

Narrative Report: Minor Study on South-South Cooperation to Open the Capability Trap

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All annexes referenced in this report can be accessed at:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/stlt0tr92n3ouyl/AAAVRnk4H6k_M-sZepHapz49a?dl=0

Background for the minor research project

The study aimed to explore how South-South and triangular cooperation may contribute to opening the “capability trap” when capacities from comparable transition contexts are exchanged with a particular focus on post-conflict situations where the capacity deficits are normally particularly challenging. It did so by combining field and desk research in continuation of a line of explorative research and policy development undertaken by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the United Nations in 2011-2013. This research had already generated a significant number of policy papers as well as peer-reviewed articles, and provided important input to policy development.

While much focus has been placed on capacity development more broadly, little research had previously zoomed in on the specific role of South-South cooperation in this context. The study thus sought to expand on the evidence base within a field that had to date been underexplored – particularly taking into account the growing focus on South-South and triangular cooperation among recipient and contributing bilateral actors from the North and South, UN institutions, the OECD-DAC, and the g7+ countries and g7+ Secretariat. The list of publications bears witness to the significant contributions of this study to this emerging field.

The study sought to apply academic research methodologies, rigor and approaches to literature reviews as well as field research. At the same time, great weight was put on generating policy, programmatic, and operational recommendations, which can inform the current and planned work of actors in the field – recipient countries, sending and funding countries as well as organizations supporting such exchanges. The extensive dissemination activities are a testimony to the policy impact and attention this study has enjoyed.

Lastly, the initiative sought to facilitate a network and forum where African and external stakeholders could meet and discuss South-South Cooperation including through an initial workshop in South Africa and a final dissemination event in Copenhagen. As the study started, a group of Southern think tanks and research institutions had already initiated a similar network. It was therefor decided to support this network by a) Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp participating in a meeting in March 2015 as a resource person and b) fund a seminar in November 2015 in South Africa and present this study's research and findings there.

Research Outcomes

The study built on a fairly open Terms of Reference, which allowed a sequential and explorative approach. The approach was to accommodate the evolving nature of the field and to be able to start with an open approach towards partnerships, and subsequently focus on thematic and sectorial cases of particular relevance to moving the field forward academically and in the world of development practitioners. The ToR (bevillingsnotits), outlined the expected outcomes as including:

1) An evidence base on which to base Denmark's strategies for supporting South-South cooperation through trilateral partnerships in the future.

The seminar in Johannesburg on 23 November was attended by the Danish Ambassador to South Africa Mrs Trine Rask Thygesen. The final dissemination seminar in Copenhagen was attended by the Head of the Africa Department at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chaired by the Director of the Danish Institute for International Studies. Further, all publications from this study will be made available for Danish stakeholders. Finally, a DIIS policy brief will be produced (in Danish) listing concrete recommendations for ways and means by which Denmark can engage more effectively in this agenda. As this brief particularly draws on the presentations and discussions at the Copenhagen seminar (see list of dissemination activities), the brief could not be concluded in time for this report's finalization.

2) New insights into the experiences and outcomes of specific partnership models as well as specific opportunities and challenges within certain sectors, regions and/or modalities.

The publications stemming from this research present a range of experiences and outcomes of specific partnership models. The 23 November seminar in South Africa, focused particularly on experiences in and between fragile and conflict-affected states while the seminar in Zanzibar focused on public private partnerships.

3) A better understanding of good (and bad) practices in relation to identifying, planning, implementing and evaluating South-South cooperation around capacity development in fragile and conflict-affected settings including the role of political economy dynamics.

These topics are covered extensively in the publications. Political economy dynamic are dealt with specifically in the article "South-South Cooperation, Inter-State Relations and Regional Integration"

4) An active network of knowledge institutions with a collective "research" agenda to further advance the field.

By participating actively in the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and through liaising with other research institutions including New York University's Centre for International Cooperation (CIC), the study and its dissemination has contributed significantly to moving ahead the research agenda on South-South Cooperation.

Research and Dissemination Activities

As part of the study and its dissemination, the following field research activities were undertaken.

Denmark. December 8, 2015

Planning of and speaking at the seminar "The Role of External Actors in Supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation". Organised at Copenhagen's UN City in collaboration with UNDP's Nordic Office. Description and agenda attached as annex 10.

South Africa. November 20 - 25, 2015.

Planning of and speaking at the seminar "South-South Cooperation for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Africa" (concept note attached to this report as annex 9). The seminar was organised in collaboration with the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) Africa Chapter, Wits University School of Governance and the South African Institute of International Studies.

New York. October 28 - November 5, 2015

Planning of and speaking at the seminar "South-South Cooperation in the area of peace and development" at United Nations Headquarters. Organised in collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Invitation and agenda are attached to this report as annex 6.

Rwanda. September 4-11, 2015.

Field research in Rwanda interviewing key stakeholders from the Regional Capacity Building Project. Interviews were conducted both with Rwandan counterparts and Burundian counterparts. The latter group of three key respondents were brought to Rwanda due to the insecurity in Burundi. This research was conducted by Dr. Sal Muthayan currently the Head of the South African School of Government.

East Africa, June 29 - September 21, 2015

Online survey of previously deployed Civil Service Support Officers (37 respondents). A copy of the survey as attached to this report as annex 3.

Zanzibar. May 24-26, 2015

Planning of and speaking at the seminar "Public-Private Partnerships in Developing Economies - A seminar to facilitate South-South learning and knowledge exchanges". Organised in collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) and the World Bank. (concept note attached as annex 2)

South Sudan. May 17 - 24, 2015

Field research in South Sudan. Interviews with stakeholders to the IGAD initiative. Concept note and interview guide are attached to this report as annexes 1 and 5.

Morocco. March 12 - 15, 2015

Participating in and speaking at the Crans Montana Forum on Africa & South-South Cooperation. I spoke in the panel on "African integration and capacity building". Agenda and thank you letter are attached to this report as annexes 4 and 7.

South Africa. March 1 - 6, 2015

Participating in the seminar "Emerging Partners in Africa's Development Measuring the impact of South-South cooperation" organised by the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST). Agenda is attached to this report as annex 8.

Outputs and publications

The study has, to date, produced the publications listed below. As planned, the outputs span both policy-oriented and more academic publications and thus target a broad audience of practitioners, policy makers and academics.

1. Dansk udviklingsstrategi i en ny virkelighed. DIIS Policy Brief (forthcoming in January 2015). Printing will be funded outside of this project. Kristoffer Nilas Tarp.

2. South-South Cooperation - A determined step into the unknown. DIIS Comment. 9. November 2015. <http://diis.dk/node/6038>. Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp.
3. Establishing Public Private Partnerships - Lessons learned from the Global South. DIIS Report. 1. October 2015. <http://diis.dk/node/5924>. Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp, Søren Vester Haldrup and Malene Alber Lassen.
4. Revisiting South-South Cooperation – A viable alternative to traditional aid? DIIS Policy Brief. 17. September 2015. <http://diis.dk/node/5798>. Signe Marie Cold Ravnkilde and Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp.
5. South-South cooperation can help avoid the capacity trap. DIIS Comment. 7. December 2015. <http://diis.dk/node/6125>. Frederik Rosén and Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp.
6. South-South Cooperation, Inter-State Relations and Regional Integration. Academic Journal article. Søren Vester Haldrup, Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp and Malene Alber Lassen (attached as annex). To be submitted to the Journal Stability. Attached to this report as annex 12.
7. Does wellbeing impact programmatic success? The case of the IGAD initiative in South Sudan. Academic Journal article. Søren Vester Haldrup, Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp and Malene Alber Lassen (attached as annex). To be presented in a special journal edition by the Wits School of Governance. Attached to this report as annex 13.
8. Building ownership, mutual respect, trust and sustainability in South-South Cooperation - the case of The Regional Capacity Building Project. DIIS Working Paper. Sal Muthayan and Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp (attached as annex). Attached to this report as annex 14.

Narrative Budget Report

The preliminary budget and accounts is attached as annex 11. The budget has been revised on two occasions throughout the budget as per agreement with the Danish Embassy in South Africa. The revisions have included reallocating funds to different budget lines but have not changed the overall budget. Senior Researcher at DIIS, Frederik Rosén, has participated actively in the project as an investment from DIIS in supporting the minor research project.

As the budget illustrates, the project had an outstanding (unspent) balance of DKR 26.515 as per 11 December 2015. This figure is likely to change slightly as currency adjustment to the consultant fee to Dr. Sal Muthayan will only be

calculated on 31 December 2015. A few expenses - not exceeding DKR. 5.400 - have yet to be processed and will be processed no later than 31 December 2015.

Conclusion

The study has in many respects managed to “punch above its weight” by working in partnerships and obtaining, for example, co-financing. This has been the case with dissemination events with the UN in New York, partners in South Africa, the World Bank in Zanzibar, and the UNDP in Copenhagen. Also, the study has worked with graduate and post-graduate students to enhance research capacity - particularly for the research in South Sudan and the process of organising the seminar on South-South Cooperation around public private partnerships in Zanzibar.

The core field research has focussed on the IGAD initiative in South Sudan, which has produced two state-of-the art articles focussing on the wellbeing of deployed civil service support offices and regional political dynamics respectively. Secondly, the study of The Regional Capacity Building Project has generated further knowledge on how trust and mutual respect is established in South-South partnerships and how these elements can erode if not managed correctly.

The objective of generating further knowledge on triangular cooperation has largely been achieved through the seminars in South Africa and Copenhagen. At the latter, a representative from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed on the Norwegian experiences and had bilateral discussions with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar in Copenhagen was attended by the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation while the seminar in New York was attended by his deputy. The events were opportunities for the senior leadership of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation to better understand the role and potential of the multilateral system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation.

The study has also earned Denmark and DIIS a place in the global research environment on South-South cooperation and most importantly created strong partnerships with research institutions in the Global South.

Signed:



1 8 DEC. 2015

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