



11th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

22 June 2015

Rome

FAO Headquarters



Situation of Funding Gaps

INTRODUCTION – SITUATION ANALYSIS

As the midpoint of implementation of the Global Strategy, the significant progress on accelerating the production of cost-effective methodologies, handbooks and guidelines, as well as the efforts made by the regional implementing partners in responding to national and international data demands of target countries through the provision of technical assistance and training, is acknowledged. However, despite this progress, it is equally clear that more remains to be done: many countries have requested to receive long-term and sustainable training and support in raising the financial resources required to undertake the necessary activities aiming at creating the favourable and sustainable environment for collecting reliable data.

There is now an unprecedented global momentum to further optimize the implementation of the Global Strategy at global and regional level. Currently, the Global and Regional offices have the full capacity to coordinate the implementation of the global strategy at all levels, and countries are increasing their demand for technical assistance.

To take advantage of this opportunity and ensure the optimization of the pledged funds, this note presents the existing funding gaps of the Global Strategy and its possible impact towards the achievement of the GS objectives.

FUNDING SITUATION

To date, approximately 41 USD million have been mobilized through the Global Trust Fund thanks to the contribution of DFID, BMGF and by the Italian Cooperation. In addition, the EC has provided a 7,5 EUR million grant, through direct agreement with African Development Bank, to support the regional activities in Africa.

The table below provides a general overview of the current funding situation by regions, including the existing funding gap (40% of the total budget). The first row (Integrated Budget) presents the total funding requirements indicated in the integrated budget while the following rows present the total funds mobilized through the Global Trust Fund (GTF) separated from the funds mobilized through other sources of funding, such as the EC contribution to the regional activities in Africa.

	GLO	Africa	Asia & Pacific	LAC	Near East	CIS	Total
Integrated Budget	20,353,604	25,996,839	13,808,944	13,878,494	4,927,499	4,865,974	83,831,353
GTF -funding	16,620,722	16,111,473	7,647,140	140,000	90,000	90,000	40,699,336
other sources of funding		9,885,366					9,885,366
Funding Gap	3,732,882	-	6,161,804	13,738,494	4,837,499	4,775,974	33,246,652
% of funding Gap	18%	0%	45%	99%	98%	98%	40%

Table 1: Funding gap by regions

FUNDING GAP AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

The most appropriate time to analyse the impact of the funds in the project is the midpoint of implementation as the strategic direction of the programme is well defined and all the operational and administrative mechanism are consolidated.

Since the planning and implementation of the programme is based on its outputs, it is relevant to assess the impact of the funding gap against the outputs of the programme.

	Total budget	Funding Gap	% of Gap
Output 1: Coordination	25,448,311	9,782,301	38%
output 2: National governance and SPARS	10,484,867	4,951,096	47%
output 3: Research	8,907,564	3,014,790	34%
output 4: TA & Training	38,578,792	25,953,131	67%
Output 5: AGRIS	411,818	-	0%
Total	83,831,353	43,701,318	52%

Table 2: Funding gap by outputs

The funding gap under the **output 1 (coordination activities)**, is mostly due to the lack of resources available to support the implementation of the activities in LAC, Near East and CIS regions. Any of these regions has been able to establish its regional office. Nevertheless they all have been able to organize governance meetings to enhance the visibility of the Global Strategy at regional level. In addition, two regions (LAC and CIS) are also benefiting from the support of two projects contributing to the objectives of the Global strategy (with support of the inter-American Development bank in LAC region and the World Bank in the CIS region)

The funding gap under **output 2 (national governance and SPARS)** amounts to 47%. In general terms, this is the cost mainly associated to the development of the SPARS in countries. In other words, 10 countries in A&P, 20 countries in LAC, 5 countries in Near East and 5 countries in CIS won't be able to develop their strategy due to the lack of funding.

The lack of funding under **output 3 (research)** will have a direct impact in the number of research topics produced by the global office. More concretely, important topics such as forestry statistics, collection methods for youth-related disaggregated data won't continue during 2016 nor will be field tested due to the lack of resources. Furthermore, research topics of recognized relevance such as the methodologies for data analysis; dissemination, or agri-environmental indicators will not be undertaken as the global office does not count with sufficient resources for this purpose.

By far, the most alarming situation is to be found under **output 4 (Technical assistance and Training)** as the funding gap under this output amount to 67%. This amount does not only corresponds to the cost of providing technical assistance and training in 40 countries (10 in A&P, 20 in LAC, 5 in CIS and 5 in RNE), but also to the organization of regional workshops, short seminars, upgrading training centres and provision of scholarships. At Global level, and in connection with the funding gap of the research component, the guidelines and training materials planned for data analysis; dissemination, and agri-environmental indicators will not be produced. Efforts will be made for guaranteeing that technical reports will be produced on the topics where activities have already started.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FUNDING GAP

Notably, the funding situation will affect the sustainability of the programme. If not filled, funding shortfalls will prevent the global strategy to strength the statistical capacity of 40 countries (out of a total of 90 countries). This will not only increase the differences in countries within the same region, but also will further increase the difference in the capacities across regions affecting the following regions: LAC, CIS and Near East.

In the event that funds are being mobilized for the underfunded regions, the definition of their implementing period remains also to be defined. The Global Action plan envisages that the regional activities are being implemented within a five year period; nevertheless the current ending date of the global strategy is December 2017. In this light, regions will have to shorten their implementation period for a maximum of two years. An alternative will be to expand the implementation period of the Global Strategy, through a second phase.

One of the key aspects of the Global Strategy is the achievements of economies of scale. All products and services developed at global level will be streamlined and adapted by the regions. As a consequence of the lack of funding the existing guidelines and training materials will not be adapted to the particularities of LAC, CIS and Near East.

In the event that no additional funds are being received by the end of 2016, the integrated budget, particularly the Global Office budget and the A&P budget, will have to be revised to allow the optimization of pledged funds until the end of the programme.