



European Union



POWER TO THE FISHERS COMMUNIQUE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE FOR FISHERFOLK

Preamble

The Power to the Fishers (PTF) project organized a learning workshop in February 2021 at the Mensvic Hotel, East Legon in Accra. The learning workshop was to share with stakeholders the project's achievements and lessons learnt. The occasion afforded the project the opportunity to present findings on the research titled: ***Issues in fisherfolk financial inclusion and social protection coverage***. As part of the workshop, there was a panel discussion and open forum on: ***Prospects for Social Protection Coverage amid a Pandemic: Consolidating Gains within Fishing Communities in the wake of COVID-19 and beyond***. Deliberations and recommendations from the session are captured below:

Recommendations

- The Ministry of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) and Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MoGCSP) are to provide frequent education and incentives to enhance patronage of social protection services and fishery resource management respectively among fisherfolk in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Government of Ghana (GoG) and policy makers are to concentrate more efforts and interventions within the coastal communities of Ghana. Most of such communities are extremely poor and target efforts should be made at elevating their standards of living. Alternative livelihood programmes, such as mushroom production and bee keeping, must be considered as approaches to help boost the fisherfolk financially.
- GoG and relevant state authorities must strengthen policies that address the decline in fish catch. Supporting the fisherfolk with social protection services is counterproductive without the right measures to restore the biological fishery resource. Fisherfolk will continue to be adversely affected as their livelihoods are directly dependent on fish availability.
- The promotion of aquaculture and the closed season must be deepened to fast track the restoration of fish stock, even as GoG and MoFAD consider other effective measures.

- The GoG, MoFAD, and MoGCSP should put in place measures to revive the now defunct ***Fisherman Life Insurance Scheme***, as it was hugely beneficial to fisherfolk.

Conclusion

In attendance were 46 participants, drawn from some government institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), financial institutions, academia, the PTF project districts and the media.

The Power to the Fishers project is being funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by CERATH Development Organization (CDO). Views expressed here is an aggregation of deliberations communicated by sector stakeholders during the PTF workshop, and in no way suggestive of the EU's opinions.

Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu

Regional Director, CDO

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