



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-eight Session

Rome, Italy, FAO headquarters

10–14 November 2025

CODEX TRUST FUND: ACTIVITY REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers 2024, the ninth year of operation of the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund-2 (CTF2). It highlights key achievements and lessons learned, summarizing the operational and financial aspects of 2024's activities.

In 2024, CTF2 beneficiary countries continued implementing project activities. By the end of 2024, 51 countries had received support from CTF2, with eight additional countries approved for funding from Round 7 of annual calls for applications. Eight projects (including one group project) have been technically approved in the Round 8 application but are pending final approval, provided adequate funds are available. Due to the challenging resource mobilization environment, the trust fund suspended the 2024 call for applications (Round 9) and focused on supporting ongoing projects.

At the end of 2024, 20 countries had completed their CTF2 project. Five post-implementation evaluations (in Bhutan, Bolivia, India, Nepal, and Senegal) have been completed, with ongoing reviews of reports and clarifications. Fifteen evaluations are ongoing or in preparation. Three countries from Round 2 and three countries from Round 3 completed their projects in 2024. During 2024, project launches were reported by Cambodia (Round 4), Sierra Leone (Round 6), and Tajikistan (Round 7).

Building on successful trainings held in 2022 and 2023, the CTF organized another workshop on good Codex practices in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea. The 2024 training was conducted in French, with two participants from each of five CTF2 beneficiary countries, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Rwanda, and Senegal, in the CCAFRICA Codex region.

The major challenge confronting the CTF2 is a projected decline in financial contributions and long-term commitments of financial support. While the CTF2 should be working close to full operational capacity, budgetary restrictions reported by donor countries have led to a very austere outlook for the remaining three years of the trust fund's second phase. Considering this, a more conservative and realistic financial projection has been developed, reflecting a reduced implementation capacity up to Round 7. This challenge was also reflected at the country level at the end of 2023 and 2024, when activities had to be temporarily halted, and projects introduced phased implementation due to the delayed arrival of pending funds.

The overall financial situation of CTF2 reflects this development, as total expenditures have exceeded total donor contributions for the third consecutive year. The current financial situation is unsustainable, with projected expenditures remaining high over the remaining three years of CTF2. The CTF Secretariat continues to engage with donors to secure additional funding and ensure the sustainability of CTF2 operations through its final phase.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

Implementation of country projects

By the end of 2024, 51 countries had received support from the CTF2, and 18 additional countries had projects approved and were waiting for funding. In 2023, pandemic restrictions were fully suspended, and countries resumed pre-pandemic levels of project implementation to the extent possible.

While some CTF2 beneficiary countries completed their projects, others successfully implemented planned activities, but others faced significant challenges that hindered progress. The most reported obstacles included administrative delays, difficulties in coordinating activities involving multiple stakeholders, and disruptions in funding, which affected several projects throughout the year. Despite these setbacks, seven additional individual country projects were completed by the end of 2024.

Project status as of 31 December 2024:

- **Round 1:** All four projects completed (Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar and Senegal)
- **Round 2:** Six projects completed (the Bhutan-India-Nepal group project, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Honduras, Mali, and Rwanda), two projects ongoing (Cabo Verde and North Macedonia)
- **Round 3** Six projects completed (Benin, Bolivia, Cuba, Gambia, Nigeria, and Turkmenistan), three projects ongoing (Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, and the Uganda-Kenya-Tanzania-South Sudan-Burundi group project)
- **Round 4** Two projects completed (Kazakhstan and Samoa), five projects ongoing (Azerbaijan, the El Salvador-Guatemala group project, Guyana, Mauritius, and Tonga), one country preparing implementation (Cambodia-Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).
- **Round 5** Six projects ongoing (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Maldives, and Timor-Leste), one project approved for funding (Fiji)
- **Round 6** Six projects ongoing (Comoros, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), two projects approved for funding (Pakistan and Syria)
- **Round 7** Seven countries approved for funding (Botswana, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Lesotho, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, and Vanuatu)

Challenges in project implementation

The trust fund faces significant financial challenges as the CTF2 enters its final three years of operation. For the second consecutive year, there has been a marked decline in annual and multi-annual funding commitments from established CTF2 donors. Donors have attributed this decline in budgetary constraints at the national level to increasing difficulties in committing resources over multi-year periods. Given that CTF2 relies on predictable and sustained funding to ensure effective planning and implementation of country projects, this financial uncertainty threatens the smooth continuation of ongoing projects and the possibility of supporting additional projects that have already been approved technically.

At the end of 2023, a temporary disruption in the funding pipeline, caused by a delay in the receipt and distribution of project funds between implementing agencies, prompted the CTF Secretariat to issue a call for the temporary suspension of new project activities. These financial constraints ultimately led to the suspension of the 2024 call for applications (Round 9) and a temporary pause in the implementation of new projects from Round 8. In response, priority was given to the continuation and completion of mature projects already in progress or nearing completion. To ensure the smooth continuation of existing CTF2 projects, the CTF Secretariat will emphasize the mobilization of additional resources and reconvene the CTF2 donor coalition to advocate for renewed and sustained financial commitments.

The overall financial situation of the CTF2 reflects this development, as total expenditures have exceeded total donor contributions for the third consecutive year. The current economic crisis is unsustainable, with projected expenditures remaining high over the remaining three years of the CTF2. Apart from this temporary disruption, most of the reported challenges linked to coordination are effectively resolved at the local level as they are part of the learning process of enhancing the capacity of national Codex offices operating at the national and international levels.

At the beneficiary country level, significant challenges reported were the issues faced in coordinating and engaging national Codex stakeholders, administrative delays in coordinating with FAO and WHO lead agencies at the country level, and the above-mentioned disruption of the funding pipeline, which affected several countries throughout 2024, with projects introducing phased implementation due to the delayed arrival

of pending funds.

Lately, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CTF2 projects remain visible in the requests for extension of project periods that most countries received over the past years, averaging 16 months for each project.

Building synergies: Second Global pilot training on good Codex practices

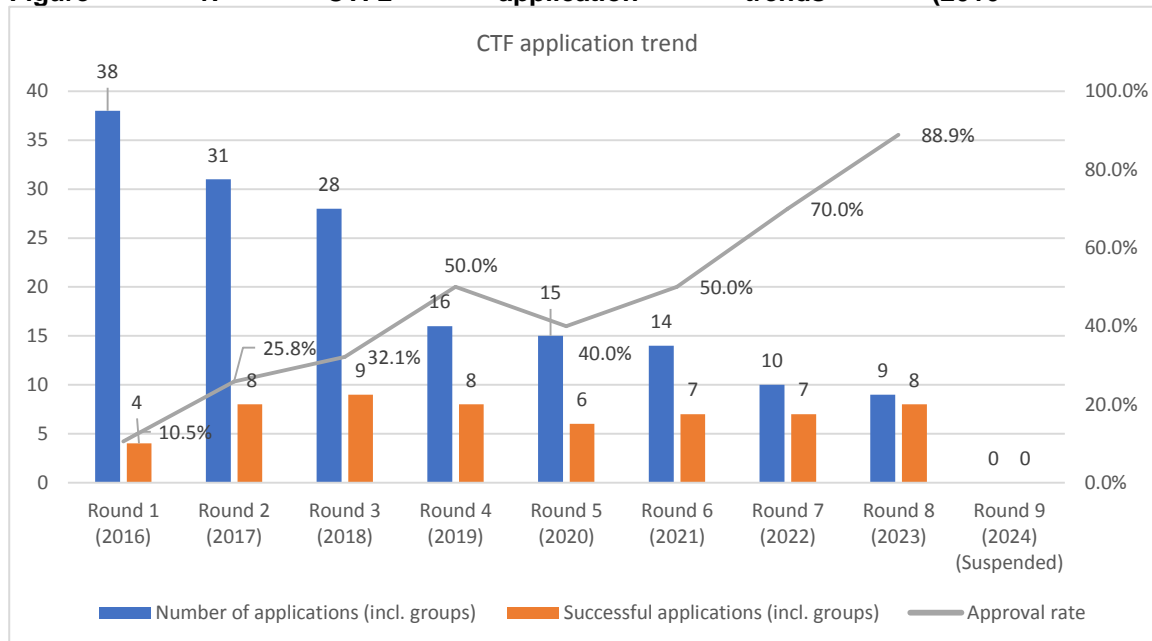
In December 2024, the CTF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea, conducted the third workshop on good Codex practices. Building on the successful and positive feedback from previous years, the 2024 training followed a similar structure, combining lectures that covered key aspects of the Republic of Korea's Codex system and procedures with complementary field visits, this time to a state-of-the-art food factory and a medium-sized traditional food manufacturer. This year's training was conducted in French to broaden participation, allowing representatives from a broader range of countries to benefit. A total of ten participants from five CTF2 beneficiary countries in the Codex CCAFRICA region (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Rwanda, and Senegal) participated in the training. Participants found the training highly valuable, drawing parallels between the Republic of Korea's experience and the challenges faced in their national contexts. The interactive nature of the workshop fostered dynamic discussions, leading to the development of concrete ideas on how to adapt and apply lessons learned to their respective Codex systems, thereby reinforcing the ongoing support provided through CTF2 projects.

Sub-regional training sessions and experience-sharing events among CTF2 beneficiary countries were also conducted in collaboration with the support of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Trainees from Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste participated in capacity-building activities focused on key aspects of the Codex system, including its structure, functions, working groups, the standard-setting process, and its role in facilitating trade and consumer protection. The training also provided practical guidance on enhancing effective and meaningful participation in Codex activities. A key feature of the sessions was the use of mock-drill exercises simulating actual Codex committee proceedings, which offered an immersive and hands-on learning experience that participants found highly effective.

Observation of trends

Figure 1 below provides an overview of applications received and projects granted over the past rounds of CTF2 support. The trend towards a reduced number of applicants is in line with observations over the past years, which show a shrinking number of eligible countries that have not yet received CTF2 support. The remaining countries have either not applied or were unsuccessful with an earlier application.

Figure 1: CTF2 application trends (2016 – 2024)



The success of past trainings, as well as the more tailored support provided by FAO and WHO regional offices, is reflected in the growing share of successful applicants over the past few years. One key element of a CTF2 application is completing a country's self-diagnosis of its national Codex system. The increased quality of these assessments directly impacts countries' learning and understanding of challenges and gaps linked to their national Codex structures and systems in place. The 2023 call for applications (Round 8) demonstrated a

remarkable retention rate of 88.9%, with eight of nine projects receiving technical approval. However, as mentioned above, the projects didn't start implementation due to a lack of funds.

A. OVERNANCE

The CTF2 Steering Committee, comprising members from the Codex Secretariat, FAO, and WHO, held five meetings in 2024. Following its mandate to decide on matters related to the core activities of the CTF2 for implementation by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee made funding decisions on not starting project implementation for Round 8, suspension of the call for applications in Round 9, decided on issues concerning individual country projects, and guided on operational matters of the CTF2. In December 2023, in response to a disruption of the CTF2 liquidity pipeline, the Steering Committee temporarily halted the implementation of new activities for ongoing CTF2 projects. This temporary measure was necessary due to delays in receiving and distributing donor funds between implementing agencies.

The annual meeting of the CTF2 Advisory Group convened virtually on October 10, 2024, and provided an update on CTF2 activities and finances. It also built upon and continued the discussions from the 8th and 9th advisory group meetings about how to best define and measure effective participation and engagement in Codex work. Finally, the meeting discussed the future of the CTF, taking into account the ongoing financial challenges. Additionally, an Extraordinary Advisory Group meeting was held virtually on 21 June 2024, focusing on the trust fund's financial situation.

B. FUNDRAISING IN 2024

In 2024, donors continued to support CTF2 by recommitting their annual contributions and disbursing scheduled instalments of multi-year agreements.

In 2024, expenditures again exceeded the funds received from donors, continuing the pattern established in the previous year. As a growing number of projects are implemented at full capacity, the rolling balance of the CTF2 has decreased notably over the past years.

Bilateral discussions with previous and current CTF2 donors in 2024 indicated that budgetary limitations and uncertain prospects, considering political changes, will likely limit total annual contributions to the CTF2 in the coming years. Prevailing uncertainties also limit the chance of multi-annual agreements or other long-term commitments.

Considering that the remaining years of the CTF2 will focus on finalizing ongoing projects, an increase in donors' total annual contributions will be necessary to ensure the completion of ongoing activities, as well as the inclusion of additional beneficiary countries. The CTF will continue to work with and engage established and prospective donors to encourage a sustainable funding flow for the CTF2.

Since its launch, the total number of donors of the CTF2 has remained at 16, counting Canada, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, and the United States provided financial support to the CTF2 in 2024.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, CTF2, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, laid the groundwork for developing and disseminating additional Country Success Stories to be published throughout 2025. To date, two countries have been selected: Burkina Faso and the Maldives. This initiative aims to highlight the tangible benefits and achievements of the CTF programme, showcasing how targeted support has contributed to strengthening national Codex systems and enhancing participation in the international standard-setting process. These stories will serve as a valuable communication tool to illustrate impact, promote knowledge exchange, share best practices, and reinforce the visibility of the CTF's work among key stakeholders, including donors and beneficiary countries.

D. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

2024 Results – logical framework

Not all framework indicators are evaluated in this report, as some will only be monitored if the activities take place (e.g., FAO/WHO Codex training courses) or can only be measured after project completion.

Selected outputs monitored and evaluated in 2024

Performance Indicator	Baseline end 2023	Target	Performance Data	Self-evaluation
Output 1 - Countries being supported making steady progress				
1.1 - Number of individual countries supported through country or group applications	7 countries selected in 2023: Botswana, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Lesotho, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Vanuatu (59 cumulative since CTF2 inception)	Year-on-year increase in the number of countries	10 countries technically approved for support in 2024 (pending final funding approval): Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Dominica-Grenada-St.- Lucia (group project), Moldova, Namibia, Somalia, Togo (69 cumulative since CTF2 inception)	Annual Achieved Cumulative Achieved
Output 2 - Capacity of technical staff engaged in Codex activities increased as a result of project activities, sharing deliverables from projects, CTF2-supported FAO/WHO training, and workshops.				
2.1 - Number and type of activities supported in project countries (as an individual country or as part of a group project).	>150 activities	Broad range of activities supported ¹	>150 activities in 2024 are listed in this report under the Activities section.	Achieved
2.2 - Technical staff engaged in Codex activities in supported countries are working differently (including participating differently in Codex meetings) as a result of these inputs.	Countries continued using virtual tools to engage in remote Codex committee work. Representatives from CTF2 beneficiary countries participating physically at CAC46 continued to display active participation.	By the end of the project, each country to demonstrate 1-2 ways they are working differently	In 2024, countries supported by CTF2 continued reporting stronger engagement in committee meetings through physical and virtual presence.	Achieved
2.3 - Number of outputs / deliverables from project countries being shared widely for use by all countries.	18 materials (outputs / deliverables) on the CTF2 community library.	Year on year increase in the number of outputs / deliverables	51 materials (outputs / deliverables) on the CTF2 community library.	Achieved
2.5 - High level of satisfaction among participants in training courses / workshop organized and/or supported.	Satisfaction level was partially surveyed. Feedback received fulfilled indicator target.	80% satisfaction rate	Satisfaction level was partially surveyed. A new evaluation framework has been introduced. Feedback received fulfilled the indicator target.	Partially achieved

¹ Including “innovative” activities (Codex coaching, south-south partnering/networking, tailored training etc.) & synergies with FAO/WHO activities.

E. FIINANCIAL REPORTING

This section provides an overview of the financial information of the CTF2. Table 1 presents the starting balance, contributions, expenditures, and ending balance of the Trust Fund for 2024.

Table 1: CTF2 balance, income, and expenditures in 2024

Balance, income, expenditure 2023	US\$
Balance carried over from 2023	619,416
Net contributions received in 2024	1,120,984
Expenditures in 2024, including Project Support Costs (PSC)	1,363,508
Balance end 2024	376,892

Contributions and expenditures by cost category for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024 are listed in Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2: CTF2 Donor Contributions in 2024

Donor Contributions in 2024	US\$
European Commission	135,135
Finland	21,097
France	91,200
Germany	109,409
Korea, Republic of	215,993
Malaysia	10,000
Netherlands	424,628
United States of America	113,522
Total	1,120,984

Table 3: Expenditure cost category in 2024

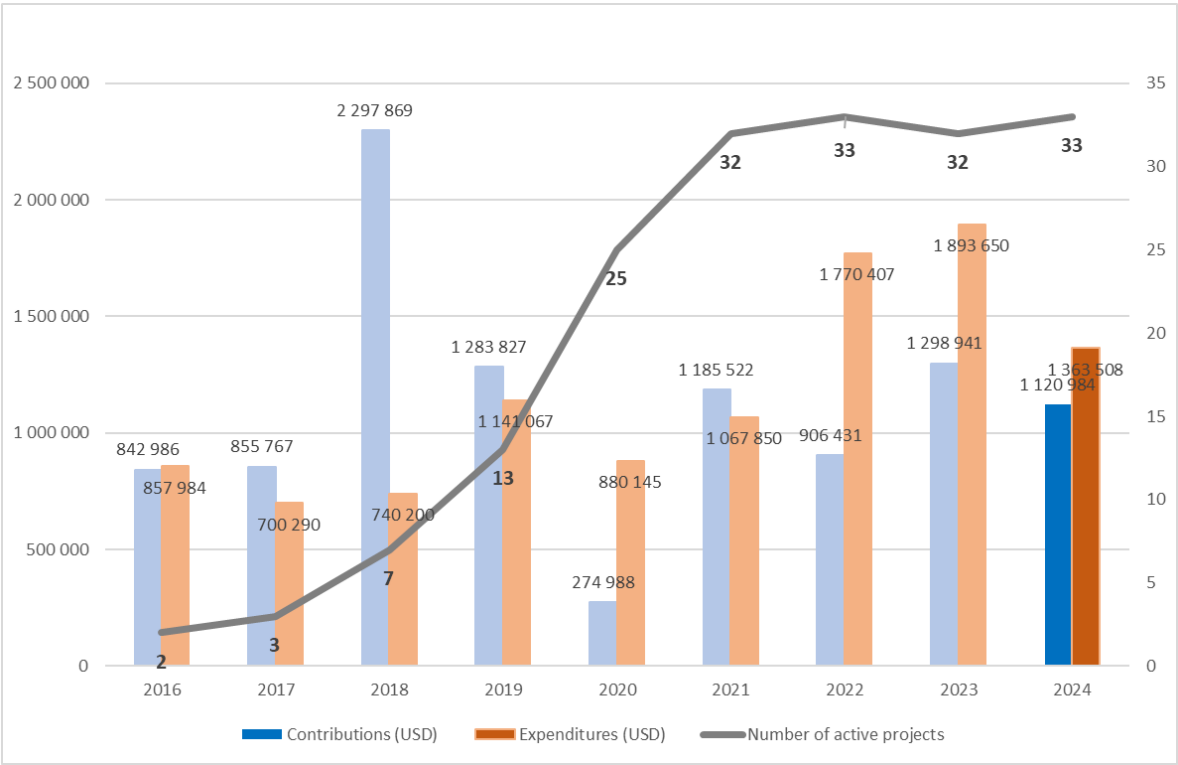
Expenditure cost category 2024	US\$
Support to countries	794,571
Monitoring and evaluation	51,013
Project administration	7,146
Staff cost	327,654
PSC	183,124
Total (including PSC)	1,363,508

In 2024, project expenditures at the country project level slightly decreased compared to the previous year. Expenditures under the category support to countries also include the global training program implemented jointly between CTF and MFDS of the Republic of Korea.

Expenditures under the category project administration comprise costs at the secretariat level, including translation of reporting documents, mailing, and communications expenses. The category monitoring and evaluation includes staff costs (50%) supporting monitoring and evaluation activities. Staff cost increased, as 100% of the full-time equivalent (FTE) of administrative support was provided to the CTF in 2024 to support the accelerated implementation of CTF2 project activities.

Donors continued to provide critical support to the Trust Fund's operations with USD 1,120,984 in 2024, as outlined in Table 2 above.

Figure 2: CTF2 liquidity (historic: 2016-2024)



As illustrated in Figure 2, expenditures continued to exceed the financial contributions received from CTF2’s donor community for the third consecutive year in 2024. Nonetheless, as in 2023, the financial year closed with a positive balance of USD 378,892. The current trend is not sustainable as higher annual expenditures are expected for the remaining years of the CTF2, particularly with projects in several countries currently on hold and delays in application rounds over the past two years.