

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Item 10

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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### CODEX TRUST FUND - UPDATE

#### 1. Introduction

This document provides an update on the operations and activities of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) at secretariat and country project level as of August 2022.

#### 2. Governance

FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat have continued their regular CTF Steering Committee meetings to provide strategic guidance and take decisions on the core activities of the CTF. As of August, the Steering Committee has met five times in 2022. Decisions for Round 6 of CTF support were made in May 2022.

The eighth CTF Advisory Group (AG) meeting took place in December 2021 and discussed updates provided by the CTF Secretariat, Codex regions and a panel of CTF recipient countries. The meeting also discussed the terms of reference of the CTF2 mid-term evaluation and the definition of what constitutes “effective participation” in Codex work. Building on the AG meeting, the CTF Secretariat has been working with partners to collect suggestions on more specific definitions and suitable indicators to measure effective participation.

#### 3. Support provided to countries

##### 3.1. Disruptions through political instability and COVID-19

In 2021 and through the first months of 2022, there have been several disruptions to CTF projects caused by political instability in various CTF beneficiary countries. The Myanmar-led group project including Cambodia and Lao PDR (Round 4), needed to be temporarily put on hold following the political changes in Myanmar in February 2021. Political instability was also experienced in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso (all Round 2) in May 2021, September 2021 and January 2022, respectively.

While these disruptions mostly affected administrative proceedings in African countries, the political change in Myanmar led to the suspension of all collaborations of UN agencies with the country. In order to continue project implementation with the remaining group countries Cambodia and Lao PDR, the project has been adjusted to ensure the implementation of national and joint activities of these two countries. Regarding the affected countries in Africa, FAO and WHO regional and country offices continue supporting project implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the implementation of CTF projects in 2021. However, with some countries lifting public health restrictions and country teams further adapting to a virtual work environment, by 2022 the implementation rate picked up again in most projects. Difficulties remain particularly linked to the implementation of activities that require the physical presence of participants, not all of which can be fully replaced by virtual tools. The CTF has agreed to the extension of project deadlines agreed before the pandemic to allow for the implementation of activities at a later time, once public health restrictions are eased.

### 3.2. Status of project implementation

Below a summary of project implementation status by funding cycle as of August 2022:

- Round 1: all four projects have been completed in 2021.
- Round 2: all eight projects are under implementation.
- Round 3: all nine projects are under implementation.
- Round 4: all eight projects have started implementation.
- Round 5: all six countries are in the process of completing contracting/starting project implementation.
- Round 6: preparation of contracts for selected projects is underway; countries whose proposals received conditional approval are working on the required revisions with final decisions on funding expected by October 2022.

### 3.3. Decisions on funding: applications for Round 6 of CTF support

Fourteen applications were received for Round 6 of CTF support. The Technical Review Group appraised the quality of applications that had met CTF administrative requirements and provided recommendations to the CTF Steering Committee. Funding was approved for the applications submitted by *Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe*.

Conditional approval for funding, pending clarifications and/or substantial modifications of their proposals has been given to *Comoros, Niger, Syria and Uzbekistan*. Adding to the conditional approval for funding given to *Fiji* (application Round 5), a total of five applications are pending final decision for funding.

### 3.4. Preparations for Round 7 of CTF support

Applications for Round 7 of CTF support are accepted from 15 September 2022 onward. The number of countries eligible for Round 7 support will depend on the final decision of funding projects that received conditional approval for Round 6. Countries not receiving final approval for funding will be eligible to reapply along the 44 countries otherwise remaining eligible for support.

In 2022, training sessions focusing on the application of the Diagnostic Tool and the CTF2 application process, will take place in August and September 2022. Trainings are aimed at CTF2 eligible countries that are considering applying for support and focus on the key aspects of preparing strong applications.

## 4. Financial status and outlook

The CTF Secretariat has continued working with donors to adjust spending plans which have been affected by the delays caused by COVID-19. Donors have showed their support in allowing for the necessary adjustments and signalled their interest in continuing supporting the CTF2 over the coming years. Discussions on funding beyond 2023 will build on potential modifications of the trust fund's setup following the results and recommendations that will derive from the ongoing CTF2 mid-term evaluation.

*Table 1: CTF financial status 31.12.2021*

<b>Balance, income, expenditure 2020</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Balance carried over from 2020	1,962,065
Contributions received in 2021	1,185,522
Expenditure in 2021, including PSC	969,840
<b>Balance end 2021</b>	<b>2,177,747</b>

## 5. CTF2 mid-term evaluation

TDV Global was selected as the service provider to conduct the CTF2 mid-term evaluation. By the time this report was written, the evaluators had produced an inception report outlining the approach, methodology and timeline of their work, and data collection was well underway. Preliminary findings are expected by early Q4 2022. A final evaluation report will be provided by end of February 2023 and will inform key recommendations to be presented to the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.