CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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Agenda item 1 **EXEC88/CRD04**

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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CODEX BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:

2026-2027 Costed Work Plan

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Secretariat presented at the eighty-seventh session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC87) a final report for the 2022-2023 biennium and a proposal for the 2024-2025 biennium, including a breakdown by FAO account description and a costed work plan 2024-2025.[1]

2. As the discussion on the workplan for the 2024-2025 biennium, and the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 were still ongoing, a proposal for the 2026-2027 biennium had not been provided. The Codex Secretariat is therefore presenting in this document a budget and costed work plan for the 2026-2027 biennium.

3. The 44th session of FAO Conference (2025) approved the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2026-2027 proposed by the FAO Director-General for 2026-2027 and requested FAO Management, in the process of preparing the adjustments to the PWB 2026-27 to protect the current proposed level of funding through the regular budget for Codex and explore the possibility of further additional funding from all funding sources.[2]

4. The 78th World Health Assembly (2025), in discussing strengthening national capacities in evidence-based decision making for the uptake and impact of norms and standards, reiterated that scientific evidence is an important basis for the development of clinical and public health guidance; and recognized also the value of science and high-quality evidence.[3]

5. Regarding the 2025 work plan implementation, as of June 2025, the full appropriation had been received from both FAO and WHO (USD 3 575 000 from FAO and USD 862 500 from WHO). Implementation is progressing according to the work plan, with adjustments to the format and schedule of some meetings due to host-related challenges and availability of scientific advice.

COSTED WORK PLAN 2026-2027

6. A work plan linking programme areas and activities with the Codex budget proposal for the 2026-2027 biennium by FAO account description is presented in Annex I.

7. The following assumptions were made in preparing the work plan:

   a. No changes to the biennial budget level of the Codex Secretariat.

   b. As the proposal for a budget increase by FAO still needs to be integrated in the adjustments to the FAO PWB 2026-27 and approved by FAO Council, this additional budget was not included in the work plan.

   c. WHO contributes USD 1 725 000 of the Codex budget in 2026-2027.

   d. Staff costs and the related budget will be adjusted to 2026-27 rates prior to the start of the biennium.

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[1] CX/CAC 24/47/19

[2] C 2025/REP, paragraph 61 e)

[3] A78/51 Fifth report of Committee A

8. Other issues that were considered in the preparation of the work plan are detailed below.

Codex meetings (Standards development)

9. The primary work of the Codex Secretariat continues to be in support of Strategic Goal 1 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: "Respond to Members' needs for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade in an evolving global landscape by developing science-based standards and related texts", by providing the Secretariat to the Commission and its active subsidiary bodies.

10. While the number of sessions of Codex Committees[4] foreseen in 2027 is tentative and also dependent on decisions made at CAC48, it is nevertheless expected that Secretariat support will be required for 23 committees in the course of the 2026-2027 biennium, which translates into approximately 33 meetings, averaging one meeting every three weeks.

11. Each meeting is supported in situ by, on average, three members of the Codex secretariat (according to the agenda) with additional support provided remotely for webcasting, transcripts and other areas as required.

12. Meeting preparation is led by the primary responsible officer for a committee with input from supporting officers as required. The human resources required is dependent on the length and complexity of the agenda. With the availability of virtual tools, more committees are opting to have pre-session virtual meetings, each of which has to be planned to ensure they are of value. The Codex Secretariat time required to support these meetings means that the overall meeting preparation time is increasing. As Codex Secretariat resources are stretched this will also impact timeliness of preparation.

13. In addition to the meetings organized by the host secretariat administrative and logistical support is also provided by the Codex Secretariat to host countries, especially new hosts in the case of co-hosting arrangements and coordinating committees.

14. The reactivation of Codex committees, irrespective of format, will always have a resource implication for the Codex Secretariat. Hence, if a committee was reactivated by CAC48, the work plan would have to be adjusted.

15. The allocation of staff time per committee type is approximate but overall the support from the Codex Secretariat to Codex Committees accounts for 65% of human resources and 70% of the overall budget, as shown in figure 1.

16. Noting the support of many Members to have the option of remote participation in Codex meetings and to support inclusivity, it is planned that sessions of the Commission will continue to be held in hybrid format (option of remote interventions only, without the option to vote if needed), subject to confirmation by the Commission.

17. Noting concerns raised by CCEXEC87 on costs of meetings in Geneva, no meetings are convened in Geneva in 2025. However, it is planned that CCEXEC90 and CAC49 will be held in Geneva in July 2026, and WHO will provide the meeting facilities for CCEXEC90 in Geneva. There will be no available venue for CAC in Geneva in 2028 due to planned renovations at CICG. Hence, after 2026 CAC will not return to Geneva for several years. Discussions are ongoing with WHO on a possible alternative WHO venue for CCEXEC in 2027, with the aim of improving cost effectiveness.

18. As requested by CCEXEC87, the Codex Secretariat has further explored the costs associated with interpretation and translation, as presented in CX/EXEC 25/88/4. Based on some of the findings therein, the Codex Secretariat will work closely with service providers towards improved cost effectiveness with any savings accumulated in this area to be allocated to translation of Codex standards as a first priority.

Finalization of standards and other publications

19. Timely publication of Codex standards remains a challenge. In an effort to address this, some resources will be invested in improved monitoring of the status of new/revised Codex texts and workflow processes with the aim of significantly decreasing the time between adoption and publication. As noted above any savings in translation of working documents and reports will be allocated to translation of standards.

20. Databases are an important means of dissemination of Codex standards. Only expenses related to the regular maintenance and updates of the Codex databases could be included within the budget for 2026/27. Efforts have been made within the current biennium to undertake additional updates of the database for the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995)to improve readability and ensure better visibility, in close collaboration with the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA). This work will need to continue in 2026-2027 to implement the restructuring of table three notes as requested by CCFA, but could not yet be budgeted

[4] CAC, CCEXEC, general subject committees, commodity committees and coordinating committees

for. Some extra-budgetary contributions (see paragraph 33) have been received in 2025 which will be available up to early 2027 to remap all Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Codex Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits (EMRLs) for pesticide residues to the revised classification on food and feed and update the pesticide residue database.

Support effective and efficient participation and standards development

21. Activities outlined in this area are primarily in support of Strategic Goal 2 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031: "Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the effective and efficient development of standards and related texts".

22. Efforts will continue to streamline webcasting of Codex Committees and align with FAO corporate policy in this regard, while also trying to ensure accessibility for all Codex Members, also with the aim of reducing the associated cost. The Codex secretariat would continue to provide support to virtual meetings on a case-by-case basis.

23. The handbook on new work proposals currently under development is foreseen to be published in 2026. Noting the turnover in Codex delegates and Chairpersons, and the importance of having up to date resources to support their participation and work, the revision of the Codex Chairpersons' handbook is planned for 2027, in addition to initial work on a Delegates' handbook.

24. Resources are allocated to maintain existing systems, cover license fees and undertake regular updates, including to the Codex webpage. While resources are limited, opportunities for improvement are constantly under consideration.

25. The demand for basic training and an introduction to Codex tools such as the online commenting system and the e-forum remains constant and is often linked to changes in Codex Contact Points in Members or a change of personnel in Observer organizations. This is considered an important area to maintain engagement and ensure inclusivity in Codex work. Requests would be grouped to the extent possible to provide such online training on a regional or sub-regional basis.

26. Outreach to support use of the EWG handbook and upcoming guidance on new work proposals has also been identified for follow-up. This is also an area where technology could support outreach. While resources are not currently available to explore this, the aim will be to identify opportunities for collaboration or resources to support such outreach.

Relationships with other organizations and use and impact of Codex standards

27. The activities here primarily relate to the implementation of Strategic Goals 3 and 4 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 ("Strengthen relationships with relevant international organizations, promoting a coordinated approach to address global challenges" and "maximize the impact of Codex texts by increasing visibility and use of standards") and are the most under-resourced in the proposed work plan.

28. Close collaboration with FAO and WHO is important for the planning and optimal use of scientific advice and other relevant information (e.g. foresight) they provide to Codex standard setting as well as in terms of outreach and supporting implementation and use of Codex standards. This is primarily a human resource commitment with some collaboration on World Food Safety Day, which provides an opportunity to increase visibility of Codex work.

29. The Codex Secretariat will continue to engage in the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS and TBT committees providing regular updates and being available to answer Members questions or liaise bilaterally at sessions of the SPS and TBT committees and related events. Liaison with other organizations is also recognized as important and also in line with Strategic Goal 3. However, with increasing committee work, less time has been allocated here.

30. Following the positive feedback received by Members and its role in communicating the work and outputs of Codex, the annual Codex magazine will be maintained but streamlined.

31. Work will continue on the use and impact of Codex texts. This is primarily funded by extra budgetary resources until mid-2026 which will enable implementation of the 2026 survey. The resource allocation in the 2026-2027 workplan reflects the staff time dedicated to this activity, which will also look at more cost-effective ways of continuing the annual survey which after three years starts to identify some trends.

32. A proposed breakdown of the budget for the 2026-27 biennium is presented in Table 1. A description of the budget lines, including their distribution in the 2026-2027 work plan in Annex I is included below. The workplan is tentative, subject to confirmation of the available budget for the 2026-2027 biennium, and decisions of the Commission. Flexibility is also required to ensure that the Secretariat can remain responsive to changing situations and emerging challenges.

Table 1: Proposed budget for the 2026-2027 biennium (USD)

FAO Account description	2026	2027	Total 2026-2027
5011 Salaries Professional	1,686,500	1,686,500	3,373,000
5012 Salaries General Service	575,500	575,500	1,151,000
5013 Consultants	500,000	500,000	1,000,000
5014 Contracts	33,000	33,000	66,000
5020 Locally Contracted Labour	50,000	50,000	100,000
5021 Travel	400,000	400,000	800,000
5024 Expendable Procurement	50,000	50,000	100,000
5025 Non Expendable Procurement	100,000	100,000	200,000
5028 General Operating Expenses	192,500	192,500	385,000
5050 Internal Common Services and Support	850,000	850,000	1,700,000
TOTAL	**4,439,526**	**4,439,526**	**8,875,000**

33. A description of the main budget lines is reported below:

a. Salaries include Codex Professional and General Service staff, distributed across the Codex work plan outputs and activities. It is important to note that the allocation of staff resources across committees is approximate, considering the high level of interaction between them.

b. Consultants include costs for:

i. Support to Codex Committees;

ii. Support to Codex IT systems (databases, website and related document repositories, online systems management);

iii. Communication and outreach, including production, editing, layout of, publications, in particular Codex texts, graphic design to support for Codex meetings, etc.;

iv. Translation and interpretation that cannot be handled by FAO internally (under Internal Common Services), including editorial services for standards;

v. Facilitating outreach (i.e. online webinars, etc.); and

vi. Streamlining of workflows for monitoring publications and translation of Codex documents

c. Contracts include expenditures related to supporting Codex meetings, including audiovisual support, external translation services, logistics, etc.

d. Locally contracted labour includes General service staff overtime to support Codex activities (Codex Secretariat, Security, Medical, etc.), particularly during CAC, as well as additional, locally recruited staff, such as messengers to support CAC.

e. Travel are expenses related to Codex staff serving Codex Committee sessions as well as travel to meetings for which the participation of the Codex Secretariat is required (e.g. SPS and TBT Committee meetings).

f. Travel also includes support to CCEXEC Members from Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) to all physical sessions of CCEXEC during the biennium.[5]

g. Expendable procurement includes communication material and publication costs related to CAC (meeting room backdrop, delegate kits, etc.). This also includes licensing of the Online Commenting System (OCS), Zoom and various licenses to support surveys, webcasting, etc.

h. Non-expendable procurement includes office equipment such as computers, as well as recurring costs related to the Codex website and databases hosting and maintenance.

[5] As per Rule XIII.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual.

i. General operating expenses include:

i. reimbursements to WHO and other providers for costs incurred to holding CAC and CCEXEC in Geneva;

ii. contracts with external translators and/or interpreters;

iii. catering costs, ambulance services and other miscellaneous costs; and

iv. eventual support to host countries to run Codex committees.[6]

j. General operating expenses - External common services include expenditures such as photocopying, printing, telephone, stationery and IT services provided by FAO.

k. Internal common services refer to interpretation and translation provided by FAO.

Extra-budgetary contributions

34. The extra-budgetary contributions to support the implementation of the Codex work plan in 2026-2027 include:

a. The implementation of the "Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts" (ACT)[7] project, funded by the Republic of Korea with a total budget of about USD 8.5 million over 5 years will conclude in 2026. This project aims to work at both the global and local levels to support the implementation of Codex standards, especially those related to the containment and reduction of foodborne AMR, and to monitor the use and impact of Codex standards, thereby contributing to Goals 3 and 4 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. It has directly supported the work on the use and impact of Codex texts including the development and implementation of the annual survey and a case study. In 2026 it will support one further survey on the use and impact of Codex texts.

b. "Improving availability and accessibility to Codex pesticide standards" project, funded by Canada with a total budget of about USD 335 000. The project aims to publish and disseminate the revised *Classification of foods and animal feeds* (CXA 4-1989) by mapping all existing MRLs to the revised classes of primary and processed food and feed commodities of the new Classification and then make the remapped pesticide MRLs available on the online Codex database. In phase one of this initiative, the mapping will first concentrate on the primary food commodities of plant origin, the largest class of commodities. In phase two, primary commodities of animal origin and processed food and feed commodities will be mapped

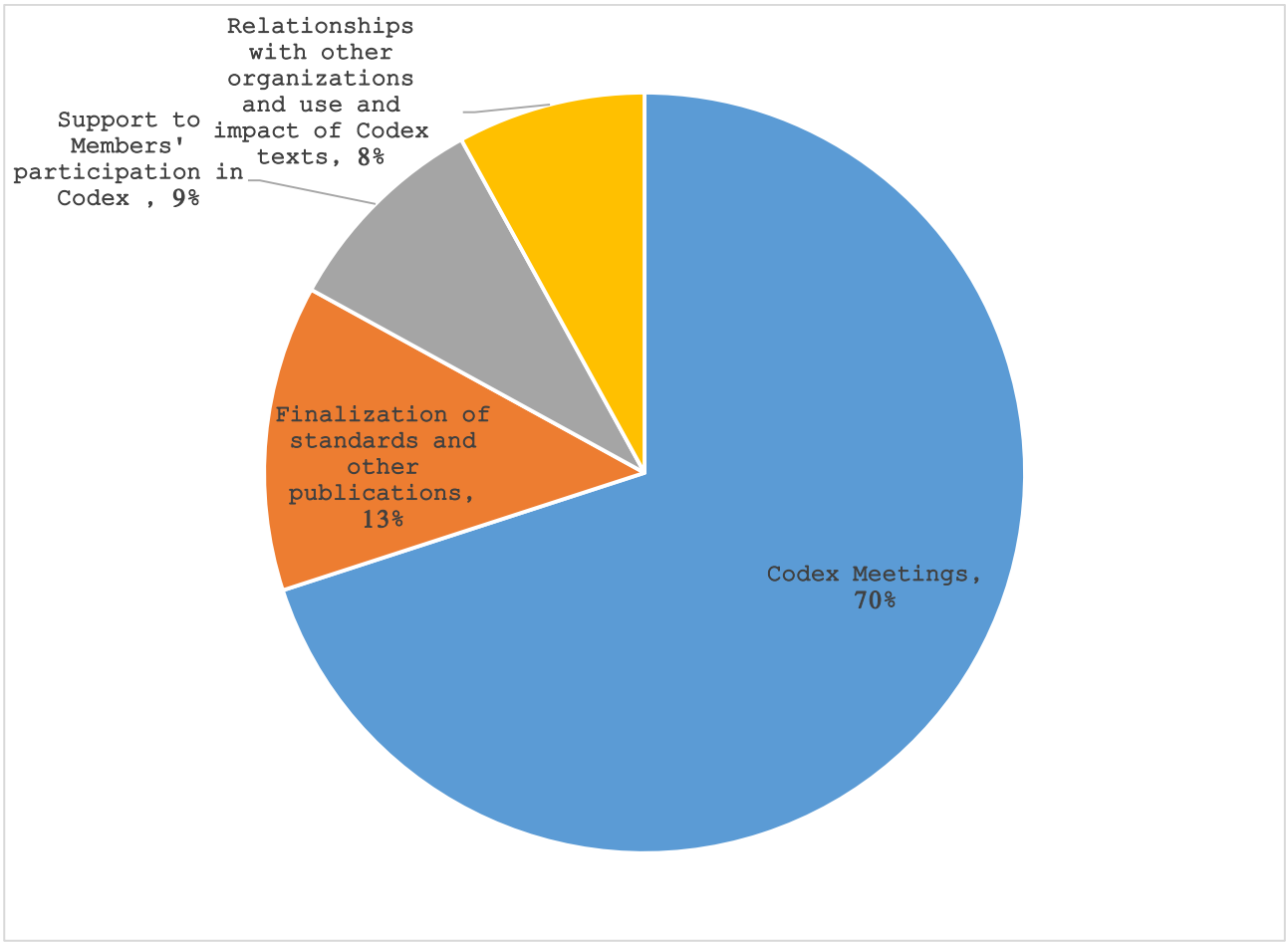
c. "Upgrading of the Codex database for pesticide residues" project, funded by Australia with a total budget of about USD 195 000. This project ensures that the database which enables access to the Codex MRLs for pesticide residues in foods and animal feeds is upgraded so that it is more user friendly and with sufficient flexibility to ensure that not only the revised classification but any further revisions to the classification of foods and animal feeds can be easily incorporated.

35. The implementation of the above activities is also supported in 2026 by seconded officers from Republic of Korea and Singapore, and a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) from Japan. In 2027, only one seconded officer from the Republic of Korea is currently confirmed.

[6] Such requests are considered on a case-by-case basis with the aim of ensuring that the work of the Commission is not delayed due to any temporary or unexpected resource challenges faced by Host Secretariats. Depending on their criticality, other activities may have to be postponed to meet the cost.

[7] For more information see https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/projects/ongoing/project-10/en/

Figure 1: Distribution of Codex budget according to the 2026-2027 work plan



Annex I - Costed work plan, 2024-25 biennium

Costed Work Plan 2026-2027 by FAO account description (USD)														
Outputs	**Activities 2026**	**Activities 2027**	**5011 Salaries Professional**	**5012 Salaries General Service**	**5013 Consultants**	**5014 Contracts**	**5020 Locally Contracted Labour**	**5021 Travel**	**5024 Expendable Procurement**	**5025 Non-Expendable Procurement**	**5028 General Operating Expenses**	**5040 General Operating Expenses - External Common Services**	**5050 Internal Common Services and Support**	**Total**
Codex meetings (Standards development)														
Implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	1 hybrid session (6 languages) convened in Geneva; working documents and report prepared and published in 6 languages with elections	1 hybrid session (6 languages) convened in Rome; working documents and report prepared and published in 6 languages	684,568	255,457	68,855	10,000	62,000	168,000	30,000	-	295,000	-	650,000	**2,223,880**
Implementation of the Executive Committee	1 physical session convened in Geneva	1 physical session convened in Rome	246,193	128,826	23,265	-	6,000	70,000	5,000	-	25,000	-	350,000	**854,284**
	1 physical session convened in Rome	1 physical session convened in Geneva (or another WHO location)	246,193	128,826	23,265	-	6,000	7,000	5,000	-	25,000	-	350,000	**791,284**
General subject committees	9 sessions	8 sessions	952,712	54,822	83,660	-	-	225,000	-	-	-	-	-	**1,316,194**
Commodity committees	2 sessions	2 sessions (including 1 by correspondence)	245,330	54,822	26,438	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	**386,590**
Coordinating Committees	2 sessions (translation of working documents and report, Secretariat travel, communication and graphic design, additional support on request)	4 sessions (translation of working documents and report, Secretariat travel, communication and graphic design, additional support on request)	262,400	54,822	26,438	-	-	180,000	-	-	-	-	120,000	**643,660**
													Total Codex Meetings	**6,215,892**

Finalization of standards and other publications													
Finalization and publication of standards	Standards adopted by CAC48 published in 6 languages and translation backlog of previously adopted standards reduced	Standards adopted by CAC49 published in 6 languages and translation backlog of previously adopted standards reduced	110,442	160,265	148,610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	**619,317**
Other documents/publications	31st edition of the Codex PM; Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031;	32rd edition of the Codex PM (if needed)	59,182	83,594	121,960	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	**284,737**
Improved timeliness of publication of Codex texts	Streamlining of workflows for monitoring publications and translation of Codex documents	Streamlining of workflows for monitoring publications and translation of Codex documents	25,121	35,611	35,250									**95,982**
Database updates	Maintenance and update of current databases	Maintenance and update of current databases	71,687	-	52,875	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	**164,562**
												Total finalization of standards and other publications		**1,164,597**
Support effective and efficient participation and standards development														
Support for webcasting and virtual meetings	Webcasting of all sessions (excluding CCEXEC) and support to virtual or hybrid sessions (e.g. CAC)	Webcasting of all sessions (excluding CCEXEC) and support to virtual or hybrid sessions (e.g. CAC)	-	93,888	31,725	20,000	20,000	-	-	40,000	20,000	-	-	**225,613**
Maintenance, content updates, license fees and user support to webpage, ORS, OCS and e-forum	Active and user-friendly webpage and online participatory tools with timely helpdesk support	Active and user-friendly webpage and online participatory tools with timely helpdesk support	-	52,786	129,795	36,000	-	-	60,000	120,000	10,000	8,000	10,000	**426,581**
Guidance documents/handbooks	Handbook on new work proposals	Revision of the Chairs handbook and initial work on a delegates handbook	59,182	26,723	4,230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**90,135**
Training on use of Codex systems	Online training on use of Codex systems, programmes	Online training on use of Codex systems, programmes	50,242		33,840									**84,082**
												Total Support effective and efficient participation and standards development		**826,410**

Relationships with other organizations and use and impact of Codex texts													
Collaboration with FAO and WHO	Participate in scientific advice meetings and other relevant FAO and/or WHO meetings and support WFSD	Participate in scientific advice meetings and other relevant FAO and/or WHO meetings and support WFSD	121,565	20,558	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**142,123**
Cooperation with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (WTO, WOAH, ISO, UNECE, IOC, etc.) to share information and promote consistency and harmonization with Codex standards to the extent possible	Information or briefing papers prepared and submitted and attendance (physical or virtual) at 4 WTO meetings and 4to 6 to other events (focus on virtual participation)	Information or briefing papers prepared and submitted and attendance (physical or virtual) at 4 WTO meetings and 4to 6 to other events (focus on virtual participation)	54,890	-	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	-	-	-	**124,890**
Outreach and communication	Information for delegates and related materials for meetings, sharing of information from Members and Observer (news, social media, podcasts); and a streamlined annual Codex magazine	Information for delegates and related materials for meetings, sharing of information from Members and Observer (news, social media, podcasts); and a streamlined annual Codex magazine	42,323	-	189,795	-	6,000	20,000	-	-	-	2,000	-	**260,118**
Mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex texts	Annual survey on the use and impact of Codex texts and one case study	Annual survey on the use and impact of Codex texts	140,969	-	-									**140,969**
													Total Relationships with other organizations and use and impact of Codex texts	**668,100**
Grand Total			**3,373,000**	**1,151,000**	**1,000,000**	**66,000**	**100,000**	**800,000**	**100,000**	**200,000**	**375,000**	**10,000**	**1,700,000**	**8,875,000**