Chapter V
Ibero-America and South-South Cooperation with other developing regions

Within the framework of the Intergovernmental Council for the Ibero-American Program to Strengthen South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS), held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in late 2015, the Ibero-American countries mandated SEGIB to include a new chapter in the Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America.

The aim was to create a platform to address the South-South Cooperation in which Ibero-America was exchanging not only internally, but also collectively with other developing regions. Until then, the focus was limited to the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, which, due to its close proximity, had been included since the first edition.

Following up on this mandate, this chapter provides an overview of the South-South Cooperation in which Ibero-America participated in 2016 with other developing regions. To that end, the three modalities recognized in Ibero-America - bilateral, triangular and regional - have been taken into account, and their results have been aggregated to associate them with each region concerned, in particular, the earlier mentioned non-Ibero-American Caribbean, plus Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Middle East. The chapter, divided into region-specific sections, identifies the initiatives exchanged between Ibero-America and each region in 2016, the modalities under which they were implemented, the main actors and their roles, and the type of capacities strengthened.

### MATRIX V.1
**BILATERAL, TRIANGULAR AND REGIONAL SSC INITIATIVES IN IBERO-AMERICA WITH OTHER DEVELOPING REGIONS. 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing regions</th>
<th>Bilateral SSC</th>
<th>Triangular Cooperation</th>
<th>Regional SSC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Ibero-American Caribbean</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various regions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>314</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
However, before proceeding with the differentiated treatment of what happened in each region, it is useful to give a comprehensive overview of 2016. Matrix V.1 shows the number of initiatives (actions, projects and programs) exchanged between Ibero-America and each region, broken down by the modality under which these exchanges took place.

It follows that:

a) In 2016, Ibero-American countries engaged with other developing countries in nearly 315 South-South Cooperation projects and programs.

b) The bulk of these initiatives (130, equivalent to over 40% of the total) were exchanged with non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries. The exchanges with Africa (30% of the total) and Asia (20%) were also very substantial. Consequently, 90% of the 314 actions, projects and programs in 2016 were geared towards these three regions. The remaining 10% of SSC focused on Oceania and the Middle East, plus 6 initiatives in which more than one region participated (for instance, Ibero-America with the Caribbean and Africa), shown in Matrix V.1 under “Various”.

c) Furthermore, the preferred modality for the bulk of the exchanges (265), equivalent to virtually 85% of all initiatives in which Ibero-America engaged with countries in other developing regions, was Bilateral South-South Cooperation. Its prevalence fluctuated between 70% in the Caribbean and 100% in Oceania and the Middle East. The remaining 15% took place under the regional and triangular modalities, with the former (33) being double of the latter (16).

d) Graph V.1 complements the information by breaking down the Bilateral SSC exchanges implemented in each region by the role played in each case. As shown on the graph, Ibero-America acted primarily as provider in the exchanges with other regions. Indeed, this was the case of the initiatives with Oceania (100%) and the non-Ibero-American Caribbean (99%). Meanwhile, Asia was the provider in 2 out of 10 bilateral initiatives exchanged with Ibero-America, and in 1 out of 3 with the Middle East.
IN 2016, IBERO-AMERICAN COUNTRIES ENGAGED WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NEARLY 315 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ACTIONS, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. MORE THAN 40% OF THESE INITIATIVES TOOK PLACE WITH COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE NON-IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN, AND THROUGH EXCHANGES WITH AFRICA AND ASIA, 30% AND 20% RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL.

NON-IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN

V.1

As shown in Matrix V.1, more than 40% of the 314 initiatives that Ibero-America exchanged with other developing regions had the non-IBERO-American Caribbean as its preferred partner. In particular, it engaged in 130 actions, projects and programs, mostly under Bilateral SSC (7 out of 10) and, to a lesser extent, under Regional SSC (one in five) and Triangular (10%). Non-IBERO-American Caribbean, African (2) and Asian (1) countries participated simultaneously in three more actions. Matrix V.1 does not include these in the total for the Caribbean, but rather places them in the generic “Various”. Matrix V.1 does not include these in the total for the Caribbean, but rather places them in the generic “Various”.

As for the 90 initiatives in which Ibero-America engaged with Caribbean countries under the bilateral modality, 85% were implemented through SSC projects, and the remaining 15% were actions. Likewise, Ibero-American countries acted as providers in virtually all of these exchanges, while the Caribbean countries played the role of recipients. The only exception was an action exchanged between Jamaica and Colombia, in which the roles were reversed.

Map V.1 shows the distribution of the Bilateral SSC projects (76) implemented in 2016 by Ibero-American countries to transfer capacities to non-IBERO-American Caribbean countries. As the legend shows, each Caribbean country is color-coded according to the number of projects received. The Map is complemented with a list of the Ibero-American countries that provided SSC, as well as the total number of projects each country exchanged with its Caribbean partners.

It follows from Map V.1 that:

a) Less than half (8) of the 19 Ibero-American countries that participated under this modality engaged in exchanges with the non-IBERO-American Caribbean. Cuba acted as provider in a greater number of Bilateral SSC projects (more than 40%) to the region than any other country. Another noteworthy provider was Mexico, which accounted for 25% of the 76 initiatives. Next, in order of relative importance, was Argentina with almost one in five projects. The remaining four countries had a more ad hoc participation. These countries were Chile and Colombia, acting as providers in 3 projects each, and Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela, with one each.

b) Meanwhile, the 14 non-IBERO-American Caribbean countries acted, at least once, as recipients of Bilateral SSC projects. As has become customary, Haiti was the largest recipient of cooperation, i.e. 16 projects, or 20% of the 76 projects in which Ibero-America engaged with these countries. Next in line were Belize, Guyana, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with 9 projects each, or one-third of the cooperation exchanged in 2016. By adding Granada and Jamaica (7 initiatives each) and Santa Lucia (6) to the mix, 80% of Bilateral SSC in 2016 is covered. The remaining projects (17.1% of the total) were distributed among 6 countries: Antigua and Barbuda and Suriname (3 each), Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago (one each).
MAP V.1

BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND NON-IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN (RECIPIENT). 2016

Units

Number of projects in which the countries participated as recipients.

- 1-3 Projects
- 4-6 Projects
- 7-9 Projects
- 10-12 Projects
- 13-16 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers

- Cuba: 34
- Mexico: 19
- Argentina: 14
- Colombia: 3
- Chile: 3
- Ecuador: 1
- Venezuela: 1
- Brazil: 1

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus.
DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECTS EXCHANGED BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND THE NON-IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN (RECIPIENT), BY ACTIVITY SECTOR AND AREA OF ACTION. 2016

Share (%)

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
Non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries achieved progress in strengthening their capacities through these Bilateral SSC exchanges. Graph V.2, which shows the distribution of the 76 projects exchanged between both regions by activity sector and area of action, illustrates how this was done. It can be concluded that:

a) More than half of the projects (56.6%) sought to strengthen capacities in the Social sector. Another 25% focused on the Economic sector. Indeed, the bulk of these exchanges (practically two out of three) aimed to strengthen the Productive sectors (15.8%), while only 9.2% were geared towards generation of Infrastructures and economic services. Furthermore, 10% of the 76 projects focused on Institutional Strengthening. The remaining exchanges were geared towards the Environment (5.3%) and Other multisectoral (2.6% on Culture), albeit on an ad hoc basis.

b) The Health sector deserves special mention, as it accounted for virtually one-third (32.9%) of the 76 projects in which Ibero-America engaged with the Caribbean to help strengthen its capacities. Next in relative importance (11.8%) were the initiatives aimed at Other services and social policies. Education, which also falls under the Social sector, ranked third in number of exchanges with nearly one-tenth of the 76 projects in 2016. This cooperation was often geared towards supporting training for health and sports professionals (as a tool for social inclusion), as well as educators. There were also exchanges within the framework of Operación Milagro that sought to provide ophthalmological surgery for low-income citizens, literacy programs and projects related to infrastructure and reconstruction and rehabilitation of hospitals, sports centers and schools, among others.

c) Finally, part of the cooperation implemented by Ibero-America in the Caribbean within the Economic sector focused on agricultural and industrial activities (with an aggregate total of 1 in 10 projects in 2016). In the case of the Institutional sector, the support was geared towards Public Policies and aspects related to Peace and public and national security (jointly together, nearly another 10%). Worth highlighting are the exchanges targeting phytosanitary issues, pest control and genetic management; industrial processing techniques for native crops such as coconut and cassava; handling of files, cadastral information; and national security based on a coast guard system.

Meanwhile, as stated earlier, the exchanges between Ibero-America and the non-Ibero-American Caribbean in 2016 comprised 12 projects and 3 Triangular Cooperation actions. The latter three also involved African and Asian countries. The analysis of these exchanges provides a better awareness of the partnerships established between countries and the type of problems addressed through this modality. Specifically:

a) Four (4) Ibero-American countries stood out in terms of transfer of capacities. These were Chile (who participated as first provider in 5 projects), Argentina (likewise in 5 initiatives), Mexico (4 projects) and El Salvador (one). The countries that acted as second providers in these partnerships varied widely. However, some trends were repeated often. Thus, Argentina partnered with Japan in courses aimed at third countries and with UNASUR. In addition to Germany and the United Kingdom, Mexico’s preferred partners were several international bodies, including IDB and PAHO (as well as Chile). Meanwhile, Chile opted for other Ibero-American countries (Brazil and El Salvador), as well as two countries from outside the region (Germany and the United States). El Salvador engaged in triangulations with Spain as the second provider.

b) Haiti was again the non-Ibero-American Caribbean country that received the largest relative share of initiatives with 6 projects and 1 action. Belize saw a similar level of participation in terms of initiatives, but through different instruments (3 actions and 4 projects). Suriname, Bahamas and Jamaica participated in triangular exchanges on a more ad hoc basis. Indeed, their exchanges often involved the participation of some of the other 14 non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries, in the case of Grenada, and even from other regions, such as Angola, Mozambique and Kenya.
c) It should be noted that the Triangular Cooperation implemented by Ibero-America in 2016 with non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries addressed a wide range of problems in different sectors, including Education, Health, Other services and social policies and Management of public finances. Agriculture was the only sector that truly stood out with 6 initiatives. These initiatives focused on issues related to fresh food production, especially through small producers, as well as animal and plant health and food safety. As shown in Box V.1, the exchange between Chile, El Salvador and Belize to strengthen the Caribbean country’s phytosanitary system is a remarkable case.

BOX V.1

CHILE, EL SALVADOR AND BELIZE: COOPERATING TO STRENGTHEN THE PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM

In 2016, Ibero-American countries maintained an intense exchange with Belize. Indeed, this Caribbean country participated in 11 Bilateral SSC actions and projects, 10 Triangular Cooperation initiatives, and up to 18 Regional SSC exchanges. Although Belize strengthened a variety of capacities through this cooperation, one activity sector in particular stood out: Agriculture. These initiatives targeted a variety of issues, including primarily food safety and nutrition, promotion of family farming and phytosanitary management.

Special mention deserves the triangular project in which Belize (recipient) partnered with Chile and El Salvador who exercised, respectively, as second and first provider of cooperation. This cooperation dates back to 2013, when the two Ibero-American countries signed an agreement to develop a cooperation project to enhance Belize’s agricultural sector. A diagnostic mission visited Belmopan in November 2013, and a project was developed to strengthen the technical capacities of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture and the Agricultural Health Authority of Belize (BAHA). Under this project, which is still in progress, the staff of these institutions receive training and technical support from Chilean and Salvadoran experts. More specifically, the project focuses on a variety of issues related to strengthening the Belizean plant and animal health control system, including the development of a smart agricultural market system; drafting and adaptation of manuals on good agricultural and manufacturing practices; and training in different laboratory techniques, in particular, to manage a Geographic Information System (GIS) and conduct epidemiological surveillance and pest control and management. The project also looks into electronic certification and auditing processes for dairy products and development of accreditation manuals for private veterinarians, as well as dissemination of good forestry and agricultural practices.

Along with this ambitious initiative, also of note is the bilateral cooperation with Mexico for diagnostic evaluation and development of sheep for export purposes, as well as Belize’s engagement with other Ibero-American countries in joint activities on food self-production, food safety and nutrition.

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus and AGCI www.agci.cl

*https://www.agci.cl/index.php/que-es-la-cooperacion/triangular
Finally, non-Ibero-American Caribbean countries also participated in 12 programs and 16 projects under Regional South-South Cooperation. In fact, they partnered with Ibero-Americans countries that have been analyzed earlier in Chapter Four of this Report. Indeed, owing to its institutional framework and/or geographical scope, this cooperation brought Latin American and Caribbean countries together. Worthy of note, for instance, are the Working Group on Gender and Labor Statistics and the Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor Initiative, sponsored by ECLAC and the ILO, as well as others focusing on Integral Disaster Risk Management, a new Center for Climate Services and Strengthening Regulatory Capacities for Medicines of Mesoamerican Health Agencies, in the context of the Mesoamerican Program led by Mexico; and exchanges regulated by the IDB and the OAS, which, respectively, sought to implement the MIPYME regional information system and create National Metrology Institutes in the Hemisphere.

AFRICA

V.2

Africa was the focus of a significant part (30%) of the SSC in which Ibero-America engaged with other developing regions in 2016. Indeed, 88 of the 91 exchanges were implemented under Bilateral SSC, and the other two were under the Triangular (1) and Regional (2) SSC modality. An additional three (3) ad hoc Triangular Cooperation actions took place between sub-Saharan African countries with Ibero-America and the Caribbean.

The bulk of the 90 Bilateral SSC initiatives were instrumentalized through 77 cooperation projects and 11 smaller actions. Furthermore, in virtually all exchanges, Africa participated as recipient. The only exceptions were two projects and one bi-directional action in which Ghana and South Africa exchanged experiences with Colombia, simultaneously acting as provider and recipient.

Similarly to what happened in the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, Map V.2 shows the distribution of the 77 Bilateral SSC projects in which Ibero-America engaged with Africa by number of initiatives received by each country. As shown in the legend, the amount for each country is color-coded according to the level of intensity of the exchange. This information is complemented with the total number of projects that each Ibero-American country implemented. It follows that:

a) Six Ibero-American countries shared their experience with African partners in 2016. Notably, Cuba and Argentina accounted, respectively, for 68% and 23% of the Bilateral SSC exchanged with this region. This cooperation was highly diversified. For instance, Cuba engaged with 31 African countries and, Argentina, with a score. Meanwhile, the exchanges in which Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela were involved were on an ad hoc basis (1 or 2 projects, in each case, equivalent to almost 10% of the total).

b) These 77 Bilateral SSC projects were widely distributed between 37 African recipient countries. As shown in Map V.1, the top five recipient countries in 2016 were Angola and Mozambique, followed by South Africa, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau with 5 to 7 projects each. Together, they accounted for 40% of the 77 projects implemented. The remaining 60% of the cooperation was distributed among 26 countries. Worthy of note were Botswana, Guinea and Namibia (3 projects each); Burkina Faso, Benin, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger and Tanzania (2 each); and Algeria, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Saint Tome and Principe, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (1 each).
BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND AFRICA (RECIPIENT). 2016

Number of projects in which countries participated as recipients:
- 1-2 Projects
- 3 Projects
- 5 Projects
- 6-7 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers:
- Cuba: 52
- Argentina: 18
- Mexico: 3
- Venezuela: 1
- Colombia: 3
- Brazil: 1

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
The fact that Cuba and Argentina had such a prominent role as providers explains why their acknowledged strengths notably reinforced Africa’s capacity profile through the 77 projects exchanged with Ibero-America. Graph V.3, which shows the distribution of these projects by activity sector and area of action, appears to confirm this view. Indeed, 75% of the cooperation received in Africa was aimed at the Social sector (Cuba’s primary area of expertise), and the remaining 25% focused primarily in the Economic sector (which is Argentina’s strongpoint). The only exception was a project in Legal and Judicial Development and Human Rights in Zambia that focused on forensic sciences, which, in any case, is also one of Argentina’s areas of expertise. In particular:

**GRAPH V.3**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECTS EXCHANGED BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND THE NON-IBERO-AMERICAN CARIBBEAN (RECIPIENT), BY ACTIVITY SECTOR AND AREA OF ACTION. 2016

Share (%)

- **5.3%** Communications, Employment, Enterprises and Energy
- **1.3%** HR
- **6.6%** Industry
- **11.8%** Agriculture
- **2.6%** Water supply and sanitation
- **9.2%** Other social services and policies
- **17.7%** Education
- **46.1%** Health
- **5.3%** Infrastructure and Economic Services
- **75%** Social
- **18.4%** Productive Sectors
- **1.3%** Institutional Strengthening

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
Sub-Saharan Africa is a vast and heterogeneous region that faces important development challenges, especially in terms of access to quality education. The latest data published by UNICEF and UNESCO appears to suggest that more than half of the school-age children (30 million) in sub-Saharan Africa did not attend primary school in 2016. This happened often because their families could not afford school tuition or the cost of basic materials. The opportunities to go to school were further reduced when the child is a girl, comes from a poor family or lives in a rural area.1

Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela decided to lend its weight to the “Sponsor a School in Africa” project since 2006. Sensitive to the critical importance of education in every development process, Venezuela opted for this project, which supports primary school students from sub-Saharan African countries, fostering their education as people and advancing human development.

Through this project, Venezuela provides school equipment and teaching materials to the educational community of African countries; participates in the reconstruction of school infrastructures and provision of power supply and equipment; and encourages the practice of sports in schools as a tool for social inclusion.

Over the past ten years, many countries have benefited from this initiative. As the graph suggests, the project tended to focus on countries in which children’s participation in primary education remained very low in 2016, and that never reached more than half of the country’s child population. Indeed, during these first ten years, the “Sponsor a School” project has helped increase school attendance in South Africa, Nigeria, Benin, the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Namibia and Niger and, since 2016, in Benin and Nigeria.

Source: SEGIB, based reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus and UNICEF (2017).

1 https://www.unicef.es/noticia/dia-del-nino-africano-el-reto-de-ir-la-escuela
2 http://sursur.sela.org/listado-de-noticias/2013/12/venezuela-promueve-cooperacion-con-africa-en-educacion/
Finally, Ibero-American and African countries also shared some experiences under triangular and regional modalities. The project for promoting sustainable tourism, which has been ongoing in Tunisia for years, with the support of Costa Rica and Germany as first and second provider, is worthy of note. The three triangular actions in which African, Ibero-American and Caribbean countries participated were the international courses aimed at third countries that Argentina and Japan promoted to provide training in various areas, including self-production of food, management of international cooperation projects and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. Meanwhile, the exchanges in Regional SSC are explained by the participation of Cape Verde in the Paulo Freire Academic Mobility Program of the OEI, and Egypt, Libya and Tunisia’s involvement in an International Electoral Training Program led by Mexico.

ASIA
V.3

One-fifth of the 314 initiatives exchanged between Ibero-America and other developing regions involved Asian countries. As shown earlier in Matrix V.1, virtually all actions and projects (9 and 50, respectively) were implemented under Bilateral SSC. The only exception was a project participated by Asia under Regional SSC. A further two projects (shown in the “Various” column of Matrix V.1) under this modality were exchanged between Asian countries and other regions, such as Oceania.

Meanwhile, Ibero-American countries acted as providers in 8 in 10 initiatives exchanged under a bilateral framework. Consequently, Asian countries also acted as providers in 20% of the exchanges. It should be noted that this distribution of roles might be partially explained, especially in the case of actions, by the importance of “bidirectional” exchanges, which, by definition, are based on two partner countries acting simultaneously as both providers and recipients of Bilateral SSC.

Map V.3 helps explain the participation of different partners in Bilateral SSC in 2016. In the case of the projects in which Ibero-American countries are responsible for the transfer of capacities, it can be argued that:

a) Three Ibero-American countries stood out as providers of the 43 Bilateral SSC projects implemented in Asian countries: Argentina and Cuba, with 20 and 18 projects each, jointly accounted for close to 90% of the exchanges; followed by Colombia, with 4 initiatives. In the latter case, it should be noted that its exchanges with Asian countries, albeit still in the early stages, took place in the context of Colombia’s “Saber Hacer Colombia” strategy, which can also be applicable in other regions. The details of the exchanges in 2016 and the current year are covered in Box V.3.

b) Meanwhile, 17 Asian countries, including Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines, acted as recipients, respectively with 9, 6 and 5 projects, equivalent to 40% of the total analyzed. China, Laos and Thailand jointly accounted for another fifth of the 43 Bilateral SSC projects. The remaining projects were implemented through ad hoc exchanges (1 or 2 projects) with Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the People’s Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, with the former country, and India and Timor-Leste, with the latter.

1 This case was described in detail in Box V.3 (pages 214 and 215) of the Report on SSC in Ibero-America 2017.
MAP V.3

BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND ASIA (RECIPIENT). 2016

Units

Number of projects in which countries participated as recipients:

- 1-2 Projects
- 3-4 Projects
- 5-6 Projects
- 9 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers:

- **Argentina**: 20
- **Cuba**: 18

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
It should also be added that 5 Asian countries - China (3), Vietnam (2), and the Philippines, India and Russia (1 each) acted as providers in 8 Bilateral SSC projects exchanged between Ibero-America and Asia in 2016. The Ibero-American recipients in these exchanges were Argentina (1), Colombia (3), Cuba (3) and Venezuela (1). In the case of actions, and given the bidirectionality mentioned earlier, the key actors were once again India (provider); Cuba (recipient); and China, the Philippines and Colombia (both roles).

**Box V.3**

**ASIA AND THE "SABER HACER COLOMBIA" STRATEGY: SHARING GOOD PRACTICES**

Sabre Hacer Colombia is a program created by Colombia’s Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC, by its Spanish acronym), built around a number of good practices from its territorial and national public policies. The goal is to disseminate and make these practices available to other countries through cooperation projects, albeit once the lessons learned from these experiences have been adapted to the new context.

The strategy has involved public, private and international organizations to build a methodology for documenting, classifying and validating experiences that provide concrete lessons on how to face the new challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In selecting these experiences, the focus was on exchanges that offered innovative, efficiency and sustainability features that could be used in a benchmarking exercise, the results of which would be fed back into national and territorial processes with similar characteristics.

In this context, Colombia has driven SSC initiatives with other regions. As for exchanges with Asia in 2016, Colombia organized a meeting with representatives from Myanmar, Bhutan, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India, in which every country had the opportunity to learn first-hand about the good practices Colombia implemented in the context of Sustainable Development Goals and peace-building efforts. As a result of this meeting, Colombia and these Asian countries established a joint agenda in three key areas: peace-building; social development with a focus on poverty issues, child protection and food security; and technical training and entrepreneurship. The efforts to define this agenda has provided Colombia an opportunity to consolidate the cooperation it had already established with some of these countries (India, Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos) and to explore future opportunities with Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus, APC’ digital pages and PIFCSS

1 https://www.apccolombia.gov.co/section/saber-hacer-colombia
2 http://afecolombia.org/es-es/DetalleNoticia/ArtMID/533/ArticleID/5414/Saber-Hacer-Colombia
3 http://www.cooperacionsursur.org/pt/noticias-de-cooperacion-sur-sur/1546-estrechando-lazos-de-cooperacion.html

As for the capacities strengthened, Graph V.4 shows the distribution of the 43 Bilateral SSC projects in which Ibero-America engaged as provider and Asia acted as recipient by activity sector and area of action. It can be concluded that:

a) Nearly half of the initiatives were aimed at strengthening capacities in the Economic sector. Although there were ad hoc exchanges in Tourism, Communications and Enterprises, Agriculture accounted for the largest volume with 20 projects, equivalent to 41.7% of the total analyzed. Notable among these, in particular owing to Argentina’s role in these exchanges, were the initiatives geared towards a variety of livestock handling techniques (genetic management, performance, phytosanitary and pest control) and their application thereof, for instance, to dairy production.

b) Meanwhile, just over 40% of the projects were aimed at the Social sector. In this case, Cuba’s cooperation and transfer of expertise were decisive, in particular in the projects geared towards training of medical, education and sports professionals, which fell under three sectors: Health (11), Education (7) and Other services and social policies (2). Other notable initiatives focused, for instance, on early childhood care (Colombia) and food security (Argentina).
Finally, noteworthy among the 3 Regional SSC projects in which Asia engaged in 2016 with other developing regions was the initiative that brought together Ibero-America and Oceania to tackle a common problem. The project, which focused on supporting the sustainable management of marine island and border areas, was implemented within the framework of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR, by its Spanish acronym).
The remaining 8.6% of the 314 SSC initiatives that Ibero-America exchanged with other developing regions in 2016 correspond to Oceania (10) and the Middle East (17). In fact, this cooperation was almost entirely implemented under the bilateral modality. The only exceptions were the regional project on marine managed areas mentioned earlier, in which Oceania sought to identify common solutions with other Ibero-American and Asian partners, and the regional eco-aquaculture initiative, in which Oceania partnered again with Ibero-America and Turkey, classified here as Middle East.

MAP V.4
BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND OCEANIA (RECIPIENT). 2016

Units

Number of projects in which countries participated as recipients:

- 1 Project
- 2 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers:

- Cuba: 1

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus
The 10 initiatives implemented with Oceania were 8 projects and 2 actions, with Ibero-American countries always acting as providers. As shown in Map V.4, Cuba was the provider of 7 projects versus one for Colombia. Meanwhile, 6 countries acted as recipients. Prominent among these were Kiribati and Tuvalu from Solomon Islands (2 projects each), Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu (1 each). Fiji implemented actions with Cuba and Colombia. Overall, this cooperation contributed to the training of medical professionals in Oceania, and strengthened Fiji’s capacity to manage the disaster suffered in February 2016 due to cyclone “Winston”.

The Bilateral SSC implemented in 2016 between Ibero-America and the Middle East revolved around 16 projects and 1 action. Ibero-America acted as provider in 10 projects and 1 action (an exchange between Argentina and Lebanon). Map V.5 shows the participating countries and their roles in these 10 projects: the providers were Cuba (7), Venezuela (2) and Argentina (1), and the recipients Lebanon and Syria (2 each), Armenia, Iran, Oman, Palestine, Qatar and Yemen (one each). The remaining 7 projects had 5 Middle Eastern countries as providers (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and Turkey) and 3 Ibero-American countries as recipients (Cuba, Venezuela and Colombia, in descending order of projects). These exchanges contributed, yet again, to the training of health and education professionals, and to the strengthening of the countries’ capacities in water supply and sanitation and promotion of entrepreneurship policies, among others.

THREE IBERO-AMERICAN COUNTRIES STOOD OUT AS PROVIDERS OF THE 43 BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN ASIAN COUNTRIES: ARGENTINA AND CUBA, WITH 20 AND 18 PROJECTS EACH, JOINTLY ACCOUNTED FOR CLOSE TO 90% OF THE EXCHANGES; FOLLOWED BY COLOMBIA, WITH 4 INITIATIVES
MAP V.5

BILATERAL SSC PROJECTS BETWEEN IBERO-AMERICA (PROVIDER) AND MIDDLE EAST (RECIPIENT). 2016

Units

Number of projects in which countries participated as recipients:

- 1 Project
- 2 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers:

- Cuba: 7 projects
- Venezuela: 2 projects
- Argentina: 1 project

Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus