

A photograph showing two men in business suits sitting at a desk, looking at and discussing documents. One man is pointing at a document while the other looks on. A blue folder and a pen are also visible on the desk. The background shows a window with a view of a building and a blue flag with a globe emblem.

# IOM and South-South and Triangular Cooperation

## *Human Mobility in the Global South*

Migration and sustainable development are inextricably linked. And migration can be both a development outcome and a development strategy. But these benefits are not guaranteed, particularly in a context where migration broadly takes place in countries with more challenging development contexts in the Global South. Migration is in great part, a South-South affair. Between 2000 and 2017, the proportion of international migrants born in the South grew from 67% to 72%. More people migrate within the Global South (37% of all international migrants) than from the South to the North (35%), and South-South migration growth continues to outpace South-North migration. In Latin America for instance, international migrants have more than doubled in 15 years. At the same time, the Global South – and notably the least developed countries (LDCs) – bear the brunt of the global displacement crisis (LDCs account for around 14% of the world’s population, but host 53% of all IDPs), and is also dependent on migration: 19 of the 20 countries most dependent on remittances as a per cent of their GDP are in the South.

## *IOM’s Engagement on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC)*

These realities – in the context of the broader demographic shift – present diverse opportunities and challenges for countries and migrants alike, and many of those are best responded to through solutions established in the South.

Building on the progress declaration from the first [International Migration Review Forum](#) (IMRF), that reaffirmed the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) as a framework for strengthened multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, IOM is committed to the promotion of good migration governance through SSC and TC.

*“International migration has significant implications and relevance in many areas of public policy and for this reason governments must cooperate bilaterally and at regional level and expand their cooperation in the context of South-South Cooperation”*

*IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino  
High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, 2019*

In 2019, IOM and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to further advance cooperation on areas of mutual interest, and IOM is an engaged stakeholder of the [UN System-Wide Strategy](#) on SSC and TC for Sustainable Development. IOM’s extended operational footprint – with 490 offices in more than 140 countries, a majority of them in the Global South – and expertise in migration for development across sectors and policy areas makes it one of the best placed international stakeholders to leverage SSC and TC for sustainable development.

## *IOM Operational Support through SSC and TC*

In 2021, promoting and supporting good migration governance, solutions to internal displacement, and further mainstreaming of migration into policies and programming as an accelerator to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through SSC and TC remained a central tenant of IOM work. This, with the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) as a key instrument to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and a revitalized global partnership on migration.

At regional level, in 2021, IOM further mainstreamed SSC and TC modalities into strategic frameworks and other planning instruments, such as in the [IOM Continental Strategy for Africa](#), which underlines the specific importance of South-South partnerships for its implementation. IOM continued to promote South-South regional integration and interregional linkages through state-led [Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration](#) (ISCMs). Over more than three decades, these have provided an informal, non-binding environment for States to find common ground, to exchange information and experience, and develop a collaborative approach to migration management and governance, including through South-South ideas and solutions. In 2021, IOM supported a

regional consultation led by the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China, to promote mutual exchange between China and partner countries in Asia and the Pacific for sharing of experiences and possible replication through SSC on innovative disaster preparedness, and on addressing disaster displacement risks and impacts. In Azerbaijan, IOM has contributed to the setting up of the [Regional Training Centre on Migration Management](#) (RTCM), which serves as a hub for knowledge sharing, research, and policy dialogue with governments and a broad range of stakeholders in the field of migration in the region. The ongoing [EMERGE](#) project implemented in Armenia and Georgia contributes to strengthen national capacities and cross-border dialogue and cooperation in the area through research, training and other activities.

At country level, IOM continued building the human and institutional capacities needed to formulate and implement national development policies, strategies and programmes, including through the sharing of good practices and experiences from the South. For instance, IOM facilitated bilateral engagement in the areas of diaspora and labour mobility through a [study tour](#) of officials from Eswatini to Ghana; and to identify challenges faced to achieve productive use of remittances between Argentina and Bolivia, in partnership with the World Bank.



**In 2021 alone, IOM delivered training and technical assistance to 485 migration officials through the [African Capacity Building Center](#) (ACBC) that strengthens capacity-building in migration management across Africa.**



**Through the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM adapted its engagement on SSC and TC by leveraging digital technologies and innovation. For instance, in South America, IOM launched the [InnovaMigration](#) platform that provides digital and multi-public space aimed at highlighting innovation and fostering exchange on migration. IOM also held the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Interamerican Course on International Migration targeting officials from Latin America and the Caribbean, virtually, and introduced new mobility-related modules in the context of COVID-19.**



**In 2021 alone, 180 events from 22 ISCMs were held. About 200 countries and territories are members of at least one ISCM, and all 27 existing and emerging ISCMs are relevant for SSC.**

For more information on IOM and its work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, please contact:

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