

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consisting of numerous small, tilted squares in various shades of blue, orange, grey, and dark blue, arranged in a circular, spiral-like pattern.

Monthly Board Report

Reporting Period: August 2026

Financial Highlights

July 2026 was the first month of fiscal year 2027 (FY27). ICANN has a total expense budget of \$220 million across all segments in the fiscal year. Forecasts for each segment are currently being developed, and expenses are expected to align with budget.

As of 31 Jul 2026	Target	Current
Annual Funding – Actual vs. Budget	≥ 100%	107%
Annual Expense – Actual vs. Budget	≤ 100%	93%
Operating Fund Balance vs. Investment Policy Target	≥ 100%	130%
Reserve Fund Balance vs. Investment Policy Target	≥ 100%	104%
Corporate Compliance Reporting Up-To-Date	100%	100%
Process Efficiency (DFO*, DPO**, and Payroll Processing)	100%	100%

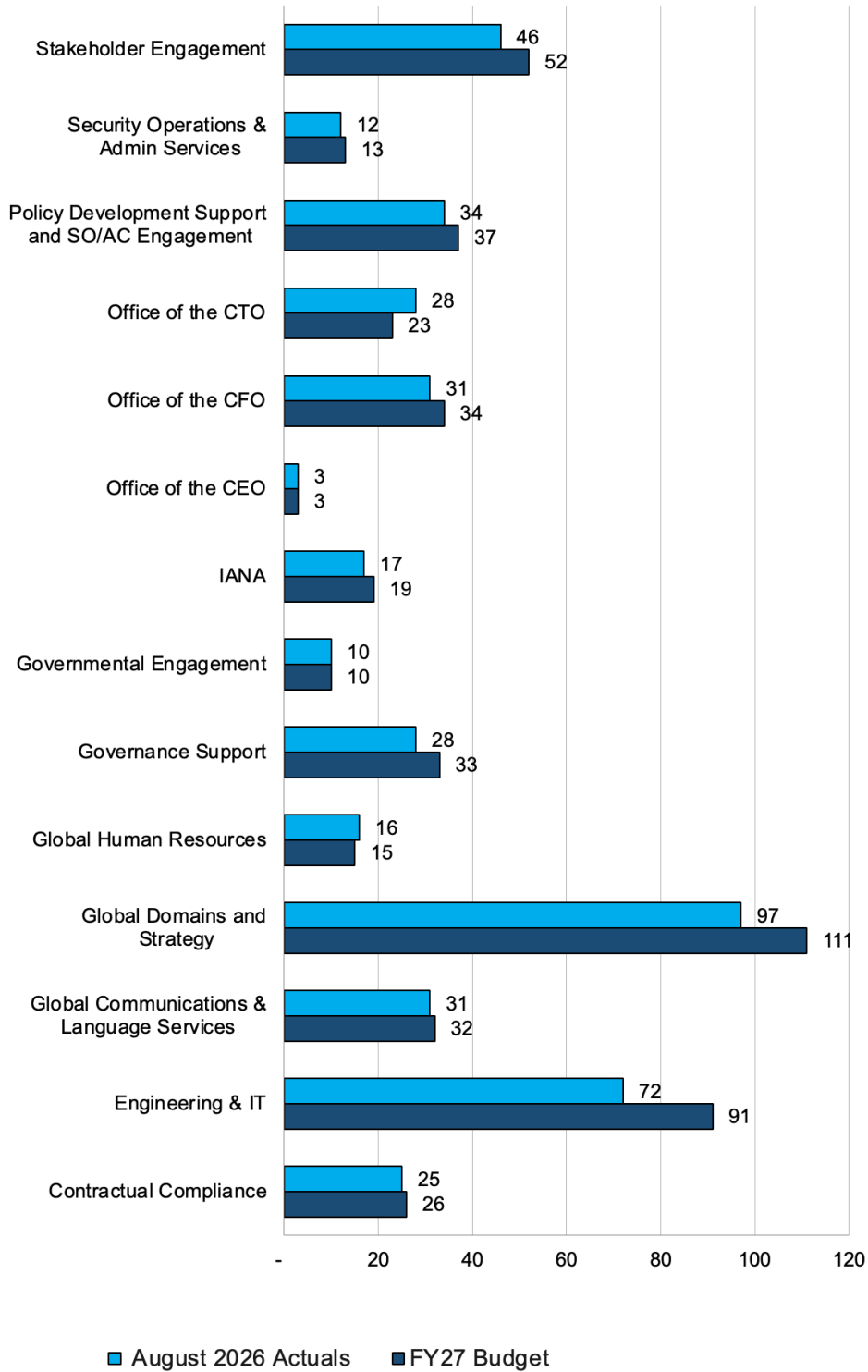
* Days of Funding Outstanding

** Days of Payables Outstanding

People Highlights

	FYTD	FY26
Headcount	450	454
Roles Filled	5	34
External Hires	1	30
Internal Fill Rate	20.0%	14.3%
Time to Fill Average	80 days	105 days
Voluntary Turnover	4.4%	4.9%

Headcount by Function



Board Action Item Updates

Board Project	Status
Policy: 1) BM202510 – Resolving the Remaining GNSO Policy Recommendations on Second-Level IGO Acronym Protections. 2) Cost of Future Policies – Staff to develop the framing and materials to prepare the Board for further discussion on this topic.	Ongoing: Curative Rights for IGOs policy implementation in progress. ICANN's system for monitoring registrations and notifying the relevant IGO is ready. Pending historical GAC advice must be closed via consultation with the GAC. ICANN must define and communicate the process for registries releasing the second-level names from reserved status. In Progress: A next discussion with the Board is being developed.
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 – May 2026: RDRS operations continue while the GNSO begins work on Supplemental Recommendations for the SSAD. ICANN org continues to work with the GAC Public Safety Working Group and law enforcement reps on a planned proof of concept to assess technical requirements for law enforcement authentication. ICANN org issued a call for volunteers for an Input Group: Law Enforcement Authentication Mechanisms to gather community feedback on the planned proof of concept. This transparently led group will be facilitated by the org to ensure progress on identifying operational solutions for law enforcement authentication. Session will be organized during the pre-ICANN87 workshop to present authentication mechanism wireframes that will illustrate possible updates to RDRS for authenticating law enforcement agents requesting access to nonpublic gTLD registration data.
Ombuds: BW202606 – The Board agreed to approve the Framework with the following	In Progress: The Board approved the Framework in July 2026 and the additional

considerations: a separate workstream, time to discuss the questions, a deadline for completing the tasks, and plan to address the issues.	actions requested are in progress.
WS2: BW202610 – Provide Board briefing on the WS2 Rec. 5.8 re: an Ombuds office panel, and its potential retirement.	Ongoing: ICANN org is assessing next steps; expected after 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 Working Group published its Initial Report for Public Comment in August 2026 (closing on 28 September); this project remains on track.
EPDP Phase 2 (SSAD)	The Supplemental Recommendations Team remains on track to publish its draft proposals for Public Comment after ICANN87.
Latin Diacritics PDP	The Working Group has delivered its Final Report to the

	GNSO Council, ahead of its projected schedule. The Council will begin considering the report at its September meeting.
RIR Governance	ICANN and the RIRs are now expected to begin their respective approval processes in Q1 2027 (previously Q4 2026).
	PENDING BOARD ACTION
ccPDP4	The Board will consider next steps recommended by the Board Caucus Group at its September workshop, with expected Board action at ICANN87.
RSS GWG	The Board will continue its discussion of the recommendations at its September workshop.
	POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
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.
Transfer Policy	Currently in the planning process; considered a priority project.
IDN EPDP Phase 2	Currently in the planning process; possibility of consolidation with related IDN projects.

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. The Stakeholder Programs and Implementation Operations teams are defining the process for feedback collection and publication, and E&IT will implement once determined.
	WS2 IMPLEMENTATION
Recommendation 5.8	Not Started: This recommendation is about establishing an Ombuds Advisory Panel. ICANN org is further considering possible implementation scenarios and clearing dependencies before moving forward.

Upcoming Board Actions & Decisions

WHO	WHAT
Full Board	Workshop LA 4–6 September: Agenda 6 September Board Meeting
Board Finance Committee	29 September: Approval of Project Fund Utilization for E&IT Maturity and Digital Transformation
Board Governance Committee	6 & 22 September: 1) Process for Slating of Board group memberships 2) Selection of NomCom Leadership

Organization Objectives

Objective 1: Engagement Strategy Implementation	Progress	Completion
Key Result 1.1: Deliver 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, with agreed shared goals and activities in support of global engagement strategy.	90 %	
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.	20 %	

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 %	

Objective 2: Driving Stakeholder Participation From Awareness to Contribution	Progress	Completion
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.	10 %	

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.	25 %	
Key Result 3.2: Increased government engagement in multistakeholder processes.	25 %	
Key Result 3.3: Comprehensive policy and regulatory initiatives monitoring, analysis and reporting.	17 %	
Key Result 3.4: Multistakeholder principles are reflected and/or preserved in the outcomes of the ITU PP-26.	25 %	

Objective 4: Digital Inclusion	Progress	Completion
Key Result 4.1: Increased awareness and implementation of UA and Internationalized Domain Names through ICANN programs and outreach, and in cooperation with UNESCO.	15 %	
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 (RIRs)	Progress	Completion
Key Result 5.1: ICANN readiness to implement the proposed Root Server System Governance Working Group recommendations.	17 %	
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.	50 %	
Key Result 6.2: Enforcement of DNS Abuse amendments to the Base Registry Agreement and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement. 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.	17 %	
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.	0 %	
Key Result 6.7: Improve DNS operators practices to mitigate abuse resulting from operational flaws and weaknesses. This includes increasing	5 %	

Objective 6: DNS Abuse Mitigation	Progress	Completion
KINDNS practices accessibility and adoption among a broader, more diverse audience.		
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.	25 %	
Key Result 7.2: Conduct a proof of concept with existing law enforcement authority authentication mechanisms.	0 %	

Objective 8: Community Development and Efficiency	Progress	Completion
Key Result 8.1: Demonstrated progress of the community structures Continuous Improvement Program.	10 %	
Key Result 8.2: Delivery of the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group recommendations.	15 %	
Key Result 8.3: Improved utilization of the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct re: Statements of Interest.	5 %	

Objective 9: Improving the Policy Lifecycle	Progress	Completion
Key Result 9.1: Measurable progress on key community policy development projects.	17 %	
Key Result 9.2: Demonstration of a coordinated internal approach for policy work.	17 %	
Key Result 9.3: Updated guidelines to support efficient policy implementation processes.	17 %	

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.	30 %	
Key Result 10.3: Implement strengthened performance management approaches that reflect ICANN's culture and reinforce accountability, transparency, and consistency across organizational processes.	0 %	
Key Result 10.4: Strengthen ICANN's technology foundation to support scalable architecture, resilient security, and predictable engineering delivery.	16 %	
Key Result 10.5: Improve ICANN's workforce enablement through modern, integrated tooling that enhances collaboration, productivity, and data-driven decision-making.	8 %	
Key Result 10.6: Ensure ICANN org readiness to achieve International Organization for Standardization 27001 certification.	14 %	

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.	50 %	
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.	14 %	
Key Result 11.6: Monitor development of agentic artificial intelligence naming systems.	10 %	

Objective 11: Tracking Emerging Technologies	Progress	Completion
Key Result 11.7: Continue to develop capacity for DNS operators, including registries and registrars, on DNS ecosystem security best practices, including DNSSEC deployment.	5%	

Litigation & Accountability Mechanisms

Party or Subject	Status
Zheng Lawsuits [Zheng-State]	Court granted ICANN's motion declaring plaintiff a vexatious litigant and entered judgment dismissing the case.
Zheng Lawsuits [Zheng-State-Appeal]	Plaintiff Zheng appealed certain of the court's orders; Court of Appeal denied the plaintiff's petition.
Zheng Lawsuits [Zhu-Federal]	Court took hearing on ICANN's motion to dismiss off calendar; court will issue decision without oral argument.
Reconsideration Request 26-2	BAMC completed merits evaluation and issued BAMC recommendation.
Reconsideration Request 26-3	BAMC denied request for urgent consideration; BAMC completed procedural evaluation.
Reconsideration Request 26-4	Request 26-4 submitted regarding ICANN's change of status of requestor's new gTLD application from the 2012 Round to "terminated."
Cooperative Engagement Process (CEP)	CEP is challenging Board's denial of Request 25-3 and ICANN's responses to requestor's Documentary Information Disclosure Policy requests concluded.