

Table 1: The TCP Criteria

CRITERIA	DEVELOPMENT TCP ASSISTANCE	EMERGENCY TCP ASSISTANCE
1. Country Eligibility	All FAO Members are eligible for access to TCP-supported technical assistance. However, TCP gives special attention to assisting the neediest countries, especially the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and/or Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Access by high-income developing countries and developed countries to technical assistance through the TCP modality should only be on a full cost-recovery basis ¹ .	Fifteen percent of the TCP appropriation is indicatively earmarked for emergency and rehabilitation projects, accessible to all FAO Members.
2. Aims and Purposes	TCP-supported assistance should contribute to household or national food security, improved rural livelihoods and poverty reduction, in line with the World Food Summit target, the MDGs, and FAO's strategic goals and objectives, including those related to the provision of global public goods.	TCP-supported emergency and rehabilitation assistance should be provided in direct anticipation of or follow-up to emergencies that fall within FAO's sphere of action; assistance should be directed explicitly at restoring the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable households affected by the emergency, and should seek to reduce the vulnerability of emergency-affected households in the future.
3. Country or Regional Priorities	TCP-supported assistance should be directed at national or regional priorities linked to the aims and purposes identified in Criterion 2 and, where they are in place, should be consistent with FAO's National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks and emerge from TCP priority-setting processes at the country level.	Emergency TCP assistance is not subject to any national priority setting process.
4. Critical Gap or Problem	TCP-supported assistance should be directed at a clearly defined critical technical gap or problem that has been identified by beneficiaries or stakeholders and which necessitates technical cooperation within the timeframe that can be provided by the Programme but which either cannot or should not be provided through other resources.	Emergency TCP assistance should be designed for very rapid response in support of interventions in thematic areas in which the Organization has a demonstrated comparative advantage.
5. Sustainable Impacts	TCP-supported assistance should result in clearly defined outputs and outcomes leading to impacts. It should have catalytic or multiplier effects such as increased mobilization of investment funds. The outcomes and impacts should be sustainable. TCP requests will not be accepted when they are a consequence of the ineffective follow-up to previous TCPs.	TCP emergency assistance should be directed at the provision of inputs for the sustainable rehabilitation of productive activities and of technical cooperation to support effective government (or donor) responses including the identification of necessary inputs. TCP-supported emergency and rehabilitation assistance should be directed at interventions that increase the likelihood of additional donor and/or government resources being directed to immediate relief and longer-term rehabilitation. Repetitive assistance to address recurrent types of emergencies in the same country should be avoided and be redirected towards more lasting impact assistance for the prevention of and preparedness for these same emergencies.

¹ Source: CL129/3. Until a TCP specific cost-recovery system is established, access by high-income developing countries and developed countries to FAO technical assistance would preferably be granted under the Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) modality.

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6. Scale and Duration	No TCP project should require a budget of more than US\$500 000 and should be completed within 24 months. The duration may be extended to 36 months, when justified, and on a case-by-case basis. The budget ceiling for a TCP Facility project is US\$200 000 per biennium and the project should be completed by the end of the biennium in which it was approved.	
7. Government Commitment	Requests for TCP assistance should include a formal commitment by government/s or regional organizations to provide all necessary inputs, staff and institutional arrangements to ensure the timely and effective start-up, implementation and follow-up of the requested TCP-supported assistance.	
8. Capacity-building	Wherever possible, TCP-supported assistance should help build national or regional capacities to ensure that the critical gaps and problems to which they are directed would either not appear again or that they could be resolved effectively at the national or regional level.	TCP-supported emergency and rehabilitation assistance should increase the capacity of the government and affected communities and households to either withstand, or respond to, similar shocks in the future, without resorting to external assistance.
9. Gender-sensitivity	TCP-supported assistance must be gender-sensitive in identification, design and implementation, in line with the Organization's Gender Plan of Action.	
10. Partnership and Participation	Wherever possible, TCP-supported assistance should contribute to new or strengthened partnerships and alliances, including through co-financing, and should lead to the increased participation of food-insecure and poor men and women in key decision-making processes.	

