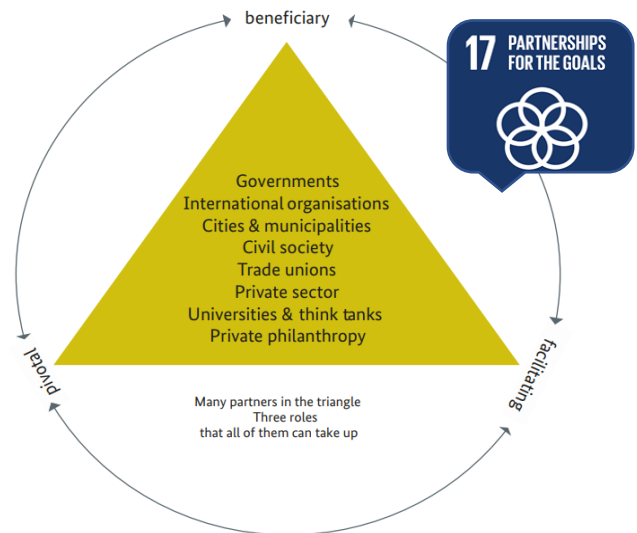


# Triangular Cooperation in German development cooperation

Development cooperation is changing. Global challenges such as climate change and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic require **concerted action by all countries**. Triangular cooperation involves horizontal collaboration, with countries working together to implement international development agendas. 'Horizontal' describes collaboration between equal partners and is one of the basic principles of this type of cooperation. Triangular cooperation makes an impact at project level and **strengthens partnerships in the sense of SDG 17**, using them explicitly to support the joint achievement of sustainable development goals.

**Emerging economies and in particular global partners** of German development cooperation are primarily involved as pivotal partners; this is where triangular cooperation falls on fertile ground. The UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires in March 2019 (**BAPA+40**), reaffirmed that many partner countries are calling **for innovative cooperation formats**, such as triangular cooperation, which they see as a modern and equitable form of collaboration. It enables emerging economies and developing countries to assume greater global responsibility and to prepare them for, or strengthen them in, the role of donors in development cooperation.

Mutual learning enables partners to find innovative solutions that address global development challenges and protect public goods. *'Germany views its role in triangular cooperation as that of a learning partner, too, and wants to further strengthen that aspect in the future. There are several federal government ministries in Germany that want to benefit from exchange and mutual learning in this field.'* (BMZ 2022: 9).



*Three roles in triangular cooperation.  
Source: BMZ (2022: 6) based on GPI (2019)*

Triangular cooperation makes it possible to involve **a range of stakeholders, including non-governmental ones** such as civil society, the private sector and academia (multi-stakeholder partnerships) and thus establish and strengthen a joint understanding of development. This promotes new access channels, more civic involvement, and thus greater sustainability.

In accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, triangular cooperation promotes the commitment of all partners involved, the leveraging of development cooperation resources and provides an opportunity to keep the momentum in a changing world order. It can strengthen and **deepen strategic alliances with emerging economies**, in particular in the course of post-ODA development, which can be relevant to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.



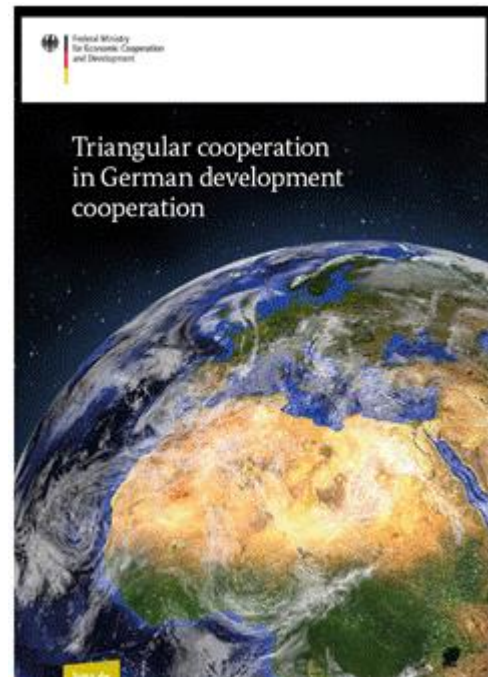
Based on the **OECD definition**<sup>2</sup>, triangular cooperation in German development cooperation refers to projects that are planned, implemented and financed jointly by a beneficiary partner, a pivotal partner and a facilitator. They combine experience and expertise, as well as financial, institutional and human resources, and strengthen relationships between the participating countries, and their mutual trust. The complementary strengths the cooperation partners bring to the table, in combination with triangular cooperation's multi-stakeholder approach, help to achieve a high degree of development effectiveness in the beneficiary country.

*'Triangular cooperation offers a variety of opportunities for all partners. Ideally, these opportunities should lead to a win-win-win situation for all partners, with synergies being generated through their joint efforts.'* (BMZ 2022: 7).

With more than 150 projects, **Germany** is one of the DAC countries most committed to funding triangular cooperation, along with Japan, Norway and Spain (BMZ 2021)<sup>3</sup>

In geographical terms, Germany's involvement to date has concentrated on Latin America and the Caribbean, partly because of the openness of the countries in this region to innovative solutions and their extensive experience with this modality, and also because the language and cultural conditions are particularly conducive.

Positive results and growing interest have led to the expansion of triangular cooperation to other regions of the world such as Asia, where a BMZ project similar to those carried out in the Latin America and Caribbean region was commissioned at the beginning of 2021.



*Click on the image or follow the link below to download the BMZ position paper.*

1 See BMZ position paper: 'Triangular cooperation in German development cooperation', January 2022, <https://www.bmz.de/en/ministry/working-approach/triangular-cooperation>

2 See the OECD website: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/triangular-cooperation/>

3 See BMZ position paper: 'Shaping the future together – strategic cooperation with global partners', March 2021

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