

GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (GAFSP)

INFORMATION NOTE TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

TRUSTEE AND COORDINATION UNIT AND MONITORING & EVALUATION

FY16 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2015, the GAFSP Steering Committee approved a transition to a three-year budget starting in FY16 in order to simplify the budgeting process and establish a better, longer term, planning mechanism for the Trustee and Coordination Unit (CU) activities. This note is to inform the Steering Committee on the actual spend compared to the estimates for the GAFSP Trustee, the GAFSP Coordination Unit, and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) work at the close of FY16.

This report does not include the costs of the Supervising Entities (e.g., administrative expenses, project preparation, and supervision) or the costs related to the work program of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). All figures are given in US dollars unless otherwise noted.

2. TRUSTEE

Actual costs and expenses incurred by the Trustee during FY16 totaled \$379,000, or \$3,000 more than the estimated amount approved by the Steering Committee. The decrease in investment management, due to the average fund balance of \$724 million being lower than the projected portfolio size of \$725 million, was offset by higher costs related to legal services for policy advice (e.g., in preparation of Transfer Agreements).

Estimated vs. Actual Costs for Trustee Services in FY16

Trustee Services	FY16 Proposed Budget	FY16 Final Costs
Financial and Relationship Management	75,000	75,000
Investment Management	254,000	253,000
Accounting and Reporting	40,000	40,000
Legal Services	5,000	9,000
FY15 Adjustment	2,000	2,000
External Audit Fee	-	-
Total	376,000	379,000

3. COORDINATION UNIT

The CU’s three-year budget use, as approved by the Steering Committee last year, is on track. During the first year, actual costs and expenses incurred by the CU totaled \$1,905,500, which is \$775,600 less than the estimated amount approved by the Steering Committee.

The large underrun is due primarily to two major activities that were included in the proposed budget that did not take place in the course of the FY. The TAC meeting and the Knowledge Forum (together budgeted at \$696,700) are now scheduled to take place in FY17. They were shifted to next year in view of the timing of the Call for Proposals. Excluding these two activities, the total underrun would have amounted to \$68,400, which is approximately 2.5%.

This report provides additional information about budget lines that deviate by 20% or more from the beginning-of-year estimate. These include Communications, Steering Committee Meeting, and the Operations & Portfolio budget (Missing Middle Initiative).

Estimated Costs vs. Actual Costs for CU in FY16

Coordination Unit Activities	FY16 Proposed Budget	FY16 Final Costs
Core CU Work	519,800	527,500
Outreach/Advocacy/Partnerships	390,800	426,400
Communications	268,500	163,300
Steering Committee + Working Group Meetings	418,200	296,800
TAC Meetings	313,400	0
Operations & Portfolio	387,100	317,900
KM/Sharing/Training	383,300	0
Missing Middle	0	173,600
Total	2,681,100	1,905,500

The under-spend of \$105,200 in Communications was principally owing to the delay in recruitment of an additional Communications Associate to the CU – this is being actioned in FY17. Once the team has expanded, FY17 will also see increased attention to the production of communications materials to support results reporting and outreach activities. A new activity line was identified to track costs related to the Missing Middle pilot (\$173,600 in FY16) and to continue to separate this task out from the Operations and Portfolio budget going forward. The under-spend of \$121,400 for Steering Committee and Working Group meetings was owing to the much lower expenditure on travel costs than estimated (actual expenditure of \$101,313 as against \$229,200 estimated).

Major FY16 achievements include (but are not limited to):

- A Steering Committee meeting was held in Rwanda in January 2016 – the first such meeting held in a recipient country, complete with organized field visits;
- Outreach activities were carried out to raise awareness of the Program with multiple supervising entities (AfDB, ADB, Rome-based Agencies), as well as civil society and private sector stakeholders, and to deepen partnerships (e.g., CAADP, Committee on Food Security, UN – including preparation for a well-received side event at the July ECOSOC High Level Political Forum);
- A second portfolio review was carried out to validate reported portfolio performance, identify challenges and bottlenecks for the team to focus on, identify trends (in large part positive) and implementation examples for cross-learning;
- The prototype of the Online Portal was tested and extensive consultations with end-users were held;
- Extensive upstream work was carried out to prepare the long-awaited first Call for Proposals under the Missing Middle Initiative;
- Similarly, extensive preparations for the Call for Proposals under the Public Sector Window were undertaken;
- Internal Coordination Unit systems were put in place as the team on-boarded three new team mates as well as new management in the World Bank Global Practice that houses the program, including: developing a modular briefing book to ensure basic information is available for those who need to understand the Program quickly (from an internal perspective); and formalizing core GAFSP standard operating procedures.

The underrun funds will be kept aside to support the activities mentioned above (e.g., Knowledge Forum and TAC meeting) in the coming year (FY17).

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This section presents the CU, ENV (formerly LLI), and DIME budget performance. At the aggregate, at the end of FY16, there is an underrun of \$850,663. Each section below provides information on the justification for such a deviation and outlines the intent of each unit on future use of these funds.

Estimated Costs vs. Actual Costs for all M&E activities in FY16

	FY16 Proposed Budget	FY16 Final Costs
DIME	1,457,876	828,619
WBI/LLI/ENV	206,000	162,694
CU	619,500	441,400
TOTAL	2,283,376	1,432,713

- DIME:** FY16 saw significant progress on the GAFSP impact evaluations in Bangladesh, Haiti, and Liberia. In Bangladesh and Haiti, data collection was completed in FY16, and the final analysis is underway. Full IE results will be prepared in FY17. After a pause due to the Ebola outbreak, DIME re-launched the Liberia impact evaluation in FY16, placing a field coordinator in-country as the project began re-implementing. A rapid comparison survey was done to assess the situation in country and plan a new version of the IE. A revised Impact Evaluation plan was discussed and agreed with project staff and the resulting IE will be launched in FY17 with a baseline survey beginning end-2016. As soon as the mid-term review and expected project restructuring of the SAPEC project in Liberia are complete, a revised concept note of the IE will be reviewed to allow the data collection for the full IE to start by end of 2018.

The total budget envelope for FY16 was \$1,457,877. The total amount spent and/or committed is \$828,619. The full difference (\$614,258) will be used in FY17 for planned activities. The adjusted FY17 budget is \$1,054,281.

- LLI/ENV:** The activities planned for FY16 focused on the following:

 - Maintenance, update and enhancement of the GAFSP Mapping Platform. In particular, the code was updated to allow GAFSP Stories to incorporate the latest version of YouTube API, to allow more than one video to be added to each story, and for photo improvement. Global maps were updated and adjusted for 32 Public Sector Window projects in 30 countries and 36 Private Sector Window projects in 24 countries. Data was collected, curated and analyzed, yielding 4 new country maps (Benin, Bhutan, Lao PDR, and Timor Leste);
 - GAFSP Stories: the team visited Cambodia and collected data and material to create stories about 8 project sites visited; and
 - M&E Data Visualization: M&E data of PAMP II (Tajikistan) was collected, cleaned and integrated with the country map.

The total budget envelope for FY16 was \$206,000. Total expenditures amounted to \$162,694. The team is working with the Coordination Unit on developing a proposal for use of the unspent funds (\$43,306) in FY17.

- **CU:** During FY16, in addition to the CU's oversight of all M&E initiatives, core portfolio data collection and monitoring activities and frequent data-driven responses to donor requests, intensive consultations and work was carried out with the M&E Working Group. The WG was initiated with the goal of delivering to the Steering Committee a set of substantive recommendations to update the GAFSP M&E Plan in light of Program experience and in order to better align it with the SDGs. The outputs and recommendations from the Working Group were presented to the Steering Committee in January 2016 and formally endorsed in April 2016. The intensive focus on supporting the M&E Working Group was a primary focus of the CU during the FY. While the team undertook discrete travel for technical discussions with key partners (e.g., FAO, WFP in Rome) and to participate in relevant SDG-linked technical workshops, no associated visits to projects in the portfolio took place in FY16. The bulk of the technical support to the WG was also undertaken without the need for additional consultancy support, contributing to the FY16 under-run. These resources will be used in FY17 to support a partnership with FAO's Voices of the Hungry team to enable quality assurance and technical support for GAFSP's adoption of FIES.