



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

Eighty-second Session

Virtual

20-24 and 30 June 2022

ACTIVITIES OF THE CODEX TRUST FUND

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 June 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 June, the Steering Committee has met four 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. It is foreseen to hold a dedicated session with the AG in the second half of 2022 to continue the discussion.

3. Support provided to countries

3.1. Disruptions through political instability and COVID-19

In 2020 and through the first months of 2021, there have been several disruptions to CTF projects caused by political upheaval and instability in various CTF beneficiary countries. The Myanmar-led group project including Cambodia and Lao PDR that was about to start in 2020 needed to be put on hold following the coup in Myanmar in February 2021. Mali experienced a coup in May, and Guinea in September 2021. Another coup took place in Burkina Faso in January 2022.

While the coups in Africa affected administrative proceedings between ministries, 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 both national and joint activities. 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, 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 allowed for 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 June 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; proposals with conditional approval are working on the required revisions.

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 and provided recommendations to the CTF Steering Committee. Funding was approved for the applications submitted by *Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe*.

Conditional approval for funding, pending clarifications and/or substantial modifications of their proposals has been given to *Niger, Pakistan, Syria and Uzbekistan*:

3.4. Preparations for Round 7 of CTF support

A new "Call for Applications" (Round 7) will be issued in 2022 and submissions accepted from 1 September onward. The number of countries eligible for support will depend on the final decision of funding projects that received conditional approval for Round 6, which is expected to be made in August 2022.

The CTF Secretariat plans to hold training sessions focusing on the application of the Diagnostic Tool and the CTF2 application process, between July and August 2022. Trainings are aimed 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

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

5. CTF2 mid-term evaluation

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