

Project Document

A. COVER PAGE

- 1. Fund Name:** Joint SDG Fund
- 2. MPTFO Project Reference Number:**
- 3. Project title:** Special allocation for the incubation of a thematic window for Integrated Programming on Food Systems Transformation
- 4. Short title:** Incubating FS Windows

5. Country and region: Global

6. Short description:

The Food Systems Summit (hereinafter FSS), held during the 2021 UN General Assembly, set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, the FSS made it clear that transformative action in food systems is fundamental to achieving the SDGs. As a follow up to the Summit, the UN Secretary-General has committed the UN system to establish a UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (hereafter the Hub) to support countries implementing food system transformation pathways towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The hub is hosted by FAO in Rome on behalf of the UN System.

The overall purpose of the present project is to support the incubation of the thematic window for Integrated Programming on Food Systems Transformation. The intention is to provide funding for technical support by the Hub, that will facilitate stakeholders consultations, drive resource mobilization, develop an investment strategy based on a multiyear approach, plan for the operationalisation of the window including through the development of management arrangements, and preparation for the launch of the window and of the first call for proposals.

7. Keywords: Incubation of thematic window

8. Overview of budget

Joint SDG Fund contribution	USD 250 000
FAO on behalf of the Hub contribution	USD 100 000 in kind contribution
TOTAL	USD 350 000

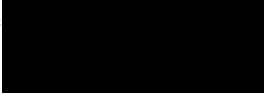
9. Timeframe:

Start date	End date	Duration
15 June 2022	31 December 2022	6.5 months

SIGNATURE PAGE**For Joint SDG Fund**

Name: Haoliang Xu
Position: Assistant Secretary-General
Chairperson of the Operational Steering Committee

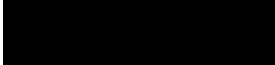
Date 22 June 2022

Signature: 

For Food and Agriculture Organization

Name: Elizabeth A. Bechdol
Position: Deputy Director-General

Date: 16 June 2022

Signature: 

B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Brief overview of the Global project

The Joint SDG Fund (the Fund) is an inter-agency mechanism for strategic financing that incentivizes transformative policy shifts and stimulates strategic investments required to catalyse and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the country level.

The Fund invests in national priorities as reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (“Cooperation Frameworks”) and is considering the launch of several windows based on its emerging strategy focusing on priority themes. The thematic windows are expected to support strategic, collaborative and coherent engagement of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) through joint programmes led by the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and implemented by participating UN entities at the country level. Joint programmes support national priorities as reflected in the Cooperation Frameworks. At the global level, a minimum of two UN entities (or an established coordination mechanism such as the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub) should be involved to provide technical guidance and support in the preparation of new thematic windows.

The Fund has already invested around USD 29 million in food systems. A thematic window for Integrated Programming for Food Systems is expected to be launched in Q4 of 2022 for a minimum of five years of operations with an anticipated multiyear funding envelope of USD 350 million. The funding envelope will include technical support by the Hub and programmatic support by the Fund Secretariat that will be used to ensure high quality of design and implementation of country-level joint programmes.

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Background

The Food Systems Summit (hereinafter FSS), held during the 2021 UN General Assembly, set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, the FSS made it clear that transformative action in food systems is fundamental to achieving the SDGs.

Overall, 163 Member States, including 77 Heads of State and Government, made statements at the Summit speaking to the importance of food systems in advancing the 2030 Agenda nationally and globally. 148 Member States appointed Convenors leading national dialogues, and 112 have so far submitted National Pathways for food systems transformation that offer a basis for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda at country level, in particular country contexts with a range of stakeholders. Post-summit, countries will have to engage into the critical work of translating their pathways to actionable strategies, investment plans, flagship programs, and other actions anchored into their national development strategy to convert the aspirations into concrete action and ensure sustainable impact by 2030.

Keeping this momentum and realizing this promise, will require sustained country support by the UN System which is the reason why, as a follow up to The Food Systems Summit, the UN Secretary-General (SG) has committed the UN system to establish a UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (hereafter the Hub) to support countries implementing food system transformation pathways towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The hub is hosted by FAO in Rome on behalf of the UN System.

The newly established Hub has started operations and within the first months of its existence has focused its attention on identifying country needs, related to the follow-up of the Food Systems Summit and the development and/or implementation of national pathways. To this end, an assessment survey has been conducted with preliminary results revealing sustained interest and momentum from countries as well as expectations of support from the Hub in the critical areas of funding and financing, leveraging the ecosystem of support, monitoring progress, accessing technical expertise and global learning as well as Communication and Advocacy.

The hub workplan for the period from 2022 to 2023, was developed based on the results of this survey as well as the synthesis of the dialogues, and an analysis of the existing pathways. This workplan was endorsed by the Oversight Committee in April 2022 and covers six Key Functions:

1. facilitate Implementation of National Pathways;
2. strengthen Strategic Thought Leadership;
3. engage Collective Ecosystem of Support;
4. leverage Means of Implementation;
5. communicate & Advocate Food Systems Approach;
6. prepare for the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.

The Hub will use the existing structures of the RCs and the UNCTs to coordinate and channel support to countries and see it as critical to empower them through both technical assistance and catalytical funding. A thematic window for Integrated Programming on Food Systems Transformation under the Joint SDG Fund has been identified as one such avenue to support RCs and UNCTs.

At its meeting on 11 March 2022, the Operational Steering Committee of the Fund agreed to support the incubation of thematic windows with limited funding. The priority themes, including Food Systems Transformation, were identified through consultation with UN senior leadership and prospective development partners and are aligned with the SG's "Our Common Agenda", the "just transitions" and other key priorities required to rescue the SDGs as indicated by the SG and the Deputy SG.

The main objectives of Integrated Programming for Food Systems will be to:

- Provide funding and technical support to UN member-states for design, development and implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation.
- Facilitate efficient and effective UNDS collaboration at country, regional and global levels to incubate and operationalize integrated and coherent solutions that transform food systems.
- Accelerate the progress on the SDGs through cross-sectoral and catalytic development and financing impact.
- Provide funding and technical support to UN member states to identify enabling measures and financial solutions to leverage financing for food systems.
- Ensure that the focus of transformative results is on the most vulnerable, in line with the principle of Leaving No One Behind.
- Provide thought-leadership, produce knowledge products, and convene stakeholder dialogues
- Provide technical support to UNCTs for preparing for the stock take moment of 2023.

A special allocation of up to USD 250 000 per window is to be made available to UN entities leading the preparations for the assessment and possible launch of these thematic windows. The Hub has been identified to play this role for the thematic window on Food Systems Transformation. The approval of this preparatory funding is not considered an approval of a thematic window. The special allocation would provide necessary resources to design a common approach inclusive of the scope, content, and responsibilities for each thematic window. Furthermore, preparatory funding will be used for initial design of the first funding

round, including a potential pipeline of joint programmes. The resources will be allocated upon approval from the Operational Steering Committee (OSC) of Project Documents submitted.

2. Project Strategy

The overall purpose of the present project is to support the incubation of the thematic window for Integrated Programming on Food Systems Transformation. The intention is to provide funding for technical support that will: facilitate stakeholders consultations, drive resource mobilization, develop an investment strategy based on a multiyear approach, plan for the operationalisation of the window including through the development of management arrangements, and preparation for the launch of the window and of the first call for proposals.

Under this project, the Hub will lead preparatory work intended to be exploratory and demonstrate the viability of launching a full-fledged thematic window on Food Systems Transformation. This will facilitate necessary commitments from both RCs and UN entities, and donors.

The window will meet the minimum eligibility criteria for opening a thematic window in the Joint SDG Fund, as follows:

1. Requires RC leadership in design and coordination of joint programmes at the country level.
2. Directly contributes to high-level results and theory of change in the Cooperation Framework and to enhancing UNCT coherence.
3. Requires pooling of expertise, knowledge, and networks from two or more UN entities.
4. Multi-sectoral in nature, creates cross-sectoral impact, and contributes to accelerated progress on several SDGs.
5. Leverages engagement of diverse stakeholders, including government, private sector and civil society, and promotes a systems approach to designing, developing and implementing the food systems national pathways.
6. Facilitates systemic and catalytic results in line with priority goals and agendas of the UN Secretary-General and UN Sustainable Development Group.

The Hub being a UN coordinating entity – seven UN entities currently support its operations (FAO, IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development], UNEP [UN Environment Programme], UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund], United Nations Secretariat [DCO], WFP [World Food Program] and WHO [World health Organization]) – with a mandate to coordinate the broader UN System to support follow-up to the Food Systems Summit, it is uniquely positioned to pooling expertise, knowledge, and networks from a broad range of UN entities to support the incubation of the thematic window and its future implementation, which it will do under this project.

Through its key role of leveraging the Resident Coordinator System to support countries in the implementation of their national pathways, it will ensure that RCs, UNCT and other stakeholders are fully consulted and duly inform the development of the future thematic window. This will pave the way for RCs to be fully prepared to lead the development and coordination of joint programmes, anchored in a new generation of Cooperation Frameworks that will be developed under the thematic window after its launch.

The project will have the following main deliverables:

- Develop a feasibility assessment to justify the establishment of the window as well as an investment **strategy (1)** based on a multi-year funding envelope over the next five years and including several funding rounds. The strategy should present the rationale, priority interventions and key results, and modalities for implementing joint programmes that are aligned with the Joint SDG Fund's strategic approach and operations.

- Develop and implement a viable **resource mobilization strategy (2)** based on extensive consultations with development partners and other strategic contributors. The strategy should identify donor leads, and ensure initial funding for the launch of the window.
- Prepare and validate with all stakeholders the **full Terms of Reference (ToR) (3)** for the operationalization of the window, including management arrangements in line with the governance structure of the Joint SDG Fund.
- Prepare for the launch of the **launch of the thematic window as well as for the design of the first call for proposals (4)** and first round of funding

By the end of this project, all technical and funding preconditions for establishment of the window should be ensured, provided that the business case for the window remains sound and viable.

3. Project implementation

3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements, and reporting

The Fund is managed by the Operational Steering Committee, composed of representatives of 5 UN entities, and with the support from the Secretariat of the Fund. The UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) hosts the Fund Secretariat and provides for the alignment with the broader UN Development System reforms. The Administrative Agent of the Fund, in charge of financial management, is the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O). Official documents (e.g. ToR and Operational Guidance) of the Fund and information on funding can be found on the [Gateway portal](#).

In addition to the governance and management structures of the Joint SDG Fund, and the support provided by the Fund's Secretariat, this project will include arrangements set up for efficient and effective incubation of the window.

This project will be implemented by the Hub, with funds managed by FAO according to FAO regulations, rules and procedures. The Hub will provide regular updates on the progress of implementation to the Operational Steering Committee through the Fund's Secretariat.

FAO will submit a brief final narrative report and submit it to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat no later than three months after the operational project closure.

3.2 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

The Project will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP MPTF-O will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channelled for the Global Project through the AA.

The FAO on behalf of the Hub, shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (MPTF-O). Such funds will be administered by FAO on behalf of the Hub, in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. The FAO on behalf of the Hub shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

All other costs incurred in carrying out the activities for which the FAO on behalf of the Hub will be responsible under the Fund will be considered as direct costs.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund. This includes final financial report to be provided to MPTF-O no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closure of the project.

FAO and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

ANNEXES

1. Budget per UNDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	FAO on behalf of the Hub (USD)
1. Staff and Other Personnel	161 643	100 000
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials		
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (Including Depreciation)	0	
4. Contractual services		
5. Travel	30 000	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	20 200	
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	21 802	
Total Direct Costs	233 645	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	16 355	
TOTAL Costs	250 000	100 000
TOTAL	350 000	

2. Workplan

Outputs	Activities	Tentative timeframe	Budget	PUNOs
1. Finalization of the thematic window Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisions to the draft Concept Consultations on the Concept with RCs and internal stakeholders Preparation of the Concept for review by the DSG 	June 2022	USD 50 000	FAO
2. Feasibility assessment finalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth analysis of country demands and global priorities to provide the strategic framework for the window 	By August 2022	USD 100 000	FAO

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultations, including with RCs, member states and global, regional and local development partners Development of the investment strategy (max 5-6 pages) to include multi-year funding envelope, the rationale, priority interventions and key results, and modalities for implementing joint programmes 			
3. Resource mobilization strategy prepared and launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of interest from donors and other potential financing partners, in line with the multi-year funding envelope and the needs for initial funding for the launch of the window Development of the resource mobilization strategy, as a “living document” (max 3-4 pages) Bilateral meeting with donors, donor/fundraising event/s, and consultations with other potential funding/financing partners Support to global and country-level strategic communications for the purpose of advocacy for the window 	By September 2022	USD 70 000	FAO
4. ToR for the window prepared for approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the ToR (max 10-12 pages) based on the Concept for the window, Investment strategy, and window-specific management arrangements Consultations with partners and finalization of the ToR that is ready for approval. 	By October 2022	USD 60 000	FAO
5. The first funding round prepared for launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of the first funding round (e.g. Guidance for proposals) Development and capacitation of arrangements for thematic and programmatic support to the launch of the first funding round 	By December 2022	USD 70 000	FAO