

Labour Rights, Social Protection and Social Development

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Regional Small-scale Fisheries Governance Training Course for Africa:
Creating an Enabling Environment for SSF Guidelines Implementation



An Introduction to Sub-Saharan Africa

- ▶ Population: 1.3 billion
- ▶ No of countries: 46 (30 have a coastline and all except one have ratified the 1982 UNCLOS)
- ▶ Senegal, Congo, Angola, Namibia and South Africa have ratified the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188)
- ▶ SSA countries recognize international human rights standards and the protection of human rights, recognize the 1981 African (Banjul) Charter of Human and People's Rights, and economic and social development
- ▶ One Constitution even recognizes the national association of fishers (Ghana)



Human Development Index (2019), Governance and Corruption Perception Scores in SSA

- ▶ Long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living—a key indicator of social development
- ▶ **Very high** HDI countries (e.g. Mauritius), **high** HDI countries (Seychelles, RSA)
- ▶ **Medium** HDI countries (Cabo Verde, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya and Comoros)
- ▶ **Low** HDI (Uganda, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Guinea, Mozambique and Sierra Leone)
- ▶ **All top fish producing countries except RSA, Namibia and Ghana are in the category of low HDI countries**
- ▶ Generally behind other regions of the world in terms of governance and corruption perception (exceptions are Namibia and Ghana)



SSA Small-scale Fisheries

- ▶ SSA capture fisheries sector produces about 7 million tonnes (4 million tonnes from marine capture fisheries and 3 million tonnes from freshwater capture fisheries), employs about 12.3 million people as fishers and fishworkers (6 million people are employed in fishing and 5 million people in fish processing)
- ▶ There are about 5.4 million people employed in small-scale artisanal fishing (marine and inland)??
- ▶ 4 million women are employed in fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing (which includes 160,000 engaged in fishing and 3 million engaged in fish processing)
- ▶ Gross production values of SSA-SSF marine artisanal fishing range from US\$334 million in Mozambique; US\$287 million in Senegal; US\$192 million in Tanzania and Zanzibar; US\$152 million in Guinea; to US\$10 million in Kenya (de Graf, G., and Garibaldi, L 2014)



SSF Guidelines

- ▶ To create conditions for fishers to attain sustainable small-scale fisheries and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development
- ▶ Reconcile an ecosystem-based approach with the complexity of livelihoods in the SSF subsector (recognition and protection of tenure rights to fishing grounds and waterfront areas, and full realization of human rights)
- ▶ Social development is deemed a prerequisite to realize human rights, to preserve the culture and way of life of small-scale fishing communities and to empower them



Social Development

- ▶ Investing, creating and providing access to:
 - Food, drinking water, clothing, health, education, literacy and digital inclusion
 - Housing, sanitation, and energy
 - Saving, credit and insurance
- ▶ Ensuring access to justice
- ▶ Improving sea safety and disaster management and protecting access to customary fishing grounds
- ▶ Promoting decent work for all workers in the subsector, including migrants, and guaranteeing fair returns to their labour in fisheries (productive employment, protecting rights at work, providing social protection and social security)



Principles of Social Development

- ▶ Affordability
- ▶ Preferential treatment of women, Indigenous Peoples, the vulnerable and marginalized groups
- ▶ Ensuring equitable benefits
- ▶ Fair treatment of all, including subsistence, occasional, part-time, informal or migrant fishers and fishworkers



Achieving Social Development

- ▶ Adhering to national, regional and international human rights standards
- ▶ Encouraging conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources
- ▶ Adopting inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound economic policies
- ▶ Promoting alternative income generating opportunities
- ▶ Integrating occupational safety and health into resource management
- ▶ Providing an environment free from crime, including from organized crime, violence, piracy, theft, sexual abuse, corruption and abuse of authority
- ▶ Respect for coordinated migration of fishers across national boundaries



Governance and Social Development

- ▶ Duty to create the enabling conditions of social development goes beyond the mandate of fisheries authorities or the capacities of fishing community collectives
- ▶ Need for effective governance (robust institutions, sound mechanisms and meaningful processes) at various levels, applying a human rights-based approach



Demonstrating Social Well-being

- ▶ Are fisheries making significant contributions to the GDP (e.g. Senegal) benefiting from a greater allocation of financial resources for social development?
- ▶ Are small-scale fishing communities in countries with very high or high HDI enjoying better human well-being on par with other citizens compared to their counterparts in medium or low HDI countries?
- ▶ Could SDGs be effective as proxies for social well-being? Can SDGs be employed to capture social advancement of SSF communities and to assess if their levels of marginalization are being progressively reversed?

UNGA Resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969

- ▶ “Each government has the primary role and ultimate responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well-being of its people, of planning social development measures as part of comprehensive development plans, of encouraging and co-ordinating or integrating all national efforts towards this end and of introducing necessary changes in the social structure.” (Article 8)
 - Declaration on Social Progress and Development

Thank you

