

## IMPLEMENTING BAPA+40 THROUGH TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION CASE STORY: MEXICO

October 2023

### **BAPA+40 and Triangular Co-operation**

The BAPA+40 Outcome Document was a milestone for triangular co-operation (TrC). The GPI has identified 53 recommendations related to the modality. Among those, four dimensions stand out: (i) triangular co-operation system, (ii) working methods and cross-cutting issues, (iii) partnerships, and (iv) sectoral focus.

The GPI Spotlight series are short, and informative, publications. It is an analytical exercise to identify how its members are using triangular co-operation to implement the BAPA+40 recommendations.

#### **Key highlights of Mexico's international co-operation system**

- Mexico's institutional framework encourages triangular cooperation partnerships.
- The country's federal institutions hold expertise in Development Cooperation and actively promote knowledge transfer.
- Mexico supports TrC initiatives involving non-governmental, local, social, academic, and private sector actors.

#### **An institutional and methodological framework for a strengthened triangular co-operation ecosystem**

The Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation leads Mexico's International Development Cooperation System, which relies on a legal and programmatic structure that positions Mexico as a strategic partner for South-South and Triangular Co-operation. The national law on international development co-operation was approved in 2011, comprehending:

- Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), created in 2011 as a decentralized body with organizational autonomy.
- National Registry of International Development Cooperation (RENCID), renewed for 2021-2022 quantifications.
- International Development Cooperation Programme (PROCID), published in 2021.

Due to its dual role as provider and recipient of cooperation, the country has played an important role in the dialogue between traditional donors and developing countries. Mexico developed national tools and methodologies to ensure the effectiveness agenda is applicable to its cooperation initiatives.

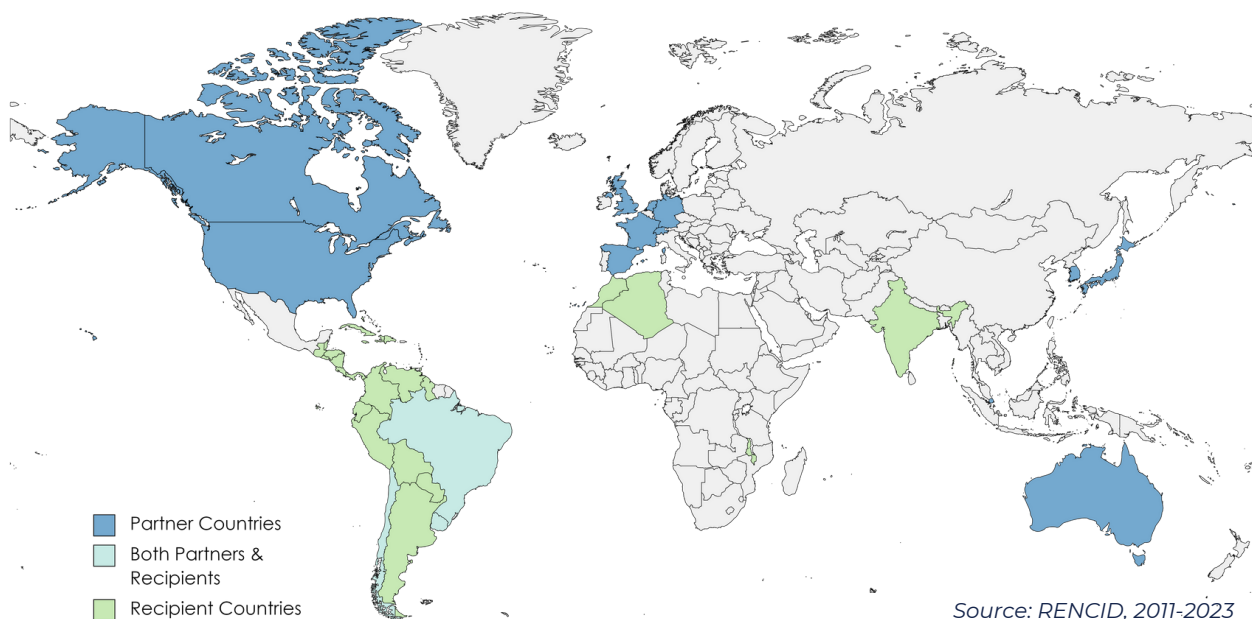
The General Law on International Development Cooperation, the Sectoral Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2020-2024, and the International Development Cooperation Programme 2020-2024 include triangular co-operation as a strategic modality to foster development.

With a prominent role in the programmatic framework of the Mexican System, Mexico intends to harness its knowledge and experiences through horizontal coalitions with third countries and non-traditional actors.

### Strategic partnerships for triangular co-operation

Triangular partnerships in Mexico have been largely influenced by the bilateral co-operation with traditional donors and middle-income countries. Chile, Germany and Japan, as well as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) stand out as great examples of Mexico's strategic partnerships in this cooperation modality.

**Map 1 . Mexico's Triangular Cooperation, 2011-2023**



### Mexico-Germany partnership

The German-Mexican collaboration started in 2006 and has been strengthened through joint programmes and the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both countries increased their impact at the regional and global level, with the appropriate use of their technical and financial capacities.

Key features of this partnerships are:

### Mexico-Japan partnership

Mexico and Japan have developed successful triangular partnerships for 20 years. The Japan-Mexico Partnership Programme (JMPP) was signed in 2003, establishing a legal basis for their TrC, focused on Latin American countries. Between 2011 and 2023, Japan and Mexico implemented 27 TrC initiatives, covering the environment, competitiveness, health, and education sectors. On 17 August 2023, the two countries signed a letter of intent for the renewal of the JMPP, seeking to consolidate cooperation with third countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- flexibility,
- sector diversity,
- strengthened relations with other countries,
- scaling-up successful bilateral cooperation,
- horizontality, and
- effective process.

### Mexico-Chile partnership

The Mexico-Chile Fund was a successful transition from bilateral to triangular co-operation, financing initiatives agreed

upon by both countries and ensuring the relevance and demand of the beneficiary countries. The joint Fund gave triangular co-operation a regional focus on Latin American and Caribbean partners.

### Mexico-FAO Partnership

With FAO, Mexico has a partnership for regional cooperation with Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, promoting cost-effective initiatives that leverage the institutional capacity and expertise of both partners. The "Mesoamerica without Hunger" program includes 10 partner countries, and the "Resilient Caribbean" Initiative includes 14 CARICOM nations. Achievements include robust school feeding programs, 46 field tools and 21 rainwater harvesting systems for agricultural, aquaculture and human consumption, as well as the approval of 4 Model Laws, 33 public policies and 51 national regulatory processes in beneficiary countries.

### Mexico's approach to Triangular Cooperation

Mexico's triangular cooperation with Latin American countries complements its bilateral technical and scientific cooperation programs and regional cooperation efforts.

It has been largely focused on a group of neighbor countries, scaling up the benefits to partners with similar culture and regulatory and/or political frameworks, as well as similar problems and common development agendas.

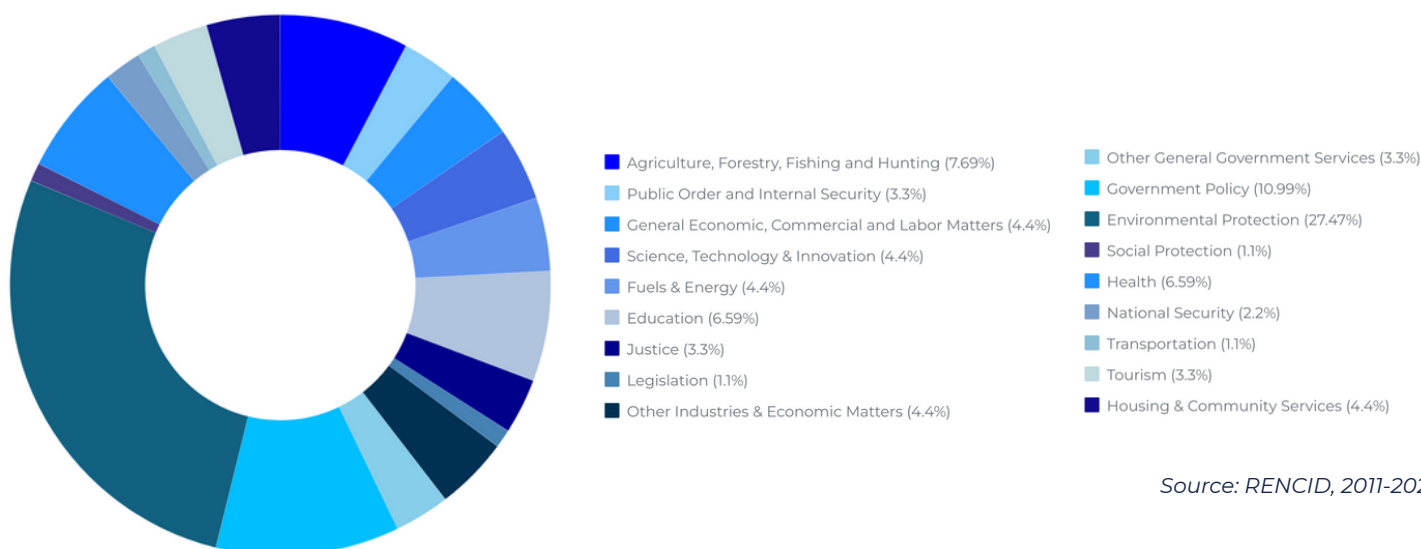
Since 2011, Mexico engaged in 91 TrC initiatives, in partnership with 16 cooperating entities (countries and international organisations), with a regional focus 53% of the time. In this dynamic, Germany, Japan and Spain have been the most recurrent partners in Mexico's TrC. Currently, there are 11 TrC projects under implementation. Institutional strengthening through capacity building is the core contribution of Mexico's cooperation.

### Mexico's technical expertise in capacity building initiatives

Mexico has shared the technical experience of its federal public administration institutions, contributing to the development of its partners in a wide range of sectors.

The emphasis on capacity building enables participation in communities of practice, fostering collaboration through knowledge transfer, partner complementarity, and mutual learning.

**Graph 1. Sector distribution of Mexico's triangular co-operation projects, 2011-2023**



Source: RENCID, 2011-2023

Examples include Mexico's involvement in the "Breathable Cities" community of practice within the "Improving Air Quality in India and Mexico" triangular project with Germany, as well as Mexico's contribution to Germany's Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which promotes the creation of papers, forums, and seminars involving focal points from regional countries.

In turn, these communities of practice serve as platforms for the formulation of new triangular cooperation initiatives and strategic partnerships for development.

### Triangular Cooperation as a Catalyst for Inclusive Partnerships

Mexico encourages the engagement of

non-traditional actors through the creation of Technical Councils (TecCon), which provide a platform for dialogue to address specific issues and include cross-cutting perspectives. These are:

- High Level Technical Advisory Council
- Business TecCon
- TecCon for Sport Diplomacy and Cooperation
- AMEXCID's TecCon for Children
- Social TecCon
- TecCon for Knowledge and Innovation
- TecCon for Water
- TecCon for Local Governments.

TrC in Mexico aims to maintain the integration of a multi-stakeholder approach in all its participation schemes and modalities.

**Table 1. Examples of Mexico's inclusive triangular partnerships**

<p><b>Prevention of unaccompanied child and youth migration from the Northern Triangle of Central America</b></p>	<p><b>Obstetric and neonatal emergency simulation training to improve delivery care for indigenous women</b></p>
<p>Funded with USD 1.6 million from June 2016 to April 2019, the project established local child protection systems that benefited more than 5,500 children and youths from ten home communities in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and provided first aid to more than 500 returned children and youths. This initiative was implemented in collaboration with Save the Children Mexico and the German Agency for International Cooperation</p>	<p>Working alongside the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and Save the Children, this project sought to make a significant impact on reducing maternal and perinatal mortality rates in San Marcos, the most at-risk department in Guatemala. The initiative involved the training of 180 healthcare professionals across hospitals, maternal and child health centers, and permanent care facilities.</p>

### Recommendations to continue BAPA+40 implementation

- Establish mechanisms to boost horizontality among TrC actors and foster more learning community participation.
- Incorporate a multi-stakeholder approach in triangular cooperation on a systematic basis.
- Make the contributions of triangular co-operation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda more visible on a national and international basis.
- Foster triangular co-operation beyond technical cooperation.

For more references on triangular co-operation, visit the GPI Resource Library: [www.triangular-cooperation.org/resources/](http://www.triangular-cooperation.org/resources/)

Disclaimer: The views outlined in the publication do not necessarily reflect the policy position of the GPI members. The GPI members do not make any representation on warranty as to the accuracy or completeness or otherwise of the publication or any assumption on which the publication may be based.