



# South-South Cooperation on Population:

Good practices of the Government  
of Brazil and UNFPA's partnership



2002-2006  
2007-2011



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## Introduction

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, works in Brazil since 1973 providing international technical cooperation in population and development-related fields, such as the use of socio-demographic data on planning and policy-making, sexual reproductive health and rights, gender equity and youth issues, among others. Since 1994, when the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held, UNFPA follows its principles and works for the implementation of the ICPD's Programme of Action, which was approved by 179 UN Member-States, including Brazil.

The ICPD Programme of Action main global targets include:

- » Universal access to reproductive health services by 2015
- » 75% reduction in the maternal mortality ratio by 2015
- » 25% decrease in the HIV infection rate by 2010
- » Universal access to basic education and eradication of gender inequities in education by 2015
- » Higher life expectancy



## South-South Cooperation and ICPD

The ICPD Programme of Action acknowledges South-South Cooperation as a key strategy for achieving its goals.

- » "... to increase international financial assistance to direct South-South cooperation and to facilitate financing procedures for direct South-South cooperation (para.14.10)"
- » "More attention should be given to South-South cooperation as well as to new ways of mobilizing private contributions, particularly in partnership with nongovernmental organizations. The international community should urge donor agencies to improve and modify their funding procedures in order to facilitate and give higher priority to supporting direct South-South collaborative agreements". (14.16)
- » "South-South cooperation at all levels is an important instrument of development. In this regards, such cooperation – technical cooperation among developing countries – should play an important part in the implementation of the present Programme of Action". (16.19)

In addition, South-South Cooperation has become a priority in the Brazilian foreign affairs agenda; as such, SSC has enabled Brazil and UNFPA to reinforce the country's achievements and to advance the ICPD agenda at the international level.

## Background

Brazil was the first country to have South-South Cooperation as an integral part of the jointly agreed UNFPA Country Programme. Since 2002 UNFPA has developed South-South Cooperation initiatives in Brazil. It is based upon the capacity of Brazilian institutions and individuals and is aimed at maximizing the exchange of good practices for addressing the needs of partner countries.

- » UNFPA Brazil and the Brazilian Government jointly fund South-South initiatives on population.
- » The Brazilian Cooperation Agency/Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNFPA articulate concrete needs and potential partners for addressing them.



## South-South Cooperation on ICPD means:

- » Promoting mutual benefit and reciprocal transfer of knowledge and experience among developing countries.
- » Focusing on innovative strategies, improving the advocacy, building capacities for policy design and implementation.
- » Reinforcing national commitment to ICPD.



## Strengths

Brazil has successful experiences on ICPD  
in the following areas:

- » Census
- » Socio-demographic analysis
- » Legislation related to the application of the ICPD Programme of Action
- » Advocacy and policy dialogue on ICPD
- » Public policies, services and norms on Reproductive Health
- » Gender-Based Violence
- » HIV prevention
- » Engaging men on achieving gender equality
- » Youth participation and youth policies





## Knowledge Exchange

South-South Cooperation is primarily based on knowledge building and exchanging; in order to accomplish that, UNFPA regularly delivers:

- » Advocacy materials, reporting of activities and projects supported through the South-South Component.
- » Comprehensive reports and analysis of both the activities implemented and the SSC mechanism itself.

UNFPA has shared its experiences with the UN System.



## Resource mobilization and partnership

Funding of South-South activities is shared between UNFPA and ABC (Brazilian Cooperation Agency); together, they support technical cooperation projects between Brazil and other developing countries. Resource mobilization also includes.

- » Joint-funding: UNFPA and ABC support technical cooperation projects between Brazil and other developing countries.
- » Additional funding from different partners: OXFAM Novib in Haiti.
- » Triangular initiatives such as the partnership with GIZ for the Seminar on Men's Health, sub-regional projects on Masculinities and Men's Health in South America.



## **UNFPA added value**

UNFPA is a facilitator in different ways:

- » Supporting negotiations, needs assessment and diagnosis.
- » Contributing with the capacity development of potential SSC providers.
- » Promoting “scanning” exercises on a regular basis: articulating technical needs of recipient countries with high level providers of developing countries.
- » Providing technical support and funding for different South-South initiatives: bilateral, regional, sub-regional, inter-regional involving governmental institutions and civil society.
- » Programmatic and operational support to South-South projects and activities.

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# Some successful stories to be shared





## **Brazil-Paraguay**

A project focusing on capacity building of Paraguayan institutions in socio-demographic analysis, spatial distribution and environment has been concluded. It has provided training for approximately 100 professionals in Paraguay with the full involvement of governmental institutions and collaboration with NEPO/UNICAMP (Center for Population Studies/University of Campinas).



## Brazil-Ecuador

This project highlights the importance of socio-demographic data for public servants and brought together several governmental and academic institutions of Ecuador. Various technical exchange workshops were organized throughout the project in partnership with CEDEPLAR/UFMG (Center for Regional Planning and Development). Ecuadorian Parliamentarians had the chance to exchange views with their Brazilian peers in terms of women participation and gender issues in the Legislative power.





## Brazil-Venezuela

A pioneer technical exchange between the Brazilian NGO BEMFAM (IPPF affiliated) and the government of Venezuela has enabled the National Statistics Institute to conduct national researches on demography and health. A new partnership on the census with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics is being articulated.



## Brazil-Haiti

Two projects against Gender-Based Violence in Haiti have been implemented. One was aimed at sharing the Brazilian experience in addressing challenges on building national legislations and a public network to deal with gender based violence. After the project, Haiti strengthened the dialogue between government and civil society on GBV and established with the support of UNFPA Office in Haiti a special police service to deal with violence against women.





## Brazil-Haiti

The other project consisted on several technical workshops and technical visits of Haitian authorities and civil society to services of excellence in Brazil including: special health services, “police stations” specialized on gender based violence and both centers and shelter houses for women victims of violence. Through the project, Brazilian norms, protocols and standards were translated and utilized by Haitian organizations as a key reference on GBV.



## Brazil-Haiti

The final activity of the South-South project on GBV in 2011 included the participation of twelve Brazilian experts and consisted on an intensive course for approximately 70 Haitian health care professionals from the national and department governments and civil society. Haitian participants were encouraged to contribute with the learning process through pictures that reflect their realities, assisted by a professional photographer of the Brazilian Ministry of Health.



PHOTO: RADILSON CARLOS GOMES/MOH



## Brazil-Guinea Bissau

Project aimed at sharing the Brazilian experience on the census with Guinea Bissau. Through the project, IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) provided standards for data collection and a workshop on data analysis was conducted. Some promising collaboration between IBGE and INE on building a national geographic system in Guinea-Bissau is under discussion.



## Brazil-Guinea Bissau

A project on youth and services for women victims of violence is being rapidly implemented. Seven workshops with the participation of Brazilian experts of the Ministry of Health are scheduled in 2011 to provide training for approximately 300 Guinean health care professionals from both the government and civil society. In the context of the project, Brazilian experts shared the Brazilian norms and protocols with the national parliament, thus providing additional advice to the formulation of the new law on GBV.





## **CPLP action against the Feminization of the HIV**

Considering that Brazil was the first country to launch a cross-cutting program on the feminization of the HIV, ABC on behalf of the government of Brazil, in partnership with UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNICEF and UNAIDS launched an international effort with CPLP (Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries) to promote



collaboration in different levels against the feminization of HIV both at the national and international levels.

## Working with Men

UNFPA has supported Brazilian NGOs, such as Promundo and Papai that have developed for years innovative methodologies and services for achieving gender equality by investing on changing men's behavior and attitude in some critical areas: GBV, sexual and reproductive health, responsible paternity and education of girls. UNFPA Brazil has also supported the international agenda of Engaging Men and the role of Brazilian organizations in sharing good practices through various channels, including through the funding of the Men Engage Alliance.





## Men's Health

Brazil has launched the National Policy on Men's Health, one of the first of its kind with support of UNFPA. In order to share the experience of building and implementing such a policy and its linkages with women and youth health, UNFPA supported ABC and the Ministry of Health in holding an international workshop in Brasilia, with the participation of 10 Latin-American countries; also initiated a technical exchange with the Ministry of Health of Argentina. An important

outcome is that a sub-regional project aimed at enhancing collaboration on this issue is being articulated by GIZ, ABC and UNFPA.



## A glimpse of the way forward

- » New South-South projects for technical cooperation between Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, and East Timor.
- » Policy dialogue between Brazil and Caribbean countries on ICPD, specially GBV and youth.
- » Educational Cooperation between Brazilian academic institutions and developing countries for scholarships on population.
- » Partnership with Promundo for establishing the Men Engage Network in CPLP countries.
- » Collaboration with ABC and GIZ for a sub-regional project on men's health in South America .
- » Expanding South-South Cooperation with Latin America and African countries on youth.
- » Potential South-South Cooperation between Brazil and Asian countries on census and demographic transition related topics.
- » South-South Cooperation on Humanitarian Affairs related to population.



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# Lessons learned





## **South-South and triangular cooperation may allow countries to share and advocate for...**

- » Policies for reducing poverty and inequality that massively affect the South.
- » Unleashing the power of women and girls, which will accelerate progress in many levels.
- » Innovative action with and for youth - the largest and most interconnected population of young people living in the South is changing our world and future.
- » Reproductive health and rights, ensuring that every child is wanted and every childbirth is safe, leading to stronger families.
- » Addressing the needs of population ageing.
- » Urban planning, to meet the needs of the next two billion people who will live in cities.

## **“Everybody has something to share”**

UNFPA promotes since its creation initiatives aimed at strengthening national capacities in population issues. A systematic and concrete approach may unleash the potentials of UNFPA to build dynamic alliances for promoting ICPD and the MDGs.

A “South-South Cooperation Operational Plan” can enable different UNFPA units to implement South-South Cooperation modalities as a means to drive global attention to the population agenda.



## Ideas for action

- » Mapping South-South strengths in population issues in different regions and making it available to other regions.
- » Assessing capacities of potential global providers.
- » Negotiating global agreements with some key national institutions for providing South-South Cooperation in partnership with UNFPA on a regular basis.
- » Building internal capacity.
- » Providing training and guidance for ROs and COs in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- » Fundraising for South-South and Triangular initiatives with emerging partners.
- » Partnering with national government bodies and umbrella organizations for expanding the South-South network.
- » Developing flexible operational alternatives (e.g. ad hoc technical missions, South-South work plans).
- » Supporting partner countries to reinforce national capacity for delivering high-level technical cooperation.