



POWER TO THE FISHERS PROJECT

POWER TO THE FISHERS CLOSURE WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP REPORT



**ERATA HOTEL, EAST LEGON,
15TH FEBRUARY 2023**



**Funded by
the European Union**



**REPUBLIC OF GHANA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**



This publication is available electronically in the following locations:

- The Power to the Fishers Project <http://powertothefishers.com/>
- CERATH Development Organization <https://cerathdev.org/>

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Citation

CERATH Development Organization (2022). Year 3 Learning Workshop. Power to the Fishers (PTF) Project

Funding

Prepared with funding from the European Union (EU) under Grant Agreement (FED 2019/407-359) awarded on June 1, 2019, to CERATH Development Organization, and entitled the Power to the Fishers (PTF) project. The grant was made available under the Civil Society Organization in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) programme.

Cover Photo

Group picture of participants for the closure workshop

ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CDO	CERATH Development Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSO-RISE	Civil Society Organisation in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
FC	Fisheries Commission
FPC	Fish Processing Centre
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
ISD	Infrastructure and Sustainable Development
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
PTF	Power to the Fishers
SFCLS	Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
UCC	University of Cape Coast
VA	Village Agent
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CERATH Development Organisation (CDO) would like to extend its sincerest appreciation to all who contributed to the successful implementation of the Power to the Fishers project (PTF).

Particular thanks go to the European Union (EU) for their generous support of this initiative under the Civil Society Organisation in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development Programme. The project was only possible with the funds.

The organisation is also grateful to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission for their assistance and guidance, particularly at the project's inception.

Special thanks further extend to the University of Cape Coast's Center for Coastal Management and to all stakeholders who participated in the various research conducted during the project phase.

Also, the Project Team appreciates the unwavering support and commitment of the project's target beneficiaries and communities. Their contribution was instrumental in the project's success.

Finally, we thank the Almighty for His divine guidance.

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

The European Union (EU), under the Civil Society Organisation in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) programme, funded the implementation of the four-year livelihood empowerment intervention for fisherfolk, dubbed the Power of the Fishers (PTF) project. The project aimed to enhance the socio-economic livelihood of fishing communities within selected coastal districts through stakeholder engagements for advocacy, promotion of efficient fish smoking technologies and practices, capacity building and communities' education on climate change, and enhancing access to social protection services.

CERATH Development Organization (CDO), which aims to empower rural and urban poor communities in Ghana and West Africa, implemented the Power to the Fishers project. CDO executes its goals through partnerships with relevant stakeholders and the development of interventions aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities & sustenance; strengthening food security; promoting women, youth, & rural empowerment; good governance; financial inclusion, and social protection coverage.

After four (4) years of successful implementation, the PTF project has concluded. As such, the workshop was organized to disseminate key achievements under the intervention and officially announce the project's closure to pertinent stakeholders.

1.2 Purpose of Gathering and Welcome Address the Project Manager, PTF

The event commenced with an address by Mr. Derek Adabie, the Project Manager (PTF), who provided a brief overview of the project. He highlighted that the PTF was a component of the CSO-RISE program, which was funded by the EU, whilst emphasizing that the event marked the official closure of the project.

Mr. Adabie recommends the replication of successes and achievements of the project in other regions and sectors across the coastal landscape of Ghana. Additionally, he acknowledged the efforts of project collaborations and partners, noting that the project's success resulted from their contributions. He further extended his gratitude to the EU, the project's funding partner, for their financial investment that transforms the lives of coastal communities. He also expressed his gratitude to other relevant stakeholders in the government and private sectors, namely, the Technical Assistance Team (TAT), the Fisheries Commission, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Center for Coastal Management (CCM) of the University of Cape Coast (UCC) for their support of the project.

He concluded by warmly welcoming all participants to the workshop.



Figure 1: Mr Derek Adabie, Project Manager of the PTF project delivering the welcome address.

1.3 Opening Remarks by the Fisheries Commission

Representing the Fisheries Commission, Mr. Jescitan Tetteh, the Deputy Director of the commission began his address with a quote by Nathan Chen which reads, “ It is crazy/amazing how time flies and how things progress”. He recalled that four years ago, he and almost all those gathered witnessed the launch of the PTF project. He reiterated that the PTF project aimed to enhance the socio-economic livelihoods of fishers through women and youth empowerment, adoption of fish hygiene practices and climate-smart processing technologies and mangrove conservation. He pointed out that the purpose of the gathering was to delve into the successes and challenges in project implementation and reflect on the next steps.

The Deputy Director further acknowledged the EU and CDO for funding and implementing their quota in fisheries management, respectively.

He highlighted the critical role women play in the fisheries value chain, citing that women mostly employ fish processing methods, especially smoking (accounting for 75% of all processed, domestic catch), to process fish. He stated that their use of unhygienic techniques is of a major concern to regulators and other stakeholders in the fisheries sector. Additionally, he lamented that despite the critical role of women in terms of value addition to fishery products, they are still often marginalized in the sector.

He recounted several efforts by the Commission to promote hygienic fish handling and use of improved technologies. These include the distribution of 541 Ahotor ovens, construction of 37 FAO- Thiaroye processing techniques, distribution of 50 fresh fish meters (torrymetre) to landing beaches, and training on business modules towards women empowerment.



Figure 2: Mr Jescitan Tetteh, Deputy Director of the Fisheries Commission giving his opening remarks.

Again, he pointed out some pertinent issues in the sector being addressed through the FC's collaborations with CDO;

1. Coastal ecosystem preservation through the use of efficient ovens with decreased dependence on fuel wood;
2. Provision of compliant fish processing facilities to promote safe and quality fish products;
3. Curtailing women's vulnerability through the establishment of the village savings and loans associations (VSLAs)
4. Awareness creation and sensitization activities on the 2021 closed fishing season in the Central region

In concluding his speech, Mr. Tetteh congratulated all partners of the PTF project. He added that other stakeholders should build on the efforts made by the PTF project and the FC while addressing any emerging challenges. Finally, in relation to ongoing projects in the sector, he urged all stakeholders to work on effectively coordinating and complementing each other.

1.4 Opening Remarks by European Union Representative

The head of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development (ISD) of the EU, Madam Paulina Rozycka, in her speech, revealed that the European Union Delegation (EUD) launched the CSO-RISE to foster initiatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) to address economic, social,

and climate-resilient issues through economic interventions that would sustainably manage ecosystems in the country. She stated in her speech that the EU took particular interest in the PTF project due to its potential to critically address pressing issues in the fisheries sector.

Speaking on some of these issues, Madam Paulina Rozycka mentioned that the overexploitation of fisheries resources results in food and economic insecurity. She touched on the issues of fish quality and safety, which have been prominent and have culminated in the non-acceptance of Ghanaian-processed fish on international markets. This situation, she said, is largely hinged on the smoking technologies and fish handling practices employed. Additionally, she pointed out that the livelihoods of fisherfolk are further hampered by the low subscription rates to social protection schemes.

She stated that the PTF project has contributed to advancing advocacy, promoting climate- smart technologies, enhancing capacities, and facilitating social protection coverage for rural coastal folk. Again, she noted in her speech that the Delegation was elated by the decision taken by the government to execute the closed fishing season for all fleets, which is targeted at rebuilding fish stocks. This, she said, syncs with the EUD's agenda to ensure effective conservation and management of natural ecosystems. In addition, she mentioned that the recently launched and subsequent rollout of the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS) would also boost the sector's efforts at enhancing fish safety and quality.



Figure 3: Madam Paulina Rozycka, EU Representative giving her opening remarks

Speaking on EU's contribution to the sector, she indicated that the EU is committed to supporting the Blue Economy, Ocean Governance, Sustainable Fisheries Management, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in its current programming. She

also stated that the EU is funding other fisheries initiatives at the regional level; the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) project with a budget of € 27.5 Million, implemented by the Africa Union, and the Improved Fisheries Governance in Western Africa(PESCAO) project with a budget of € 15 Million, implemented by ECOWAS.

In concluding her speech, she urged all stakeholders to continue working assiduously to deepen efforts at rebuilding fish stocks, enhance transparency and regulatory mechanisms, strengthen co-management structures, and institute measures that will foster the socioeconomic livelihoods of fisherfolk.

1.5 Opening Remarks by the National Authorizing Office – Ministry of Finance

In his short speech, Mr. Edward Chonia, the representative for NAO, commended the PTF project team for the successful implementation of the project, stating his eagerness to hear about the project's impacts and the way forward.



Figure 4: Mr Edward Chonia, representative from the Ministry of Finance giving his openingremarks.

1.6 Opening Remarks by the Technical Assistance Team

Madam Mary Tobbin-Osei, the lead for the TAT of the CSO-RISE programme, also gave a brief background of the programme and its impacts in ensuring inclusive growth and reduction in social inequalities. She noted that the 9 million Euro project forms part of interventions to support the priorities set in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) II.

As part of her speech, Madam Mary Tobbin-Osei spoke on each intervention under the programme, including the Power to the Fishers (PTF) project and how the project has innovatively addressed economic, social, and climate-resilient issues. She further spoke on the opportunities the PTF project has provided to fishing communities and the diligence on the part of the project team in submitting progress reports. She concluded by commending the project team for a good job done and to continue its efforts in scaling the project.



Figure 5: Madam Mary Tobbin-Osei, Team Lead for TAT delivering her opening remarks.

1.7 Opening Remarks by the CDO Director for West Africa

Mr. Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu commenced his address by expressing his heartfelt sentiments on the official closure of the PTF project. He recounted how swiftly four years of project implementation had gone by, noting that it was heartwarming to hold the project closure at the same hotel that hosted the inception workshop.

The Director then recalled relevant activities that have impacted the lives of the project beneficiaries. He mentioned major achievements comprising the construction of six communal fish smoking centres, the establishment of 30 improved stove hosts, empowerment of 2,127 fishmongers on improved fish handling and smoking practices, capacity building sessions on enterprise development resulting in improved business management and skills set of target fishmongers, the enrolment of 2,344 project community members unto quality health insurance services, the institution of VSLAs which have generated GHS 264,685, financial

support for masters students on project related research and also recruitment of project interns both from Ghana and abroad.

Further in his address, Mr. Osei-Owusu acknowledged the inputs of the various stakeholders towards achieving the project outcomes. He mentioned the EU, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), FC, Environmental Justice Foundation, Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, Conservation Alliance, Centre for Coastal Management, and some individuals who supported CDO at various points in the execution of the project.



Figure 6: CDO Director for West Africa delivering his opening remarks

Furthermore, the Director admitted that work in the fisheries sector is yet to be completed. He noted that the PTF alone could not have addressed all the setbacks in the sector. In his speech, the Director intimated that the PTF has had a positive influence in accordance with its success stories and evaluation results, further indicating that CDO has served humanity, particularly the beneficiaries of the project.

Finally, the Director expressed his views on the need for continuity of the PTF project. With this, he quoted a Chinese proverb, “Consider the past, and you shall know the future”, adding that the project has impacted lives and achieved its goal. He however stated that without continuity in other coastal areas, its impact would be eclipsed by the magnitude of needs within the fisheries sector across Ghana. He therefore announced CERATH’s commitment to consolidating pillars through developing new interventions and spreading its tentacles to the Greater Accra and Volta regions. He ended his address on a personal note by intimating that the PTF project was “an honor of a lifetime”.

SECTION 2 – KEY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESENTATION

2.1 Presentation on the Power to the Fishers Project

The presentation, delivered by the Project Manager, Mr. Derek Adabie, dwelled on the key activities undertaken, challenges encountered, successes achieved, lessons learned and some sustainability measures. Following this, Mr. Adabie pointed out challenges encountered during project implementation. He stated the incidence of COVID-19, which impacted project delivery due to the ban on movement and limitations on numbers for social gatherings. Other challenges mentioned included project meetings which coincided with fish landing days, threats of illiteracy to VSLA record keeping and poor internet connectivity in some communities, which affected subscriptions during the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) registration.

Speaking on the successes/results realized by the project, Mr. Adabie stated that 30 ovens for individual use and 6 communal smoking centres have been constructed. Additionally, 3,215 fisherfolk have been trained in fish handling, technology adoption, and enterprise development. 2,864 community members have also been sensitized and subscribed to social protection schemes. In addition, the 30 VSLAs formed by the project have amassed Gh¢ 264,685.00 and more. He also mentioned the cessation of illegal transshipment of by-catch through a campaign against Saiko with like-minded CSOs. Furthermore, success stories from the project were underscored, including testimonials from beneficiaries of the stove host model, NHIS, VSLA and student researchers supported by the project.



Figure 7: Mr Derek Adabie presenting on the PTF project.

Lessons learnt from the project included,

- Fisherfolk hold their fish supreme
- The outcomes of previous interventions have impacts on new ones
- Diligent collective efforts yield much
- Continued education is critical in facilitating the adoption of new improved technologies.

Finally, measures in place to ensure community-level continuity of the intervention and its outcomes were indicated in the presentation. Measures he touched on include Community-based youth artisans trained on the construction & maintenance of the improved ovens, the establishment of a management regime & recruitment of anchors to administer the fish processing centres (FPCs), and training of village agents (VA) to monitor and aid in the formation of new VSLAs.

SECTION 3 – DOCUMENTARY FILM

3.1 Documentary Film of the Power to the Fishers Project

A documentary film detailing the project themes and successes was showcased to participants at workshop. Also, activities carried out during the project, impacts, testimonials and success stories of project beneficiaries and remarks of key stakeholders relating to the project's relevance and delivery were communicated through the documentary.

3.1 Closing Remarks

The workshop concluded with some remarks from Mr. Osei-Owusu. In his remarks, he thanked the EU for the funding and immense support given to the project. He also appreciated the efforts of Ministry of Finance, FC, TAT, NHIA, beneficiaries of the project other stakeholders and the project team for their hard work and commitment to the implementation of the project. He concluded by appealing to the EU for more funding opportunities to scale the intervention to other regions of Ghana.

ANNEXES

Annex A – Program Outline

Time	Main Activity	Person Responsible
9:00 am	Arrival / Registration	Project Team
9:30 am	Opening Prayer	
9:35 am	Purpose of Gathering & Welcome Address	Project Manager, PTF
9:45 am	Opening Remarks	MoFAD/FC
		European Union Delegation Rep
		NAO (Ministry of Finance)
		Technical Assistance Team
		Regional Director, CDO
10:15 am	Presentation on the Power to the Fishers Project Questions & Answers	Project Manager, PTF
10:50 am	Group Photo & Coffee Break	All Participants
11:25 am	Documentary Film of the Power to the Fishers Project	
11:55 pm	Closing Remarks	Regional Director, CDO
12:00 pm	Closing Prayer	
12:05 pm	Lunch & Departure	All Participants

Annex B – Participant List

No.	Name of Participant	Position/Name of Organization	Location (Region)
1	Jescitan Tetteh S.	Deputy Director, Fisheries Commission	Greater Accra
2	Grace Charway	Project Manager, Fisheries Commission	Greater Accra
3	Mia Kamarainen	Adviser, Norwegian Embassy	Greater Accra
4	Paulina Rozycka	Head of ISD, European Union	Greater Accra
5	Christopher Ackon	Programs Manager, European Union	Greater Accra
6	Edward Chonia	Programs Officer, Ministry of Finance	Greater Accra
7	Mary Tobbin Osei	Team Lead, TAT	Greater Accra
8	Dr. Precious Mattah	Deputy Director, CCM	Central Region
9	Allan Amoako-Gyedu	Enterprise Officer, Conservation Alliance Ghana	Greater Accra
10	Emmanuel Nyamekye	Project Officer, Friends of the Nation	Western Region
11	Emelia E. Nortey	Centre Manager, Development Action Aid	Greater Accra
12	Nana Jojo Solomon	President, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council	Central Region
13	Nicholas Smith	Programs Manager, CEWEFIA	Central Region
14	Yaw Osei-Owusu	Director, Conservation Alliance Ghana	Greater Accra
15	Nelson A. Ayandor	Deputy Director, CEMLAWS	Greater Accra
16	Lawrence Segbefia	Editor, Joy News	Greater Accra
17	Judith Aryeetey	Fish Queen, Winneba Community	Central Region
18	Stella Quartey	Fish Queen, Woarabeba Community	Central Region

Annex C – Photo Gallery of Workshop Proceedings

