



NEWSLETTER

Issue 08

Project Update: December 2022–February 2023

Final Issue

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 2022–November 2023 newsletter which presents updates as well as its conclusion & closure.

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

PARTICIPATION IN THE 38TH NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY CELEBRATION

On the 2nd of December, 2022, the PTF project joined the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) and grantees under the Civil Society

Organization in Research, Innovation & Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) programme to participate in the 38th National Farmers' Day Celebration dubbed "Accelerating Agricultural Development through Value Addition".

The event, which took place at the Koforidua Jubilee Park in the Eastern Region of Ghana, was leveraged by the TAT, PTF project team, and the other grantees to create visibility for the CSO-RISE programme, the funding organization (the European Union), and the grantee projects.

The CSO-RISE partners set up a joint stand at the event grounds to display and disseminate information on the respective projects and initiate synergies with other participants of the Celebration, including state agencies, universities, and donor-funded interventions.



PTF PROJECT DOCUMENTARY COVERAGE



Video coverage of a project beneficiary at Mankwadze community

To help document, visualize, and disseminate the PTF project story, the project team engaged the services of a videographer to develop a documentary film on the project. The document sought to create a compelling narrative on the project's relevance, activities, results realized, and testimonials of beneficiaries. Additionally, the documentary was to provide lasting visibility for the project and the donor (European Union).

Cutting through the five project districts, the videography team interacted with several project beneficiaries and collaborating institutions to take footage of their experiences and impressions of the PTF project.

The footage was edited to birth the PTF project documentary. Below is the link to the documentary:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI3AI5tufE4>



Video coverage at the Shama Apo community.

LEARNING EVENT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE PTF STUDENT RESEARCHERS

In February, the project, in collaboration with the Centre for Coastal Management (CCM), organized a learning event for the PTF student researchers to share key findings from their PTF-funded research efforts.



The EU representative giving an opening remark during the event

The event, held on the University of Cape Coast (UCC) campus, had the theme “Development in Fisheries and Coastal Environments: A Focus on the PTF Project Thematic Areas”. The event was graced by participants drawn from the Fisheries Commission (FC), the European Union, the UCC faculty (including personnel of CCM), civil society, and fisher associations.



A PTF student researcher presenting his research findings.

The students' findings will augment existing scientific knowledge, stimulate further research, and inform next-level programming of fisheries stakeholders. Abstracts of the research studies can be found in the link below:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eBYsxG4uPy nvfaicMv_a6aai302o3Mrb/view?usp=drive_link

The PTF project, during implementation, was in partnership with the Centre for Coastal Management (CCM) of UCC towards the recruitment and financing of five graduate students to embark on research efforts aligned with the themes of the project: fisheries post-harvest concerns, climate change, and social protection.

INTER-DISTRICT DIALOGUE SESSION



A participant sharing his views on prevailing issues within the sector.

February also saw the project team organize a dialogue session with fisherfolk within the Elmina enclave of the Central Region. The interaction sought to elicit fisherfolk's genuine impressions of recent developments within the sector, their opinions on enhancing current fisheries management systems, and the strengthening of the union body for artisanal fisherfolk, the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC).



The event facilitator addressing participants during the session.

Subjects discussed covered the moratorium on canoe registration, the rollout & timing of Subjects discussed covered the moratorium on canoe registration, the rollout & timing of the fishing closed season, the prevalence of IUU fishing, and the capacity needs of GNCFC.

The occasion, held at Elmina, had in attendance canoe owners (both male and female), fishermen, and fishmongers drawn from the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem municipality.

CLOSURE WORKSHOP

A closure event was organized in February at the Erata Hotel, Accra, to sign off on the project. The event was to officially announce to stakeholders and collaborators the completion and closure of the 45-month PTF project.



A representative of the EU Delegation giving her opening remarks.

The event was also an opportunity for the project team to share the results and successes of the intervention with stakeholders.



A participant giving his remarks about the achievements of the project.

The event saw opening remarks from the European Union Delegation to Ghana, the NAO of MoF, the TAT, MoFAD, and CERATH. Further, the PTF project manager gave participants a snapshot of the project components, activities over the past four years, outputs realized, outcomes attained, and beneficiaries' success stories.

The event concluded with the premiering of the project documentary, which highlighted the actualized results and benefits

community folk derived from the intervention.

NOTE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGER AND TEAM



Derek Fiifi Adabie
Project Manager
Power to the Fishers
Project

Dear Reader,

This edition marks the last set of updates that the project team gets to share with you. I am flooded with emotions to come to this realization. It has been a fulfilling 4-year ride mobilizing necessary resources to

- Execute advocacy against Saiko (the illegal transshipment of pelagic fish by-catch).
- Promote the energy-efficient Ahotor smoking oven.
- Carry out capacity training on fish quality, occupational safety, & enterprise development.
- Facilitate the expansion of social protection coverage.

The Power to the Fishers project, an initiative under the Civil Society Organisation in Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development (CSO-RISE) programme, sought to enhance the socioeconomic livelihoods of fisherfolk across five Ghanaian coastal districts: Awutu Senya, Effutu, Gomoa West, Ekumfi, and Shama.

Reflecting on the journey, I want to acknowledge collaborators' and partners' work and dedication. To the Fisheries Commission, the National Health

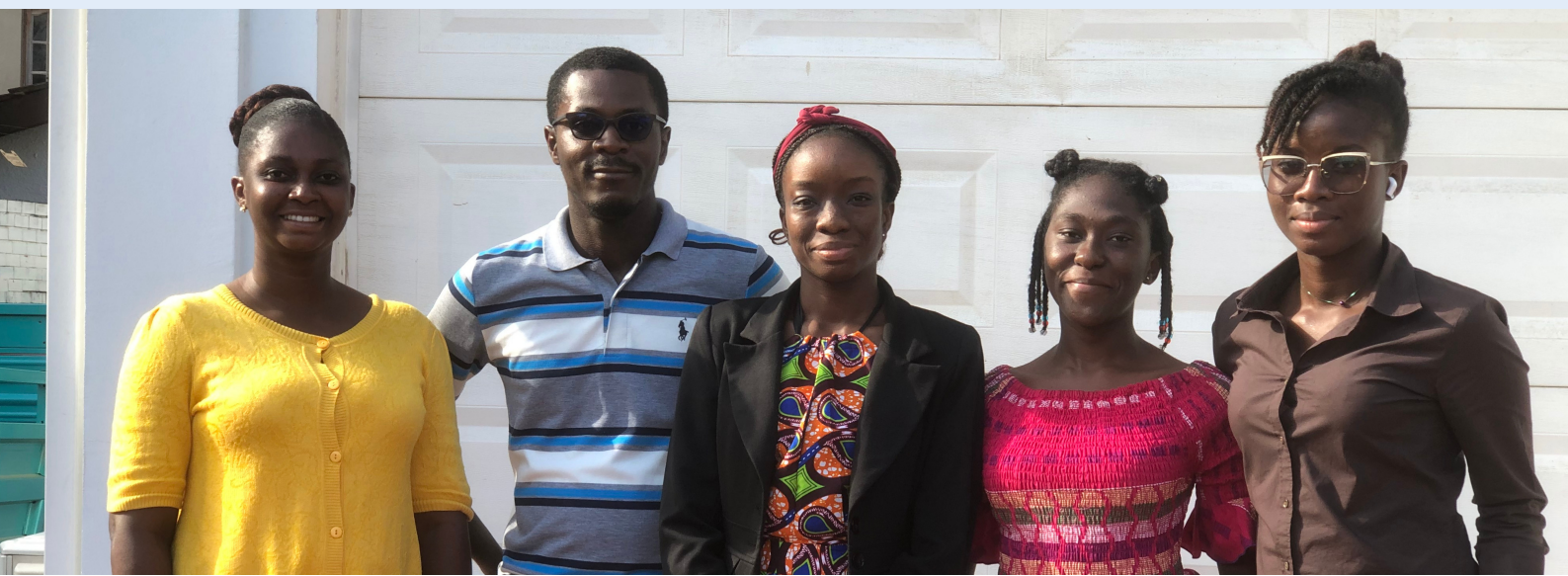
Insurance Authority, the Centre for Coastal Management (CCM) of the University of Cape Coast, and the Technical Assistance Team, I am grateful for your continued support in rolling out the various components of the intervention. With perseverance, we stand here proud of our collective achievements.

I extend the project team's gratitude to the funding partner, the European Union, for the needed financial investments to see transformation in the lives of coastal communities.

Despite the outcomes realized, more needs to be done. There is a need to extend the regulatory success to other instances of IUU, such as light fishing and the use of chemicals and dynamite. Additionally, adopting improved smoking technologies and appropriate practices must be advanced to bolster climate action and the processing of safe, hygienic fish. Furthermore, a broader aggregate of rural coastal communities must be supported to access social protection services. Continued investments and interventions in the above would see fisherfolk develop coastal resilience to climate change, secured and sustained livelihoods, and enhanced quality of life.

It is the team's desire to raise the necessary funds to extend activities under the project and replicate the successes.

Thank you for your continued support and interest throughout the Power to the Fishers project rollout.



SNAPSHOT OF THE PROJECT

Goal

To enhance the socio-economic livelihoods of fishing communities within selected districts of the coastal savannah zones of Ghana.

Objectives



Engage relevant stakeholders and value chain actors in target areas for project implementation and advocacy.



Enhance the knowledge and adoption of improved fish processing technologies.



Build the capacities of target groups on appropriate fish processing, business practices and environmental protection.



Forge strategic partnerships between social protection entities and the target groups.



Document project outcomes and disseminate for learning and scaling.

Target Beneficiaries

- Fishmongers (fish mummies, fish processors, and fish retailers)
- Fishermen

Target Landscape

- Awutu Senya District
- Effutu Municipal
- Gomoa West District
- Ekumfi District
- Shama District

Project Budget

EUR 2,025,852.00

Duration

June 2019–February 2023 (45 months)

Funding Partners



EUROPEAN UNION



REPUBLIC OF GHANA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Implementing Partner



PROJECT OUTPUTS



2,127 beneficiaries with capacities built on fish handling, technology adoption, and occupational safety & health



1,088 beneficiaries trained on enterprise development



2,864 beneficiaries have subscribed to a social protection service



30 VSLAs formed



Cessation of illegal transshipment of fish by-catch (via the Campaign against Saiko)



6 fish processing centers constructed & operational



30 improved stoves built under the stove host model



Research funding for **5** graduate students



Over Gh¢264,000 raised by the VSLA groups

TESTIMONIALS & SUCCESS STORIES



William Ekuban
Ekumipoano Community,
Ekumfi District

“Joining the Boafo VSLA has greatly improved my livelihood. I have been able to accumulate a huge sum of money through my contributions which I couldn't have done on a personal level. Thanks to PTF project I was able to acquire a loan totaling GHS 3,000 to purchase fishing nets and others related fishing gears. Furthermore, at the end of the cycle, I earned an amount of GHS 6,200.00 as shareout. With this, I added up a little amount of money which I used to purchase an outboard motor and other accessories for fishing. This has aided the growth of my business as I am able to go further off shore for fishing expeditions. Being a part of the project has been a great joy.”

“Currently, I am pursuing a two-year master's degree in Integrated Coastal Resilience Management. Prior to me being a beneficiary of this project, I had challenges in securing funds for my graduate thesis. Undertaking my research — Source-Tracking of Microbial Contamination in The Post Smoking Phase of the Atlantic Chub Mackerel — was made possible through funding support I gained from the EU-funded project, Power to the Fishers. This financial support allowed me to interact with fisherfolks and investigate an issue entrenched within the fishing sector. I am truly grateful.”



Jefferson Abeiku Ikediuba
Graduate Student, CCM



John Donkor
Akra Community, Ekumfi
District

“ I have been a mobile money vendor for four years. For a while now, I have been too busy to visit the bank to save some money; hence I tend to spend a lot. I participated in the meeting where the project team introduced the VSL concept to my community. I successfully saved 1200 cedis after 9 months which I would not have been able to save on my own. ”

“ Participating in the NHIS sensitization and registration exercise organized by the PTF project helped me to better understand how the scheme works. I had the opportunity to sign my 2-year-old daughter onto the scheme, and I can happily say that over the past 6 months, January–June 2022, I have been able to save over 500 cedis and not payed a dime for her medical care. ”



Comfort Dampson
Woarabeba Community, Effutu
District



Maame Esi
Kesewokan Community, Shama
District

“ I always wanted to expand my provision shop but I was not making enough profit to do so. I then joined the PTF-facilitated VSLA in the community after a beneficiary of the project, who also happens to be my friend, spoke highly of the VSLA. I took a loan of 500 cedis at a low interest rate and with that I have restocked my shop with more items. I am sincerely thankful to the PTF project for this intervention. ”

“ Using the improved oven provided by the project, my smoked fish have gained significant appeal. Though some consumers are not ready to pay more for the improved fish quality, several others are excited about it. Resulting from the increased appeal of my fish, I have recorded a 10% increase in profits. Additionally, my health has greatly improved because smoke and heat emission from the oven from the oven are low. ”



Comfort Yeboah
Woarabeba Community, Effutu District



Mary Koomson
Abuesi Community, Shama
District

“ Prior to subscribing to the NHIS, I used to incur high medical costs whenever my son fell ill. This was a challenging situation for me because it affected my ability to save for domestic needs. Ever since the PTF project brought the health insurance personnel to my community, I have been able to access affordable and quality healthcare for my son. For instance, in the past month — October 2022 — after visiting the hospital with my son, I was able to save 200 cedis since I had his NHIS card and did not have to pay for most of his medication. ”

“

Accessing reliable financial services was always a challenge for me and I could also not trust myself to effectively keep money in my home without spending it. I was motivated to sign up upon undergoing a series of training sessions on the VSL concept. After 4 months of saving, I took a loan of 600 cedis to buy more things for my provision stand and this has really helped me to have a stable income flow.

”



Margaret Otoo
Shama Apo Community, Shama District



Mary Abakah
Kesewokan Community, Shama District

“

The Ahotor oven constructed for me by the project has been of great benefit. The oven consumes less fuelwood and as such, I make 50% savings on energy needs for smoking my fish, leading to a 15% increase in my profit margin.

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