



The start of a shared learning journey

A South-South water and sanitation services partnership between Brazil and Ethiopia

Fast Facts

South-South Cooperation

A development cooperation modality where two or more developing countries pursue individual or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, resources and technical know-how and through (inter-)regional collective actions.

Trilateral South-South Cooperation (TSSC)

TSSC brings together developing countries, developed countries and International Organisations to share knowledge and implement initiatives with common development goals. TSSC builds on shared governance among different actors and identifiable comparative advantages.

A journey to inspire change

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

- George Bernard Shaw, playwright, co-founder London School of Economics

This paper discusses the **Trilateral South South Cooperation (TSSC)** of the Brazil-Ethiopia-UNICEF Cooperation programme on water and sanitation. The cooperation is linked to the ONEWASH Plus programme being jointly implemented by the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF to support the ONEWASH National Programme, with funding from UK Department for International Development.

This paper discusses the added value of the South-South concept from the view of the participants. The learning potential of the TSSC approach, based upon the personal reflections of participants from Brazil and Ethiopia, is made explicit.

The insights and lessons learnt were gained by participants in two exchange visits to the State of Ceará, Brazil and the regions of Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Tigray in Ethiopia as initial activities under this new TSSC.



ONEWASH Plus learning note produced by IRC as a contribution to the One WaSH National Programme

Setting course for a two-year cooperation

“Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.”

– **Miriam Beard, historian, social justice activist**

South-South cooperation is a term used by policymakers and academics to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the global South¹. The emerging Tripartite South-South Cooperation between the governments of Brazil and Ethiopia in collaboration with UNICEF is an exemplary example of such cooperation.

Following initial exchange visits facilitated by UNICEF between high level delegations between Ethiopia and Brazil in September 2014 and January 2015, efforts were made to capture the insights, impressions and shifts in perception of delegates from both countries about urban sanitation services. What emerge from the interaction between peers working to address similar challenges in somewhat similar, and yet significantly different, contexts?



¹ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/222

Common needs, shared interests

Travelling to a new country, interacting with people from a different culture, visiting vital cultural sights or simply trying to figure out local transport options are all experiences that enrich one's world perspective immeasurably. South-South collaboration modalities such as TSSC, with explicit learning agendas and programmes defined through iterative, participatory processes by country delegations, hold the potential to reach beyond the individual learning experience to realise learning aims, objectives and priorities with wider societal benefits.

The TSSC process starts with the step of identifying the common needs and mutual benefits that form the foundation of a collaboration of this nature.

With an urbanization rate of 4.7 percent per annum, Ethiopia is predicted to become one of the most populous urban nations in Africa by 2050. The Government of Ethiopia faces complex challenges in terms of expanding access to and improving quality of water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) services for its growing urban population, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

A strong national response is evident in several policy and strategy mechanisms. The second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), currently under formulation, aims for Ethiopia to achieve middle income country status by 2025, focusing on industrialization and urbanization goals and including increased service norms for water supply. In urban settings, service levels will rise from the current 20 litres per capita per day to between 40 and 100 litres per capita per day.

In 2013, the Government of Ethiopia joined forces with development partners to increase the pace of improving WaSH services nationwide. The resulting ONEWASH National Programme (OWNP), the world's largest sector



Lasting impressions

'Institutional arrangements are different in Brazil with the Ministry of Cities dealing with centres of over 50,000 people and FUNASA¹ deals with the rest. In Brazil the latter are considered rural whereas in Ethiopia, a rural area has a population below 2000 people!'

Mr. Nuredin Mohammed, Director of Water Supply and Sanitation Directorate, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy

'What really impacted me was the opportunity to become familiar with a reality that I had only seen in the media, and in becoming aware, discovering how we can contribute to change in this context.'

Mr. Alceu de Castro Galvão Junior, Manager of Basic Sanitation Sector, Ceará State Regulatory Agency

'Diving into a new culture, especially in a country as rich and diverse as Ethiopia, has been extremely inspiring. Experiences like this contribute to the formation of citizens who are more sensitive to diversity and committed to solutions designed under a holistic and comprehensive perception of problems.'

Marcelo de Paula Neves Lelis, Infrastructure Analyst and Project Manager, National Secretary of Environmental Sanitation, Ministry of Cities

wide approach (SWAp), unites government and development partners in the implementation of WaSH services in rural and urban areas. The OWNP, with its consolidated processes of WaSH planning, budgeting and reporting, is unique for its comprehensive, inclusive, cost effective and progress-oriented approach.

Through the UK Department for International Development (DFID)-financed ONEWASH Plus programme, UNICEF was requested by the Government of Ethiopia to lead the development of a national integrated urban sanitation strategy and the visits connected with this initiative.

UNICEF initiated experience sharing between Brazil and Ethiopia to stimulate exchange and learning about tried and tested models for urban sanitation. Brazil has good examples of urban WASH regulation, policy frameworks, services planning and management (at central and local levels), and condominial² sewerage (technology and management components). Ethiopia has a developing enabling environment with examples of local leadership and management of services delivery within a federal system, a key similarity between the two countries with their federal structures.

This UNICEF-brokered connection was established with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience and technical know-how on these areas. The Brazil-Ethiopia-UNICEF TSSC, relates to ONEWASH Plus through the programme results of "enhanced sector governance" and "improved Urban WASH service delivery".

² A condominial sewerage system is a low-cost sewer system that is notable for the emphasis on community participation in all aspects of planning, management and maintenance of the system at housing block level. This shallow system collects wastewater in small-diameter pipes laid at fairly flat gradients that are located under front or back yards or the pavement rather than under a road as with conventional sewerage.

Exchange Visits

The TSSC programme started with two exchange visits: one in September 2014 and one in January 2015.

Project Partners



Members of the Ethiopian delegation included:

- Dr. Kebede Worku, State Minister of Health
- Mr. Kebede Gerba Gemoso, State Minister of Water and Energy
- Mr. Wanna Wake, General Director of the Water Resources Development Fund and Member of the Parliament
- Representatives from:
 - Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction
 - Oromia Water, Mines and Energy Bureau
 - Amhara Water Resources Development Bureau
 - Water Resources Development Fund
 - Tigray Water Resources Bureau
 - Somali Water Resources Development Bureau
 - World Vision Ethiopia
 - DFID Ethiopia
- Samuel Godfrey, WASH Section Chief
- Michele Paba, Urban WASH Manager UNICEF Ethiopia.

Members of the Brazilian delegation included:

- Marcelo de Paula Neves Lelis, Infrastructure Analyst and Project Manager, National Secretary of Environmental Sanitation, Ministry of Cities
- Maria Cristina de Sá Oliveira Matos Brito, Specialist in Hydric Resources, National Agency of Hydric Resources, Coordinator of PRODES Watershed Decontamination Programme
- Anna Maria Graziano, Project Analyst, Trilateral South – South Cooperation Department, Agency for Brazilian Cooperation (ABC), Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Cláudia Elisabeth B. Marques, Engineering Coordinator, Department of Public Health Engineering, National Health Foundation
- Ms. Dayany Schoecher Salati, Infrastructure Analyst, Ministry of Public Planning, Budgeting and Management, National Health Foundation
- Alceu de Castro Galvão Junior, Manager, Basic Sanitation sector, Ceará State Regulatory Agency
- Helder dos Santos Cortez, Rural Sanitation Manager, Integrated System for Rural Sanitation (SISAR), Ceará State Water and Sewage Company (CAGECE)
- Michelle Barron, Programme Manager for Horizontal/South-South Cooperation, UNICEF Brazil focal point, Humanitarian Cooperation and Gender

In September 2014 the high-level delegation from Ethiopia visited Brazil. The Government of Brazil hosted the seven-day high-level mission. The objective of the first exchange was to provide insight into how Brazil has advanced in providing water, sanitation and hygiene in urban areas given its rapid urbanization over the past 50 years, and which has significantly reduced child mortality.

The Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, through the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation and those Ministries responsible for planning and implementation of national WASH policy³ worked with the UNICEF Brazil Country Office to prepare the exchange visit agenda. The task

³ These included the Ministry of Cities, the Ministry of Health through the National Health Foundation, the Ministry of National Integration, the Ministry of Environment and the National Water Agency,

was to provide the Ethiopian Delegation with an overview of how water and sewage systems in Brazil are organised across national, state and municipal levels.

The opening session of a two-day seminar on 15th and 16th September 2014 focused on exchanging knowledge and ideas about how the Ethiopian and Brazilian WaSH sectors are structured, identifying both key similarities and critical differences.

Field visits were conducted in Fortaleza - the capital of the north-eastern state of Ceará - and the municipalities Sobral and Santana, where the Ethiopian delegation was welcomed by the Mayors and the communities. Community members brought delegation members into their homes to show how water and sewerage systems are installed at household level and how these systems benefit citizens.

The delegation also visited the water treatment plant of the Water and Sewage Company of the State of Ceará (CAGECE) and met with its President who explained the state's strategy for providing services through public-private partnerships. This meeting was followed by a presentation and discussion with the Ceará State Regulatory Agency (ARCE) for these services.

The mission was accompanied by Mr. Marcelo Lelis, Project Manager of the National Secretariat of Environmental Sanitation of the Ministry of Cities, and Ms. Michelle Correia, Coordinator of Technical Cooperation of the National Health Foundation of the Ministry of Health and Mr. Regino Antônio de Pinho Filho, Superintendent of the National Health Foundation.

In January 2015, a reciprocal exchange visit was paid by a high-level mission from Brazil. It comprised of a nine-person delegation travelling to Ethiopia. The mission objectives were:

1. To collect first-hand accounts of national priorities, plans of action, capacity needs in respect to development challenge and issues with particular focus on the three main areas identified in the draft roadmap, namely urban sanitation;

regulatory frameworks for urban WASH service delivery, and river basin/ watershed management

2. To jointly identify priorities, goals, strategic underpinnings and key elements for project design, including vertical components of the future project results framework (impact, outcomes, outputs and main activities) as well as means of implementation.

The Brazilian delegates, divided in three teams, visited four regions of Ethiopia: Adama and Gonder in Oromia and Amhara regions respectively with a focus on the establishment of independent water regulation for urban settlements; Wukro in Tigray with the objective of sharing technology, experiences and expertise of condominium sewerage for high density population areas; and the Awash basin in Afar Region to exchange ideas on water resources management.



The main outcome of the initial exchange visits has been the formalisation of a two-year South-South collaboration agreement on Water Supply and Sanitation between the Governments of Ethiopia and Brazil. This agreement will run from 2015 until 2017.

In addition to the exchange visits, innovative means for keeping the TSSC dynamic and alive include an online tool for exchange by participants, as well as the use of audio/video tools for maintaining the connection, sharing learning in real time and creating virtual feedback links.

Lasting first impressions

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

– Henry Miller, author

The TSSC is a learning exchange between two countries with vastly different and possibly synergistic issues and challenges.

Following these initial exchanges, the delegation members wrote collective reports detailing their experience and key insights to inform the TSSC two-year programme plan and strategy. Of equal, yet somehow less tacit, importance are unstated learning outcomes, (personal) paradigm shifts and changes that emerged from delegate’s initial exposure to another country context, its people, its approaches to providing WASH services, its visions, priorities, plans and challenges.

‘On an issue as “essential as basic sanitation...it is not enough to “replicate” what has worked in Brazil... it is necessary to build strategies and measures that can be assimilated by Ethiopian managers and validated by Ethiopian citizens to move towards solutions that are efficient, effective and lasting.’

– **Marcelo de Paula Neves Leles**

National Secretary of Environmental Sanitation, Brazilian Ministry of Cities

‘We were impressed by the achievements of Brazil on wastewater management in small towns, and most of all by the high levels of awareness among its citizens.’

– **Mr. Nuredin Mohammed**

Director, Water Supply and Sanitation, Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy

Only parting that we may meet again

“We can’t find the truth listening to our own voice’s echo. We can find ourselves only in someone’s mirror”

– Rumi, 13 c. Persian poet, jurist, theologian

Following the second exchange visit, both country delegations undertook to conduct detailed planning to develop agreements and plans for follow up.

As concrete results, representatives of the Ethiopian Government identified key areas in which technical assistance from the Government of Brazil will now Ethiopia. These include sharing knowledge and building capacities of policy makers, managers and technicians on how to develop integrated WaSH policy and implement management models and regulatory schemes for service provision drawing on Brazilian models like the Integrated Rural Sanitation System (SISAR) and social tariffs. The parties identified two key priorities: Regulatory support in selected regions (Oromia and Amhara) and piloting condominium sewerage in Wukro town in Tigray Region.

The Brazilian delegation identified the following as priorities for further exchange and joint learning through the TSSC initiative:

1. capacity building of local authorities staff on planning and management of WaSH services;
2. sanitation and hygiene promotion activities; and,
3. joint research projects to be carried out by Brazilian and Ethiopian Universities.

The main areas of intervention of the implementation strategy of TSSC were agreed to include:

- 1 Urban Sanitation:
 - Brazilian experts will provide a peer review of the national integrated urban sanitation and hygiene strategy & sanitation action plan
 - Brazilian experts will provide technical assistance for the launching of a pilot project for condominial sewerage in Wukro town, Tigray region. The technical assistance will focus on: project design, technical drawings and bills of quantities, site selections, monitoring and trainings for the establishment of appropriate management system
- 2 Water and Sanitation Regulatory Framework:
 - The Brazilian Government will provide technical assistance for the establishment of independent water/WaSH regulatory systems in Amhara and Oromia regions.

- The Government of Ethiopia’s (GoI) draft Growth and Transformation Plan II (GTP II), expresses GoI’s desire to “establish [an] independent regulatory agency responsible for improved and standardized provision of rural and urban water supply services” justifying this component as a key pillar of the South-South collaboration between the Governments of Brazil and Ethiopia. The Brazilian governments support will now be aligned to help achieve this key policy goal.



‘I will contribute the experience of CAGECE on basic sanitation through training local technicians so they can replicate a condominal sanitation model and thus contribute to the improvement of life of Ethiopian citizens.’

– **Helder dos Santos Cortez**

– Rural Sanitation Manager, Integrated System for Rural Sanitation, Ceará State Water and Sewage Company (CAGECE), Brazil

‘At FUNASA we hope to contribute our experience in the area of basic sanitation. We will provide technical support, in partnership with CAGECE, to consultation processes, construction and implementation of a simplified sewerage system in the selected residential area in Ethiopia.’

– **Cláudia Elisabeth B. Marques**

Engineering Coordinator, Department of Public Health Engineering, Brazilian National Health Foundation



About...

ONEWASH Plus learning notes promote the sharing of experiences from innovations within the ONEWASH Plus Programme.

This learning note focuses on the South-South concept and makes explicit the learning potential of the TSSC strategy based on the personal reflections of delegates from Brazil and Ethiopia who took part in two exchange visits in 2014 and 2015 in preparation for a two-year Cooperation programme.

The learning note was written by Deirdre Casella at IRC. Photos credits: page 3, UNICEF Ethiopia; page 5, UNICEF Brasil; page 7, IRC.