

Monthly Board Report

Reporting Period: September 2026

Financial Highlights

USD in millions Unaudited	FY27 Full Year Forecast			
	ICANN Operations	New gTLD Program	Grant Program	Total ICANN
Funds Collected				
Full Year Forecast 2+10	$170	$359	-	$529
Full Year Adopted Budget	$165	$454	-	$619
Expenses				
Full Year Forecast 2+10	$160	$60	$4	$224
Full Year Adopted Budget	$161	$55	$4	$220
Average Headcount				
Full Year Forecast 2+10	402	62	3	467
Full Year Adopted Budget	402	58	3	463

For the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round, Funds Collected are the actual application fees received for 1,616 applications (inclusive of Applicant Support Program applicants) versus a budget of 2,000 applications. For expenses, Implementation work budgeted to conclude by the opening of the application window will continue and be completed in FY27.

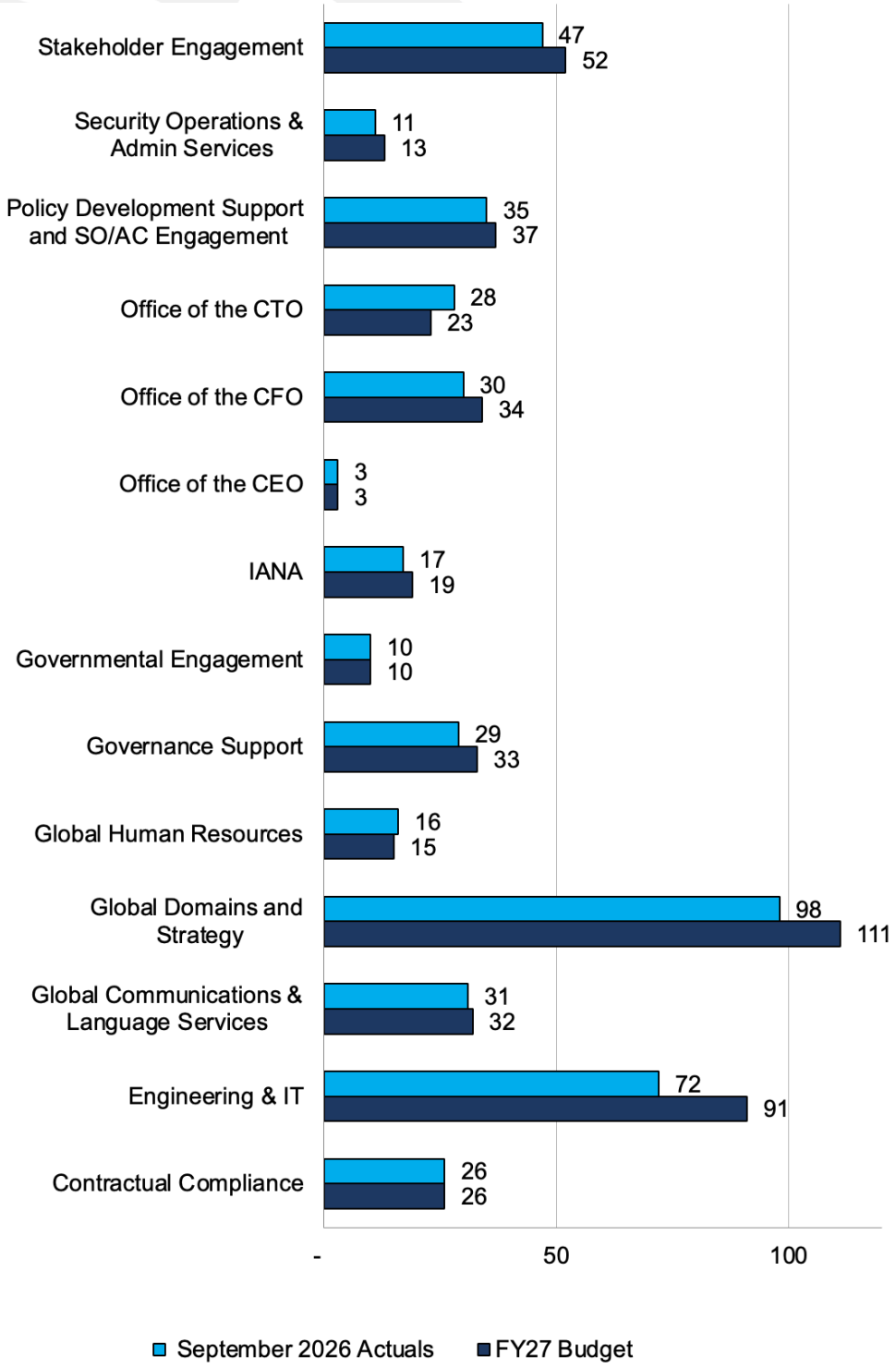
As of 31 August 2026	Target	Current
Annual Funding – Forecast vs. Budget	≥ 100%	107%
Annual Expense – Forecast vs. Budget	≤ 100%	105%[1]
Operating Fund Balance vs. Investment Policy Minimum	≥ 100%	133%
Reserve Fund Balance vs. Investment Policy Minimum	≥ 100%	121%
Corporate Compliance Reporting Up-To-Date	100%	100%
Process Efficiency (DFO*, DPO, and Payroll Processing)**	100%	100%

1. Expenses are higher than budget due to the timing of 2026 Round Implementation work (still favorable at the program level).
** Days of Funding Outstanding*
*** Days of Payables Outstanding*

People Highlights

	September 2026	FY26
Headcount	453	454
Roles Filled	5	34
External Hires	5	30
Internal Fill Rate	0.0%	14.3%
Time to Fill Average	75 days	105 days
Voluntary Turnover	0.44%	4.9%

Headcount by Function



Board Action Item Updates

Board Project	Status
Policy: 1) BW202606 – **Cost of Future Policies**: Staff to develop the framing and materials to prepare the Board for further discussion on this topic. 2) BW202609 – **ccTLD PDP4**: The Board will identify any concerns with the resolution or Board Statement, before end of September. 3) BW202609 – **Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building**: ICANN staff will organize a call for the Board chair to inform the recipient of the Board selection. ICANN staff will prepare for the presentation of the award during ICANN87 welcome ceremony. 4) BW202609 – **RSS GWG**: Org to propose milestones for the RSS Council Board's consideration of adopting the GWG proposal. Target adoption at ICANN88, and org to develop a list of items for consideration by the Board that will likely come downstream of creation of an RSS Council, and where possible provide estimates of resources.	1) **In Progress:** A next discussion with the Board is being developed. Timing to be confirmed. 2) None identified so far. 3) **Completed/Ongoing** 4) **Ongoing:** The Board will get further updates during the Board workshop pre-ICANN87.

RDRS: BM202510 – In October 2025, the Board resolved to extend operation of the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) through December 2027 while the community continues discussions on its long-term future and related policy recommendations. The resolutions also direct continued engagement with the GNSO and GAC on service improvements, encourage broader use of the RDRS, and urge alignment of future SSAD policy work with related registration data access procedures and analyses.	**Ongoing:** A paper will be circulated before ICANN87, describing the work to date, summarizing some of the feedback, and providing an overview of next steps and anticipated discussions at ICANN87.
Ombuds: BW202606 – The Board agreed to approve the Framework with the following considerations: a separate workstream, time to discuss the questions, a deadline for completing the tasks, and plan to address the issues.	**In Progress:** The Board will get an update at the upcoming Board workshop pre-ICANN87.
WS2: BW202610 – Provide Board briefing on the WS2 Recommendation 5.8 re: an Ombuds Advisory Panel.	**Ongoing:** ICANN org is assessing next steps; expected after ICANN87.
Review of Reviews: BW202609 - Propose response to extension request, with expectations. - Send info to the Board on the differences between CCWGs and CCGs.	**Ongoing :** The Board will get further updates during the Board workshop pre-ICANN87.

Board Action Item Status



SO/AC Action Item Updates

SO/AC Project	Status
202603: The Board will include a review of policy status on its agenda for future joint Board & GNSO Council and Board & CPH meetings during upcoming ICANN meetings.	**Ongoing:** Will be done at ICANN87 for the first time.

SO/AC Action Item Status



Policy Status

	PDPS & OTHER COMMUNITY WORK
DNS Abuse PDP 1	The Public Comment period for the group's Initial Report closed on 28 September; the working group will review all submissions in preparation for its Final Report. This project remains on track.
SSAD Supplemental Recommendations	The SSAD Supplemental Recommendations Team remains on track to publish its recommendations for Public Comment after ICANN87.
Latin Diacritics PDP	The GNSO Council will consider the working group's Final Report (delivered ahead of schedule) in October.
RIR Governance	The ASO Advisory Council completed and delivered a final draft document in September 2026. ICANN and the RIRs are expected to begin their respective approval processes in Q1 2027.
	PENDING BOARD ACTION
ccPDP4	The Board is preparing to take formal action on the recommendations at the AGM in October 2026.
RSS GWG	The Board is continuing its discussion of the recommendations.
	POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN PROGRESS
RPM Phase 1	Implementation work is continuing. Exploring alternatives for resource shortage to complete.

IDN EPDP Phase 1	Implementation work is continuing. Exploring alternatives for resource shortage to complete.
Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation	On track for target completion date of Q3 2027.
IGO-INGO Curative Rights	Public Comments closed in August; internal work in progress to commence review of submissions with IRT (planned target: Q3 2026).
	IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS IN QUEUE
EPDP Phase 2A	Expected start date TBC.
Translation & Transliteration of gTLD Contact Information	On hold; may need to consider the possibility of retirement given competing priorities and subsequent developments.
ccPDP3	Expected start date remains FY27.

Recommendation Status

	ATRT3 IMPLEMENTATION
Recommendation 3.5	**Complete**
Recommendation 3.6	**Complete**
Recommendations 4.4 and 4.5	**In Progress:** Recommendation 4.4 calls for ICANN to publish an annual status report on the Strategic Objectives, Strategic Goals, and Strategies in the Strategic Plan, adopted every five years, and on Strategic Initiatives in the Five Year Operating Plan, adopted annually. Recommendation 4.5 calls for the same report for the full five years at the end of a Strategic Plan period. This recommendation will be fulfilled by the Planning Management Framework Program with a summary report on the status of the Strategic Initiatives in the Operating Plan and on the Progress Indicators from the Strategic Plan. Timing of completion is expected in March 2027.
	CCT IMPLEMENTATION
Recommendation 6	**Complete**
Recommendation 21, Item 2	**In Progress:** The recommendation is to add more detail on complaint subject matter, abuse type, and affected gTLD to ICANN's public Compliance reports. Compliance has completed the design and reporting requirements. To support accurate metrics and reporting for large-scale abuse complaints, including campaigns involving thousands of domains across multiple gTLDs, Compliance is enhancing

	its complaint processing system to capture all domain and gTLD data.
	SSR2 IMPLEMENTATION
Recommendation 22.2	**In Progress:** The metrics to be published centrally have been defined, and a draft landing page has been created. Business and Legal have approved the feedback form, and the Business team is vetting the feedback collection process and confirming feedback recipients by metric.

Upcoming Board Actions & Decisions

WHO	WHAT
Full Board	**5 October Board Meeting:** Consideration of Reconsideration Request 26-2 and appointment of 2027 Nominating Committee chair and chair-elect. **ICANN87:** Board Meeting agenda still under development at the time this report was drafted.
Board Finance Committee	**1 October:** 1. Approval of motion for Enterprise Resource Planning provider renewal. 2. Approval of motion for FY26 Surplus Transfer to Project Fund.
Board Governance Committee	**Data TBC in October:** Process for slating of Board group memberships.
Board Accountability Mechanism Committee	**5 October:** 1. Review and make a decision on Reconsideration Request 26-3. 2. Review and make a decision on Reconsideration Request 26-4.

Organization Objectives

Objective 1: Engagement Strategy Implementation	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 1.1: Delivery on cross-functionally defined global engagement goals in support of strategy and mission, ensuring a unified voice and zero duplication of engagement efforts.	**30 %**	
Key Result 1.2: Deliver on updated regional engagement strategies that are cross-functional,	**90 %**	

with agreed shared goals and activities in support of global engagement strategy.		
Key Result 1.3: Coalition for Digital Africa initiatives deliver measurable participation increases from stakeholders in Africa and improved resilience and capabilities for DNS infrastructure in the region.	**30 %**	
Key Result 1.4: ccTLD operators begin to exhibit more engagement with ICANN.	**30 %**	

Objective 2: Driving Stakeholder Participation From Awareness to Contribution	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 2.1: Successfully plan and execute the Leadership Program.	**30 %**	
Key Result 2.2: Standardized “ICANN for Beginners”/Newcomers Platform	**70 %**	
Key Result 2.3: Youth Continuity Initiative	**30 %**	
Key Result 2.4: A new internal schema for tracking and measurement of various forms of participation within ICANN.	**12 %**	

Objective 3: Support and Promote the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 3.1: Strengthen ICANN community engagement, awareness, and understanding of geopolitical developments affecting the Internet governance ecosystem, including cooperation with other I* organizations.	**33 %**	
Key Result 3.2: Increased government engagement in multistakeholder processes.	**34 %**	
Key Result 3.3: Comprehensive policy and regulatory initiatives monitoring, analysis, and	**25 %**	

reporting.		
Key Result 3.4: Multistakeholder principles are reflected and/or preserved in the outcomes of the ITU PP-26	**33 %**	

Objective 4: Digital Inclusion	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 4.1: Increased awareness and implementation of UA and IDNs through ICANN programs and outreach, and in cooperation with UNESCO.	**20 %**	
Key Result 4.2: Closure of the 2026 Round application window and timely processing of new gTLD applications received.	**100 %**	

Objective 5: Strengthen Governance in the Root Server System and the Regional Internet Registries	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 5.1: ICANN readiness to implement the proposed Root Server System Governance Working Group recommendations.	**20 %**	
Key Result 5.2: ICANN and each RIR are aligned and ready to implement the new governance framework.	**0 %**	
Key Result 5.3: L-Root strategy development and infrastructure upgrades.	**10 %**	

Objective 6: DNS Abuse Mitigation	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 6.1: Community consensus policy outcome delivered to Board for consideration.	**60 %**	
Key Result 6.2: Enforcement of DNS Abuse amendments to the Base Registry Agreement and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement.	**25 %**	

Monthly reports published on DNS Abuse complaints received, enforcement actions, and outcomes, and inform the community through ad hoc reports, blogs, webinars and presentations to provide additional context and details on enforcement efforts.		
Key Result 6.3: A structured proactive enforcement program for DNS Abuse.	**25 %**	
Key Result 6.4: A more effective means of conducting contractual compliance audits of registries and registrars, enhancing the review related to DNS Abuse mitigation requirements.	**17 %**	
Key Result 6.5: Provide metrics and metadata that builds actionable insights into DNS Abuse that drive strategic, data-informed decision-making.	**20 %**	
Key Result 6.6: Strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to reinforce the shared responsibility of DNS security and stability.	**10 %**	
Key Result 6.7: Improve DNS operators' practices to mitigate abuse resulting from operational flaws and weaknesses. This includes increasing KINDNS practices accessibility and adoption among a broader, more diverse audience.	**7%**	
Key Result 6.8: More effective and data-driven DNS operational practice messaging. Ease of access and global overview of the DNS operational landscape from global, regional and local perspectives.	**5%**	

Objective 7: Registration Data	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 7.1: An updated policy framework for a mechanism for gTLD Registration Data Disclosure Requests	**40 %**	
Key Result 7.2: Conduct a proof of concept with existing law enforcement authority authentication	**30 %**	

mechanisms.		

Objective 8: Community Development and Efficiency	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 8.1: Demonstrated progress of the community structures Continuous Improvement Program.	**12 %**	
Key Result 8.2: Delivery of the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group recommendations.	**30 %**	
Key Result 8.3: Improved utilization of the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct re: Statements of Interest.	**8 %**	

Objective 9: Improving the Policy Lifecycle	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 9.1: Measurable progress on key community policy development projects.	**25 %**	
Key Result 9.2: Demonstration of a coordinated internal approach for policy work.	**20 %**	
Key Result 9.3: Updated guidelines to support efficient policy implementation processes.	**20 %**	

Objective 10: Operational Excellence	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result 10.1: Expand resource identification across ICANN staff. Includes the implementation of the Oracle resource tracking module. Organize the reporting and communication of resources to management (involves all functions).	**15 %**	
Key Result 10.2: Improved forecasting and financial planning supporting continuously improving financial responsibility.	**60 %**	

Key Result 10.3: Implement strengthened performance management approaches that reflect ICANN's culture and reinforce accountability, transparency, and consistency across organizational processes.	**25 %**	
Key Result 10.4: Strengthen ICANN's technology foundation to support scalable architecture, resilient security, and predictable engineering delivery.	**18 %**	
Key Result 10.5: Improve ICANN's workforce enablement through modern, integrated tooling that enhances collaboration, productivity, and data-driven decision-making.	**20%**	
Key Result 10.6: Ensure ICANN org readiness to achieve International Organization for Standardization 27001 certification.	**21%**	

Objective 11: Tracking Emerging Technologies	**Progress**	**Completion**
Key Result .11.1: Formalized workplan, reporting, and communications for the evolution of the Internet's identifier space.	**10%**	
Key Result 11.2: Actively support development and adoption of the DELEG protocol.	**10%**	
Key Result 11.3: Develop capacity to evaluate alternative naming system integration proposals.	**30 %**	
Key Result 11.4: Monitor post-quantum cryptography developments relevant to DNSSEC.	**10%**	
Key Result 11.5: Develop capacity to support DNSSEC DS automation in gTLDs.	**40 %**	
Key Result 11.6: Monitor development of agentic artificial intelligence naming systems.	**10 %**	

Key Result 11.7: Continue to develop capacity for DNS operators, including registries and registrars, on DNS ecosystem security best practices including DNSSEC deployment.	**30%**	

Litigation & Accountability Mechanisms

Party or Subject	Status
Kessler Litigation	Class action antitrust lawsuit filed against Verisign and ICANN.
Zheng Lawsuits [Zheng-State]	Court ordered Plaintiff Zheng to pay ICANN's attorneys' fees and costs related to Zheng's prior (denied) motion to compel.
Reconsideration Request 26-4	BAMC issued Partial Summary Dismissal of Reconsideration Request 26-4.
Reconsideration Requests 26-5, 26-6, and 26-7	Requests 26-5, 26-6, and 26-7 submitted regarding ICANN's approval of a certain Registry Services Evaluation Policy request.
Reconsideration Request 26-8	Request 26-8 submitted regarding termination of an application from the 2012 Round of the New gTLD Program.