



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

26 Dec - 02 Jan, 2025



### A Message of Gratitude and Hope for the New Year

To our cherished DAKSHIN Newsletter readers,

As the first light of 2026 dawns, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a year filled with profound prosperity, robust health, and enduring happiness. This transition is a moment not just for celebration, but for heartfelt reflection on the community we have built together.

The journey of DAKSHIN this past year has been deeply enriched by your active engagement and intellectual partnership. The comments, insights, and feedback you have generously shared have been our most valuable compass. They have guided our focus, refined our curation, and affirmed the vital role a dedicated platform for Global South perspectives plays in the discourse on development. Your voices have transformed this newsletter from a mere digest into a dynamic conversation, and for that, we are immensely grateful.

The year 2025 stands as a testament to our collective focus. In the **52 DAKSHIN Newsletter editions** of 2025, we are proud to have collated, and presented **766 news pieces** on development and development cooperation, all sourced from and centred on the Global South. This curated intelligence aimed to connect dots across continents, highlighting shared challenges and innovative solutions emerging from our regions.

Beyond the headlines, we delved deeper with **55 In-Focus and Special articles including Report Reviews**, providing nuanced analysis on pressing issues. Furthermore, through **50 detailed event reports**, we brought you to the heart of the dialogue—documenting not only DAKSHIN's own initiatives but also the pivotal work of our collaborators and LoA partners. This ecosystem of knowledge sharing is what amplifies our impact.

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### **Accelerating the mobilization of domestic and international private finance towards the Sustainable Development Goals**

This report focuses on the importance of strengthening financial regulations that can accelerate private financing towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region. The brief puts forward actions to deepen banking and capital markets in Asia and the Pacific, as well as outlines a new approach that combines concessional and private finance in the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific.

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## Key Developments in the Global South

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### **Nepal, India agree to expand cooperation in agriculture sector**

Nepal and India have agreed to formulate and implement a biennial action plan within the next three months to translate bilateral agreements on agricultural cooperation into tangible outcomes, Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. The decision was taken during the ninth meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Agriculture Working Group, held in Kathmandu on Sunday and Monday. The two sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation between agricultural universities and research institutions in both countries, including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), through separate, time-bound action plans, the ministry said in a statement.

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## **First ever Pan-Asia training on international water law strengthens capacity and cooperation on shared waters across Asia**

Against the backdrop of intensifying climate change impacts, growing water demands and increasing development pressures on shared rivers, lakes and aquifers, UNECE recently convened the inaugural Pan-Asia Training on International Water Law (IWL): Improving water governance and climate-resilient investment in Bangkok, Thailand and online.

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## **Cameroon-Morocco Agreement Targets New Investment Flows**

Cameroon's Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) signed an investment promotion agreement with Morocco to expand cross-border projects and strengthen economic cooperation. The deal, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding between IPA and the Moroccan Agency for Investment and Export Development, AMDIE, sets out a framework for closer collaboration, as Cameroon intensifies efforts to draw regional investors into its economy. The MoU was signed at AMDIE's headquarters in Rabat by IPA's interim Director General, Boma Donatus, and AMDIE Director General, Ali Seddiki. The agreement focuses on cooperation in investment promotion, information sharing and the identification of joint opportunities between the two countries. IPA said the deal positions both agencies to work more closely to attract and facilitate investments, particularly as Cameroon expands its outreach to international investors through a targeted economic mission in Morocco.

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### **India delivers ambulances to Afghanistan amid growing health cooperation**

India has delivered a batch of ambulances to Afghanistan as health cooperation between the two countries continues to strengthen. In October, during a visit by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India, New Delhi announced its plan to donate 20 ambulances to Afghanistan as a gesture of goodwill. The delivery forms part of the expanding partnership between the two countries in the healthcare sector. Recently, Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health, Noor Jalal Jalali, visited New Delhi and noted that Kabul is exploring alternative avenues for procuring medicines, reducing reliance on Pakistan.

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### **Malawi holds its first ever Walk the Talk: Health for All Challenge event**

The first edition of Walk the Talk for Malawi was organized as part of the WHO's 75th anniversary celebration. The guest of honor at the event was the Minister of Health Honorable Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, MP and was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Health Honorable Halima Daudi MP and the Mayor of the Lilongwe City, His Lordship Councilor Richard Banda. "Today's walk provides an opportunity to promote solidarity and to get moving for physical and mental health. The goal of the event is to promote the importance of healthy lifestyles, raise awareness on the pursuit of health for all, and to celebrate the importance of partnership as this year is the 75th anniversary of the WHO," said Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo.

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## **ICAP is a bridge of solidarity between Cuba and the world**

The promotion of international solidarity continues to be the central focus of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), affirmed its president, Fernando González, just hours before the institution's 65th anniversary. ICAP, created on December 30, 1959, at the initiative of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, has played a mobilizing role in the solidarity movement with Cuba worldwide, both politically and materially, added the Hero of the Republic of Cuba in statements to the press.

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## **Minister of Agriculture in River Nile Discusses Cooperation with Red Crescent and FAO**

The meeting discussed the progress of work in the vegetable seeds distribution and extension project; FAO grant being implemented by the Red Crescent Society's River Nile Branch in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Forests through its relevant administrations (Horticulture, Extension, Seeds) with support from FAO. The project targets small-scale farmers and household agriculture, aiming to enhance food security and improve farmers' livelihoods in the state. The parties emphasized the importance of joint cooperation between the ministry and international organizations to strengthen the agricultural sector and achieve sustainable development. He indicated that this project will contribute to providing improved seeds to farmers and offering the necessary technical extension to increase productivity and enhance the quality of agricultural products.

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## **South-South Cooperation gains ground through UN-supported technical exchanges**

The United Nations in India is supporting a set of South-South Cooperation projects under the UN India SDG Country Fund focusing on technical cooperation and capacity building across health, education, statistics and food systems. The projects are implemented by UN agencies in partnership with Indian government institutions and counterpart authorities in participating countries. In healthcare, United Nations Development Programme is supporting Laos PDR and Zambia to strengthen equitable access to health services by adapting Indian digital health platforms. The project focuses on developing standard operating procedures and customised digital solutions inspired by India's eVIN, CoWIN and U WIN platforms to support real time tracking of non-communicable disease medicines and service delivery. UNDP teams engaged with government counterparts in Laos PDR to assess system requirements, followed by a visit by Lao officials to India to observe digital health systems in use. Exposure and training engagements for Zambian officials are planned as part of the project.

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## **Algeria and Belarus Sign Multiple Cooperation Agreements**

The Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, on Wednesday co-chaired with his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, the signing ceremony of several agreements and memorandums of understanding in various fields of cooperation between the two countries. The signing ceremony took place at the Presidency of the Republic, following talks between both Presidents, who is on an official visit to Algeria. In this context, the governments of the two countries concluded an agreement on military and technical cooperation, signed by Army General, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defense and Chief of Staff of the People's National Army (ANP), Saïd Chanegriha, and Belarusian Minister of State for the Military Industry, Dmitry Pantus.

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## **QFFD Provides Over \$667 Million in Aid Throughout 2025**

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) provided over \$667 million in aid through 2025 for more than 45 countries, culminating in a year abounding with forged partnerships and achieving a concrete breakthrough in lending impetus to the agenda of development and humanitarian work on the global stage. The 2025 aid had been distributed to the healthcare sector with nearly \$62.1 million, over \$74.1 million to education, nearly \$314.9 million to economic development, as well as over \$141.1 million to humanitarian aid, among other areas, QFFD clarified in its annual bulletin.

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## **TV BRICS unites over 100 media organisations worldwide to strengthen cooperation across Global South**

TV BRICS International Media Network ensured three times more media publications across different countries on the activities of the BRICS group and state-level humanitarian and economic cooperation compared with the previous year. Today, 32 countries regularly participate in shaping the consolidated BRICS agenda, seven of which joined cooperation with TV BRICS during 2025: Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, Uruguay, and Sweden. Over the year, the media network connected an additional 24 media outlets from 17 countries worldwide to multilateral information exchange. Overall, 110 regional, national, and global media organisations officially cooperate with TV BRICS. New partners include Malaysian National News Agency BERNAMA, Indonesia's largest television broadcaster TVRI, India's leading public broadcaster Prasar Bharati, Thailand's public television service Thai PBS, and Brazil's news portal Brasil de Fato.

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## **Japan to Provide \$7 Million Grant to Boost Healthcare Infrastructure in Kazakhstan**

Japan will provide more than 1.087 billion yen (approximately US\$7 million) in grant assistance to support the development of healthcare infrastructure in Kazakhstan's Abai Region, strengthening bilateral cooperation in medicine and public health. Kazakh Minister of Healthcare Akmaral Alnazarova and Japan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan Iijima Yasumasa signed the document to implement an intergovernmental agreement on a Japanese grant. The funding will be directed toward upgrading medical infrastructure at the University Hospital of the Non-Commercial Joint-Stock Company Medical University of Semei. The grant will be used to procure high-tech medical equipment, significantly expanding the hospital's diagnostic and treatment capacity.

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## **Togo's 65-year Partnership with the UN Lays Ground for a Sustainable Future**

Togo reached a major milestone, moving from the category of low human development countries to medium human development, with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.571. This progress ranks Togo second in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) region and reflects collective efforts from Government, civil society and the UN in poverty reduction and socio-economic reforms in health, education and water—key contributors to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN's support has covered a wide range of areas, from migration governance to refugee protection and humanitarian aid in vulnerable regions. From health and social protection to jobs and youth empowerment, every initiative sought to build resilience for the Togolese people.

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## Russia–Arab World Cooperation Opens a New Chapter in Healthcare

The meeting was opened by Minister of Health M.A. Murashko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs A.V. Grushko, and Director of our Center I.S. Stilidi, head of VTB-Medicine LLC, which is actively involved in implementing projects to export medical services. Results of the meeting with the Arab world: our country is firmly establishing itself as a medical power. Our potential is colossal and must work, first and foremost, for the benefit of each of our citizens. Participants included: 19 countries from the Arab world and the Middle East – diplomatic missions represented by more than 35 embassy representatives; 19 leading federal-level medical institutions (more than 50 representatives).

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## Egypt, Djibouti explore expanded infrastructure, development cooperation

President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh received Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Industry and Transport Kamel Al-Wazir, along with a delegation representing leading Egyptian public- and private-sector companies specialising in infrastructure, transport and industrial zone projects. President Guelleh said the visit reflects the deep-rooted and historic ties between Djibouti and Egypt, which constitute a solid foundation for advancing the interests of both nations. He highlighted the significance of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's historic visit to Djibouti, during which both sides stressed the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors and increasing trade volumes to better reflect the strength of relations.

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