

NEWSLETTER

Project Update - June to Nov 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Power to the Fishers (PTF) project aims to enhance the socio-economic livelihood of fishing communities within selected districts of the coastal savannah zone of Ghana. Welcome to the 2020 second half newsletter which presents updates on the progress of the project and upcoming activities.

For further information about the PTF project, visit: www.powertothefishers.com

THE PTF PROJECT ORGANIZES COVID-19 SENSITIZATION AND DONATION OF RELIEF ITEMS IN TARGET COMMUNITIES



Project team sensitizing fisherfolk on COVID-19 in the Awutu-Senya district

The PTF project organized community sensitization engagements and donation of relief items in August 2020 within its project communities. A total of 562 fisherfolks were engaged and sensitized in 20 project communities. The relief items donated include bags of rice, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, reusable nose masks and "Veronica" buckets - these were received on behalf of the target beneficiaries by the lead community fisherfolk (chief fishermen and chief fishmongers). All Covid-19 safety protocols were duly observed to ensure the safety of all concerned.

Additionally, the PTF project team shared posters and flyers on COVID-19 to ensure public awareness within

the communities, and also to enhance visibility of the project.



PTF project team presenting relief items to beneficiaries in the Shama Apo District

STUDY TOUR ORGANIZED FOR LEAD FISHMONGERS IN THE PROJECT DISTRICTS



Study tour for lead fishmongers at the CEWEFIA Compliance Facility

As a means of creating awareness and enhancing fisherfolk's knowledge of improved technologies, study tours were organized for 60 lead fishmongers from the Effutu Municipal, Ekumfi, Gomoa-West and Awutu Senya districts. The study tours were organized at the Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) compliance facility in September 2020, at Elmina. The purpose of the study tour was to expose the lead fishmongers to the improved smoking technology, as well as good fish handling and hygienic practices.



A facilitator training fishmongers on fish packaging at the CEWEFIA Facility

During the study tours, the lead fishmongers were shown the various sections of the smoking centre. Educational sessions were held on appropriate ways of handling fish before, during and after processing, after which demonstrations were given on some improved ways of packaging fish for value addition. The fishmongers were also taken through all the fish smoking processes using the Ahotor oven. More so, the beneficiaries were exposed to improved and more hygienic methods of drying fish. As agents of change, the lead fishmongers were encouraged to disseminate lessons learnt in order to promote the adoption of improved technologies among other fishmongers.

GROUP FORMATION ACTIVITY

In November 2020, the PTF project team embarked on the creation of learning groups in project districts, in order to promote participation and commitment to project activities and also to allow for knowledge transfer among the target beneficiaries.



Learning group formation in Woarabeba Community

The project will thus utilize groups to foster;

- The adoption of improved and environmentally friendly smoking technologies and fuels.
- Capacity building on appropriate fish processing and business practices, environmental protection, climate change, health and safety.

- Strategic partnerships between target groups and social protection service providers.

In all, 25 learning groups have been adopted and formed within the project communities. The groups consist of an average member strength of 25 fish processors (this includes the lead fishmonger).



Learning group formation in Kontakore Community

INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS WITH NHIA DISTRICT OFFICES



PTF team visit to the National Health Insurance office responsible for the Ekumfi District

Creating strategic partnership between social protection service providers and beneficiaries is a key objective of the PTF project. One of the focal social protection services is the health insurance. The PTF team visited the National Health Insurance offices in Effutu municipal, Gomoa West, Ekumfi and Shama districts to brief them on the ongoing project and to discuss how fisherfolks can easily access affordable health care. Discussions with the National Health Insurance Authority revealed the fisherfolk's low patronage of the National Health Insurance Scheme and the challenges faced by both the NHIA and the fisherfolk. The PTF team and the NHIA officials concluded on plans towards organizing sensitization meetings, registration exercises for fisherfolks, and the renewal of cards.

CONSTRUCTION OF FISH-SMOKING CENTRES



Ongoing Construction of Fish Smoking Centre at Senya Breku

In response to the paucity of appropriate fish processing and handling systems, and as part of the project's objectives, communal fish smoking facilities are being constructed in some select communities within the target districts. These centres will be furnished with the Ahotor oven. In line with the commencement of the construction, series of community engagements were conducted in 13 earmarked communities to prepare the ground for the construction and usage of the fish processing centres.



Ongoing Construction of Fish Smoking Centre at Otuaam Community

These activities included group formation engagements with the women fish processors, study tours that provided training on best fish handling practices to the fish processors, acquisition of lands, handing over of the land sites to the contractors among others. So far, 3 fish processing centers have been constructed in 3 communities namely; Otuaam, Dago and Winneba in the Ekumfi, Gomoa West and Effutu districts respectively.

DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE

The PTF project conducted a research study into the social and financial inclusion of fisherfolk in the project communities in accord with project visibility and learning approach. The objective of the study was to investigate the perceptions, knowledge and adoption rate of social protection services and mobile money among fisherfolks. This essential exercise aimed to track progress and outcomes, to inform PTF activities in enhancing fisherfolk access to social protection services.



Interview with fishmongers in the PTF project community

The project team developed and pre-tested data collection tools towards primary data collection. It employed a mixed methodology approach to data collection by adopting two data collection techniques - survey and interviews. The team engaged a sample size of 500 fisherfolk (including fish processors and fishermen) and 13 officials of relevant SPS. These included National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), financial institutions, and the mobile money service providers in the target project districts. The research study will culminate in two research reports and a learning workshop where findings of the research will be communicated to relevant stakeholders.



Interview session with an NHIS Official for Ekumfi District

NHIS SENSITIZATION AND REGISTRATION



Prior to these sensitization sessions, it was discovered that there was low enrolment unto the scheme due to limited knowledge, misconceptions surrounding the scheme, and bad experiences. Thus, 738 community folks were educated on the importance of health insurance, sign-up modalities, innovative means of renewing subscriptions, and how to easily access information. Fisherfolks after sensitization were keenly interested in subscribing to the service with others who did not see the need also signing up. In addition, the NHIA personnel did new registrations as well as card renewals for 658 participants and other members of the communities.



The project team in November 2020 organized series of sensitization meetings between beneficiaries and the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA). These meetings were organized across the project districts; Awutu Senya, Effutu municipal, Gomoa West and Ekumfi districts.

CERATH Development Organization is implementing the **Power to the Fishers** project with financial support from the **European Union**. The Power to the Fishers project is a four-year project to enhance the socio-economic livelihoods of fishing communities within selected districts of the coastal savannah zones of Ghana.

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