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Better evidence in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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Abstract:

Better evidence in South-South and Triangular Cooperation South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC) seems to be key mechanisms to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, social development, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability. The comparative advantages of such cooperation are its cost effectiveness, its role in the transfer of skills and expertise within partner countries, its impact on capacity development, as well as on transfer of appropriate technology. In 1992 Argentina established the FO-AR (Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation), coordinated by the International Cooperation Directorate (DGCIN), in the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship. The FO-AR is the instrument through which Argentina provides for technical aid to countries of equal or lower relative levels of economic and social development. Its main purpose lies in fostering sustainable development through the transfer of the knowledge and skills Argentina better handles. As a developing country and as a net receiver of foreign aid, Argentina designed a mechanism to supply technical aid to other developing countries in a timely and constant manner. More than 4,500 missions for technical assistance have been organized in the 15-year period, oriented mainly to other LAC countries. From 2000 to 2008 the most relevant fields of cooperation were administration / governance, citizenship / human rights, education, health, environment, agriculture and food safety. Almost 80 % of these activities were aimed at contributing to the following MDGs: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, ensure environmental sustainability, promote decent work, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Although it is not a significant portion of the global development cooperation effort, the potential of SSC and TDC for growth and its overall effectiveness cannot be accurately assessed. There is a need for effective nationally owned and inclusive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, stronger institutional capacity and exchange of information on best practices between countries. As a consultant to the DGCIN the author is currently coordinating a project aimed at designing an M&E system under RBM concepts to better the results of its SSC and TDC activities. Its objectives are: a) to provide useful information to policymakers, b) to provide the taxpayers accountability, c) to produce the knowledge to maximize effectiveness. The presentation aims at summarizing the advances and the problems found in this pioneer project in the field in Argentina, promoting the discussion and the exchange of experiences with colleagues from different disciplines.
