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HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM FAO

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an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



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INTRODUCTION

Providing Technical Assistance (TA) to member countries is one of the core functions of FAO.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department provides TA by translating technical expertise and knowledge and existing policies into practical assistance in support of member countries, responding to their specific needs.

For many developing countries, FAO has a record of direct and regular assistance supporting fisheries policy and management, market access and trade, and other related issues.

The different TA project modalities are described below.

1. Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) enables FAO to make its know-how and technical expertise available to member countries upon request, drawing from FAO's own resources. It provides assistance in all the technical areas pertaining to FAO's mandate and competence in line with FAO's Strategic Framework and the priority needs as expressed in the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) that are agreed with national governments.

A TCP project is formulated in response to a priority request from a member country for technical assistance and follow a defined process as set out in the TCP Manual¹.

These short-term, catalytic and sustainable projects address critical gaps in hunger and malnutrition eradication, sustainable production, rural poverty reduction, efficient and inclusive food systems and building resilience to crises. TCP projects catalyse change, foster capacity development and assist countries in mobilizing resources.

TCP projects have a budget of up to USD 500 000 and a maximum duration of 24 months. Projects must meet the TCP criteria in order to be eligible for funding; however, the emphasis on each criterion can vary depending on the nature of the project.

There are two types of TCP projects: (a) development support or (b) emergency assistance and support to early rehabilitation.

(a) TCP Development Support Projects

At country level, Development TCP projects should contribute to at least one of the country development priorities as expressed in the CPF. This category also includes smaller projects approved as part of the TCP Facility (TCPf). Maximum funding for the TCPf is USD 200 000 and duration is normally less than a full TCP project.

FAO's decentralized office closest to project implementation (normally the FAO Representative in each country) is responsible and accountable for the approval and quality of non-emergency TCP projects.

(b) TCP Emergency Assistance and support to Early Rehabilitation Projects

Emergency TCP projects are intended to provide an immediate reaction to a disaster situation, and early rehabilitation of the productive capacity of affected rural communities. These projects provide technical assistance to catalyze government or donor response.

¹ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/tcp/docs/150928_-_TCP_Manual_2015.pdf

Given the geographical unpredictability of emergencies, the TCP unit in FAO headquarters manages the TCP appropriation for emergencies, and the Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation, is responsible and accountable for the projects' approval and quality.

More information can be found on the FAO website² and member countries are encouraged to explore the detailed information provided about the TCP.

2. Trust Fund Projects

The bulk of FAO's Trust Funds fall under the Government Cooperative Programme (GCP) and the Unilateral Trust Funds (UTFs) categories. However, there is a broader range of different funding modalities and the flexibility of developing new ones in accordance with donors' and developing countries' needs and priorities.

The following briefly describes the GCP and UTF categories.

(a) Government Cooperative Programme (GCP)

A GCP is an agreement between three parties: FAO, one or several donors/financing institutions and the beneficiary country or countries. It is a financing modality for donor governments or financing institutions to entrust funds to FAO for the provision of technical assistance services to a specific developing country, a group of countries within a specific region (regional project) or a group of countries in different regions (an interregional project). It is among the largest of the FAO Trust Fund programmes.

(b) Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF)

A UTF is a funding modality for projects financed by a government for the benefit of its own country and benefiting from the technical expertise of FAO. It is fully funded by the beneficiary country from national resources or from loans, credits and grants made available by international financing institutions or bilateral donors. Many countries have used this type of FAO Trust Fund.

HOW TO APPROACH FAO

Countries in need for Technical Assistance should develop a project concept that should be supported as a high priority by the government. This is typically planned through the CPF, although there are also unplanned and emerging issues or crises for which assistance might be required.

The country or region should approach the relevant FAO country, regional or sub-regional office with the developed project concept. Ideally, a possible funding source should be already identified. The relevant FAO office will then enter into a dialogue with the government(s) to further develop the project concept under one of the project types outlined above.

For further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact FAO either through its country offices³ or directly FAO headquarters.

² <http://www.fao.org/technical-cooperation-programme/en/>

³ <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/en/>