



SUPPORT FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

SECTOR | Others

DURATION | 60 months (May 2025 – May 2030)

TARGET GROUPS

- referent institutions in charge of the management, coordination and implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives (duty bearers);
- indirect beneficiaries comprise rights holders with greater development opportunities through the strengthened actions of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

REFERENCE STRATEGY

International Cooperation Strategy for the Development of El Salvador

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

- Agencia de El Salvador para la Cooperación Internacional (ESCO);
- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de El Salvador.

BUDGET | EUR 2 million



CONTEXT

This project represents the continuation of Luxembourg's strategic support to El Salvador in strengthening its dual role within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Building on previous initiatives, particularly Project 2649 and the Salvadoran Fund for South-South Cooperation (FOSAL), this new phase aims to consolidate El Salvador's position as both a provider and a recipient of international cooperation, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project is grounded in the lessons learned and recommendations from the evaluation of Project 2649, which highlighted key areas for improvement in political, technical, and financial management, multisectoral participation, and transparency. These insights have been incorporated into the design of the project to ensure a more robust and effective intervention.

A central element of the project is its alignment with the new institutional architecture for cooperation management in El Salvador, under the leadership of ESCO. This reflects the Government of El Salvador's strategic prioritisation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its ambition to enhance the country's visibility and influence at both regional and international levels.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to increase El Salvador's support to and from other developing countries in achieving the SDGs. Specifically, the project seeks to strengthen the implementation, coordination, and management capacities of South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives led by the Salvadoran state. This will enable El Salvador to actively participate in North-South, South-South, and Triangular cooperation efforts, leveraging its experience and institutional capacities to foster mutual development.

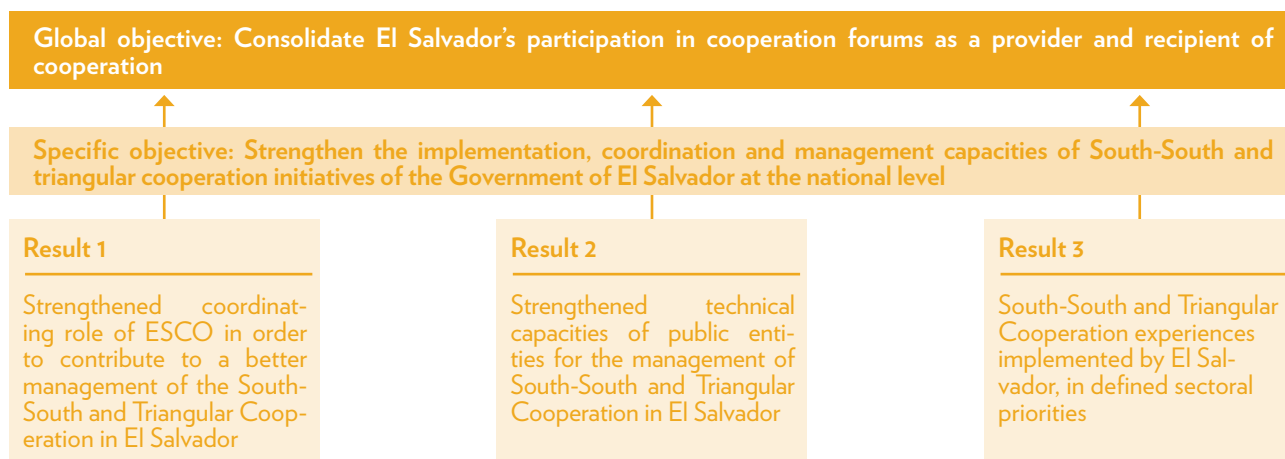
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Geographically, the project focuses on El Salvador but has a broader regional and international scope through its cooperation initiatives.

BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries include national institutions involved in cooperation management, technical experts, and partner countries engaged in South-South and Triangular Cooperation exchanges. Ultimately, the project contributes to a more interconnected and collaborative development landscape, positioning El Salvador as a key actor in global cooperation efforts.

EXPECTED CHANGES/RESULTS



This new phase focuses on strengthening institutional capacities to implement cooperation initiatives that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The intervention is guided by a clear theory of change: if ESCO is equipped to coordinate South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives, if sectoral public institutions are capable of managing such projects, and if implemented experiences are systematised and shared, then El Salvador will be better positioned to lead and benefit from South-South and Triangular Cooperation efforts. To achieve this, the project is structured around three key results.

First, the project seeks to strengthen ESCO's coordinating role. This involves enhancing the skills of its staff and improving the tools and mechanisms that support its operations. Outputs under this result include the update and strategic dissemination of El Salvador's international cooperation catalog, which showcases the country's technical cooperation offer. A new mechanism will be developed to map partner country supply, helping ESCO identify relevant cooperation opportunities. Technical support will be provided to streamline project management, and targeted training will ensure ESCO staff are equipped with standardised knowledge in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Second, the project aims to build the technical capacities of public institutions beyond ESCO. Ministries and other implementing agencies will be supported to become active development actors. A national mechanism for standardising South-South and Triangular Cooperation competencies will be introduced, ensuring that training is sustainable and embedded within the public administration. This will help institutionalise South-South and Triangular Cooperation knowledge and practices, regardless of staff turnover.

Third, the project will implement pilot South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives in priority sectors such as digitalisation, inclusive finance, and gender equality. These pilots, co-financed by Luxembourg, will be designed with a gender and environmental lens and will serve as models for future cooperation. To ensure continuous learning, the project will also systematise these experiences through participatory processes, enabling the identification and replication of good practices.

Through these interconnected results, the project will position El Salvador as a proactive and capable actor in international cooperation, contributing meaningfully to global development efforts.

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