

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
IYAFA 2022: Asia Workshop -Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions aim to identify key issues for small-scale fishers and fishworkers in Asia in line with the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and the objectives of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022. The questions cover the environmental, economic, and social aspects of small-scale fisheries, with particular emphasis on strengthening governance and organizations. The thematic areas identified by participants will guide the development of the workshop agenda.

Response by: Mr. Mohamad Abdi, National Coordinator, Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW), Indonesia

Personal Experience

1. How are you linked to small-scale fisheries in your country? Can you describe the major characteristics of the sector?

I have supported and been involved with small-scale fisheries management in Indonesia, for 18 years. I have worked on the coral reef management and rehabilitation programme (COREMAP), data collection on small fisherman catches, and basic infrastructure management on small islands. Indonesia currently has 572,270 fishing fleets. 99.16 per cent (567,442 vessels) measure below below 30GT. A mere 4,282 vessels are bigger than 30GT. This makes it pretty clear that a majority of Indonesia's fishing fleet are small fishermen.

2. What makes you proud to be involved with small-scale fisheries?

Small-scale fishers have limited access to physical, social, economic and capital resources. They are economically and socially disadvantaged. Our programme aims to help them access finance, provide them technical training and institutional strengthening. These will help them socio-economically, put them in a better bargaining position and hopefully gain notice by the government.

Environmental sustainability

1) Are there any harmful practices that fisherman in small scale fisheries employ that harm the resources and environment?

Fishers in Indonesia still use fishing gear like cantrang, arad, payang, bombs and anesthetics that are polluting and ecologically unfriendly. In the northern coast of Java, a large number of fishermen are now under duress because of the use of cantrangs and arads (mini trawl). In eastern Indonesia, bombs and anesthetics are often used by fishermen to catch fish in coral reef areas.

2) Can you explain your participation in conserving or managing (marine or inland) fisheries resources?

We run campaigns, educate, do data collection of catches, help in registration of small-scale vessels and train and empower small-scale fishermen. We run initiatives on livelihood development like seaweed cultivation, opening access to business capital and advocate that government policies provide protection to small-scale fishermen. In WPP 718 in Papua and Maluku, we worked to help fishermen obtain measuring certificates and a fishing vessel registration certificate. This helps small fishermen and facilitates the use of e-logbooks to report fish catches.

Economic sustainability

1. What challenges do small-scale fishers face in getting boats, gear and engines in your country? How do they deal with these challenges?

They face two kinds of challenges, internal and external. Small-scale fishers have fallen into the trap of large-scale consumption. They think there is a lot of fish in the sea, and they will make do. This, coupled with low financial management skills mean they have lifestyles disproportionate to their reality. Externally, although the government has regulations to protect small-scale fishers, implementation is weak. Schemes like People's Business Credit/Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR), exist but not many fishermen have access to it.

2. What challenges do small-scale fishers and fishworkers face in accessing markets? Do they receive any support to facilitate access to these markets?

The domestic fishery market in Indonesia is actually quite large. Currently, the international market's interest in Indonesia small-scale fishery products is limited to tuna, snapper and grouper commodities. Unfortunately the quality and handling of catch is not high, or in accordance with international standards. They require assistance and guidance.

3. Is the income generated from small-scale fisheries adequate to meet small-scale fishers and fishworkers' basic needs?

It is adequate. Tuna fishermen in Bitung, North Sulawesi can earn between IDR4,000,000-5,000,000 a month. The problem lies in financial management. Fishers tend to be extravagant spenders. They have no savings, and therefore during a bad season, or inclement weather when they can't go to sea, they have no money. They resort to borrowing from moneylenders at high interest rates. Many are in debt.

Governance

1. Can you detail the main government programmes available in your country for addressing poverty and improving the standard of living of fishing communities?

The government has provided assistance, in the form of vessels, fishing gear, fish seeds and access to financing with low interest rates between 3-6%/year. Fishery extension workers are given provisions and fuel subsidies. Licensing has been eased.

2. What are the barriers to accessing such government programmes?

Government programmes are not always accepted by targeted groups because of various political factors. Members of the people's representative council direct aid to their constituents first. The assistance, additionally, is limited when compared with the scale of the industry—there are close 2.2 million small-scale fishers in the country. Programmes don't usually reach remote areas, coasts, small islands and borders.

3. Are the government legislation and policies for SSF developed in consultation with fishing communities? Is there an official definition of small-scale fisheries?

There are, at present, two laws that offer different definitions of small fishermen. Law 45/2009 on fisheries defines small fishermen as fishermen who own vessels with vessel sizes below 5GT. Law No 7/2016 concerning Protection of Fishermen, Cultivators and Salt Farmers defines small fishermen as those who have ships with sizes under 10GT. Law No. 7/2016 was born at civil society's insistence that more attention be paid to small fishermen.

4. In what way can the SSF Guidelines improve your well-being?

SSF guidelines can improve welfare if implemented consistently and pragmatically. This means that the current regulations must be followed with government intervention in the form of policies, programmes and budgets. Cross-sectoral cooperation like support for infrastructure, markets, electricity, clean water and business financing by the banking sector is much needed.

Social Sustainability

- 1) What are the most common fisher and fishworker organizations in your country? How do these organizations help fishers and fishworkers improve their lives and livelihoods?**

There are a number of fishermen and fishery worker organizations in Indonesia. These include the Indonesian Fishermen Association (HNSI), Fisheries Workers Association, Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2HI). However these associations are not purely fishermen organizations but also intervene on behalf of businessmen. The work therefore is not purely in the interests of fishermen but also businessmen and politicians. Fishing organizations at the local level—province and district fight for basic rights and necessities.

- 2) Do fishers and fishworkers in your country have rights to fishing grounds granted by the government? Do they have traditional rights?**

National regulations give fishing ground rights to small fishermen in the 4 nautical mile zone. In addition, communities have customs that grant traditional rights to them—the sasi system in Maluku and Papua and Nambo in Southeast Sulawesi. Traditional management areas are managed by traditional customs institutions.

- 3) What are the major challenges faced by women in fisheries in terms of access to resources, markets and participation in fisher and fishworker organizations in your country?**

Compared to the men, women face huge burdens in the sector. They are involved in the processing and marketing of fish caught by their husbands. Additionally, women work in fish processing units, processing factories and as labourers in the shrimp and crab farming sector. In addition, they are also involved in household chores and take care of children. Women have not had much participation in fishing organizations. The rare few with an NGO activist background participate in these activities.

- 4) Are there laws or policies that benefit or protect the rights of women in fisheries? What are the major programmes, policies, initiatives or organizations that help to improve the visibility and participation of women in the fisheries sector?**

There is no law that specifically regulates this. However, within the framework of the SDGs, the Indonesian government through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and the National Development Planning Agency has formulated a gender mainstreaming strategy in marine and fisheries development. A number of marine and fisheries ministerial regulations have been issued to support this and serve as programme and budget guidelines.

5) Has your government acknowledged food security and nutrition as a human right in your country (e.g. right to food act, nutritional guidelines)?

The Indonesian government strongly recognizes this with the existence of Law No. 18/2012 on food. In addition, the government recently formed and appointed an official to head the National Food Agency. They have been promoting a fish-eating campaign that has been going on for several years. Currently, the level of food consumption in Indonesia has reached 56 kg per capita.

Resilience

1. What kind of changes did the COVID-19 pandemic cause in small-scale fisheries in your country? How did fishers and fishworkers respond to these changes? Did they receive any support from the government or other organizations during the pandemic?

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, small-scale fisheries were affected in the country. People's purchasing power weakened considerably, leading to a drop in fish prices. The abundant catch could not be absorbed by the market. To prevent greater losses, fishermen reduced the time spent at sea. The government intervened, bought the catch and distributed it to other vulnerable groups. The demand for Indonesian fishery exports also fell due to lockdown policies in various countries. Civil society and NGOs mobilized and encouraged people to buy fishermen's products. They also conducted advocacy campaigns to ensure the virus didn't spread among fishermen and fishing boat crews.

2. What are the major natural and man-made threats fishers and fishworkers face and what are their impacts?

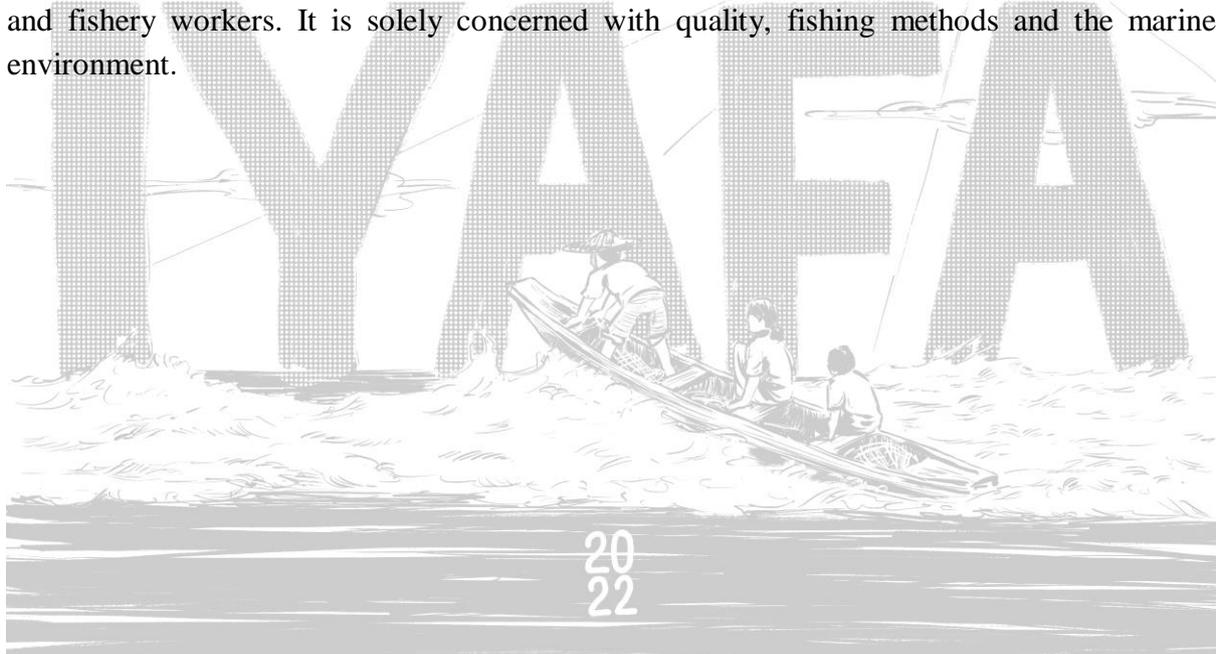
Climate change, inclement weather, and tidal flooding in coastal areas like Jakarta and Semarang have an impact on fishermen's settlements. These drastically change the fishing calendar. In addition they also cause damage to residences, decrease fishermen's quality of life and lead to an increase in disease.

3. How are fishers and fishworkers responding to the above threats?

Fishermen have regularly requested support and assistance. They have asked for regular relay of information regarding the weather which will assist in them making decisions about fishing activities. They also independently rehabilitate the environment by planting mangroves and building embankments.

4. Are there any other national, regional, or international issues relevant to small-scale fisheries that the workshop should address?

The workshop needs to address the issue of certification required by consumers in the international market for fishery products from Indonesia. This has implications in the sector. Not all fishermen can meet these standards. The international market entrusts this work to international NGOs which work on a limited basis in Indonesia. This means not all Indonesian fishermen have equal access to international markets. In addition, the programme is only only designed as a pilot project and does not reach a wide segment of small fishermen. The certification does not pay attention to human rights, social contexts or the lives of fisherman and fishery workers. It is solely concerned with quality, fishing methods and the marine environment.



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Response By: Dani Setiawan, Chief Executive, Indonesian Traditional Fisherfolk Union (KNTI), Indonesia

Personal Experience

How are you linked to small-scale fisheries in your country? Can you describe the major characteristics of the sector?

Small-scale fishers generally catch fish in traditional waters that have been used for generations, according to local culture and wisdom. SSF use small fishing vessels, between 0-10 Gross Tonnage (GT) and using various generally environmentally friendly fishing. Fuel consumption on these small fishing boats is between 3-100 litres per day. Fishers directly sell their catch to collectors, fish auctions, or traditional markets close to fishing villages. Some of the catch is processed into salted fish, shrimp paste, crackers, animal feed etc.

SSF accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total domestic fish demand in Indonesia. They supply about 54 per cent of animal protein needs for the population.

Environmental Sustainability

- 1) Do you think that some of your fishing practices are sometimes detrimental to fisheries resources and the environment (e.g. aquatic species, flood plains, mangroves)? If yes, how?**

Yes many small-scale fishers catch fish using fishing nets made of plastic and sometimes throw broken nets into the sea. This often leads to micro plastics pollution.

- 2) Have you been involved in conserving or managing (marine or inland) fisheries resources? Are there any lessons that you would like to share?**

In several areas, like Langkat, Gresik and Indramayu our members now manage and preserve about 50 until 700 hectares of mangrove forests. It boosts their livelihoods too. They can catch

fish as well as use the mangroves as tourist attractions. The mangrove in turn, protects their land from huge waves and uncertain weather.

Economic Viability

1) What challenges do small-scale fishers face in getting boats, gear and engines in your country? How do they deal with these challenges?

Small-scale fishers still have difficulties in accessing boats, fishing gear, and machines to increase productivity. Government assistance is very limited, and in some cases, often mistargeted and mismatched. The assistance provided doesn't suit the needs of fishers. Access to capital from banks is also still difficult because small-scale fishers rarely meet the credit loan requirements—they have no collateral, have an uncertain business character, so on. Many fishers therefore rely on investors or ship owners for finance.

2) What challenges do small-scale fishers and fishworkers face in accessing local/regional/international markets (e.g. competition from sellers, infrastructural issues, poor access to loans)? Do they receive any support (e.g. from the government) to facilitate access to these markets?

They do not have economic institutions such as cooperatives to consolidate production. In addition they don't have marketing networks at home or abroad. They don't have fish processing infrastructure that meets international market standards. The Government of Indonesia has issued policies to facilitate licensing, certificate processing, and access to capital to increase the production capacity of SSF. However, the constraint is that economic institutions are not yet strong at the fishers level.

3) Do you think the income generated from small-scale fisheries is adequate to meet small-scale fishers and fishworkers' basic needs?

In Indonesia, fishers among a group of people classified as poor. Some of them even experience extreme poverty. 69 per cent of the 212 districts or cities in Indonesia are in coastal areas. Small-scale fishers rely heavily on daily fishing, which is strongly influenced by natural conditions.

Social Sustainability

1) What are the main government programmes available in your country for addressing poverty and improving the standard of living of fishing communities (e.g. education, health insurance, pension scheme, housing, sanitation)? What are the barriers to accessing such programmes?

Since 2013, the government has established a programme for people to get free education for twelve years—until high school. The government also provides a national health insurance for

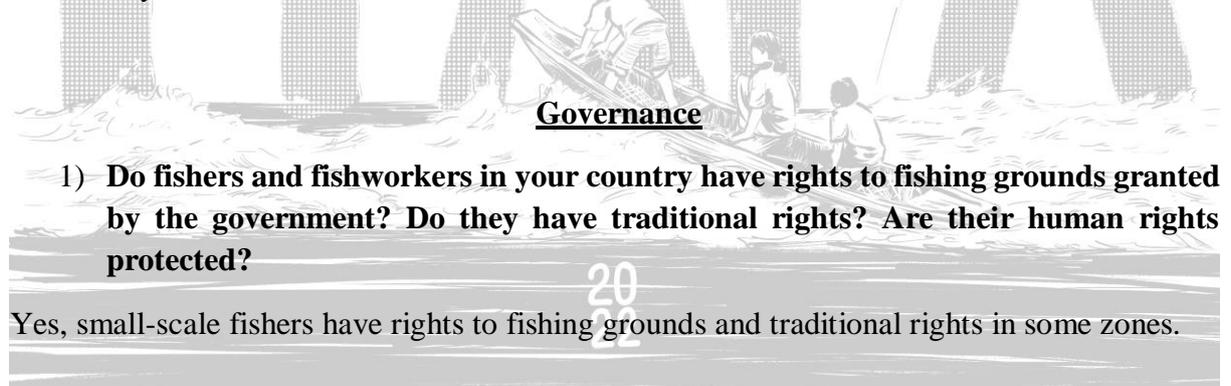
all citizens. Unfortunately, it needs to be paid monthly by people through bank. Many fishers do not have a bank account. Those that do, do not maintain it regularly enough for bills to be withdrawn with ease. Some local governments allocate their budgets to pay bills for fishers and poor people, but this amount is limited. Often, fishers are relegated from its budget.

2) What are the most common fisher and fishworker organizations in your country (e.g. trade unions, cooperatives, community-based organizations)?

There are a range of fisher and fish worker organizations in Indonesia. These include community-based organizations, cooperatives, trade unions, and non-governmental organizations.

3) Are many fishers and fishworkers members of these organizations? Are women active in these organizations? How do these organizations help fishers and fishworkers improve their lives and livelihoods?

There are two types of fisher organizations—government affiliated and non-government affiliated. Government affiliated fisher organizations were established by the authoritarian regime of Soeharto (1965-1998) and exist even today. The members are unconcerned about the plight of fishers. They access aid and assistance provided by the government but rarely distribute it to those intended. Non-governmental organizations lead the fight for fishers's rights. Established by activists, fishers, and coastal workers they facilitate and support fishers unilaterally.



1) Do fishers and fishworkers in your country have rights to fishing grounds granted by the government? Do they have traditional rights? Are their human rights protected?

Yes, small-scale fishers have rights to fishing grounds and traditional rights in some zones.

2) What government legislation and policies are relevant to small-scale fisheries in your country (e.g. both inland and marine)? Are they developed in consultation with fishing communities? Is there an official definition of small-scale fisheries?

Indonesia possesses national policies to protect small-scale fishers, fish and salt farmers and fish workers. In addition, every provincial government is mandated to create a marine protected area. Unfortunately, fishing communities rarely participate in these discussions. They are created keeping in mind business in coastal areas and often reduce fishers traditional or regular grounds. These regulations recognize and have small-scale fisher definition.

3) **Have you heard of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)? If yes, how can the SSF Guidelines improve your well-being?**

Adoption of the SSF guidelines has improved SSF. It protects their rights and recognizes women fishworkers too.

Gender Equality and Equity

1) **What are the major challenges faced by women in fisheries in terms of access to resources, markets and participation in fisher and fishworker organizations in your country?**

Fisherwomen who are members of KNTI are generally fishery product processors or work in post-harvest areas. A small number look for fish or shellfish on the beach. They commonly face problems in marketing the product, either directly or digitally. Three factors drive this. First, the quality and quantity of business products is still not good; second, they lack capital; thirdly, the lack women participation in organizations and state policy-making processes hugely hinders them.

2) **Are there laws or policies that benefit or protect the rights of women in fisheries?**

Yes. The Law on the Protection and Empowerment of Fishermen, Fish Cultivators, and Salt Farmers recognizes the existence of women in the fisheries business in Indonesia.

3) **What are the major programmes, policies, initiatives or organizations that help to improve the visibility and participation of women in the fisheries sector?**

- * Strengthening legal recognition and women's rights in marine and fishery resources.
- * Strengthening fisherwomen's organizations
- * Providing insurance and other social protection schemes.
- * Assistance with facilities and infrastructure to increase production capacity or skills.
- * Guaranteed prices for fisherwomen's processed products.
- * Involving women in development planning and budgeting from the village, district, provincial and national levels.
- * Protection from domestic violence.

Food Security and Nutrition

1) **Is there any legislation or policy recognizing food security and nutrition as a human right in your country (e.g. right to food act, nutritional guidelines)?**

Yes, there is government regulation for food security and nutrition (number 17 of 2015).

2) How do small-scale fisheries contribute to local food security and nutrition?

SSF contributes to 80 per cent of domestic consumption. They also provide affordable nutrition for people.

3) Are there similarities between fishing and farming communities in your country (e.g. in terms of challenges, opportunities, culture, social organization)?

There are many development projects in coastal areas. The waste from impacts fishing and farming communities. Enforcing the law of marine protected area without involving these communities increases conflict. The government now plans to collect real data of fishers. It is an opportunity for fishing and farming communities to strengthen their position and to obtain rights and protection from government.

Resilience

1) What kind of changes did the COVID-19 pandemic cause in small-scale fisheries in your country? How did fishers and fishworkers respond to these changes? Did they receive any support from the government or other organizations during the pandemic?

The results of a survey conducted by KNTI in 2020 and 2021 showed a significant decline in fish prices, especially the types of fish that became export commodities during the pandemic. Selling daily catch is a big obstacle. Many fish collectors limit the purchase of fish from fishers or cultivators. The government implemented lockdowns, and many countries closed their doors to imports. As a result, collectors did not receive fish sales from fishers. SSFs were forced to sell their catch locally at a low price.

To overcome the financial effects of the pandemic fishers dipped into their savings, cut back on education and health costs to sustain their livelihood. Those that didn't have savings were reliant on loans from neighbours, skippers, collectors, etc. In Maumere Regency, East Nusa Tenggara fishers overcame rising prices by harvesting corn earlier than usual. Others, changed professions and became day labourers.

Economic difficulties meant fishers without capital couldn't go to sea. Many were unemployed and forced indoors because of the lockdowns. Unlike times of famine or typhoons, a huge number changed professions to become labourers and construction workers just to survive.

At the start, the government did not have specific policies to reduce the impact of the pandemic—specifically for fishers. By 2022, the government decided to allocate a social assistance budget for 1.7 million fishers.

2) What are the major threats fishers and fishworkers face and what are their impacts? These may include environmental threats (e.g. cyclones, typhoons, coastal erosion and degradation) and other threats (e.g. eviction, aquaculture

development, sand mining, river diversion, land reclamation, infrastructure development, industrial activities, pollution).

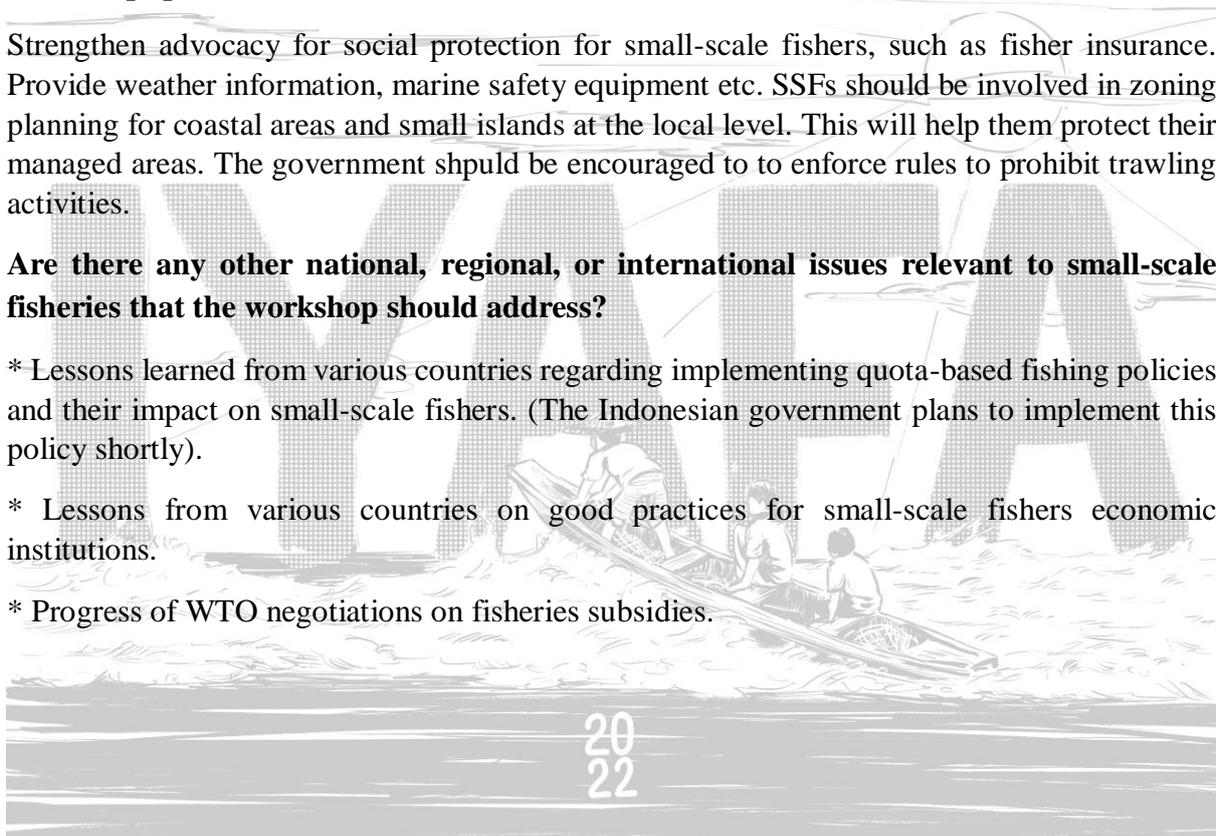
Extreme weather is a huge threat for fishers. Safety at sea and risk of life are of prime importance. During extreme weather storms or high waves are common. Many fishers are often missing at sea and other face severe damage to their boats. Not all fishers have insurance coverage. Most also lack basic safety equipment to go to sea. A significant threat is also posed by environmentally unfriendly fishing, such as trawling, coastal reclamation, infrastructure development, and mining activities.

3) How are fishers and fishworkers adapting to or responding to the above threats (e.g. through advocacy, impact assessments, early warning systems, life-saving equipment, insurance schemes)?

Strengthen advocacy for social protection for small-scale fishers, such as fisher insurance. Provide weather information, marine safety equipment etc. SSFs should be involved in zoning planning for coastal areas and small islands at the local level. This will help them protect their managed areas. The government should be encouraged to enforce rules to prohibit trawling activities.

Are there any other national, regional, or international issues relevant to small-scale fisheries that the workshop should address?

- * Lessons learned from various countries regarding implementing quota-based fishing policies and their impact on small-scale fishers. (The Indonesian government plans to implement this policy shortly).
- * Lessons from various countries on good practices for small-scale fishers economic institutions.
- * Progress of WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies.



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Response By: Mr. Muhammad Arifuddin, Destructive Fishing Watch Indonesia (DFW Indonesia)

Personal Experience

1) How are you linked to small-scale fisheries in your country? Can you describe the major characteristics of the sector?

I have a Bachelors degree in Marine studies. Back when I was a student our field trips would see us come in direct contact with micro and small-scale fisheries. In our country, micro and small-scale fisheries are spread across the coasts. According to Indonesian law 45/2009, micro scale fisheries constitute any fishing boats that are or under 5 gross tonnage (GT). Small-scale fisheries are categorized by law 23/2014—any fishing boat that are or under 10 GT. These categories are based on their social economic attributes.

2) What makes you proud to be involved with small-scale fisheries?

The government's focus has always been on large-scale fisheries (above 30GT). However, data suggests that over 98 per cent of of the 600,000 fishing boats in Indonesia are micro and small-scale fisheries. This 98 per cent have a lot of problems that need solving. Fisherman contribute a lot to our society but are in dire need of aid. Their upliftment will end up benefitting the country.

Environmental sustainability

1) Is there any harmful practices that fisherman in small scale fisheries do that harms the resources and environment?

Yes, fishermen use destructive fishing gears and practices like blast fishing and cyanide on the coral reefs. Corals are among the three main coastal ecosystems well known as a nursery for fish. Many fishers also use fish nets that break regulations. However, not all use destructive gear and practices. Fishers targeting specific fish like tuna often use sustainable fishing gear.

2) Can you explain your participation in conserving or managing (marine or inland) fisheries resources?

Through 2019 I was involved with empowering the SSF and activating logbooks in cooperation with the FAO-ISLME project. The aim was to strengthen the capacity of fishermen and related government officials in implementing fisheries e-logbook for SSF. I am also involved in the SAFE Seas Project. It focuses on decreasing forced labor and human trafficking of domestic and migrant fishers. I am actively involved in finding donors and developing DFW programme proposals for development and empowerment of small-scale fisheries management and sustainable marine resources based on regulation and local wisdom.

Economic sustainability

1. What challenges do small-scale fishers face in getting boats, gear and engines in your country? How do they deal with these challenges?

The biggest challenge is accessing funding. Most of our small fishers access funding through saving and loan cooperatives. They take loans from patron or await government aid. It's not common for small fishers in the country to seek bank loans, because banks have a lot of stipulations to avail of them. Our fishers are too lazy to fulfill the requirements and most importantly aren't well-educated.

3) What challenges do small-scale fishers and fishworkers face in accessing markets? Do they receive any support to facilitate access to these markets?

It depends on their location. If they are based in coastal areas, then there are no significant challenges in accessing local markets. Resources collectors come directly to fishers and buy their fish. A second option are the local markets. However, in remote areas, the local markets are almost non-existent. Where they do exist, they are small. Fishers using these markets are lucky if fish collectors come and buy their catch at location. The government is trying to encourage that they pursue alternative income opportunities.

4) Is the income generated from small-scale fisheries adequate to meet small-scale fishers and fishworkers' basic needs?

It depends on their catch per day, week and month. In general, the income is not adequate to meet their basic needs. It is barely enough to secure daily nutrition and very often, fishers take loans just to survive. Since small fishers conduct one day expeditions, their income is dependent on their catch from that one trip. Fuel stock also becomes a deciding factor. Many fishermen run out of fuel, and can't afford more to go out to sea for weeks on end

Governance

1) Can you detail the main government programmes available in your country for addressing poverty and improving the standard of living of fishing communities?

In 2017, The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) launched the “KUSUKA” programme. Its main objective is to improve protect and improve their welfare. The MMAF also wanted to its small fishers database, so that targeted beneficiaries were getting the benefits. The programme works in tandem with banks. Fishers therefore, could access credit and open a free monthly administration account. With KUSUKA, fishers can also avail of a one-year insurance from MMAF. MMAF also offers small fishermen fuel subsidies. For this they have to register their fishing boat to the service agency.

2) What are the barriers to accessing such government programmes?

Not all small fisherman are willing to go through administrative processes. Getting a KUSUKA card, doesn't mean they will get the benefits directly. There are different processes involved. For instance, to access subsidized fuel, they need to go through another recurring process. Moreover, fisheries facilitator officers are limited at the community level. The few have to contend with a large number of small fisherman spread across a wide geographical area. It makes information dissemination and understanding uneven. Fishers often don't know the benefits of government programmes and distrust them.

3) Are government legislation and policies for SSF developed in consultation with fishing communities? Is there an official definition of small-scale fisheries?

Yes, there consultations with fishing communities when developing them. I, however, doubt the veracity of the process because of the political interests involved in it. We have official definition for —even though, currently, there are two definitions. First, (law 45/2009) defines SSF as fishers with maximum fishing boat size of 5 GT. The second (law 7/2016) defines SSF as those with with a fishing boat with a maximum size of 10 GT.

4) In what way can the SSF Guidelines improve your well-being?

I'm not sure I understand this question, and why its ask about my well-being. However, there is a correlation between me and SSF when it comes to environmental sustainability. As an environmental activist, we concern ourselves with resource sustainability without abandoning the economic needs of communities. Improving SSF is a massive concern and big step forward in this regard.

Social Sustainability

1) What are the most common fisher and fishworker organizations in your country? How do these organizations help fishers and fishworkers improve their lives and livelihoods?

Fisheries Cooperation is among the most common organizations for SSF. The cooperation seeks to help each of its members. Joining a cooperation benefits members. It lets them access

information on government aid programmes, market share information and saving and funding etc. However, these cooperatives haven't improved much over the years. They need assistance in running well and sustainably. Other fisheries organizations like HNSI also do advocacy on policy. However, their members not purely small fishers.

2) Do fishers and fishworkers in your country have rights to fishing grounds granted by the government? Do they have traditional rights?

Small fisheries and traditional fishing grounds are regulated by the government. Small scale fishers can fish up to 12 miles from the coastal line. For traditional fishers the regulations are area dependent.

3) What are the major challenges faced by women in fisheries in terms of access to resources, markets and participation in fisher and fishworker organizations in your country?

Women control household cash, and therefore are always aware of financial vulnerability. Their lack of recognition as fish workers makes it difficult to quantify and define their role in the sector. This not only prevents women from accessing or qualifying for social protection benefits offered by the government—access to insurance, access to financing—but also hinders their contribution to food security, livelihood, and their participation in safeguarding marine ecosystems.

4) Are there laws or policies that benefit or protect the rights of women in fisheries? What are the major programmes, policies, initiatives or organizations that help to improve the visibility and participation of women in the fisheries sector?

There are 10 policies in development targeted towards enhancing women's rights. Six of them specifically target women in the sector. These are:

* Regulation of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries number 4, 34

* 40/PERMEN-KP/2014,

* Number 25/PERMEN-KP/2015,

* MoU between MMAF and Women Empowerment

* Child Protection Number 06 and 12 MEN-KP/KB/II/2011,

* Circular letter of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries number 681/MEN-KP/X/2013.

5) Has your government acknowledged food security and nutrition as a human right in your country (e.g. right to food act, nutritional guidelines)?

Indonesia's food law talks not just about food security but clarifies and strengthens how to achieve it. It states that "Food Sovereignty is the right of states and nations that independently

determine Food policies that guarantee the right to Food for the people and that give people the right to determine food systems that are in accordance with the potential of local resources".

Resilience

- 1) What kind of changes did the COVID-19 pandemic cause in small-scale fisheries in your country? How did fishers and fishworkers respond to these changes? Did they receive any support from the government or other organizations during the pandemic?**

Accessing markets was among the biggest problems for SSFs during the pandemic. Since Covid-19 hit Indonesia the demand for fish has decreased. Consequently fish prices have also dropped. This has impacted fishing households in a bad way. Many small-scale fishers could not take to the sea during the lockdowns and therefore relied mostly on aid and relief from different human rights organizations. DFW Indonesia took part in this aid and provided 200 food and health packages to SSF communities.

- 2) What are the major natural and man-made threats fishers and fishworkers face and what are their impacts?**

Bad weather and unsustainable fishing are two big threats. Bad weather directly impacts fishers who cannot go to sea and therefore are deprived of an income. In the long term however, the unsustainable practices will further threaten their existence. This is a fact most SSFs are not aware of yet.

- 3) How are fishers and fishworkers responding to the above threats?**

Most small-scale fishermen in Indonesia depend on their daily catch. By using small fishing gear and simple technology, small fishermen are only able to get a limited quantity of fish. This is only enough to meet daily needs, even when weather and sea conditions are friendly. When the weather and sea conditions are not friendly, small fishermen cannot fish in the sea. It deprives them of a basic income, and in turn they cannot meet even their basic daily needs, pushing them further into poverty.

Are there any other national, regional, or international issues relevant to small-scale fisheries that the workshop should address?

Fairtrade should be mandatory for all SSF to improve their income. This is especially necessary for all export commodities caught by SSF, like tuna.

On the other hand, to achieve food security, monitoring tools need to be improved. We need to monitor not just environmental concerns but also human rights, to ensure fishers have a basic standard of living. Tools like the Fisheries Improvement Program (FIP), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) has now been developed. They include social and human rights aspects in their assessment.



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
IYAFA 2022: Asia Workshop -Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions aim to identify key issues for small-scale fishers and fishworkers in Asia in line with the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and the objectives of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022. The questions cover the environmental, economic, and social aspects of small-scale fisheries, with particular emphasis on strengthening governance and organizations. The thematic areas identified by participants will guide the development of the workshop agenda.

Response by: Marthin Hadiwinata, EKOMARIN, Indonesia

Personal Experience

1. How are you linked to small-scale fisheries sub-sector in your country and could you please describe the major characteristics of the sector?

I do advocacy and research on small-scale fisheries. In Indonesia, coastal fishers amount to 2 million. Meanwhile, inland water fishers are limited to 600,000. SSFs account for 96 per cent of fishers, and the fishing area is concentrated within 0 to 12 nautical miles.

Majority of SSFs operate motorboats to catch fish. They usually catch fish with several types of fishing gear, such as passive and dynamic traps, longlines, and nets. Fish caught is usually brought home, handed over to the fishers' wives, and then sold to middlemen or collectors. Fishing activities by SSF contributes to 80 per cent of domestic consumption.

2. What makes you feel proud about being associated with the small-scale fisheries in your country?

I have been advocating and writing for decades about the marine plunder faced by SSFs in many areas in Indonesia. I also defend the fishers arrested and charged with defending the land where they live. My involvement in international forums representing fishing communities from Indonesia in the preparation of the SSF Guidelines is one of my most important contributions to the sector.

3. Are fishing communities similar to farming communities? Or are they better-off?

Based on my experience, many fishers also work as farmers when the fishing season does not allow them to go to the sea. In addition, some cultivate seaweed, lobster, green mussels or grouper. They carry out both activities simultaneously to compensate for operational costs.

Environmental sustainability

1. Do you think that some of your fishing practices are sometimes detrimental to fishery resources and the environment (aquatic species, flood plains, mangroves, etc.)? If so please explain?

Fishers with small-scale vessels often operate destructive fishing gear such as trawlers. It damages coral reefs and catches small fish that should not be taken.

Many fishers do not know about marine plastic pollution. This lack of awareness means they throw fishing gear such as nets made of damaged plastic into the sea. These are very dangerous because. They have the potential to become microplastics, can be eaten by fish and damage the quality of the environment.

2. Have you been involved in planning or implementing conservation and management of fishery resources (marine and inland)? Are there any lessons that you would like to share?

I have no direct experience in conservation and management of fishery resources. However, several times while doing advocacy, I encouraged public participation and invited consultation. In my experience, no institution has placed civil society or fishers as part of the institutional implementation process for conservation and management of fishery resources.

On the other hand, in coastal area management, Indonesian law requires that each province have a local regulation on zoning plans for coastal areas and small islands. I actively assist SSF participation to ensure their fishing areas are not excluded and replaced by industrial zones. I encourage each group of fishermen to make an independent map containing fishing and cultivation zones they have been using for generations. However, there is no recognition of space protection for fishers to catch fish in the coastal area management policy. The Job Creation Law which revised the Coastal Law gave the central government the power to impose sea confiscation.

Economic viability

1. What are the problems faced by small scale fish workers in procuring boat, gear and engine (if applicable)? Do you think there are too many boats and too little fish?

Small-scale fishers still face difficulty accessing funding from banks. Therefore, many cannot buy boat engines or upgrade their vessels. This lack of capital leads them to borrow from middlemen on high rates of interest. They have difficulty paying off debts, and end up pawning their boats to middlemen. Without boats, they eventually turn into fishery workers.

It is very difficult to say whether the number of fish stocks is small or the number of boats is too many. The Indonesian government does not have real data on the number of fish stocks, or the exact number of fishers and fishing vessels. Despite their claims, there has been a surplus of fish in Indonesia over the last five years.

On the other hand, climate change has impacted fishing days and fish population.

2. What are the major challenges faced by the small-scale fishers and fish workers in accessing the market (competition from merchants, infrastructural issues, poor access to loan, etc.)?

Small-scale fishers in Indonesia do not control and access the market directly. The catch is generally handled by middlemen distributing it into the market. The long supply chain means fishers receive a small fraction of the final market price of the product.

Fishers face many challenges when they want to access the market. It starts from their ability to do appropriate marketing and management. They lack infrastructure to ensure fish quality can be maintained.

3. What are the challenges facing SSF in accessing regional/international markets? Do you receive any support from any agencies to facilitate access to these markets?

Accessing regional and international markets generally requires professional marketing management, solid economic institutions, and the availability of large quantities of fish. Small-scale fishers do not have strong economic institutions such as cooperatives, do not have a team that can do marketing, and cannot consolidate fish in large quantities.

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries considers small-scale fishers undervalued. Policies developed by the Ministry has caused many disputes between the large-scale fishing industry and small-scale fishers.

4. What are the major factors influencing the price of fish in your country?

Availability of fuel, weather conditions, and certain times of the year—like religious holidays—are the dominant factors that determine fish prices.

Social Sustainability

1. What are the major government schemes/programmes available in your country for alleviating poverty and improving the standard of living of fishing communities (E.g., education, health insurance, pension scheme, housing, sanitation)? What are the barriers to accessing such schemes?

The government has many programmes for fishers—providing sanitation in fishing villages, housing improvements, health and employment insurance, and education for the children of fishers. Unfortunately many, like housing, become irrelevant for fishers because the housing requires them to relocate to locations far from the coast. SSF accounts for 25 per cent of the total number of poor people in Indonesia, so the insurance scheme, which requires that each participant pay a monthly contribution, is inaccessible for fishers already facing economic barriers.

2. Which are the most representative fish worker organization in your country? (Trade unions, co-operatives, religious organizations, CBOs, etc.). How do they assist fishworkers in improving their life and livelihood?

Community-based organizations represent most fishers in Indonesia. It help fishers obtain aid such as boats, fishing gear, insurance, and loans.

Governance

1. Do the fishers in your country enjoy right to their fishing ground as granted by the government? Are there any traditional rights that they enjoy?

Regional regulations regarding zoning plans for coastal areas and small islands has excluded small-scale fishers from their fishing grounds. When the government implements the regulations—for example, by building ports, providing wide access to ship routes, granting mining permits—small-scale fishers will be eliminated. In some provinces, there are areas for capture fisheries that are accessible only to small-scale fishers. They are limited in number.

2. Are the human rights of fishing communities protected? If so, how?

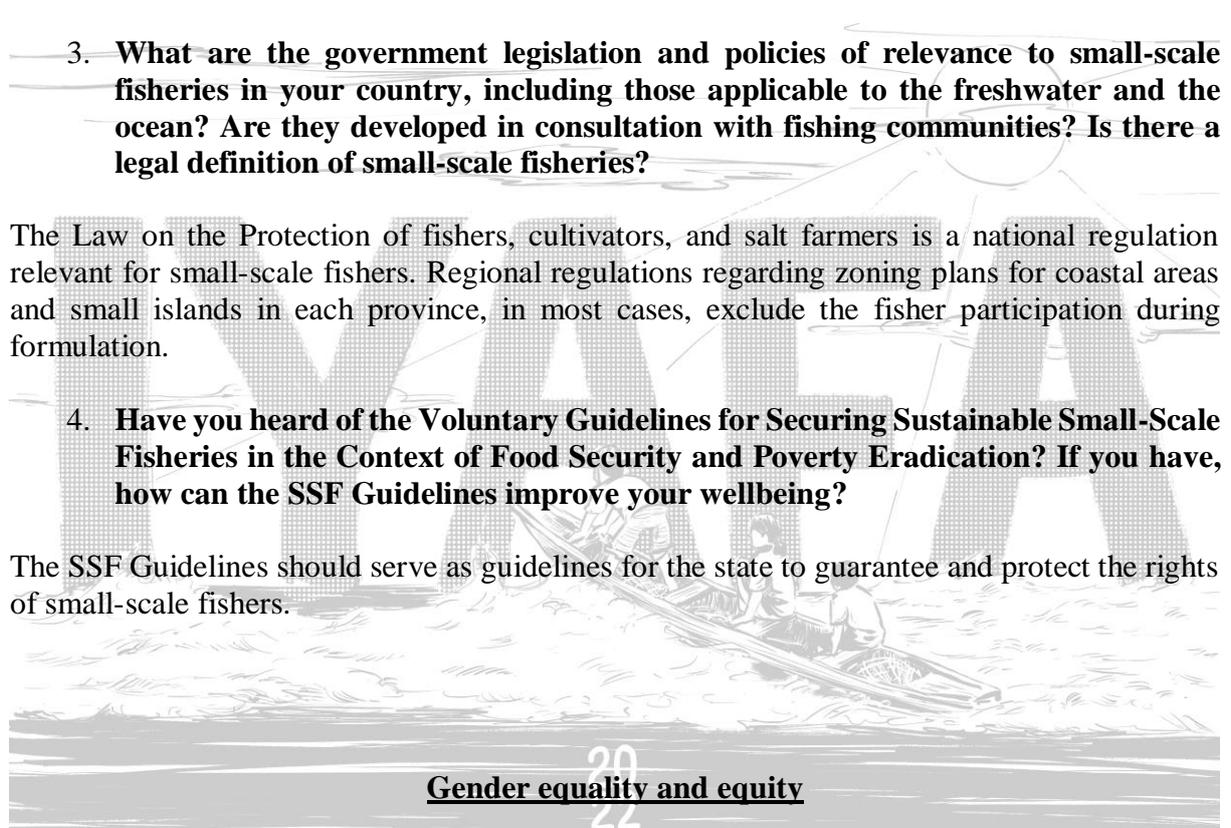
In de jure, there are been various provisions to protect the human rights of fishers and their communities. It can be seen in the law of fishers, salt farmers, and cultivators. Although there is no direct relationship with the SSF Guidelines, the policy has recognized small-scale fishers. Nevertheless, de facto, fishers are still not considered important food providers.

3. What are the government legislation and policies of relevance to small-scale fisheries in your country, including those applicable to the freshwater and the ocean? Are they developed in consultation with fishing communities? Is there a legal definition of small-scale fisheries?

The Law on the Protection of fishers, cultivators, and salt farmers is a national regulation relevant for small-scale fishers. Regional regulations regarding zoning plans for coastal areas and small islands in each province, in most cases, exclude the fisher participation during formulation.

4. Have you heard of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication? If you have, how can the SSF Guidelines improve your wellbeing?

The SSF Guidelines should serve as guidelines for the state to guarantee and protect the rights of small-scale fishers.



Gender equality and equity

1. What are the rights of women as recognized in law and policies to benefit women in fisheries?

In the law on the protection of fishers, women are recognized only as fishermen's wives. This situation means they face difficulties accessing insurance, fishing gear and capital loans as they are not recognized as fishery workers.

2. What are the major challenges faced by women in the fisheries sector in your country in terms of access to resources, markets and effective participation in fish workers organizations?

The main challenge women face is the burden they bear from multi-tasking. They have to take care of the household, cook and look after the children. At the same time, they have to manage the household economy by participating in marketing activities for fish caught by their

husbands. The absence of full recognition by the state for fisherwomen makes it difficult for them to access support. Fisherwomen are still not considered to have a significant role and become second class compared to men. This low position is evident in fishing organizations, where women's voices are not considered important..

3. What are the major programmes, policies, initiatives or organizations that help to improve the visibility of women in the fisheries sector?

Several programmes to train fisherwomen have been implemented. In addition, there have been initiatives to increase women participation, by creating separate spaces and forums for them. Fishers have also been educated on the need to recognize women as an equal part of the value chain.

Food security and nutrition

1. Is there any legislation/policy recognizing nutrition and food security as a right (presence of legislations like right to food act, nutritional guidelines)?

Law number 18 of 2012 talks about food and government regulation number 17 of 2015 about food security and nutrition.

2. How does the small-scale fisheries subsector contribute to local nutrition and food security?

Small-scale fishers provide protein that can be accessed easily and for cheap.

3. Do you think the income generated from SSF is adequate to meet the small-scale fishworkers basic needs?

It depends on their location. If they live in big cities and have high mobility, their incomes are often low compared to their daily needs. For the majority, income is insufficient.

Resilience

1. What kind of changes were brought by COVID-19 pandemic to the SSF in your country and how did the small-scale fish workers respond to these changes? Did the SSF sub-sector receive any support from the government or any other organizations during the pandemic?

Covid-19 taught small-scale fishers to manage their finances. The unexpected crisis resulted in a myriad of difficulties for fishers. The price of fish dropped, mobility was limited, and the educational needs of their children increased because they had to provide cellphones and internet network to them.

The government has disbursed cash transfers of US\$ 125, US\$ 42 and US\$ 42 three times during the first two years of the pandemic. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries also purchased fish from fishers. Many organizations provide financial assistance to fishers. However, the government's support was insufficient.

2. **What are the major threats faced by SSF and what are their impacts? (These can include both natural threats such as cyclones, typhoons, coastal erosion and degradation and other threats such as eviction, aquaculture development, sand mining, river diversion, land reclamation, infrastructure development, industrial activities, pollution, etc.)**

Small-scale fishers have conflicted with fishers operating trawlers for more than half a century. This, despite legal regulations stating that trawling is a crime. In addition, there is massive development in coastal areas for infrastructure such as ports, power plants, tourism, extractive industries, and sea transportation. This has displaced fishers' settlements and resulted in a loss of fishing areas. In addition, climate change has exacerbated the situation causing weather anomalies which impact fishers' lives and livelihoods.

3. **How are the SSF adapting to or responding to the above threats? For example, advocacy, impact assessments, early warning systems, life-saving equipment, insurance schemes, etc**

Fishers have sent letters to local and central governments to enforce the rules and punish fishers using trawlers. Many civil society organizations assist fishers whose living or marine space has been confiscated. In many cases they do so by lobbying, demonstrating, or even filing lawsuits in court. Small-scale fishers adapt to climate change by elevating their sinking houses, doing cultivation or community-based tourism to get alternative income.

