

## NEWSLETTER

Project Update - December 2021 to May 2022

Issue 06

### 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 December 2021–May 2022 newsletter which presents updates on activities and the progress of the project.

For further information about the PTF project, visit: [www.powertothefishers.com](http://www.powertothefishers.com)

### ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.



*Enterprise Development Training with fisherfolk in the Aberekum Community*

During this reporting period, the project team continued with sessions on enterprise development training (EDT) across the project communities.



*Fisherfolks being trained on enterprise development training at Apam*

The sessions were targeted at honing the business management and entrepreneurial skills sets of fisherfolk. Fisherfolk were educated on topics such as cost analysis, profit and loss accounting, records keeping, mobilizing finance, managing business risks, and marketing strategies.

### FISH HANDLING TRAINING.



*Fish processors from the Immuna community being trained on the use of Ahotor oven*

The team further trained fishmongers across 5 project communities on appropriate fish handling practices. The training, which were carried out in the PTF-constructed fish processing centers (FPCs) and in the sheds of some fish processors, educated beneficiaries on fish hygiene, storage, and packaging.

Additionally, processors were trained on occupational safety and the use & functionality of the Ahotor oven.



*Fish processors trained on fish packaging in Woorabeba*

## VSLA MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION, AND SHARE OUT

Within this period, the team facilitated the formation of an additional Village Savings & Loans Association (VSLA), named Dofo, in the Ekumfi District. This brings the number of VSLAs formed to 16.

The team also undertook monitoring visits to observe the meeting procedures of the existing VSLAs. The monitoring visits were to provide feedback to the groups on modalities and compliance to the Village Savings & Loans (VSL) model. Additionally, the team visited the groups periodically to capture data on their financial performance. From this engagement, it was noted that an amount of Gh¢ 264,685.00 had been raised by the groups and Gh¢ 99,100.00 disbursed as loans to members.



*Collection of data on the 'Susuka' VSLA in the Otuam community*

The period also saw the share out of 13 VSLAs, which brought a successful end to their first cycle. The team was present to reiterate the necessary procedure in carrying out a share-out and calculating monies due each member. The social funds — raised to cater for the welfare needs of members — were agreed by some groups to be used as seed capital for the next VSLA cycle; other groups, for the purchase of chairs for rentals.



*Share-out exercise of the Nyame Nti VSLA in the Senya Bereku community*

## COMMENCEMENT OF VSLA SECOND CYCLE



*Commencement of Abotre VSLA new cycle*

The reporting period witnessed the commencement of the second cycle of 15 VSLAs (2 of these had their share out in the previous reporting window).

Prior to the commencement of the second cycle, the project team met with the respective VSLAs — consisting of existing and new members — and carried out a refresher training on the tenets of the VSL model. A new constitution was developed, and new executives were elected.

## DATA COLLECTION BY PTF STUDENT RESEARCHERS



*Focus group discussion at Mumford.*

Subsequent to the reconnaissance visit (discussed in the [previous issue](#)) to the project communities, the 5 student researchers embarked on data collection for their respective research. The data collection was preceded by the receipt of ethical clearance from the Ethical Review Board (of the University of Cape Coast) and a pre-test.

The data collection activities employed surveys (using questionnaires), focus group discussions, and the collection of smoked fish samples (for onward



lab analysis). The data collected will be analysed using statistical tools. It is anticipated that the resulting research reports would be finalized by December 2022.



*Laboratory analysis of smoke fish samples*

### **CSO-RISE PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The period also saw the PTF team participate in the Civil Society Organization in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) programme steering committee meeting.

Present at the meeting were the other implementing organizations (grantees) under the CSO-RISE programme: ActionAid Ghana (AAG), Center for Local Governance Advocacy (CLGA), and Cooperazione Internazionale Sud-Sud (CISS).



*The PTF project manager making a presentation on the project implementation status*

The meeting provided an opportunity for all four grantees to provide updates on their respective projects and share milestones, challenges and lessons learnt.

Recommendations were proffered by the steering committee to strengthen each project's efforts, address challenges, and enhance impact across beneficiary landscapes.

### **TAT AND NAO FIELD VISIT**



*Meeting between the delegation and the FC officer for Ekumfi District*

In April 2022, the project team welcomed a delegation from the National Authorizing Office (NAO) (of the Ministry of Finance) and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) for a one-day field verification visit.

The Ministry of Finance is in partnership with the European Union (EU) to rollout the CSO-RISE programme. The TAT was contracted by MoF to support the implementation of the CSO-RISE programme.



*TAT and NAO representatives meeting with NHIA Gomoa District officer.*

The delegation visited some key project collaborators: the Fisheries Commission (Ekumfi District) and National Health Insurance Authority (Gomoa West District). The discussions centred on successes of the forged partnerships and how the successes can be sustained.

The TAT and NAO also visited project areas to observe, firsthand, the work done. Towards this, the delegation interacted with stove host beneficiaries within the Asaafa community. The delegation proceeded to Senya Bereku to inspect the communal smoking centre (built by the project) and interact with members of the PTF-formed *Nyame Nti* VSLA.

The delegation debriefed the project team at the end of each engagement and made recommendations at enhancing the project's impacts



*The delegation interacting with fish processors at the FPC at Senya Bereku*

**CERATH Development Organization** is implementing the **Power to the Fishers project** with financial support from the **European Union** under the **CSO-RISE programme**. The Power to the Fishers project is a four-year fisheries management intervention targeted at providing livelihood support to fisherfolk in the Awutu Senya, Effutu, Gomoa West, Ekumfi, and Shama districts of Ghana.

**Project Co-Funded by:**



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GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

**Project Implemented by:**



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