



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

Ninetieth Session

WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

29 June – 3 July 2026

CODEx TRUST FUND: ACTIVITY REPORT

Executive Summary

The Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) is entering its final phase under increasingly constrained financial conditions. For the third consecutive year, expenditures have exceeded donor contributions, and despite extensive engagement with partners, resource mobilization efforts have failed to stabilize the Fund. In 2025, contributions declined by approximately 50 percent, creating a funding shortfall of nearly USD 1 million and forcing several projects to pause or close prematurely. Considering these recurrent challenges and the absence of sufficient multi-year commitments, the CTF Steering Committee proposed phasing out the Fund in 2026.

At CAC48, Members expressed deep appreciation for CTF2's achievements in strengthening national Codex structures, enhancing coordination at all levels, and significantly increasing meaningful participation in Codex work. However, Members also voiced concerns about the implications of the Fund's closure and stressed the urgent need for alternative and sustainable mechanisms to preserve and expand the gains achieved. FAO and WHO reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting capacity development through existing and new modalities. Several bridging activities, including global and regional workshops, are being implemented to maintain support during the transition. A final CTF report will be made available in 2026.

Codex Trust Fund activity report

The financial situation of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) has continued to deteriorate over the past three years, reflecting a sustained decline in donor commitments and increased pressure on the programme's budget. Total expenditure has exceeded donor contributions for the third consecutive year, and projected costs over the remaining years of CTF2 indicate that the current trajectory is no longer financially sustainable. Despite continued engagement with donors and repeated resource-mobilization efforts, the CTF Secretariat has not been able to secure the additional funding required to support the Fund through its intended conclusion.

During CAC48, the CTF Secretariat reported that donor contributions in 2025 had declined by about 50 percent compared with previous years, resulting in a funding gap of nearly USD 1 million. This shortfall forced the suspension, delay, or early closure of several approved projects. In view of these constraints and the continuing decline in annual and multiannual commitments, the CTF Steering Committee proposed phasing out CTF2 beginning in 2026. This decision was taken to ensure responsible financial management and transparency while allowing the Secretariat and participating Members to plan an orderly transition.

Members at CAC48 expressed strong appreciation for CTF2's achievements, noting its role in strengthening national Codex structures, enhancing coordination across ministries and sectors, and improving participation in Codex meetings and electronic working groups. The programme has also helped countries develop sustainable systems for risk analysis, standard-setting, and data generation in scientific advice processes in line with Codex Alimentarius guidelines. These outcomes were recognized as essential foundations for the long-term ability of countries, especially developing ones, to participate effectively in Codex work.

At the same time, Members expressed concern about the impact of CTF's closure on countries that have benefited from the programme or had approved projects that had not yet begun implementation. Delegations emphasized the need for clear communication during the transition period and strongly encouraged FAO and WHO to identify viable alternatives to ensure that capacity-development efforts do not weaken or halt. Members highlighted the importance of maintaining momentum on support for developing countries, particularly those that rely on capacity-building initiatives to engage fully in Codex standard-setting processes.

FAO and WHO reaffirmed their commitment to continuing support for Codex capacity development. They indicated that even as CTF2 phases out, the Organizations will employ existing programs and explore new mechanisms to sustain technical assistance.

The Codex Trust Fund received contributions in 2025 from Canada, the European Commission, Germany, and the Republic of Korea. Despite the challenging financial context, 2025 saw the successful organization of the third Global Workshop on Good Codex Practices, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea. Building on strong feedback from previous sessions, the workshop combined lectures on Codex systems and procedures with field visits to a modern food factory and a medium-sized traditional food producer. Ten participants from six CTF2 beneficiary countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, Timor-Leste, and Zambia) attended the training, which helped them draw practical connections between the Korean experience and challenges within their own national contexts. The interactive format encouraged peer learning and generated concrete ideas for strengthening national Codex engagement. In addition, CTF2 project activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Zimbabwe, in their last phase but on hold due to insufficient funds in 2025, are now completed.

Responding to requests made during CAC48, FAO, WHO, and partners are planning additional activities to support Members during the transition. A 2026 workshop in the Republic of Korea will prioritize CTF2 beneficiaries whose projects were approved but could not begin implementation. In addition, joint FAO/WHO regional workshops will be held in 2026 to strengthen capacities in Codex participation, risk assessment, regulatory development, and data generation.

A comprehensive final report on the Codex Trust Fund is currently under preparation and will be published by the end of 2026.