

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

**Executive Minutes
Steering Committee Meeting**

May 28, 2020

Virtual

GAFSP Steering Committee Chair

Mr. Dirk Schattschneider

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee Chair

Ms. Iris Krebber

Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom

Accepted for the Steering Committee

DIRK SCHATTSCHEIDER

Accepted for the Private Sector Window Donor
Committee

IRIS KREBBER

SIGNED DS

SIGNED IK

Dirk Schattschneider

Iris Krebber

Chair, GAFSP Steering Committee

Chair, Private Sector Window Donor Committee

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AND CONTEXT

1. An extraordinary joint meeting of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Steering Committee (SC) and the GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee (DC) was convened virtually on May 28, 2020 in order to decide concrete financing options for GAFSP to channel investments to support the COVID-19 response and the post-pandemic recovery. A list of meeting participants is provided in Annex 1. The draft agenda, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted and is provided in Annex 2.
2. The new SC Chair, Mr. Dirk Schattschneider, introduced himself and extended a warm welcome to all members, followed by an introduction of new SC members.
3. The Chair noted the genesis of this extraordinary SC meeting and the intent to reach agreement on the most appropriate GAFSP financing options to deploy in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
4. Mr. Martien van Nieuwkoop, Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank, gave brief opening remarks to set the scene on COVID-19 impacts and broader responses needed. Mr. van Nieuwkoop underscored the Bank's commitment to support GAFSP as host and acknowledged GAFSP's role as a strategic financing mechanism with a proven track record of success that has been able to support resilient and sustainable food systems after conflict, crises and natural disasters. He urged donors and other SC members to act now and use available options to enable countries and clients to target grant funds where they are most needed and commended the SC for setting the direction for GAFSP to support a clear COVID-19 response across key partners.

GAFSP PROGRAM UPDATE

5. The Coordination Unit (CU) presented an overview of the current status of the Program and an update on the Public Sector Window portfolio. The Private Sector Window Secretariat also briefly provided an update on the impact of COVID on the Private Sector Window portfolio and steps taken to mitigate the multiple challenges that threaten recovery from COVID-19 impacts.
6. Since the last SC meeting in December 2019, the SC formally approved two additional projects in The Gambia and Haiti – bringing the total allocations for the 2019 Special Call for Proposals to US\$127.6 million for 9 projects in 12 fragile, conflict, and violence affected (FCV) countries. The total funding for GAFSP projects in FCV countries is now US\$722 million, representing 45 percent of the entire portfolio.
7. The areas expected to be hit the hardest by COVID-19 are already suffering from fragility and the climate crisis, including locusts, floods, and droughts. These factors are exacerbating the COVID-19 impacts and are challenging the ability to respond in those locations. Support for recovery will need to be flexible and respond to multiple stresses, customized to different needs, locations and stakeholders, and be able to reach across the entire value chain.
8. The Program has already seen many active projects responding to COVID-19 through their ongoing activities or through project restructuring. The CU conducted a rapid consultation exercise on the current Public Sector Window portfolio amongst the Supervising Entities (SEs), which found that the majority of project teams could use additional financing to adapt and scale up their projects to respond to COVID-19 impacts. Based on preliminary information gathered from project teams, COVID-19 activities in the portfolio are expected to include supporting the continuation of business activities,

farmer safety nets, nutrition-related interventions, gender sensitive measures, and post-harvest storage and food preservation measures.

9. The CU updated the SC on the status of the GAFSP 2.0 official Restructuring Package and the timeline for SC review and approval. GAFSP 2.0 will be well-placed to address the challenges posed by COVID-19, climate change and economic shocks, support critical actors on the ground including producer organizations (POs), and bridge the gap between public and private sector investments and development—all of which will be critical in responding to COVID-19.
10. The Trustee indicated that GAFSP 2.0 will be implemented once the Restructuring Package has been approved by the SC and the restated and amended Contribution Agreements have been signed by all GAFSP FIF donors. The Trustee also confirmed an amount of US\$33.7 million as the unallocated balance available to support financing decisions made during the SC meeting, but noted that further donor contributions were expected that would increase this amount to US\$43.4 million by the end of June 2020. A donor member signaled their willingness to advance a scheduled contribution planned for December 2020 to augment the available balance to support the near-term operational options.

GAFSP COVID-19 RESPONSE OPTIONS AND DECISIONS MOVING FORWARD

11. A representative of the World Bank presented an analysis on the emerging impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture and food security; and representatives from IFAD, the SC's CSO members, and Regional Representatives expressed their perspectives from the field, indicating where and how effects are being felt.
12. The World Bank representative emphasized that impacts of COVID-19 vary from country to country and that the situation requires close monitoring and tailored responses. Emerging issues due to the pandemic include disruptions in domestic food chains, deteriorating economic and food security situations for vulnerable households, and vulnerability due to high dependence on food imports and commodity exports in some cases.
13. The IFAD representative indicated that the impacts of the pandemic vary across regions with approximately half of their projects seeing disruptions. It was noted that West and Central Africa are faring best, while Eastern and Southeastern Africa have seen the most disruptions.
14. ROPPA presented on behalf of the CSO representatives, and shared field level findings on the impacts of COVID-19 as seen across farmers and rural communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The presentation indicated that cooperatives and small enterprises have limited capacity to meet their debt obligations, and MFIs and Banks are expecting delays in payments. Additional challenges that farmers face include weak preparations for the upcoming production season and lack of access to inputs. The presentation ended with a strong call for concrete actions in the face of the pandemic.
15. The Africa Regional Representative stated that the two most pressing challenges faced by African smallholder farmers now are the locust plague and COVID-19. Remarks indicated that in the wake of the pandemic many countries will require quick responses, underlining the value of the flexible ways that GAFSP can provide immediate support. During the pandemic, food markets have remained open in the region but food prices have continued to increase. Other concerns include potential food shortages if the rainy season ends early, as well as already observed input supply disruptions.
16. The CU presented the operational options through which GAFSP could respond to COVID-19, along with the potential timelines and financial requirements for each option, noting that the different options (as per paragraph 18 below) were not mutually exclusive and that any combination of options was possible.

17. The discussion underscored strong support for all options, with the ability to move quickly with readily available resources appreciated. SC members noted the importance of supporting governments' own response plans for recovery and resilience, and the importance of maximizing the value of GAFSP resources in addressing priority needs and concerns. The need to ensure a relatively streamlined process for the options that would make available additional funding to the existing portfolio was stressed, as well as the importance of a longer-term view to ensure a targeted use of funds, well aligned with country priorities in the medium term and through any future Call for Proposals.
18. **Decisions:** The SC agreed to pursue the following three options:
- **Option 1a:** Provide additional funding to existing Public Sector Window projects
 - **Option 1b:** Provide additional funding to MMI Pilot Projects
 - **Option 2:** Launch a new Call for Proposals under GAFSP 2.0
19. **Option 1a** will provide additional funding for current GAFSP projects in response to COVID-19 related disruptions. Funds are expected to be deployed quickly by building on ongoing activities and utilizing implementation arrangements already in place. The minimum funding requirement for this option is US\$50 million, and the funds could be allocated as early as August 2020. Activities would respond to the short- to medium-term impacts of the pandemic at country-level and be demand-driven (by countries and SEs). Given limited resources and anticipated high demand, the SC may choose to limit the number of current GAFSP countries/projects that would be eligible. The SC was not able to agree during the meeting on country eligibility. The CU will further expand the options for country categorization, factoring in country need and including relevant pros and cons, for a subsequent virtual SC decision.
20. **Option 1b** will provide additional funding to MMI Pilot projects to respond to COVID-19 related challenges. This option will fund all interested MMI projects that seek additional funding and fulfill submission requirements. The minimum funding requirement for this option is US\$5 million, and the funds could be allocated as early as July 2020. Activities should respond to the short- to medium-term impacts of the pandemic at country-level and be demand-driven (by PO and SEs).
21. **Option 2** will launch a new Call for Proposals under GAFSP 2.0, where all eligible countries could submit proposals to access funds for activities that address medium-to long-term needs to respond to COVID-19. This Call would operationalize GAFSP 2.0 and be strategically timed to fund COVID-19 recovery, and support countries to strengthen the performance, resilience, and sustainability of their agriculture sector and food systems in a changing climate – targeting Fall 2020 or at an appropriate time to be agreed with the SC. The minimum funding requirement for this option would be US\$150 million for the country-led grant-based financing track; US\$25 million for the PO-led grant-based financing track; and US\$120 million for the business investment financing track. Activities eligible for funding would include medium- to long-term investments to improve food security and increase incomes – consistent with GAFSP's five pillars. Specific details about the Call would be decided by the SC and included in the Call Guidelines (to be approved by the SC prior to the Call Launch).

Actions:

1. CU to prepare a revised set of categories and related options for how to further target country eligibility for option 1a and share with the SC for its review and decision by end of June.

2. CU to prepare the MMI Additional Funding Solicitation Package (option 1b) for SC approval by mid-June.
3. CU to prepare Public Sector Window Additional Funding Solicitation Package (option 1a) for SC approval by end of June.
4. Subject to available financing and SC decision on timeline, to be sought in July, the CU to prepare for a future Call for Proposals under GAFSP 2.0.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

22. In order to support the agreed Call for Proposals that will launch GAFSP 2.0, further contributions to the Program will be essential. Donor members of the SC expressed their strong support to the Program, with many of them indicating that they are currently working on new contributions, and others noting the strong alignment between GAFSP's objectives and their own development priorities, further underlined in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. There was broad-based recognition across the SC of the need to mitigate a further worsening of the global food security situation, and to assist vulnerable and low income countries to address impacts and strengthen their agriculture and food systems and resilience to future shocks, including those brought about by the climate crisis.
23. The CU and Future Advocacy presented the activities to support the launch of GAFSP's replenishment period. This included the concept, vision, and options for timing of the virtual replenishment kick-off event to be hosted by Germany, and ways in which SC members should get involved to support this process. The event is expected to be strongly aligned with the global agenda and call for increased investment in order to strengthen food and agriculture systems and build smallholder farmers' resilience. The event will position GAFSP as a proven instrument that can deliver on the SDGs and on a clear COVID-19 response, supporting recovery by channeling targeted grant funding through the multilateral system. In presenting this vision, the event will provide an opportunity to highlight collaboration with implementing partners and others, including the research community.

NEXT STEPS AND CLOSURE

24. The Chair proposed the next SC meeting be convened virtually in September 2020, timed to allow for decisions on a number of upcoming items and as further follow up to the clear decisions taken at this meeting. There was no objection to this proposal.
25. The SC meeting concluded with thanks from the Chairs and the CU to all participants, organizers, and contributors.

List of Meeting Participants (alphabetical order, by stakeholder group)

	Last Name	First Name	Organization
Chairs			
	Schattschneider	Dirk	SC Chair, Germany
	Krebber	Iris	Donor Committee Chair, United Kingdom
Donors			
	Aabo	Anders	Norway
	Boehm	Nora	Germany
	Chow	Jennifer	United States of America, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
	Ferrero	Gabriel	Spain
	Hara	Tsuyoshi	Japan, Advisor to the Executive Director, World Bank
	Johnson	Karen	United Kingdom, Department for International Development (DFID)
	Lammers	Mariska	The Netherlands
	Lynn	Fiona	Australia
	Miya	Koki	Japan
	Norobu	Kageyama	Japan
	Pradhan	Nirupama	United States of America, Department of the Treasury
	Stormoen	Even	Norway
	Strychacz	Nicholas	United States of America, Department of the Treasury
	Thiel	Christian	Germany, Advisor to the Executive Director, World Bank
	Turner	Emilie	Canada
	van de Logt	Paul	The Netherlands
	Van Gaal	Corry	Canada
	Van Gilst	Daniel Frans	Norway
	Watkins	Neil	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
	Zapaterro	Maria Abad	Spain
Regional Representatives			
	Abdul Ghaffar	Jeihan	Middle East
	Adoum	Djime	Africa
	Bojang	Lamin	Africa
	Ehui	Mamou	Africa
	Imashov	Chorobek	Eastern Europe and Central Asia

	Keizire	Boaz	Africa
	Martinez	Salome	Latin America and the Caribbean
	Pokharel	Champak	Asia
	Tuaimeiapipi	Kilisitina	Asia
Supervising Entities			
	Boahen	Philip	AfDB
	Brown	Donal	IFAD
	Chicola	Erica Gabriela	IDB
	De Salvo	Carmine Paolo	IDB
	Fregene	Martin	AfDB
	Gautam	Madhur	WB
	Heinemann	Edward	IFAD
	Katagami	Michiko	ADB
	Lampietti	Julian	WB
	Manssouri	Mohamed	FAO
	Toda	Atsuko	AfDB
	Toe	Chris	WFP
	Townsend	Robert	WB
	Van Nieuwkoop	Martien	WB
	Veillerette	Benoist	FAO
CSOs			
	Akoha	Rostaing Sessi	ROPPA
	Banzuela	Soc	AFA
	Clarke	Marie	Women for Women International
	Guerra	Alberta	ActionAid USA
	Hertzler	Doug	ActionAid USA
	Kandell	Arianna	ActionAid USA
	McKeon	Nora	ROPPA
	Penunia Banzuela	Ma Estrella	AFA
GAFSP Coordination Unit			
	Calixto	Silvana	Coordination Unit
	Chawani	Thokozani	Coordination Unit
	Dobson	Marjorie	Coordination Unit
	Ekanayake	Indira Janaki	Coordination Unit

	Gomez	Ana Cristina	Coordination Unit
	Hayward	Natasha	Program Head
	Hoberg	Yurie	Coordination Unit
	Khouri	Nadim	Coordination Unit
	Lole	Jane	Coordination Unit
	Magarotto	Cecilia	Coordination Unit
	Markozashvili	Darina	Coordination Unit
	Mehdi	Tammy	Coordination Unit
	Mostafa	Iftikhar	Coordination Unit
	Parent	Kimberly	Coordination Unit
	Ramachandran	Venkat	Coordination Unit
	Salman	Diana	Coordination Unit
	Tortella	Virginia	Coordination Unit
	Yang	Shijie	Coordination Unit
	Zwaans	Pauline	Coordination Unit
GAFSP Private Sector Window Secretariat – IFC			
	Berman	Daphna	Private Sector Window Secretariat
	Chaudhary	Bheeshm	Private Sector Window Secretariat
	Chen	Yanni	Senior Results Management Specialist
	Earne	Julie Fawn	Senior Operations Officer
	Haider	Mehnaz	Senior Operations Officer
	Leonov	Andrei	Finance Officer
	Luternauer	Patrick	Principal Operations Officer
	Maiztegui	Josefina	Private Sector Window Secretariat
	Peta	Joana	Consultant
	Razdan	Pamposh	Senior Operations Officer
	Rosembuj	Flavia	Senior Counsel
	Sandra	Tavera	Associate Operations Officer
	Shah	Niraj	Head, Private Sector Window Secretariat
	Zhang	Meng	Program Assistant
Trustee			
	Fuentes Lanza	Jorge Alberta	Trustee
	Kurasawa	Shinichiro	Trustee
	Pardo	Maria Lourdes	WB Legal

	Ronchetti	Danila	WB Legal
	Sta. Maria	Iris Jacqueline	Trustee
	Williamson	Angela	Trustee
Invited participants			
	Buston	Olly	Future Advocacy
	Seebohm	Sergius	Future Advocacy



DRAFT AGENDA

Virtual GAFSP Steering Committee Meeting

May 28, 2020

** 5.00am Seattle/ 8.00am Washington DC / 12.00pm Abidjan / 1.00pm London / 2.00pm Berlin, Rome / 3.00pm Nairobi / 5.45pm Kathmandu / 6.00pm Dhaka / 8.00pm Manila / 10.00pm Canberra

Meeting objective:

To decide on the operational modality/ies to channel GAFSP funding to address impacts and support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in GAFSP's target countries.

AGENDA

	7:45-8:00am	Steering Committee (SC) members connect and test audio and video connections
Opening	8am- 8:10am	Introduction and context, adoption of agenda <i>Dirk Schattschneider, Steering Committee Chair</i> <i>Iris Krebber, Donor Committee Chair</i>
Welcome	8:10-8:15am	Welcome remarks <i>Martien Van Nieuwkoop, World Bank Global Director for Agriculture and Food Global Practice</i>
Session 1	8:15-8:45am	GAFSP Program Update – Coordination Unit (CU), Trustee (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Review • Restructuring - updated timeline • Financial Status – Trustee Report <p><i>Applicable background documents to be shared in advance, with brief presentation serving only to highlight key elements.</i></p>

		<p>Questions and Discussion (20 mins)</p> <p>No decision points</p>
Session 2	8:45-10:10am	<p>GAFSP COVID-19 Response Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and food security - Madhur Gautam, Lead Agriculture Economist, <i>World Bank</i> (10 min presentation, 5 min for Q&A) View from the field: Supervising Entity (Donal Brown, IFAD), Civil Society Organization (Soc Banzuela, AFA) and Regional Representative (Boaz Keizire) (3 min each to share information on field conditions, relevant to the decisions at hand) Operational Modalities for GAFSP response – <i>Coordination Unit</i> (15 min) <p><i>A Decision Note with detailed decision points/options for SC review and agreement will be shared in advance and used to frame discussion.</i></p> <p>Discussion and decision (45 min)</p> <p>Decision Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which (combination of) modalities will GAFSP pursue to support its target countries to mitigate the impact and support the recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic? <u>Four decision points</u> are laid out in the Decision Note If agreed, what is the timeline for donors to confirm financing availability?
Session 3	10:10-10:45am	<p>Resource Mobilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional pledges will be needed to fund COVID-19 response options: donors to indicate indicative amounts and timeline for new contributions – <i>GAFSP Donors</i> (10 min) <p>Activities to support GAFSP Replenishment Launch – <i>Coordination Unit/Future Advocacy</i> (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAFSP Replenishment Launch Roadmap and Event Update Advocacy activities to support GAFSP’s Event: What can the SC do to help? <p>Questions and Discussion (15 min)</p> <p>No decision points</p>
Session 4	10:45-11:00am	<p>Chair’s Summary of Decisions, Next Steps, and Meeting Closure</p>