

Fish Fund Project Grant Application Form – Category I

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Fish Fund.

The Fish Fund was established at the WTO in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Bank, to assist developing and least-developed country (LDC) Members implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS).

Category I grants provide up to **US\$ 50,000** for quick, lower-cost support for studies and initial assessments of compliance with the disciplines contained in the AFS. This category of funding can also be used to prepare a proposal for Category II funding support.

Before preparing your application, we strongly recommend reviewing the Fish Fund Factsheet as well as relevant M&E Resources on the Fish Fund website:
<https://www.wtofishfund.org/en/resources>

The deadline to submit applications is **24 April 2026**. For any questions, please contact the Fish Fund Secretariat: fishfund@wto.org.

1. Title of the grant application:

The title should clearly indicate the main objective of this application in a short and concise manner, for example:

- *"Assessment of needs to facilitate Member's implementation of the AFS"*
- *"Study to identify needs and prepare a proposal to improve Member's Fisheries Management Systems"*
- *"Identification of Institutional and Capacity Building Needs in Member to implement the AFS"*

Pakistan Fisheries Subsidies Agreement Implementation Readiness and Value Chain Needs Assessment

2. WTO Member or Members submitting this application:

Please enter the name of the Member submitting this application in the space below. If more than one Member is submitting this application, please list the names in alphabetical order and separated by commas.

Please note that only governments from developing and least-developed WTO Members that have deposited their instruments of acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies with the WTO Director-General are eligible to apply for funding. A full list of WTO Members that have deposited their instruments can be found here:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/fish_acceptances_e.htm

Pakistan

3. Government agency or organization responsible for the implementation of this grant and its reporting to the Fish Fund:

Requests must be submitted by national governments (ministries, agencies, or public entities) responsible for implementing the project grants.

Please enter the name of the **organization responsible for the implementation of this grant and its reporting to the Fish Fund**. For multiple Members, please add the agency for each Member.

Marine Fisheries Department, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Government of Pakistan

4. How the project aligns with the Fish Fund Theory of Change (Category I)?

Category I grants are designed to provide support to WTO Members for initial needs assessments that support WTO Members in the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, or for the development of a Category II project application document.

Applications must be fully aligned with the Fish Fund's Theory of Change, which can be found via the link below.

<https://www.wtofishfund.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/EN%20-%20ii.%20Theory%20of%20Change%20-%202024042025.pdf>

☒ The main objective of this grant application is to produce a **needs assessment** to support the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

☒ The main objective of this grant application is to support the **preparation of a project proposal** for a Category II project application, or another source of financing. If other, please specify the envisioned source of funding below.

Pakistan has accepted the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and is now required to move from formal acceptance to practical implementation. This Category I grant is designed to support that transition. It will identify the legal, institutional, operational, data and coordination gaps that may affect Pakistan's implementation of the Agreement, especially in relation to subsidies linked to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfished stocks, unregulated high-seas fishing and transparency obligations.

The project is aligned with the Fish Fund Theory of Change because it will provide a focused, time-bound and lower-cost assessment of Pakistan's implementation needs. It will also prepare a practical Category II project proposal for more substantial assistance in priority areas identified through the assessment.

The grant will be implemented through two main objectives:

- Objective 1: Prepare a comprehensive AFS implementation needs assessment covering legal, institutional, operational, data, MCS/IUU, stock-information, subsidy transparency, value-chain and livelihood dimensions.
- Objective 2: Prepare a Category II project proposal based on the needs assessment, with priority activities, implementation arrangements, indicative costs and results indicators.

The needs assessment will not be treated as a collection of separate deliverables. It will be one consolidated report, supported by internal working notes and consultation records. The report will identify gaps and prioritize areas for future Fish Fund support.

Main deliverables under the Category I grant

Deliverable	Description	Core contents	Use for AFS implementation
1. Comprehensive AFS implementation needs assessment	One consolidated report identifying Pakistan's priority needs for implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.	AFS legal and institutional mapping; subsidy transparency and notification gaps; fisheries data and vessel/catch	Provides the evidence base for national implementation planning and future technical assistance.

		information gaps; MCS and IUU risk-management needs; stock-information and management gaps; value-chain and livelihood implications for small-scale/artisanal fishers; priority action matrix.	
2. Category II project proposal	A focused, proposal-ready Category II concept/proposal based on the needs assessment.	Priority activities; implementation arrangements; indicative budget; results indicators; risk management; partner-support requirements; sustainability and knowledge-transfer approach.	Creates a clear pathway for larger Fish Fund support in areas such as data systems, MCS/IUU tools, stock-assessment capacity, legal/institutional coordination and targeted training.

- 5. Indicate the total amount requested from the Fish Fund in United States Dollars (USD). Upload an indicative budget in Excel format, including estimated costs for experts, consultations, and outreach activities). The budget should also include any additional financial or in-kind contributions from the government and other agencies. The budget template can be downloaded via the link below:**

https://www.wtofishfund.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/EN_Budget%20Template_Cat%20I.xlsx

Please note that Category I grant applications can benefit from a maximum of USD 50'000.

The total amount requested from the Fish Fund is USD 50,000. The amount is within the Category I ceiling. Pakistan will also provide an estimated USD 6,000 in in-kind support through official coordination, access to data and documents where available, facilitation of consultations and meeting arrangements. The Government contribution is in-kind only and does not involve Fish Fund payments to government officials.

The budget has been prepared in the Fish Fund Category I budget template. It breaks down international expert fees by working days and daily rate; travel and subsistence; workshop costs; national expert support; outreach expenses; and a separate contingency line.

Key budget assumptions are as follows:

International expert: 40 working days at USD 600 per day, including approximately 15 days in the field.

Travel and subsistence: one international return airfare, estimated within the USD 2,000 ceiling; 15 mission days of per diem using the applicable UN DSA rate for Karachi; and limited local travel/logistics expenses.

Workshops: two stakeholder/validation workshops covering venue, refreshments, materials and eligible participation costs for non-government stakeholders where justified.

National expert: 30 working days at USD 250 per day to support project management, data requests, stakeholder coordination, records of consultations, national context analysis and follow-up. This is not a government official position.

Contingency: included as a separate budget line and to be used only for eligible, documented expenses in accordance with Fish Fund guidance.

6. Briefly describe the national context and challenges for implementing the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in your country/territory or region.

Please make direct reference to the disciplines contained in the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, where possible.

A full text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies can be accessed at:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/fish_e.htm

Pakistan has significant marine and inland fisheries resources. The fisheries sector remains important for livelihoods, food security, export earnings and the wider blue economy. At the same time, the sector faces practical management challenges, including fragmented data, weak post-harvest systems, limited value addition, overfishing risks, uneven enforcement capacity and the need for stronger coordination across federal and provincial levels.

Implementation of the Agreement requires Pakistan to ensure that fisheries-related support measures do not contribute to IUU fishing, fishing of overfished stocks or unregulated high-seas fishing. It also requires the ability to generate and notify relevant information. These requirements depend on credible data, clear institutional responsibilities, functioning licensing and vessel information systems, stock-related information, MCS capacity, and coordination among agencies responsible for fisheries, trade and subsidies.

The principal implementation challenges are the following:

Federal-provincial coordination: fisheries governance involves federal and provincial institutions, harbour authorities, fisher bodies and private-sector actors. AFS implementation will require a clearer coordination mechanism.

Subsidy transparency: Pakistan needs a more systematic inventory of fisheries-related support measures and the information required for WTO notification and transparency purposes.

Data gaps: vessel registration, licensing, catch and effort information, stock status, enforcement records and support-measure data are not yet integrated in a single implementation-ready system.

MCS and IUU risk management: stronger monitoring, control and surveillance tools are required to assess and manage IUU-related risks and to support compliance with AFS disciplines.

Stock information: updated stock-related information and management tools are needed to guide decisions concerning overfished or data-limited stocks.

Small-scale fisher livelihoods: any implementation pathway should be sensitive to small-scale and artisanal fishing communities and should avoid abrupt measures that could harm livelihoods.

Value chain and market linkages: weak cold chain, traceability and value addition reduce the sector's economic returns. Sustainability and AFS implementation should therefore be linked with better quality, market access and export competitiveness.

This Category I grant will address these challenges by producing a practical needs assessment and a sequenced Category II proposal. It will help Pakistan move from a general sector reform agenda to a more precise AFS implementation pathway.

7. Does this grant application support activities that have been directly linked to an approved national strategy or plan? If yes, please name the document and indicate whether there is an explicit reference to the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

☒ Yes.

☐ No.

☐ Maybe.

The Project is linked to Pakistan's national fisheries and aquaculture reform process and to the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. It supports the policy direction of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025-2035 process, led by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs with technical support from FAO, particularly in relation to responsible resource management, federal-provincial coordination, improved regulation, environmental protection, use of modern technology, value addition and export improvement.

The proposal is also linked to Pakistan's formal acceptance of the Agreement and the need to identify AFS implementation gaps. Where the final approved national policy text does not yet include a detailed AFS implementation chapter, this grant will provide the technical basis for incorporating subsidy transparency, fisheries data systems, IUU controls, stock-management priorities and institutional coordination into the policy implementation framework.

8. Indicate whether your government is or has been a beneficiary of support from Fish Fund core partners or other specialized agencies with the objective of supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and/or issues relating to IUU fishing. If yes, please provide a description of the support measure and its implementing partner, with a brief explanation on how this grant application will avoid duplicating activities and/or resources.

☐ Yes.

☒ No.

Pakistan has not yet received Fish Fund support for implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. FAO and IFAD have supported fisheries and aquaculture policy-related work in Pakistan, including work relevant to sector development and livelihoods. However, this proposal has a narrower AFS implementation focus. It will examine subsidy transparency, readiness assessment, data gaps, MCS/IUU needs, stock-information requirements, institutional coordination and preparation of a Category II Fish Fund proposal.

To avoid duplication, the inception phase will include a short mapping of ongoing and recently completed work by FAO, IFAD, the World Bank and relevant national initiatives.

The inception report will identify areas of complementarity and will adjust consultations accordingly.

9. Indicate if this grant application will benefit from implementation support from any of the Fish Fund partners. If support will be provided by other international organizations, please specify under 'Other'.

☒ Yes.

- ☒ FAO
- ☒ IFAD
- ☐ World Bank
- ☐ WTO

☐ No.

☐ Other (specify below):

The project is expected to benefit from light technical and advisory support from FAO and IFAD, subject to their availability and applicable procedures. The grant does not assume that FAO or IFAD will implement the project or receive Fish Fund payments.

10. Provide additional information on other government departments that are expected to play a role in the implementation and or collaboration of this grant.

The Marine Fisheries Department will act as the lead implementing agency and will coordinate the project through the Ministry of Maritime Affairs. A small Project Coordination Group may be established for the duration of the grant to facilitate data sharing, stakeholder outreach and validation of findings. The following departments and stakeholders are expected to be consulted or associated, as relevant:

Institution / stakeholder	Expected role
Ministry of Maritime Affairs	Policy oversight, coordination with federal bodies and endorsement of final outputs.
Marine Fisheries Department	Lead implementation, reporting to Fish Fund, technical coordination and data facilitation.
Ministry of Commerce / WTO Wing and Permanent Mission in Geneva	Coordination with WTO processes, subsidy notification context and Fish Fund Secretariat engagement.
Livestock and Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh	Provincial data, legal framework, licensing, coastal fisheries management and stakeholder consultations.
Fisheries and Coastal Development Department, Government of Balochistan	Provincial data, legal framework, coastal fisheries management and stakeholder consultations.
Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority and Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority	Harbour-level information, landing practices, auction/processing interface and traceability issues.
Pasni and Gwadar fisheries harbour authorities	Balochistan harbour information, field consultations and coastal stakeholder engagement.

Fishermen Cooperative Society and fisher community organizations	Small-scale fisher concerns, livelihood impacts, data validation and local implementation needs.
Pakistan Fisheries Exporters Association and processors/exporters	Export value-chain issues, traceability, post-harvest losses and market-access requirements.
Provincial fisheries departments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Input on inland fisheries and aquaculture where relevant to national policy and support measures.
Relevant academic/research institutions	Technical input on stock assessment, socio-economic analysis and data gaps.

11. Indicate the expected duration for implementation and completion of the grant:

- ☐ 1-3 months.
- ☒ 3-6 months.
- ☐ Other (specify below):

The expected duration is six months from the date of grant effectiveness. The proposed workplan is as follows:

Period	Main activities	Deliverables
Month 1	Inception meeting; confirmation of project coordination group; final methodology; data-request templates; mapping of ongoing partner activities.	Inception report and stakeholder/data matrix.
Months 2-3	Desk review; consultations with federal and provincial departments; harbour and value-chain consultations; preliminary subsidies and data mapping.	Consultation notes; preliminary subsidies/data baseline.
Month 3	Legal and institutional review; mapping of federal/provincial responsibilities and coordination gaps.	Draft legal and institutional gap note.
Month 4	Assessment of IUU monitoring, vessel/catch data, stock-information needs, traceability and livelihood risks.	Draft AFS readiness and value-chain/livelihood notes.
Month 5	Validation workshop; partner review; prioritization of needs and costing for next-stage support.	Validation summary and priority action matrix.
Month 6	Final report; Category II concept note; dissemination brief; final financial and narrative reporting.	Final assessment report, Category II concept note and dissemination package.

12. Provide a brief description of the communication strategy that will be used to disseminate information about the grant and its intended audience.

The communication strategy will be targeted and practical. Its main audience will include federal and provincial fisheries authorities, harbour authorities, fishers' organizations, exporters and processors, relevant research institutions, and Fish Fund partners. The

project will not only publicize the grant; it will use communication to build understanding of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and to secure ownership of the final roadmap.

Key communication actions will include:

- A short launch note on the website or official communication channels of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs / Marine Fisheries Department, subject to government clearance.
- Targeted letters/emails to relevant federal and provincial departments requesting nomination of focal persons and data inputs.
- Focused consultations in Karachi and with Balochistan stakeholders, with participation of fisher/community representatives and private-sector value-chain actors.
- A validation workshop to discuss draft findings and agree priority areas for Category II support.

13. Indicate communication channels that will be used to share information about the project and from the Fish Fund?

- ☒ Government website or social media
- ☒ Local media (TV, news, etc), where appropriate
- ☒ Through partner organizations websites and social media, subject to partner agreement
- ☒ Other:

Targeted official correspondence, consultation meetings, validation workshop and direct stakeholder briefings.

14. Upload a letter of endorsement from the government entity responsible for implementation.

15. Any additional comment or observation relevant to consideration of the application.

The project will provide an operationally useful assessment rather than a broad academic study. It will establish a credible basis for the next phase of support under Category II, where Pakistan may seek assistance for one or more of the following: a fisheries data and reporting system; training on subsidy notifications; improved vessel registration and catch documentation; targeted stock-assessment capacity; MCS and IUU risk-management tools; legal and institutional review; and targeted training for implementation agencies.

Fish Fund resources will not be used for payments to government officials, including officials involved in implementation. Government inputs will be provided as in-kind coordination, access to data and facilitation of consultations.

Proposed monitoring and evaluation indicators:

Indicator	Target by project completion
Inception process completed	Inception note, workplan, stakeholder map and data-request matrix completed within the first month.
Stakeholder consultations conducted	At least four structured consultation meetings, including federal, provincial, harbour, fisher/community and private-sector stakeholders.
Comprehensive needs assessment completed	One consolidated assessment report covering legal, institutional, data, MCS/IUU, stock-information, subsidy transparency, value-chain and livelihood dimensions.
Subsidy/data baseline prepared	One preliminary matrix of support measures and key information gaps for WTO transparency and notification purposes.
Validation workshop held	One validation session with comments recorded and reflected in the final report.
Category II project proposal prepared	One proposal-ready Category II concept/proposal with priority activities, indicative budget, implementation arrangements and results indicators.

16. Contact point for this application

Provide the full name, email address, and contact information of the focal point responsible for the project. For multiple Members, please enter a focal point per Member.

Please note that this person will be contacted by the Fish Fund Secretariat in case of questions or comments.

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17. Date of Submission

Only applications received by the deadline will be considered. Application deadlines are available on the Fish Fund website or by contacting the Secretariat at fishfund@wto.org.