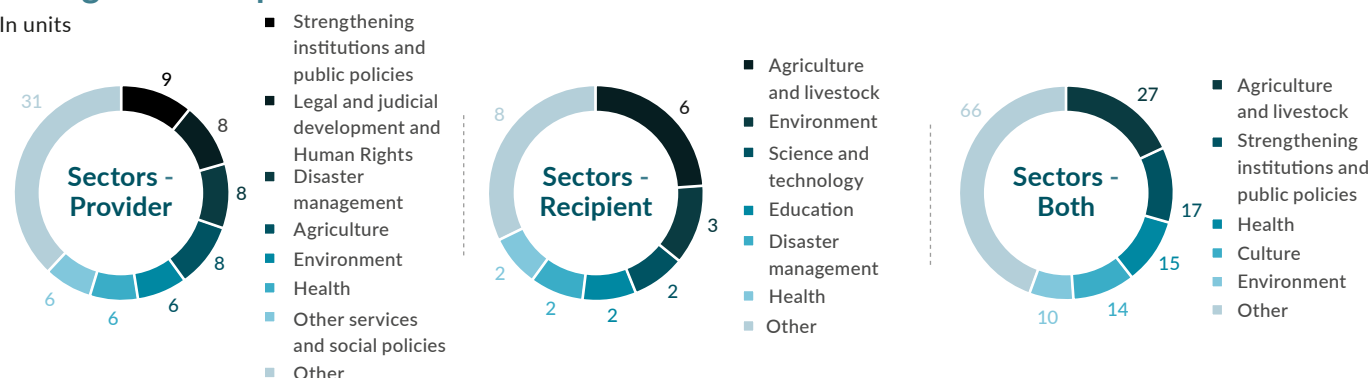
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 2, 16 and 11



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Chile carried out 256 cooperation initiatives. Almost two thirds of these corresponded to Bilateral SSC; 22% to Regional SSC and 13% to Triangular Cooperation. In most bilateral and regional exchanges Chile played the role “Both” while it mainly acted as first provider in Triangular Cooperation (25 of 34 initiatives).

Specifically, Chile mainly transferred its experience in the following sectors: *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*; and *Disaster management*. On the other hand, as recipient, it strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment*; and *Science and technology*, among other topics.

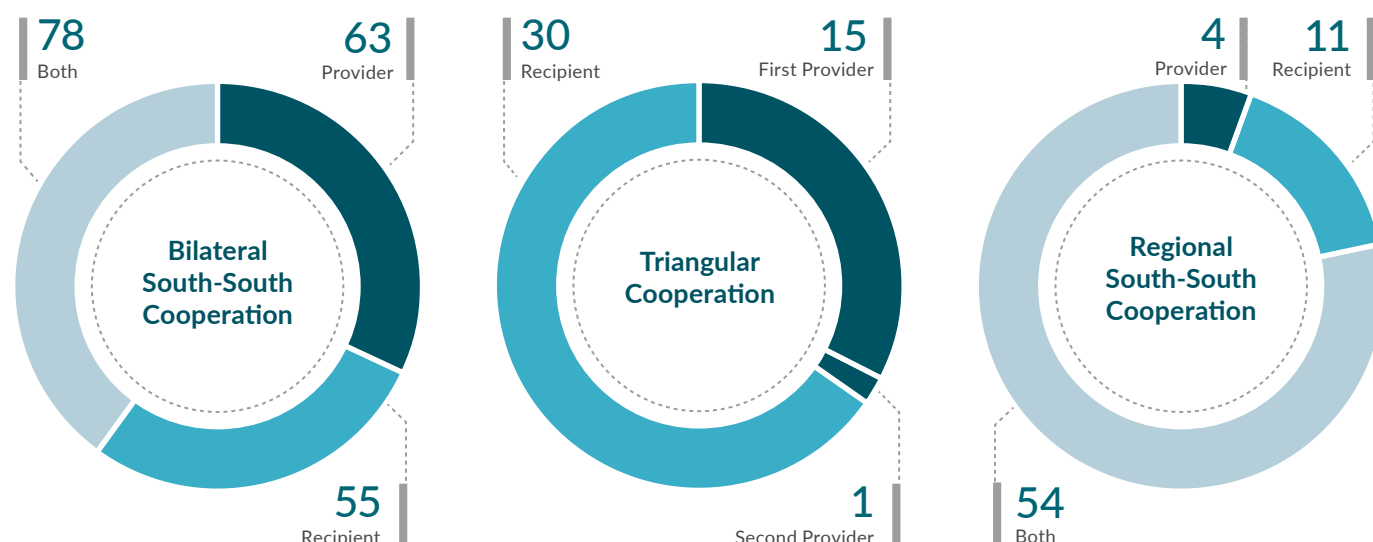
Finally, its dual profile was predominantly specialized in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Health*.

Peru, Mexico and Argentina were Chile's main partners between 2022 and 2023. Its cooperation contributed to the region's alignment with SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

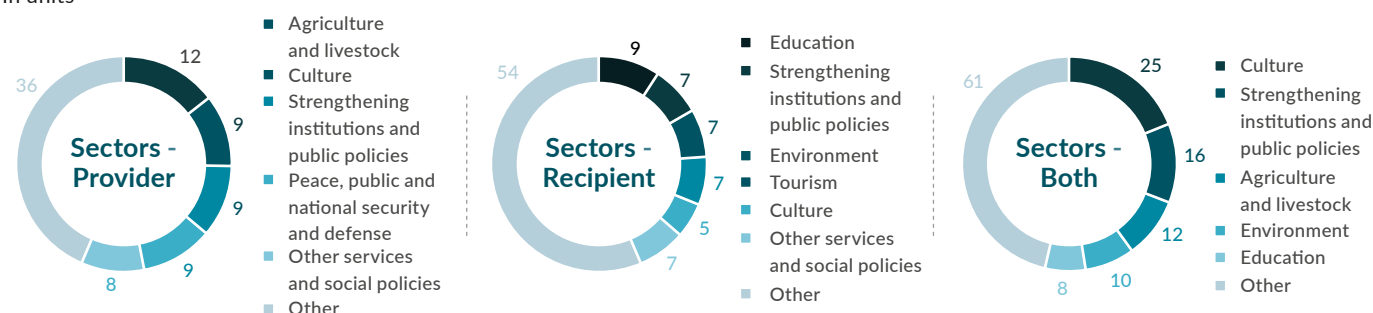
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



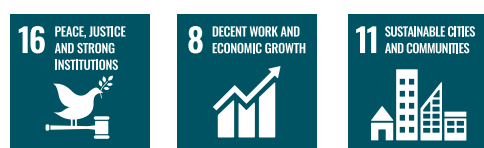
Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 8 and 11



Main partners



Colombia carried out 311 cooperation actions, projects and programs between 2022 and 2023. Sixty-three percent (63%) of these initiatives were executed through Bilateral SSC, 22% through Regional SSC and 15% through Triangular Cooperation. This country mainly played a dual role in Bilateral and Regional cooperation (78 and 54 initiatives, respectively) while it mostly acted as recipient in Triangular Cooperation initiatives (30 of 46).

As provider, Colombia transferred capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Culture*; and *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, among other sectors. As recipient, it benefited from its partners' experience in

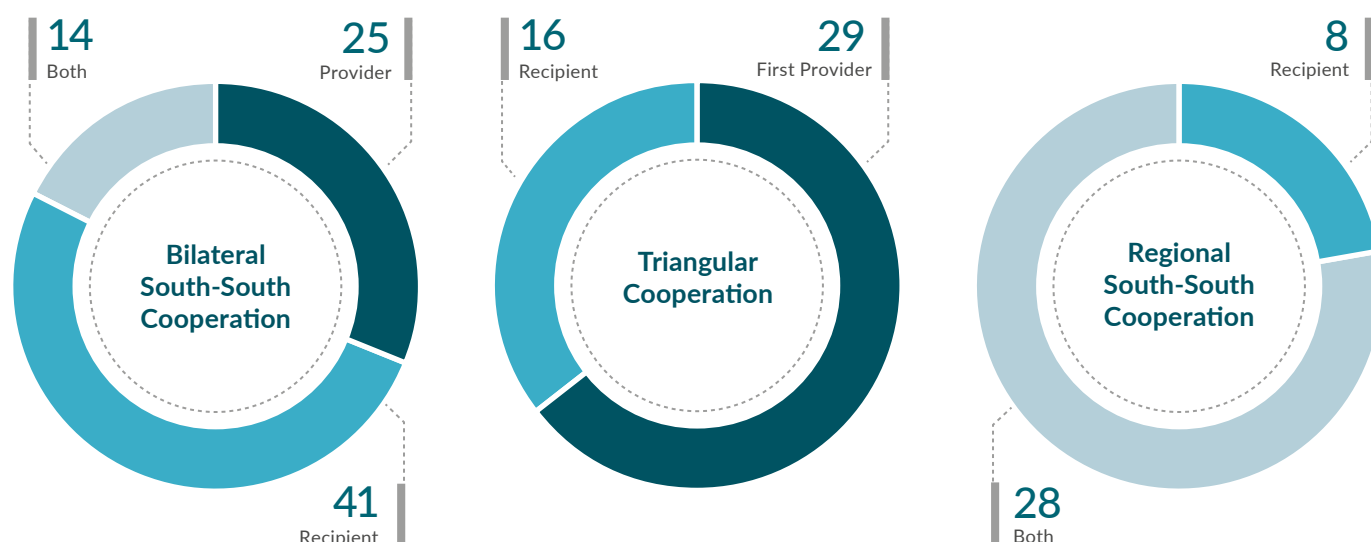
various topics, especially in *Education*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Environment*. When it played the role "Both", it mainly exchanged knowledge in the *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, and *Agriculture and livestock* sectors.

Peru, Mexico and Chile were Colombia's main partners in the 2022-2023 period. Its cooperation contributed to 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

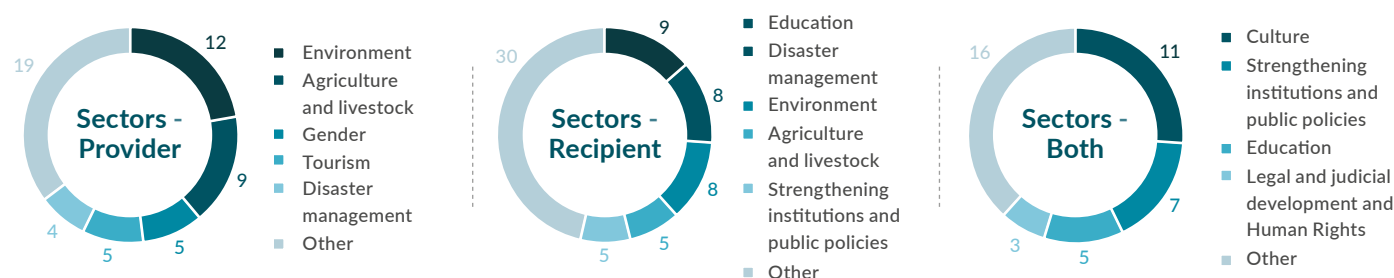
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 4, 16 and 11



Main partners



Almost 50% of the 161 initiatives carried out by Costa Rica between 2022 and 2023 were implemented through Bilateral SSC while the other half were distributed between Triangular Cooperation (28%) and Regional SSC (22%). Costa Rica mainly acted as recipient in Bilateral SSC, and it stood out as first provider in Triangular Cooperation. On the other hand, the role "Both" prevailed in its Regional SSC.

As provider, Costa Rica transferred its capacities in sectors such as *Environment*; *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Gender*, to name a few. In turn, it was supported by its partners to strengthen the *Education*; *Disaster management*; and *Environment* sectors, among others. Finally, its

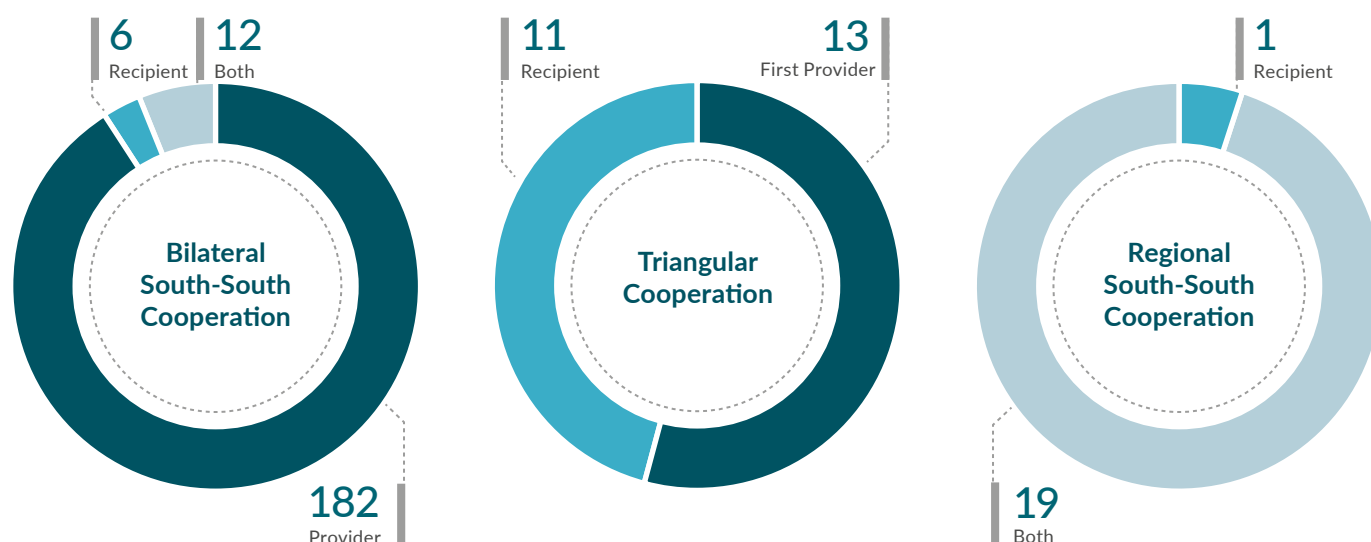
dual role mainly focused on *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Education*.

Costa Rica's main partners were Colombia, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. As a result of its efforts, this country was able to contribute to the region's alignment with SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

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



Cuba implemented 244 actions, programs and projects between 2022 and 2023. Eighty-two percent (82%) of these exchanges were carried out through Bilateral SSC while 9.8% and 8.2% corresponded to Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives, respectively. Cuba stood out for its predominantly provider role in Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation while the role "Both" prevailed in Regional SSC initiatives (19 out of 20).

As provider, Cuba was able to strengthen its partners' capacities in various sectors, especially in *Health*; *Education*; and *Other services and social policies*. As recipient, its cooperation was focused on the

Agriculture and livestock; *Health*; and *Strengthening institutions and public policies* sectors, among others. When it played the role "Both", it supported exchanges in *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Education*.

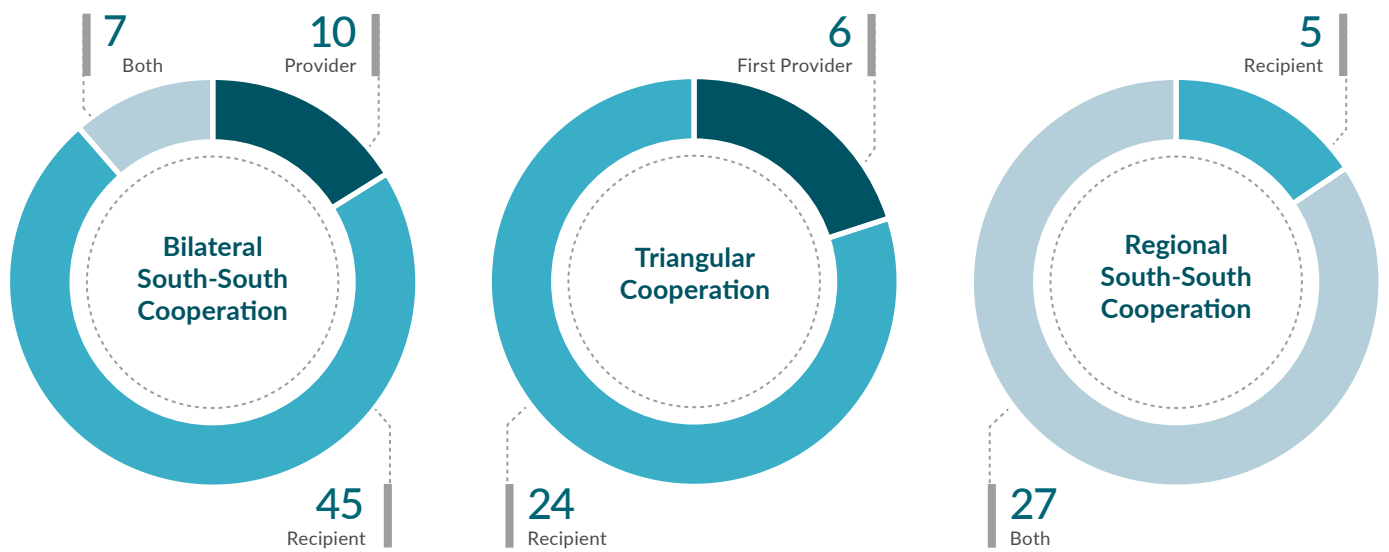
Colombia, Mexico and Argentina were Cuba's main partners between 2022 and 2023. Its cooperation contributed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, mainly to SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 124

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 4 and 2



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, the Dominican Republic implemented 124 actions, projects and programs. Of this total, 50% was implemented through Bilateral SSC; 26% through Regional SSC and 24% through Triangular Cooperation. The Dominican Republic mainly acted as a recipient in bilateral and triangular initiatives while it played a dual role in Regional SSC.

As provider, the Dominican Republic shared its experience in several sectors, including *Education*, *Tourism* and *Agriculture and livestock*. In turn, as recipient, the country was able to strengthen its capacities in the *Agriculture and livestock*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*;

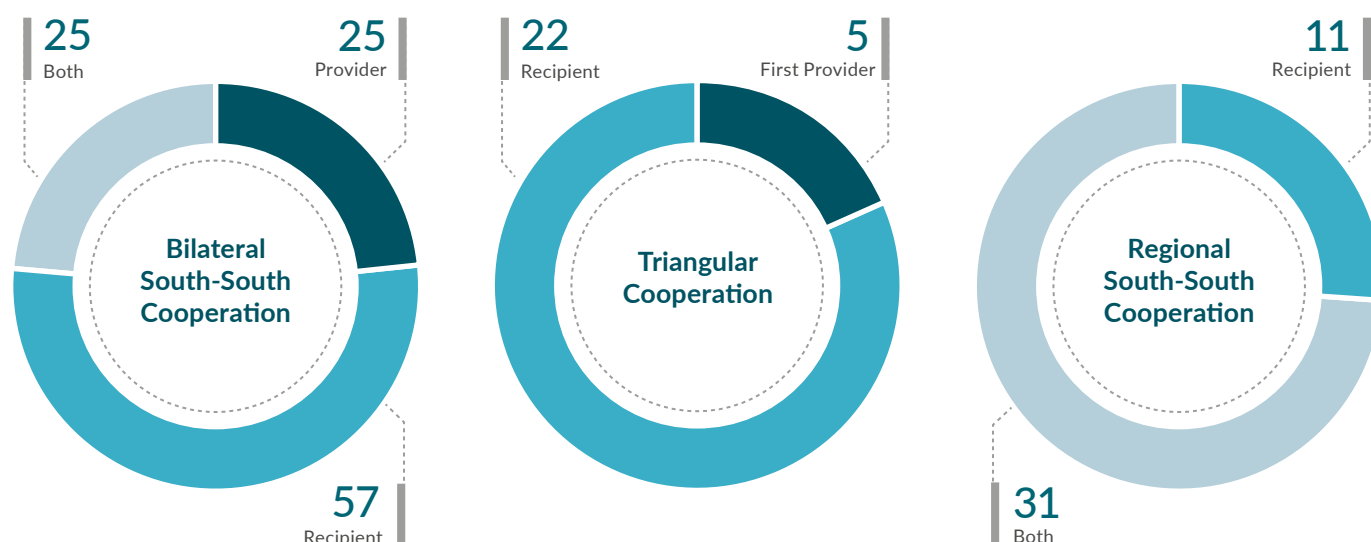
and *Disaster management* sectors, among others. When it played the role “Both”, initiatives mainly focused on *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Culture*; and *Environment*.

Costa Rica, Colombia and Guatemala were the Dominican Republic's main partners during this period. This country's Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC contributed to the region's alignment with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger).

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

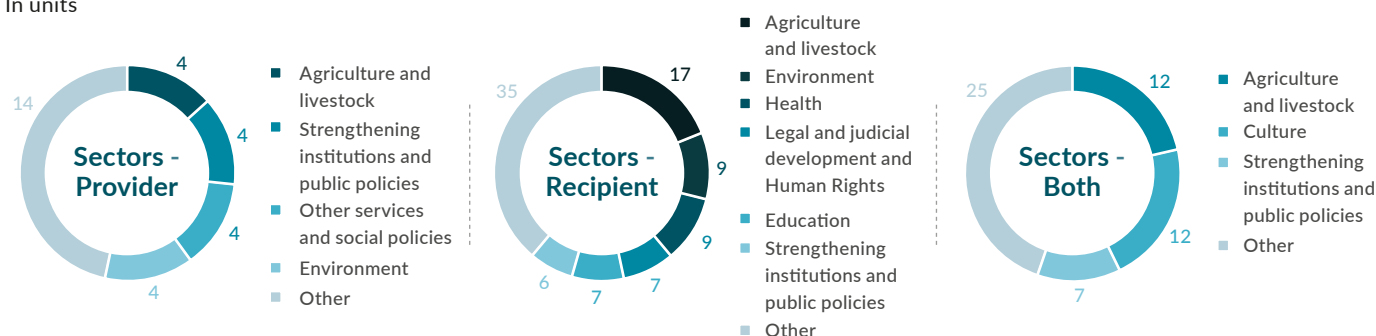
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 2 and 8



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Ecuador implemented 176 actions, programs and projects. Sixty-one percent (61%) of these initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC; 24% through Regional SSC and 15% through Triangular Cooperation (15%). Although Ecuador mainly participated as recipient in the Bilateral (57 out of 107 initiatives) and Triangular (22 out of 27) modalities, its dual role in Regional SSC (31 out of 42) was noteworthy.

Ecuador provided capacity strengthening in sectors such as *Agriculture and livestock*, *strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Environment*, to name a few. On the other hand, as recipient, it was

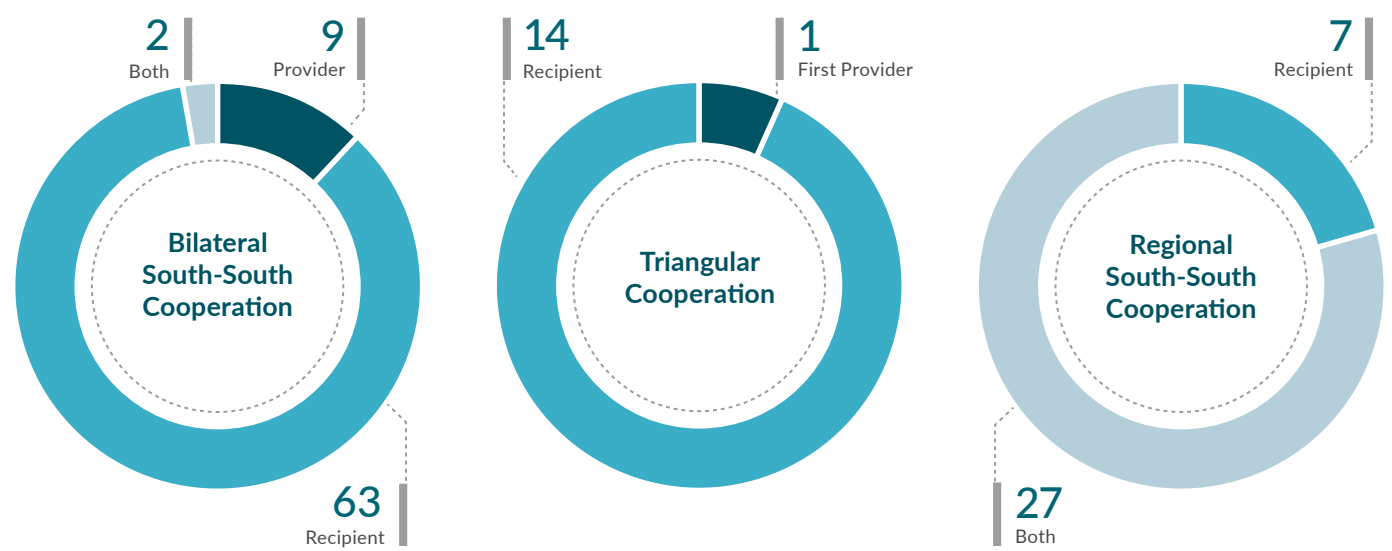
specially supported in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment*; and *Health*. Its dual role, in turn, suggests a specialized profile in the *Agriculture and livestock*; *Culture*; and *Strengthening institutions and public policies* sectors.

Peru, Colombia and Chile were Ecuador's main partners in the 2022-2023 period. Through these exchanges, Ecuador mainly contributed to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

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

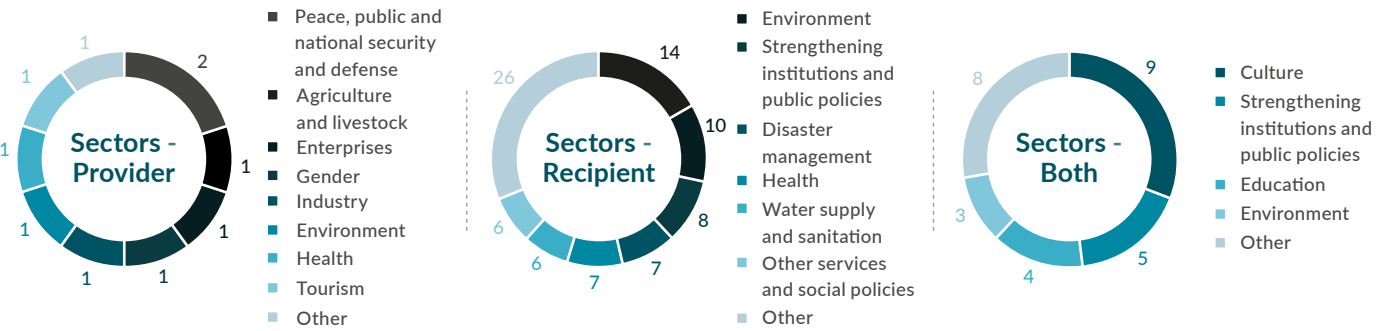
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 11 and 3



Main partners



Almost 60% of the 123 initiatives in which El Salvador participated between 2022 and 2023 were carried out through Bilateral SSC; 28% through Regional SSC and 12% through Triangular Cooperation. This country mainly acted as recipient in Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation; however, the role “Both” prevailed in Regional SSC.

El Salvador provided its experience in different sectors including Peace, public and national security and defense; *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Enterprises*. In turn, as recipient, it mainly strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment*; and *Strengthening institutions and public policies*. In its dual role, it contributed to cooperation in *Culture*;

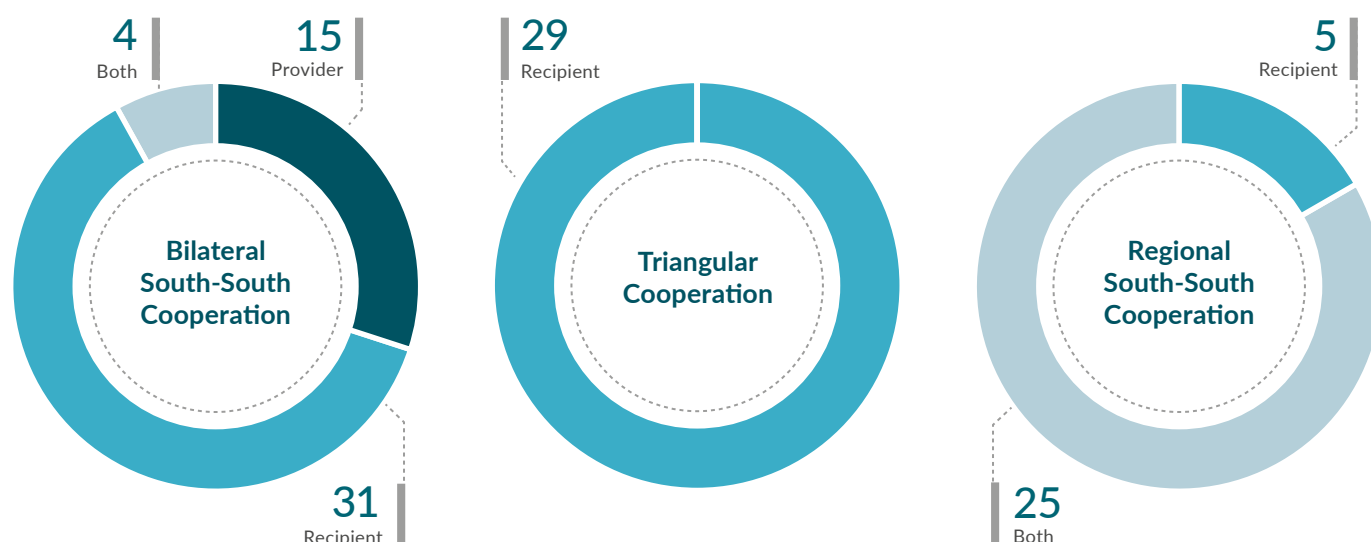
Strengthening institutions and public policies; and *Education*, among other sectors.

Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras were El Salvador's main partners between 2022 and 2023. As a result of its cooperation, it was able to contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

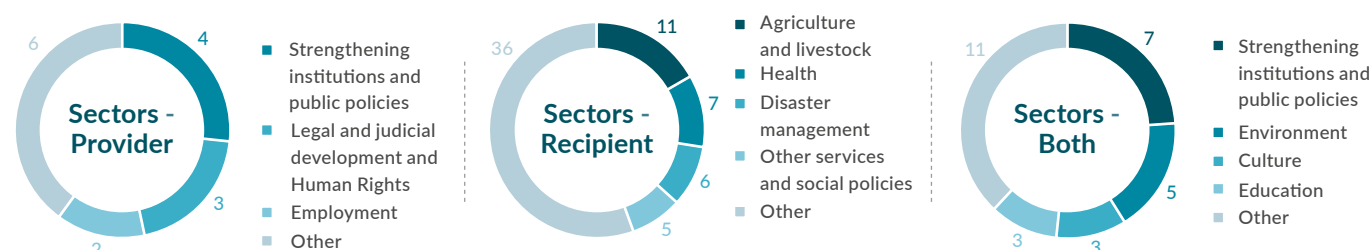
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 3 and 4



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Guatemala participated in 109 cooperation initiatives: 50 were carried out through Bilateral SSC, 30 through Regional SSC and 29 through Triangular Cooperation. Guatemala mostly played a dual role in Regional SSC while it mainly participated as recipient in bilateral and triangular exchanges.

As provider, this country mainly transferred capacities in the following sectors: *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*; and *Employment*. On the other hand, it was supported in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Health*; and *Disaster management*. When it played the role “Both”, it showed a specialized

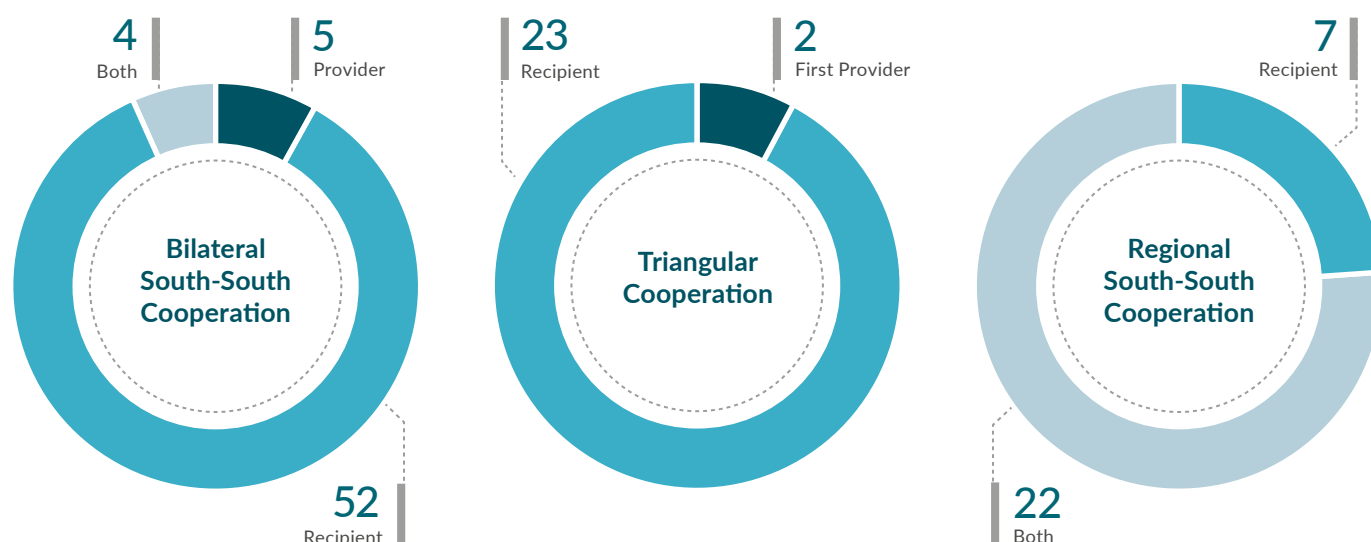
profile in *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Environment*; and *Culture*.

Guatemala worked with several partners, most notably with El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica. Through the cooperation in which this country participated, the region was able to advance the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality education).

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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 4 and 8



Main partners



Honduras implemented 115 cooperation actions, projects and programs between 2022 and 2023. More than half (53%) were Bilateral SSC initiatives, 25% corresponded to Regional SSC and 22% to Triangular Cooperation. This country mainly played a dual role in regional exchanges and it acted as recipient in most bilateral and triangular initiatives.

As provider, it strengthened its partners' capacities in sectors such as Peace, public and national security and defense; Education; and Gender. In turn, Honduras enhanced its own experience in Agriculture and livestock; Legal and judicial development and Human Rights; and Education.

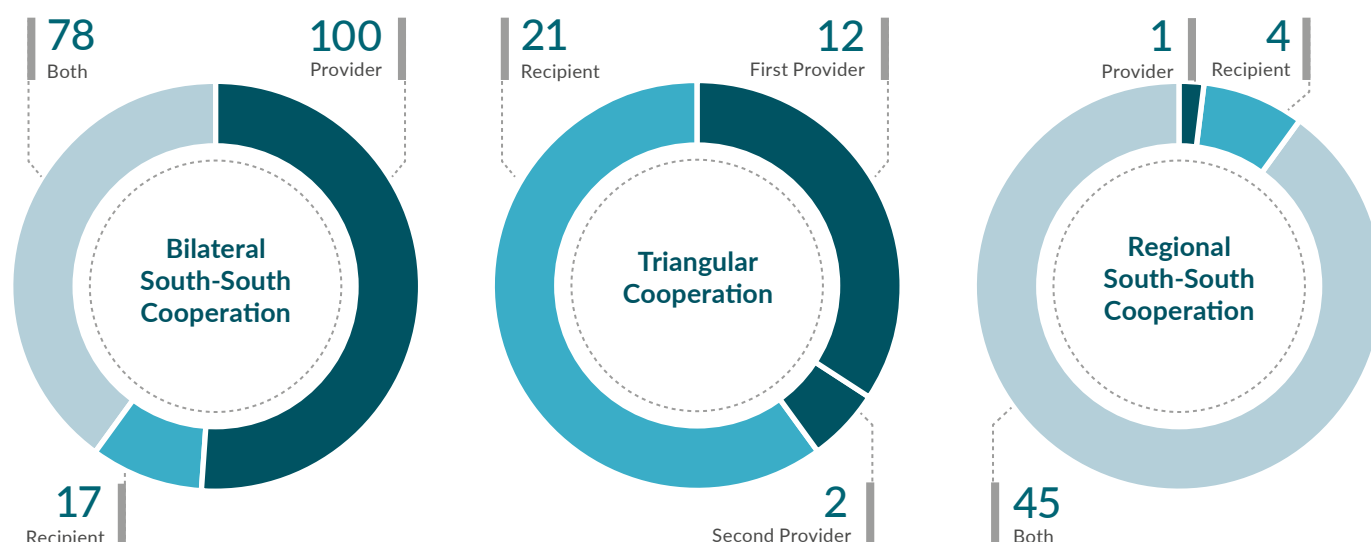
When it played the role "Both", the most frequent exchanges were in the Strengthening institutions and public policies; Environment; and Culture sectors.

Honduras' main partners between 2022 and 2023 were Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica. This country's cooperation mainly contributed the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 2 and 3



Main partners



Approximately 70% of the 280 initiatives in which Mexico participated between 2022 and 2023 were implemented through Bilateral SSC, followed by those which corresponded to Regional SSC (18%) and Triangular Cooperation (12%). In bilateral and triangular exchanges, Mexico played a predominantly provider role while it tended to play the role "Both" (90% of cases) in Regional SSC.

As provider, Mexico strengthened its partners' experience in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment* and *Strengthening institutions and public policies*, among other sectors. On the other hand, it enhanced its capacities in the *Health*; *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Culture* sectors. When it played

a dual role, Mexico mainly showed a specialized profile in *Culture*; *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock*.

Mexico's main partners in the 2022-2023 period were Chile, Colombia and Peru. Through its Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC, it mainly contributed to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

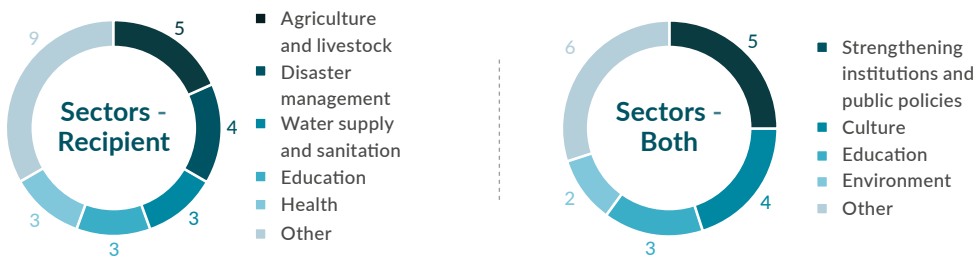
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 4, 11 and 16



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Nicaragua participated in 47 initiatives. Of this total, 26 were implemented through Regional SSC, 11 through Triangular Cooperation and 10 through Bilateral SSC. It mainly acted as recipient in most of its bilateral and triangular exchanges while its role was mainly dual in regional initiatives.

As recipient, this country mainly strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Disaster management*; and *Water supply and sanitation*. When it played the role “Both”, Nicaragua mainly contributed

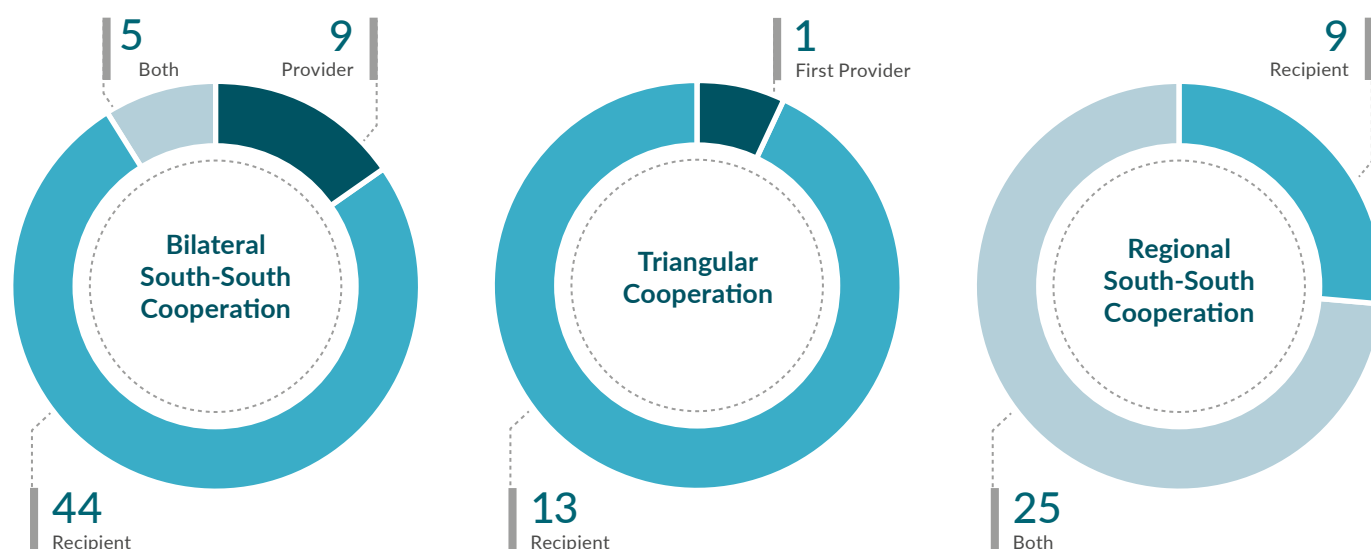
to *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Culture*; and *Education*.

Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador stood out as Nicaragua’s main partners. Through its cooperation, this country was able to contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

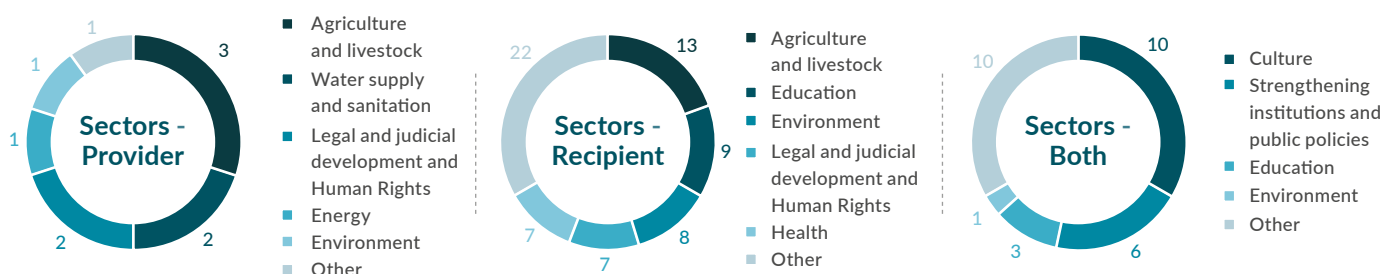
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 4 and 3



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Panama implemented 106 actions, projects and programs. Of this total, 55% of the initiatives were implemented through Bilateral SSC, 32% through Regional SSC and 13% through Triangular Cooperation. It mainly acted as recipient in bilateral and triangular exchanges while the role "Both" stood out in regional initiatives.

Different partners enhanced their experience through Panama's knowledge in sectors such as *Agriculture and livestock*; *Water supply and sanitation*; and *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*, among others. As recipient, Panama mainly strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Education*; and *Environment*. This country mainly played a dual role

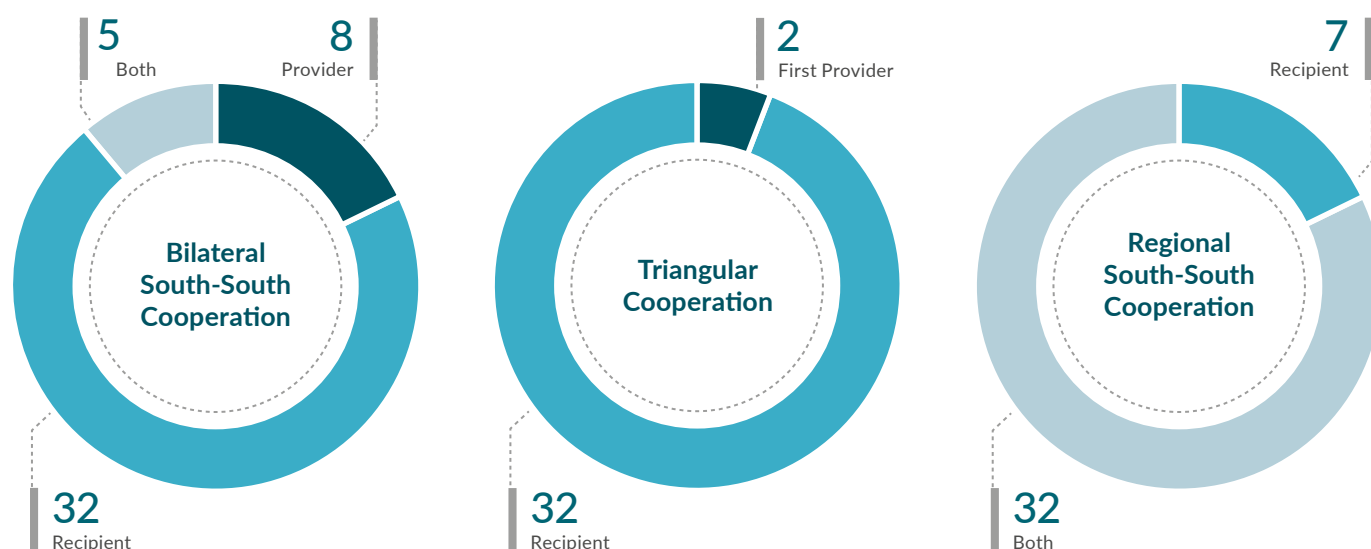
in initiatives related to *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Education*.

Colombia, Mexico and Costa Rica were Panama's main partners during this period. Its Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC contributed to the alignment of the region's cooperation with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



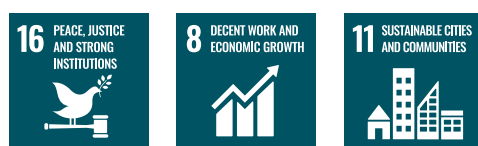
Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 8 and 11



Main partners



Of the 118 cooperation initiatives in which Paraguay participated between 2022 and 2023, 38% were carried out through Bilateral SSC; 33% through Regional SSC and 29% through Triangular Cooperation. Paraguay mainly acted as recipient in bilateral and triangular exchanges while its role was predominantly dual in the framework of Regional SSC.

As provider, Paraguay strengthened other countries' capacities in sectors such as Tourism; Agriculture and livestock; and Legal and judicial development and Human Rights, to name a few. On the other hand, as recipient, it was able to strengthen its experience in Agriculture and

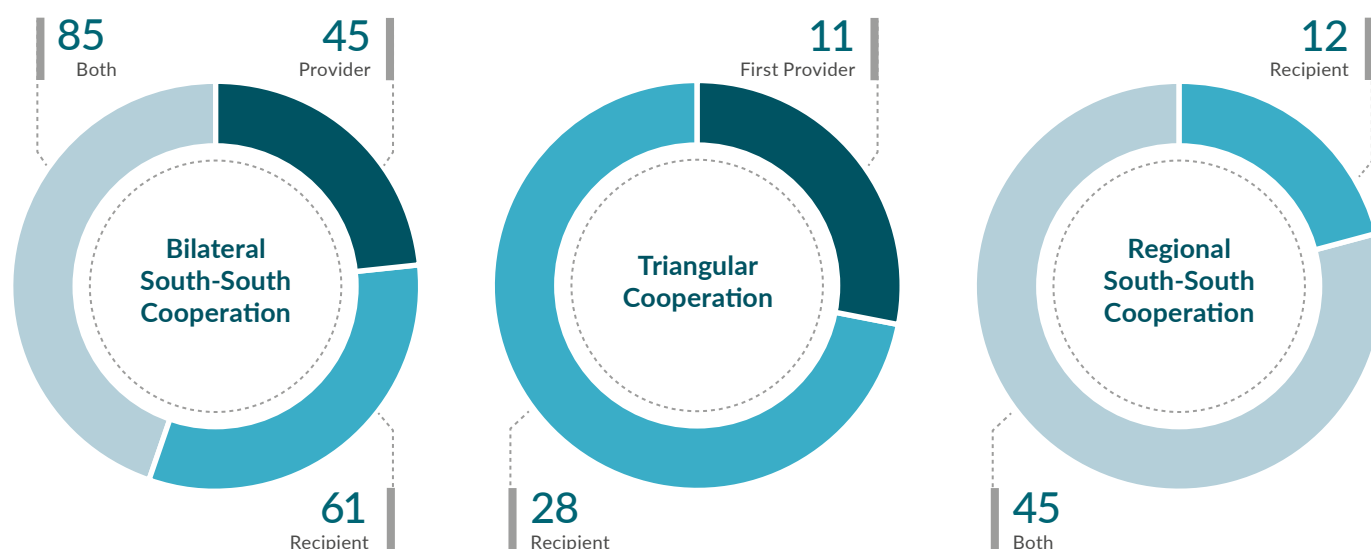
livestock; Strengthening institutions and public policies; and Other services and social policies. When it played the role "Both", it mainly contributed to cooperation in Culture; Agriculture and livestock; and Education.

Paraguay's main partners in the 2022-2023 period were Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. Its cooperation contributed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through 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

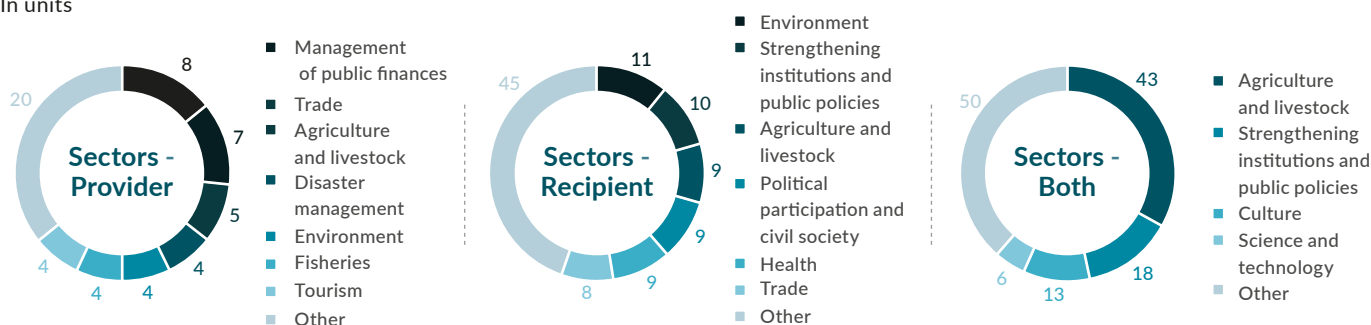
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 2 and 8



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Peru implemented 287 cooperation initiatives. Two thirds of these exchanges were carried out through Bilateral SSC, 20% of the initiatives were executed through Regional SSC and 13% corresponded to Triangular Cooperation. This country's dual role prevailed in most of its bilateral (45%) and regional (80%) initiatives while it mostly participated as recipient in Triangular Cooperation (72%).

Peru mainly transferred its capacities in the Management of public finances; Trade and Agriculture and livestock sectors. As recipient, it was strengthened in Environment; Strengthening institutions and public policies; and Agriculture and livestock, among other topics. When it played a dual

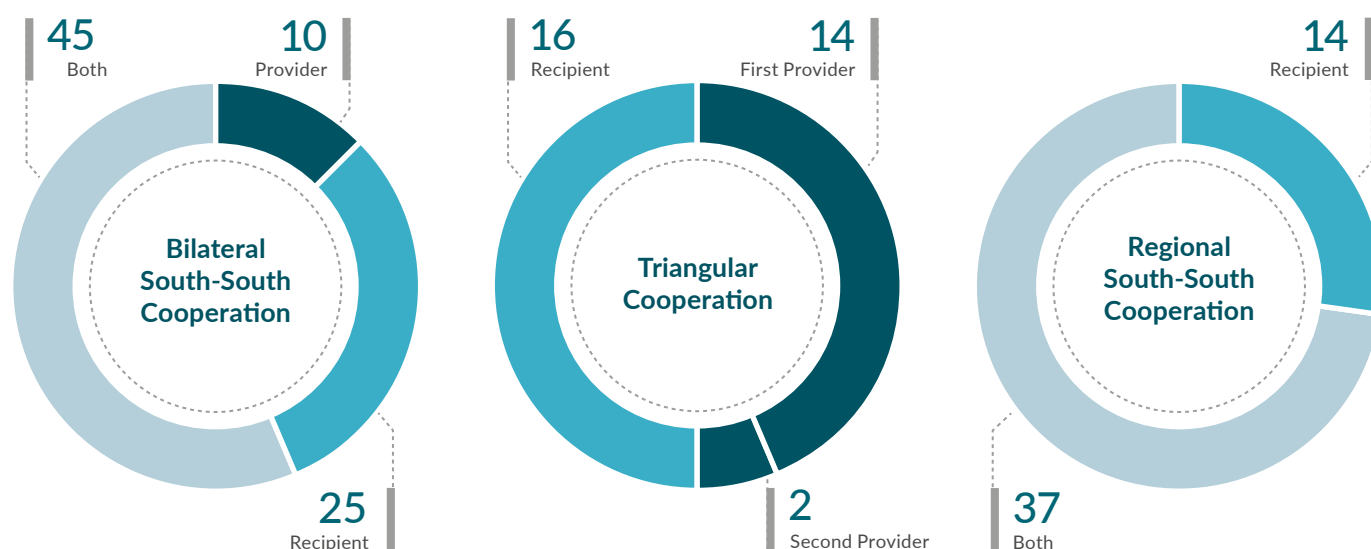
role, it mainly focused on Agriculture and livestock; Strengthening institutions and public policies; and Culture.

Chile, Colombia and Ecuador were Peru's main partners between 2022 and 2023. Its cooperation contributed to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

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

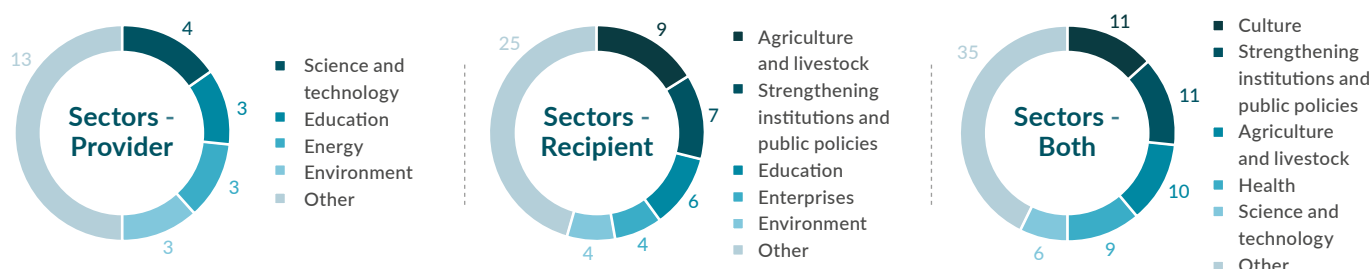
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 16, 3 and 2



Main partners



Uruguay implemented 163 cooperation actions, projects and programs between 2022 and 2023. Almost half of these were Bilateral SSC initiatives, 31% corresponded to Regional SSC and 20% were Triangular exchanges. Uruguay played a mostly dual role in bilateral and regional initiatives while its participation in Triangular Cooperation was evenly divided as recipient (16 out of 32) and as provider (another 16).

Uruguay mainly transferred its capacities in sectors such as *Science and technology*; *Education* and *Energy*. On the other hand, as recipient, the country strengthened its experience in *Agriculture and livestock*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Education*. When it played

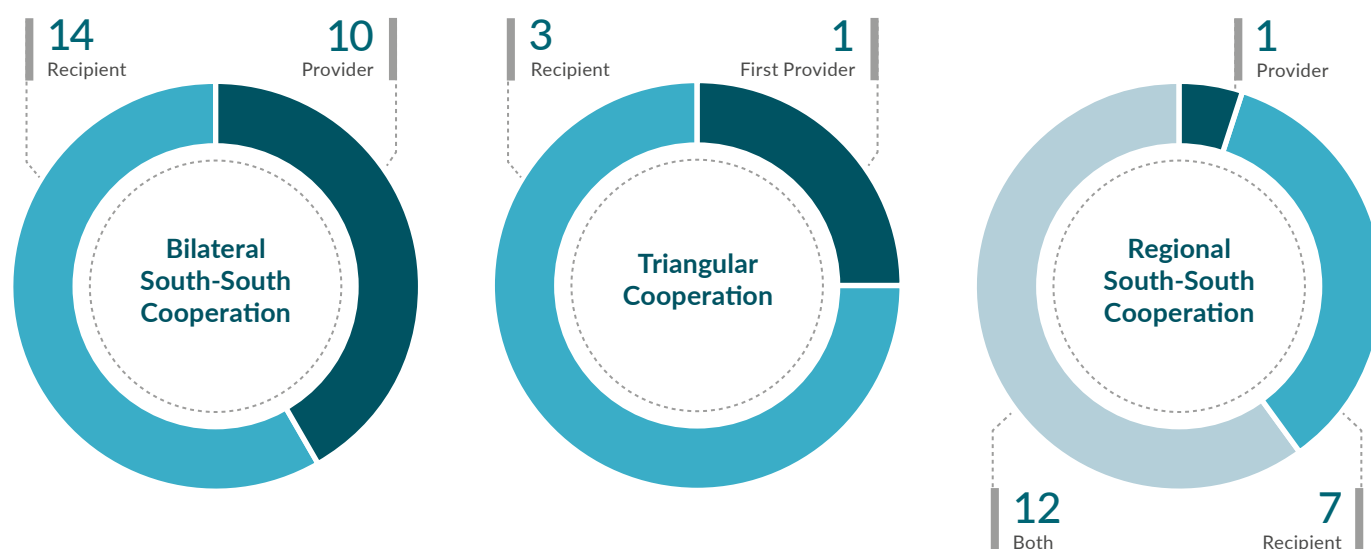
a dual role, its specialization profile focused on *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; and *Agriculture and livestock*.

Uruguay's main cooperation partners in 2022 and 2023 were Argentina, Mexico and Chile. Its Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC mainly contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger).

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

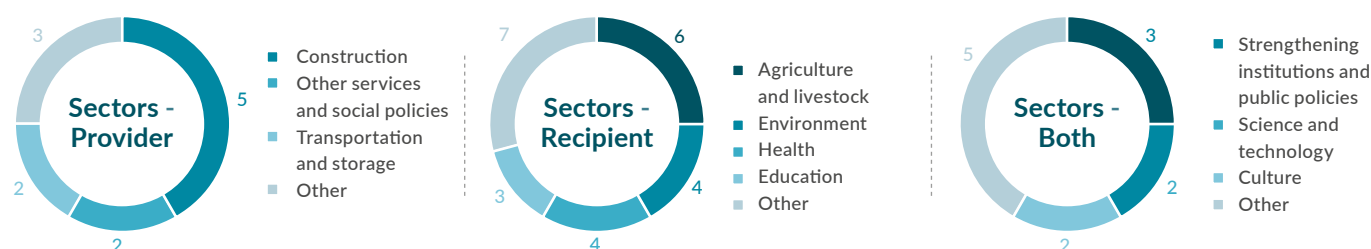
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 4 and 16



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Venezuela participated in 48 cooperation actions, projects and programs. Of this total, 24 were Bilateral SSC exchanges, 20 were Regional SSC initiatives and 4 corresponded to Triangular Cooperation interventions. Its participation was predominantly as recipient in Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation while its dual role prevailed in Regional SSC.

As provider, Venezuela shared its experience in *Construction*; *Other services and social policies*; and *Transportation and storage*. Meanwhile, as recipient, it strengthened its capacities in the *Agriculture and livestock*; *Environment*; and *Health* sectors. When it played the role “Both”, it

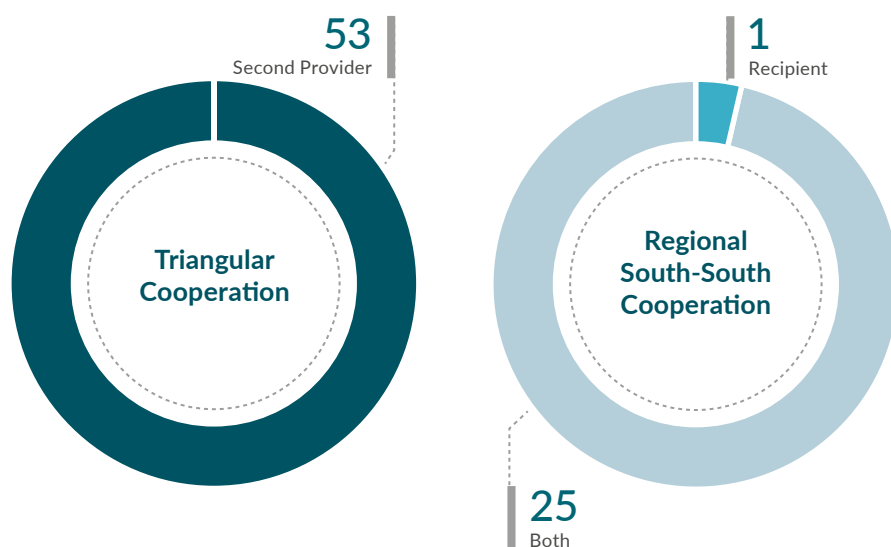
contributed to exchanges in *Institutional strengthening and public policies*; *Science and technology*; and *Culture*.

Venezuela had several partners among which Cuba, Ecuador and Peru stood out. Through its cooperation, it was able to contribute to the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

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

Participation by modalities and roles

In units



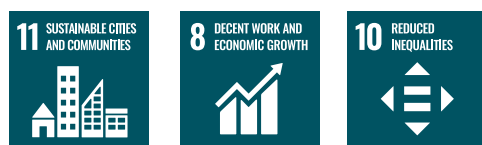
Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 8 and 10



Main partners



During 2022 and 2023, Spain executed 79 initiatives, a significantly higher percentage (65%) compared to the previous two-year period (49). Part of this growth can be explained by this country's commitment to Triangular Cooperation -in the role of second provider-, modality that accounts for two thirds of its initiatives. The remaining 33% of the exchanges were executed through Regional SSC, in which Spain mostly played a dual role.

Spain shared its experience in sectors such as *Environment*; *Health*; and *Enterprises*, among others. When it played a dual role, this country mainly contributed to strengthen topics related to *Culture*; *Strengthening*

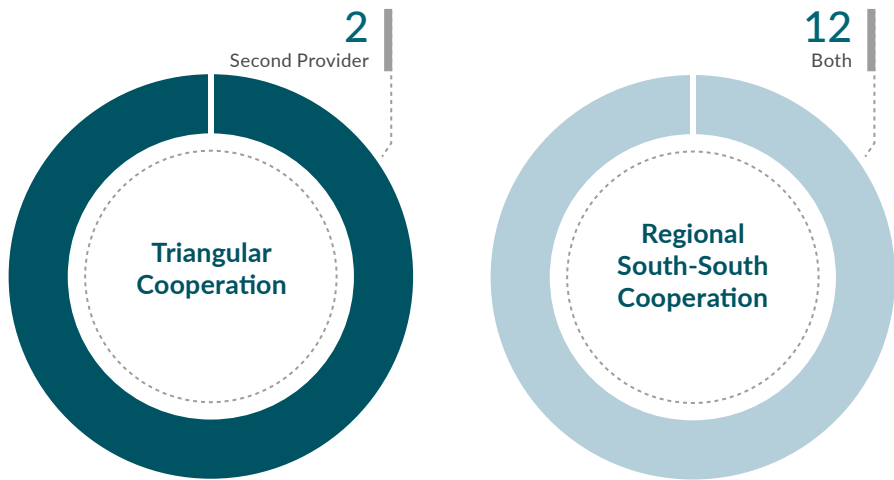
institutions and public policies; and *Education*. Its participation as recipient of Regional SSC was also related to this last sector.

Spain's main partners in this period were Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay. Its cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities).

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

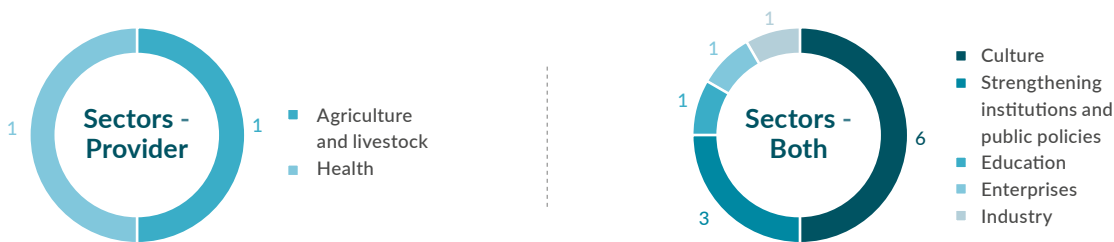
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

Initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 11, 17 and 2



Main partners



Between 2022 and 2023, Portugal participated in 14 cooperation initiatives; 12 of them corresponded to Regional SSC and 2 were Triangular Cooperation exchanges. Portugal combined the exercise of a dual role with that of second provider in these modalities, respectively.

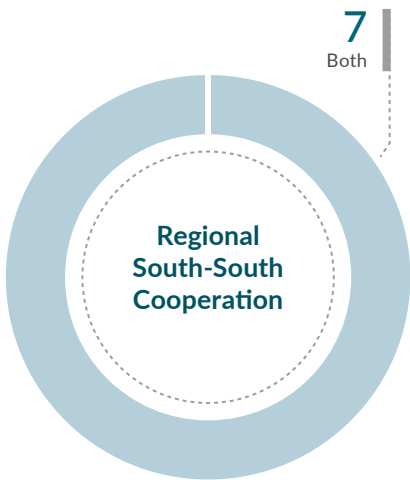
Through Triangular Cooperation, Portugal transferred its capacities to Ibero-American and African partners in the *Agriculture and livestock*; and *Health* sectors. In turn, its participation from a dual role in Regional SSC focused on *Culture*; *Strengthening institutions and public policies*; *Education*; *Enterprises*; and *Industry*.

Its partnerships with Uruguay, Ecuador and Spain stood out in these exchanges. As a result of Portugal's efforts, it was able to contribute to advance the achievement of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger).

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

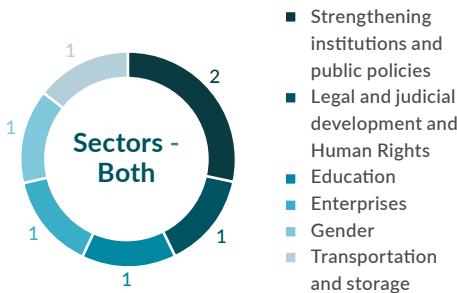
Participation by modalities and roles

In units



Strengthened capacities

In units



Alignment with SDGs

initiatives are mainly aligned with SDG 17, 10 and 3



Main partners



Throughout the 2022-2023 period, Andorra actively participated -playing a dual role- in 7 Regional SSC initiatives (3 more than in the previous two years). These were implemented in the framework of Ibero-American Cooperation Programs, Projects and Initiatives.

Specifically, Andorra had been participating in the Ibero-American Program on the Rights of People with Disabilities; the Ibero-American Road Safety Program; the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation; and the Ascribed Project on Quality (IBERQUALITAS). However, during the period of this analysis, Andorra joined the Ibero-American Initiative on Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development and the Initiative to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against

Women. It also had an active participation in the Ibero-American Plan for Literacy and Lifelong Learning (PIALV).

In this context, Andorra contributed to topics related to the *Strengthening of institutions and public policies*; *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights*; and *Education* sectors, among others.

In the framework of this Regional SSC, Andorra's main partners were the Dominican Republic, Spain and Uruguay. In short, this country's cooperation contributed to advance the achievement of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 3 (Good health and well-being).

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



Photo: Ibercococinas promotes the design of policies, programs, strategies and initiatives aimed at safeguarding, protecting and promoting of Ibero-American cuisines as tools for sustainable development. SSC. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.



Photo: Family producers in the Paraguayan village of La Colmena work in the care and reproduction of bees, as well as in the collection, processing and marketing of beekeeping products (honey, pollen, propolis, wax). Through SSC, Paraguay and Colombia contribute to increasing this sector's competitiveness and productivity, ensuring food security for the families that are involved in this activity. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|--|
| ACTO | Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization |
| AECID (by its Spanish acronym) | Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation |
| AFD (by its French acronym) | French Development Agency |
| AGCID (by its Spanish acronym) | Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation |
| AI | Artificial Intelligence |
| AIMA (by Spanish acronym) | Association of Wood Industrialists of Ecuador |
| AMEXCID (by its Spanish acronym) | Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation |
| APC-Colombia (by its Spanish acronym) | Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation |
| AUCI (by its Spanish acronym) | Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation |
| BAPA+40 | Buenos Aires Plan of Action + 40 |
| CAF (by its former acronym) | Latin-America Development Bank |
| CAN (by its Spanish acronym) | Andean Community |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community |
| CEQUINOR (by its Spanish acronym) | Center for Inorganic Chemistry of Argentina |
| CGPDS (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American Initiative on Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development |
| CI (by its Spanish acronym) | Intergovernmental Council |
| CITEMadera (by its Spanish acronym) | Wood and Forestry Technological Innovation Center of Peru |
| CONAFOR (by its Spanish acronym) | National Forestry Commission of Mexico |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease 2019 |
| CPPS (by its Spanish acronym) | Permanent Commission for the South Pacific |
| ECLAC | Economic Commission for Latin-America and the Caribbean |
| ESCO (by its Spanish acronym) | Agency for International Cooperation of El Salvador |
| EU | European Union |
| EWS | Early Warning Systems |
| FAEDPYME (by its Spanish acronym) | Foundation for the Strategic Analysis and Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Spain |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FILAC (by its Spanish acronym) | Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin-America and the Caribbean |
| FML (by its Spanish acronym) | Miguel Lillo Foundation |

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| FNS | Food and Nutritional Security |
| FONAG (by its Spanish acronym) | Environmental Fund for Water Protection |
| FONTAGRO (by its Spanish acronym) | Regional Agricultural Technology Fund |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GHGs | Greenhouse gases |
| GIZ (by its German acronym) | German Society for International Cooperation |
| GLFD (by its Spanish acronym) | Management of Household Fecal Sludge |
| GMO | Genetically Modified Organisms |
| GPI | Global Partnership Initiative |
| IAI (by its Spanish acronym) | Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research |
| IAV | Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II |
| ICEX | ICEX Spain Trade and Investment |
| ICF (by its Spanish acronym) | Institute of Forest Conservation of Honduras |
| IDB | Inter-American Development Bank |
| IDM (by its Spanish acronym) | Municipality of Maldonado |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IIALI (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages Initiative |
| IICA (by its Spanish acronym) | Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| INAIGEM (by its Spanish acronym) | National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems of Ecuador |
| INE (by its Spanish acronym) | National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala |
| INTA (by its Spanish acronym) | National Agricultural Technology Institute of Argentina |
| IPCC | Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change |
| ITP (by its acronym in Spanish) | Technological Institute of Production of Peru |
| KMC | Kangaroo Mother Care Method |
| LAC | Latin-America and the Caribbean |
| MARN (by its Spanish acronym) | Ministry of the Environment of El Salvador |
| MERCOSUR (by its Spanish acronym) | Southern Common Market |
| MINVU (by its Spanish acronym) | Ministry of Housing and Urbanism of Chile |
| MSME | Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise |
| OAS | Organization of American States |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| OEI (by its Spanish acronym) | Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture |

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| OISS (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American Organization for Social Security |
| ONE (by its Spanish acronym) | National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic |
| PA | Pacific Alliance |
| PAHO | Pan-American Health Organization |
| PALOP (by its Spanish acronym) | Portuguese-speaking African Countries |
| PIFCSS (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation |
| PIPA (by its Spanish acronym) | Programs, Initiatives and Ascribed Projects |
| ProAmbiente (in Spanish) | Program Contribution to the Environmental Goals of Peru |
| R4S | Roots for Sustainability |
| RENAREC (by its Spanish acronym) | National Network of Recyclers of Ecuador |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEGIB (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American General Secretariat |
| SEMARNAT (by its Spanish acronym) | Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico |
| SESAL (by its Spanish acronym) | Secretary of Health of Honduras |
| SICA (by its Spanish acronym) | Central-American Integration System |
| SIDICSS (by its Spanish acronym) | Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation |
| SME | Small and Medium-sized Enterprise |
| SSC | South-South Cooperation |
| SSTC | South-South and Triangular Cooperation |
| TC | Triangular Cooperation |
| UDEA (by its Spanish acronym) | University of Antioquia |
| UDUAL (by its Spanish acronym) | Union of Universities of Latin-America and the Caribbean |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Program |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund (formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities) |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund (formerly United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNLP (by its Spanish acronym) | National University of La Plata |
| WB | World Bank |
| WFP | World Food Program |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| YLB (by its Spanish acronym) | Bolivian Lithium Deposits |



Photo: The aim of this project is to strengthen the exchange of experiences between Perú (National Institute for Research on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems, INAIGEM by its Spanish acronym) and Ecuador (Environmental Fund for Water Protection, FONAG by its Spanish acronym), for the conservation and recovery of water services in mountain ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

This section details the methodological considerations for the analysis of Ibero-American countries' SSC in 2022 and/or 2023, in each of the modalities recognized in this space, as well as for the final factsheets that summarize and combine each country's most important information.

Cooperation modalities

> Bilateral South-South Cooperation (Bilateral SSC)

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

> Triangular Cooperation (TC)

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 role (one or two developing countries, in each case), and the second provider role (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 (Regional SSC)

South-South Cooperation modality aimed at the development and/or integration of a region, considering participating countries (a minimum of three developing countries) share and agree on that objective. The regional nature of this cooperation is determined by a formal institutional mechanism. Its implementation is based on the execution of programs and projects.

Type of initiatives

> Program

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

> Project

Group of interrelated actions aimed to achieve a common objective in the framework of one or more sectors and/or topics. It has the following characteristics: a defined execution period; a budget; expected results; and follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. It is approved within a cooperation framework (bilateral meeting, interinstitutional agreement, general cooperation agreements, or similar) and it is applicable to all cooperation modalities.

> Specific action

It is executed only once through technical assistance, internships, joint research, diagnoses missions, seminars, among others. It is only applicable to Bilateral SSC and TC.

Sectoral classification

A sectoral classification has been agreed within the Ibero-American space for the analysis of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. As a result of this effort, 30 activity sectors were defined and grouped in 6 areas of action. Table 1 describes each sector and arranges them according to their association with each of the areas. Specifically:

- 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) On the other hand, *Extractive, Agriculture and livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, Construction, Industry, Tourism, and Trade*, are dedicated to the strengthening of Productive sectors. *Energy, Transportation and storage, Communications, Science and technology, Banking and finance, Employment and Enterprises*, complement the support to national economies from more operative perspectives and are all grouped in the Infrastructure and economic services area.
- c) Meanwhile, sectors such as *Strengthening institutions and public policies, Management of public finances, Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* and Political participation and civil society, are considered to be destined to Institutional strengthening, as well as Peace, public and national security and defense.
- d) Additionally, two sectors are associated with Environment issues: the first includes all matters relative to the preservation and care of the *Environment*; and the second one focuses on 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 their particular characteristics and difficult categorization, sectors such as *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. |

| Area of action | Activity sector | Description |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| ECONOMIC Infrastructure and economic services | <i>Energy</i> | 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). |
| | <i>Transportation and storage</i> | 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). |
| | <i>Communications</i> | 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). |
| | <i>Science and technology</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Banking and finance</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Employment</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Enterprises</i> | 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 | <i>Extractive</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Agriculture and livestock</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Forestry</i> | Policy development and support to institutions involved in forestry and forest management, as well as matters related to the commercial use of wood. |
| | <i>Fisheries</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Construction</i> | Policy development and support to the construction and infrastructure sector. |
| | <i>Industry</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Tourism</i> | Policy development and support to institutions involved in the tourism sector. |
| | <i>Trade</i> | 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. |

| Area of action | Activity sector | Description |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING | <i>Strengthening institutions and public policies</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Management of public finances</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Legal and judicial development and Human Rights</i> | 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,). |
| | <i>Political participation and civil society</i> | Strengthening political participation, electoral processes and democracy, civil society, as well as actions to improve citizens' control over their representatives. |
| | <i>Peace, public and national security and defense</i> | 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 | <i>Environment</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Disaster management</i> | Support to all operational interventions carried out throughout the disaster management process, including prevention, preparation, mitigation, emergency assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction. |
| OTHER AREAS | <i>Culture</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Gender</i> | 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. |
| | <i>Other</i> | 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 Ibero-American countries participated throughout 2020 and/or 2021. Each factsheet details the following information: initiatives in which the country participated; cooperation modalities; roles; main partners; activity sectors; and the SDGs with which exchanges are potentially aligned. It is important to highlight that values are not disaggregated by type (actions, projects and programs), but they refer to all SSC initiatives.

The way in which values were calculated is the following:

> Total number of initiatives (in units)

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

> Participation by modality and roles (in units)

The analysis of each country shows the number of initiatives and the role in which it participated in 2020 and/or 2021 in each SSC modality, considering cooperation initiatives between Ibero-America and other regions. Possible roles vary according to the cooperation modality:

- Bilateral SSC: Provider, Recipient, Both.
- Triangular: First provider, Second provider, Recipient.
- Regional SSC: Provider, Recipient, Both.

> Strengthened capacities (in units)

Regardless of the cooperation modality, the total number of initiatives in which each country participated, in each of the roles (provider—which includes exchanges as provider, first provider or second provider, depending on the case—, recipient and “both”), are grouped together. The respective totals are distributed according to the initiatives that are associated with each of the 30 activity sectors recognized in the Ibero-American space. The resulting pie chart shows the activity sectors (4-5) that were most prominent and the remaining ones are aggregated and grouped in a general category (“Other sectors”).

> Alignment with the 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. Only the main SDG with which each initiative is associated is taken into account (the analysis does not consider second SDGs).

> Main partners

It refers to those partners with which the country shared a higher number of exchanges in 2020 and/or 2021, regardless of the SSC modality (bilateral, triangular, regional) and the role.



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Photo: Artisanal fishermen work in the pink shrimp harvest in Castillos Lagoon, in Rocha, in the East of Uruguay. This community participated in a pilot experience of inclusive and sustainable development to improve their quality of life and ensure the sustainability of fishing, respecting the environment and mitigating the adverse effects that climate events have on the marine resources on which their income depends. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.



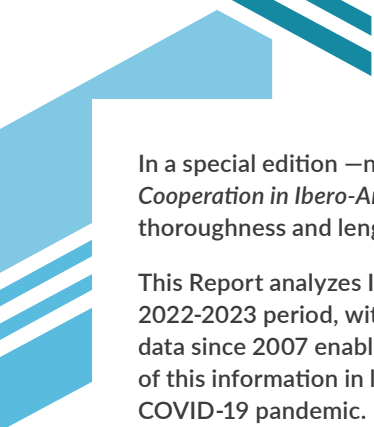
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In a special edition —number 15—, *the Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2024* once again demonstrates that methodological thoroughness and length are no obstacles to an agile and entertaining reading.

This Report analyzes Ibero-American countries' South-South Cooperation, in the 2022-2023 period, with partners from around the world. However, the accumulated data since 2007 enables the contextualization of this modality and the interpretation of this information in light of relevant events, such as the 2030 Agenda or the COVID-19 pandemic.

This edition is divided into three chapters, each one corresponding to the modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space (Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation, Regional SSC). These are preceded by a series of Highlights that summarize the main outcomes. The Report closes with 22 Country Fact Sheets, which detail the most relevant information for the 2022-2023 period in each case.

This Report is structured around 5 complementary —but different and independent— sections. This makes it flexible and adaptable to each reader, enabling them to dive into each content regardless of the sequence and separately, without affecting the understanding of the whole picture

In order to celebrate this special edition, the Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation have prepared a message; commemorative greetings from ECLAC, UNCTAD and IFT-TOSSD —with which SEGIB closely works— are also included; as well as a fold-out infographic to illustrate the history of these 15 Reports in the framework of the last 25 years of development cooperation.

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