

Training Manual

For Community-Based Implementation of the SSF Guidelines



TECHNICAL SERVICES
FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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INTRODUCTION

The small-scale fisheries sector plays an important role in providing food security and supporting livelihoods. In Ghana, it contributes 70-80 percent of the total annual fish catch while providing livelihood for an estimated 3 million fish workers dependent on the value chains.

Despite their significant contribution, SSF is characterized by high incidence of poverty and deprivation, food insecurity, hazardous working environment and poor social infrastructure. The sector is also experiencing declining catch. Determining factors include illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, weak institutional regulation and unsustainable fishing practices.

To reverse this trend, fish workers must be empowered to participate in decision-making and management of the fishery resources. The SSF Guidelines (VG-SSF) provides a framework for empowering fishing communities to participate in decision-making and management – through a human rights-based approach (HRBA).

OBJECTIVES

This training manual has been developed to build the capacity of fish worker organizations (FWOs) and SSF leaders with practical knowledge of the SSF Guidelines; equip them with participatory techniques to educate their members on the SSF Guidelines and align their organizations with human rights standards and to take a greater role in SSF Guidelines advocacy and monitoring.

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual contains seven learning sessions. Each session begins with an artwork, key message and learning outcomes. The session guide provides the detailed steps in facilitating each session, including the methodology and training materials required.

It is important for facilitators to be familiar with the SSF Guidelines; or the summarised version which is provided in the annex of this manual. Since the SSF Guidelines aims to eradicate poverty and achieve food security, its contents affect every fabric of life in small-scale fisheries. For this reason, the facilitator must endeavour to:

- **Use factual case studies/examples** – help participants to verify evidence and draw the right conclusions.
- **Reach the heart** – help participants to make self-examination and appreciate what they learn.
- **Use Illustrations** - ask participants to comment on the artwork, follow up with additional questions as needed to emphasise key points.
- **Call to action** – help participants to understand how the subject affect their lives, the consequences of decisive action or inaction.

Tenure Rights and Governance



KEY MESSAGE

Both men and women fishers and fish workers should have access to aquatic resources and adjoining land for their livelihood and should not be unlawfully displaced. If and when they have to be displaced or denied access to their resources, they should be duly consulted and adequate arrangements must be put in place including just compensation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of tenure rights and governance; and the role legislation and policies play in protecting and promoting tenure rights of fishers from arbitrary eviction or denial of access to the fishery resource;
- Appreciate that women fishers and fish workers' rights to secure tenure including habitation, and areas for pre- and post-harvest activities is backed by human rights standards;
- Work with other stakeholders towards removing the barriers that prevent fishing communities from participating in decisions that govern their lives and livelihoods.

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 5

Methodology

Presentation, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

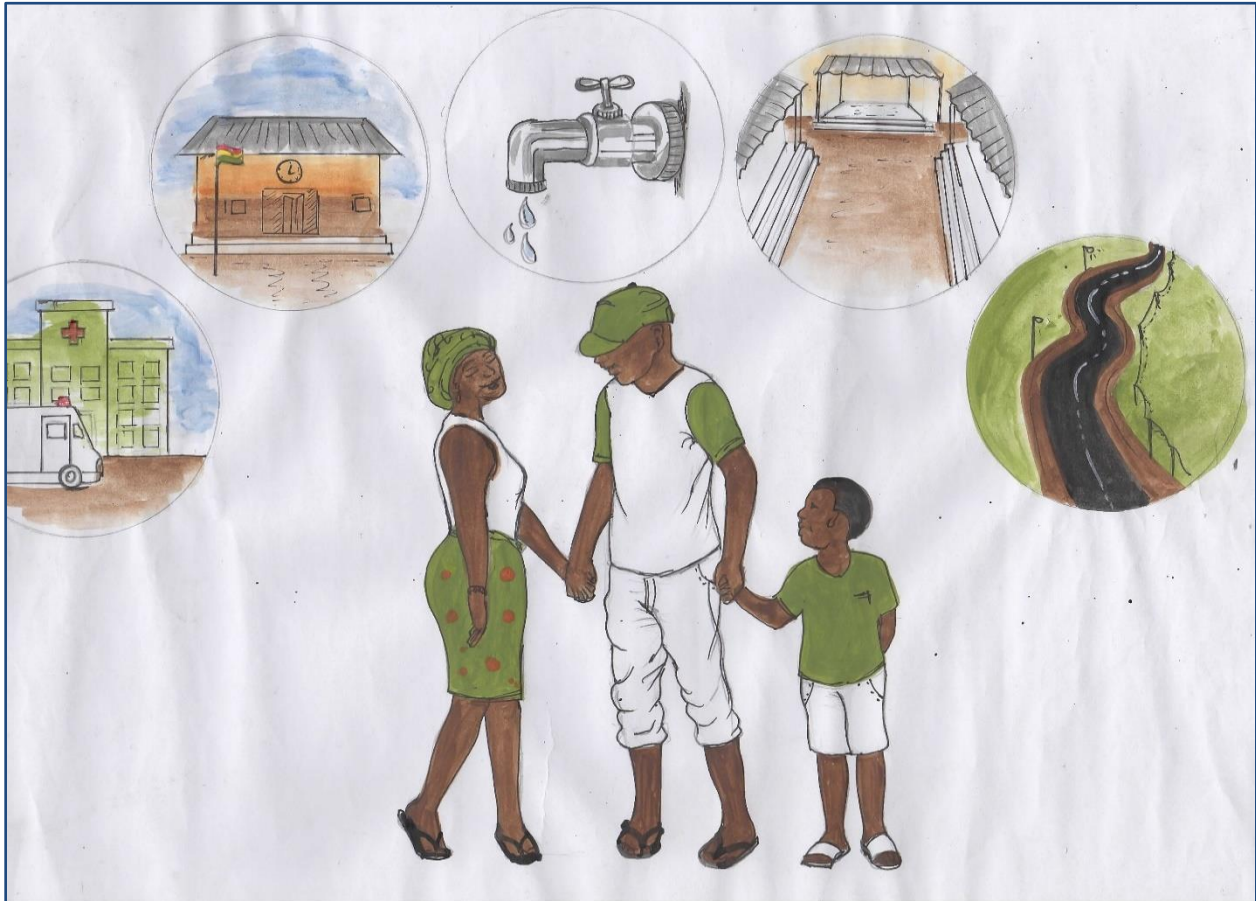
Activities/Steps:

1. Introduce the session with a general concept of tenure rights in small-scale fishery; that *all fishing communities should have access* to the aquatic resources and adjoining land for their livelihood and should not be unlawfully denied or displaced.
 2. Discuss with participants what is meant by *legitimate or secure tenure rights* and the role that legislation or government policies can play in protecting and promoting tenure rights of fishers from arbitrary eviction or denial of access to the fishery resource.
 3. Explain that responsible governance of tenure demands that customary tenure practices be recognised so that fishing communities can fully participate in tenure governance but all customary practices on tenure must first be in harmony with human rights standards before they are recognised by law.
 4. Emphasize that while women may not necessarily perform the same duties as men, the SSF Guidelines recognize that women fishers and fish workers have rights to secure tenure including habitation, and areas for pre- and post-harvest activities.
 5. Co-management can serve as sustainable resource management tool only when women, vulnerable and marginalized groups are allowed to be part of the process; with shared responsibility in designing and implementing and monitoring management measures.
 6. **Discuss** – As a duty bearer, government is required to remove all barriers that prevents or limits fishing communities from participating in decisions that govern their lives and livelihoods. What role can FWOs and SSF leaders play in this?
 7. **Explore further.** Why is it necessary for all aspects of customary tenure practices agree with human rights standards before they are given legal backing?
-

KEY POINT:

All fishers and fish workers should have access to the aquatic resources and space for pre- and post-harvest activities. These rights should be **recognised, protected and promoted**.

Social Development, Employment and Decent Work



KEY MESSAGE

The quality of life of fishers and fish workers and their households should be improved through decent work and social infrastructure including housing, education, health, potable water and social protection. Women and vulnerable groups must be given preferential treatment to ensure equitable benefits of social services provided.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Enhance and deepen their understanding of the obligation placed on states to empower fishing communities to enjoy their socio-economic rights;
- Assess how government can fulfil its social development obligations beyond provision of social amenities – policies, legislation, schemes, institutional support to SSF.
- Demonstrate how the principle of preferential treatment for women, vulnerable and marginalised groups is a prerequisite for social development in SSF.

SESSION GUIDE

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 6

Methodology

Presentation, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

Activities/Steps:

1. Introduce the session with the obligation placed on states to empower fishing communities to enjoy their socio-economic rights. Note that social development does not simply refer to physical infrastructure but all aspects of human development needs.
2. Discuss with participants how government can fulfil its social development obligations beyond provision of social amenities – policies, legislation, institutional support to SSF.
3. Ask participants to provide indicators that can be used to measure progress of social development e.g., health, education, social security. Highlight the fact that; indicators that are multidimensional call for holistic and integrated approaches.
4. Explain the need for preferential treatment or access for persons in disadvantaged situations by asking participants to relate real-life experiences e.g., medical emergency. Apply the parallel need for women, vulnerable and marginalised groups in SSF with the rationale of ensuring equitable benefits of social services provided.
5. Emphasise that while government may find it challenging to provide basic social services such as schools, and hospitals, it is even more challenging to provide “soft” SSF needs such as conditions for decent work, occupational safety and social security. This calls for a collaboration between the state, fishing communities and other stakeholders.
6. **Discuss** – As a duty bearer, government is required to ensure that all human development needs of SSF are met. What role can FWOs and SSF leaders play in this?
7. **Explore further:** Despite the existence of national social development policies; is it necessary to formulate specific policies on social development for the SSF sector?

KEY POINT:

Social development is a right; and the **quality of life** of fishers and fish workers should be improved through **decent work, social infrastructure, and social protection**.

Value Chains, Post-Harvest and Trade



KEY MESSAGE

The role that women play in the value chain should be recognised and provided with support including training and access to capital and market. The bottlenecks in the value chain should be addressed to ensure affordable, safe and quality fishery products.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Analyse the significant role women play in pre- and post-harvest activities; and the importance of policies in providing support to improve their living and working conditions from a gender perspective;
- Determine their own training needs and the resources they need for skills development, value addition and business enterprise development;
- Harness their knowledge and skills and camaraderie to play a greater role in addressing the challenges in the SSF value chains, post-harvest and trade.

SESSION GUIDE

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 7

Methodology

Presentation, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

Activities/Steps

1. Introduce the session by drawing attention to the all-embracing definition of value-chains, post-harvest and trade; to include the entire value chain from pre-harvest through harvest to post harvest activities.
2. Brainstorm: ask participants to mention all the actors in the value chain; and create a list of the marginalised and vulnerable in terms of participation in decision-making; access to capital/skills training and socio-cultural beliefs.
3. Discuss with participants the important role of women in pre- and post-harvest activities; and how they can be recognized and valorised. Ask participants to share their views on the role of policies in providing support to improve women's living and working conditions.
4. Ensuring affordable, safe and quality fishery products requires effectively addressing the bottlenecks in the value chain. While this may call for huge capital investment in infrastructure for fish landing, processing, storage, transportation and marketing; the needs of the value chain actors such skills development, value addition and formation of business enterprise/cooperatives should be prioritised by the state.
5. Highlight major challenges faced by women and men in the value chain including: health risks associated with hazardous processing methods and limited or expensive business finance. Ask participants to relate coping strategies, success stories or practical solutions.
6. **Discuss-** How can FWOs and SSF leaders be empowered to play a greater role in addressing the challenges in the SSF value chains, post-harvest and trade?
7. **Explore further:** Despite interventions from the public sector, NGOs, international aid agencies and development partners, there still remain significant bottlenecks in the SSF value chains. What accounts for the slow progress?

KEY POINT:

The **role of women** in the SSF value chains **should be recognised** while bottlenecks should also be addressed to ensure **affordable, safe and quality fishery products**.

Gender Equality and Equity



KEY MESSAGE

Both men and women fishers and fish workers have equal rights to fishery resources and their management. All obstacles that work against men and women fishers and fish workers should be addressed. Existing gender discriminating practices should be eliminated.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Enhance their understanding of the concept of gender equality and equity in SSF; and cases where gender equity actions might be needed to address imbalances, discrimination, or disadvantaged situations;
- Appreciate the importance of legislation and policy; funding, educational campaigns and FWOs and SSF leaders in addressing gender equality and equity issues;
- Acknowledge the interconnectedness of women empowerment to poverty reduction and food security and the cost of little or no action.

SESSION GUIDE

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 8

Methodology

Presentation, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

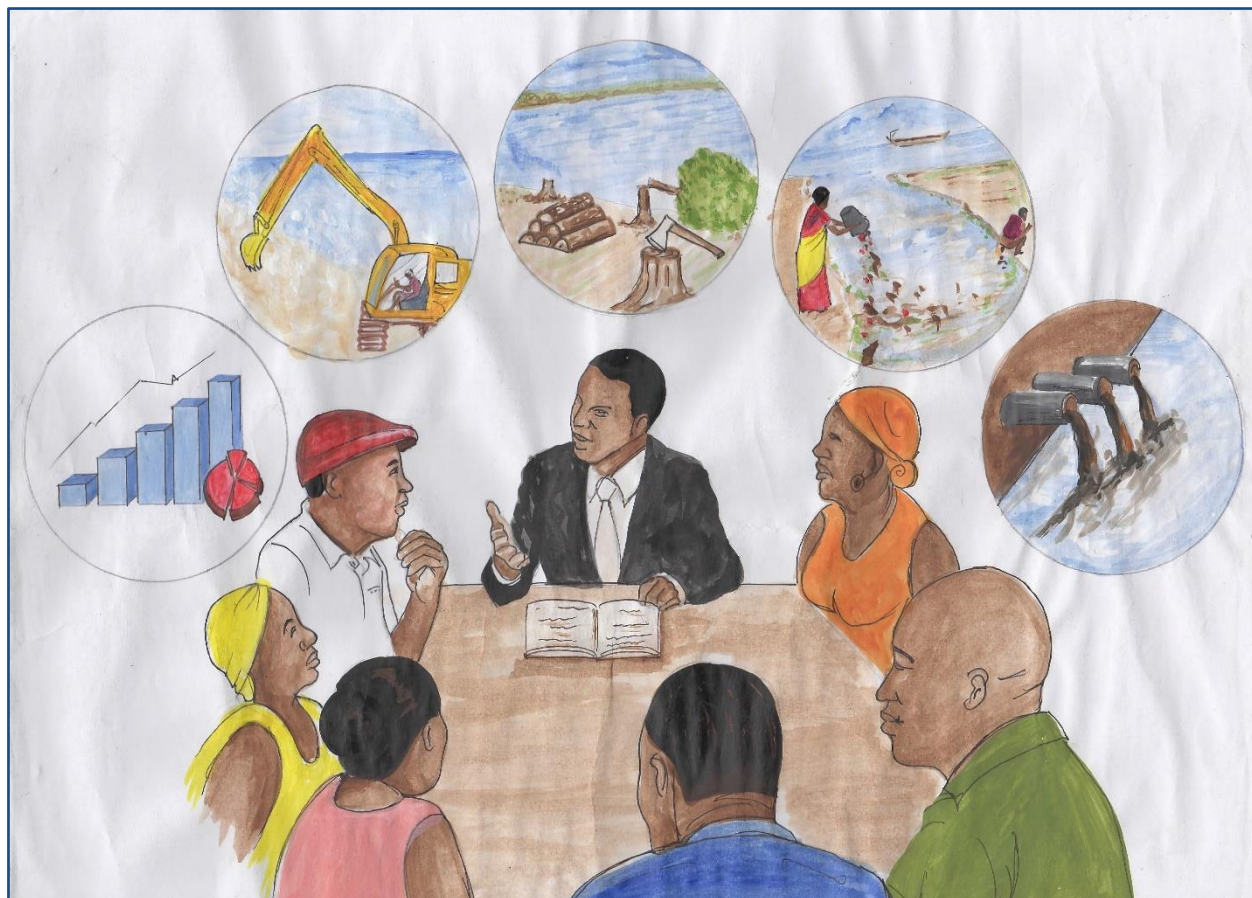
Activities/Steps

1. Introduce the session with a general concept of gender equality in SSF; that both men and women fishers and fish workers have equal rights to aquatic resources and their management; stressing on equal conditions, treatment, opportunities and benefits.
 2. Highlight the fact that *gender equality* in SSF does not imply that men and women fishers and fish workers will become the same; but men and women rights, responsibilities and opportunities in SSF should not depend on whether they are male or female.
 3. Discuss with participants *gender equity* in SSF and emphasise that; the notion of equity is based on understanding the needs of each individual; and distributing resources fairly on the basis of need. Ask participants to give examples where gender equity actions might be needed to address imbalances, discrimination, or disadvantaged situations.
 4. Draw attention to the role of legislation and policy; adequate funding, educational campaigns and FWOs and SSF leaders in addressing gender equality and equity issues.
 5. Highlight historical or major gender-based challenges faced by women and men including: occupational health and safety, sexual and gender-based violence. Encourage participants to relate how they address gender issues; and lessons that can be drawn.
 6. **Discuss** – significant gender inequalities exist due to many factors including entrenched social, religious, cultural and traditional beliefs and practices. Since state interventions have generally yielded little result, what roles can FWO and SSF leaders play in this?
 7. **Explore further:** The overall aim of women empowerment in SSF is to contribute towards eradicating poverty and achieving food security; what is the likely cost of little or no action?
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KEY POINT:

Both **men and women** fishers and fish workers have equal rights to the **aquatic resources** and **their management**.

Disaster Risks and Climate Change



KEY MESSAGE

Human induced and natural disasters including pollution and shore erosion affects fisheries habitats and threatens the livelihoods of fishers and fish workers; and parties causing damage should be held responsible. Fishing communities should be involved in disaster risk preparedness and management policies and plans.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Deepen knowledge of the impact of human induced and natural disasters and their effect on fisheries habitats, ecosystems and fishing communities;
- Explain the usefulness of climate change mitigation and adaptation plan for the small-scale fisheries sector;
- Demonstrate clear understanding of the concerted efforts of stakeholders needed to address disaster risks and climate change including creating an early warning mechanism with clear channels of communicating relevant information and reports.

SESSION GUIDE

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 9

Methodology

Presentation, Exercise, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

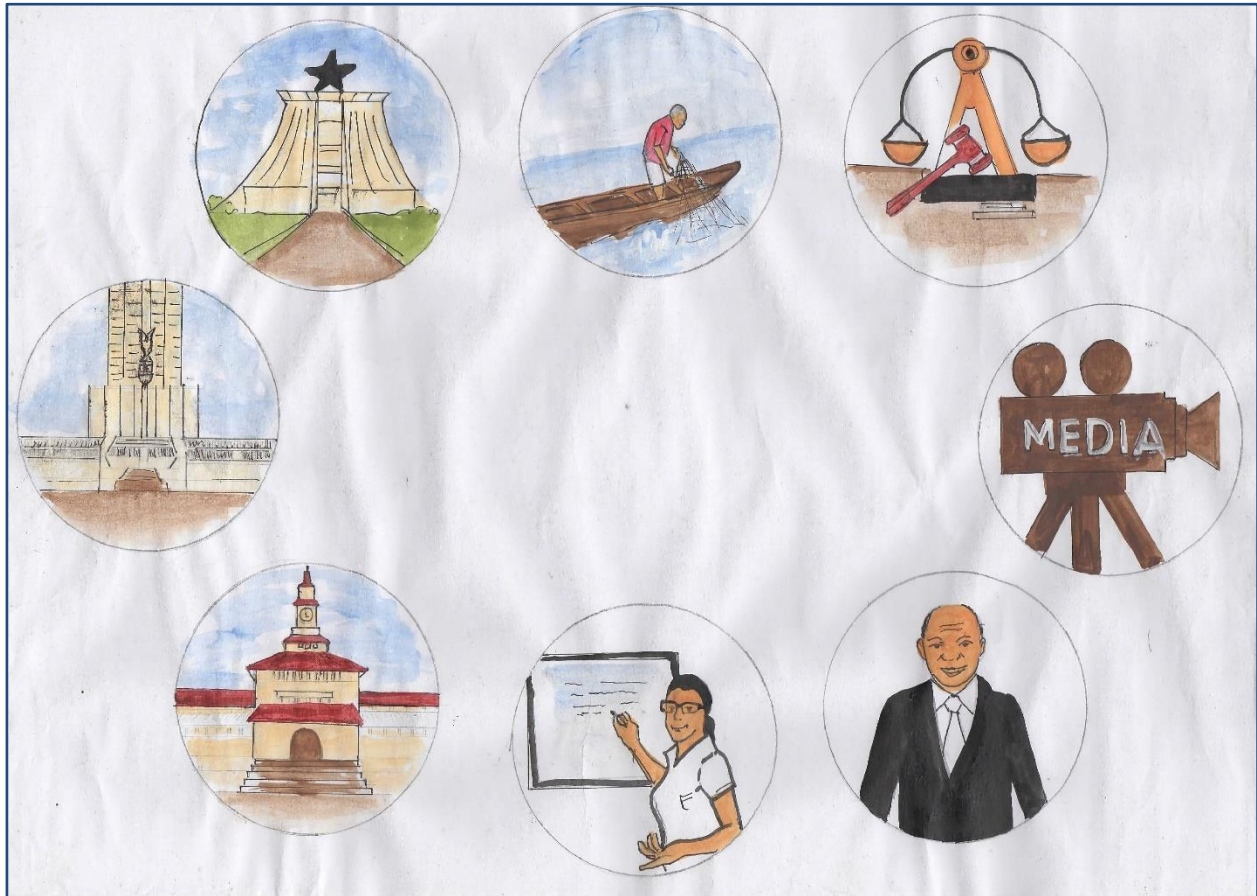
Activities/Steps

1. Introduce the session by drawing attention to the impact of human induced and natural disasters and their effect on fisheries habitats, ecosystems and fishing communities.
2. Brainstorm: ask participants to mention the causes of coastal and inland shore erosion, pollution, and destruction of mangroves and fisheries habitats; and assist them with a list of relevant regulatory agencies with oversight responsibilities.
3. Discuss with participants the usefulness of climate change mitigation and adaptation plan for the small-scale fisheries sector.
4. Highlight the fact that addressing disaster risks and climate change calls for concerted efforts all stakeholders. An important aspect of this is creating an early warning mechanism with clear channels of communicating relevant weather forecasts and early warning reports with fishing communities.
5. Emphasize that addressing the root causes of unsustainable practices such as sand mining, plastic pollution is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration with local government, industry, media, academia, and civil society organisations.
6. **Discuss** - How can FWOs and SSF leaders be empowered to play a greater role in addressing harmful environmental practices?
7. **Explore further**: Since some members of FWOs and fishing communities often engage in unsustainable fishing practices; how can FWOs and SSF leaders show greater commitment to addressing disaster risks and climate change?

KEY POINT:

Fishing communities should be involved in disaster risk preparedness and management policies and plans.

Policy Coherence, Institutional Coordination and Collaboration



KEY MESSAGE

Government must work to harmonise policies on small-scale fisheries with international instruments on human rights. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) must liaise with ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), SSF organisations, NGOs, media houses and other relevant stakeholders to sustainably address the needs fishing communities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Develop a basic understanding of legislation and policies; and brief overview on how they are formulated;
- Appreciate the importance of policies to the SSF sector that; a coherent policy will provide clear direction and attempts to address concerns of fishers/fish workers in a holistic manner;
- Assess how they can be empowered to work with other stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation.

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 10

Methodology

Presentation, Exercise, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

Activities/Steps

1. Introduce the session by familiarising the participants with a general understanding of legislation and policies; and brief overview on how they are developed.
2. Brainstorm: ask participants to mention some of the rules and regulations in SSF; and create a list of the MDA in charge of oversight and implementation.
3. Discuss with participants the importance of policies to the SSF sector and stress that a coherent policy provides clear direction and attempts to address all the concerns of fishers/fish workers in a holistic manner.
4. Explain that; where a policy cuts across several ministries or stakeholders; the lead implementation ministry should promote coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders (line ministries, FWOs, CSOs, NGOs)
5. Emphasise that effective implementation of policies requires involvement of all relevant stakeholders (FWOs, CSOs, academia, media houses) in the monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of the policy.
6. **Discuss** - How can FWOs and SSF leaders be empowered to play a greater role in policy formulation and implementation?
7. **Explore further:** Why do policies often achieve little impact, despite their well-meaning intended objectives?

KEY POINT:

MoFAD must work with all relevant stakeholders to sustainably address the needs fishing communities

Information, Research and Communication



KEY MESSAGE

Data on all aspects of small-scale fisheries – biological, socio-economic and gender should be disaggregated in a transparent manner. There is the need for research programmes to include traditional knowledge where appropriate to facilitate a two-way process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate clear understanding of the problem of lack of timely, disaggregated data and the usefulness of disaggregated data in the small-scale fisheries sector;
- Appreciate the need for research programmes to include traditional knowledge where appropriate to facilitate a two-way process;
- Determine the knowledge, skills and resources needed to play a greater role in information, research and communication of the SSF Guidelines.

SESSION GUIDE

Training Materials

Illustrations, Summarised SSF Guidelines Chapter 11

Methodology

Presentation, Exercise, Group Discussion [Total Duration per Session – 1 hour or less]

Activities/Steps:

1. Introduce the session by drawing attention to the problems of lack of timely, disaggregated data in the SSF sector.
 2. Brainstorm: provide participants with regional and/or district population demographics (from the 2021 census) and ask them to provide: number of fishers, processors, traders, traditional smoke ovens, etc in their community.
 3. Discuss with participants the usefulness of disaggregated data in the small-scale fisheries sector.
 4. Highlight the fact that; while fisheries mandated MDAs collect periodic data; these data typically do not capture socio-economic aspects such as post-harvest and value chain actors, gender, youth, migration, vulnerable and marginalized groups.
 5. Emphasise the need for research programmes to include traditional knowledge where appropriate to facilitate a two-way process
 6. **Discuss** - How can FWOs and SSF leaders be empowered to play a greater role in information, research and communication?
 7. **Explore further:** Some stakeholders have expressed the view that traditional knowledge is archaic and unscientific; and have limited application to today's SSF. Is this tenable?
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KEY POINT:

Data on all aspects of SSF – biological, socio-economic and gender should be disaggregated in a transparent manner.

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CHAPTER 5:

GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE

Responsible governance of tenure of appropriate resources is central to achievements of the socioeconomic and cultural development and realization of the human rights of small-scale fishing communities. Small-scale fishing communities should have secure, equitable and socio-culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources, fishing areas and adjacent land and forests. Special attention should be given to tenure rights of women. All forms of legitimate tenure rights should be identified, recorded and respected. This should be undertaken, with legislation, if necessary, specially taking into account the customary and preferential rights to aquatic resources and land of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. Where legal reforms have conferred rights to women, they should be appropriately accommodated in customary tenure systems. The role of small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples to restore, conserve, protect and co-manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems should be recognized. Where states own or control land and water resources, their tenure rights should be established taking socioeconomic and environmental objectives into consideration, in particular, when they are collectively used and managed by small-scale fishing communities.

Granting preferential access for small-scale fisheries to fish in national waters is incorporated in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Article 6.18). Building on this, states should implement measures such as exclusive zones for small-scale fisheries. Before agreements to grant resource access are entered into with third parties, the claims of small-scale fishing communities to such areas should be given due consideration.

Other users are exerting increasing competition for small-scale fisheries areas, leading to conflicts. States should ensure that small-scale fishing communities are given special support and are not arbitrarily evicted or that their legitimate tenure rights are infringed upon or extinguished. In the case of large-scale development projects, states and other parties should hold meaningful consultations and undertake relevant impact studies to assess the impact on small-scale fishing communities.

Disputes over tenure rights involving small-scale fishing communities should be resolved by the state in a timely, affordable and effective manner with remedies including restitution, indemnity, just compensation and reparation, being promptly enforced.

Displacement by natural disasters and/or armed conflict is increasingly affecting small-scale fishing communities. States should take every effort to restore access to traditional fishing grounds and coastal lands, keeping sustainability of the fishery resources in mind. In these circumstances, mechanisms should be established to support communities affected by grave human-rights violations to rebuild their lives and all discrimination against women in tenure practices should be eliminated.

B. SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Measures should be adopted for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and due recognition given to the requirements and opportunities of small-scale fisheries. Rights go together with responsibilities. Tenure rights are balanced by duties focused towards conservation and sustainable use.

Small-scale fisheries should use fishing practices which do least harm to the environment and the associated species. States should support small-scale fisheries to take responsibility for resource management. States should involve the communities in the design, planning and implementation of management measures, ensuring equitable participation of women and other vulnerable groups. Within the scope of national laws, states should promote participatory management systems.

States should establish and promote monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems applicable and suitable for small-scale fisheries. States should aim to deter, prevent and eliminate all illegal and destructive fishing practices and small-scale fishers should support MCS systems and also provide the authorities information needed for management.

States should clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties with respect to co-management arrangements, resorting to legally supported processes. Small-scale fisheries should be represented in relevant local and national professional associations and bodies and take active part in the fishery decision- and policy-making process.

In promoting co-management, both states and small-scale fishers should support the men and women engaged in harvesting, and also the pre- and post-harvest operations, to contribute their knowledge, perspectives and needs.

States should ensure that the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities are protected where transboundary issues are involved with regards to shared waters and resources.

States should avoid policies and financial measures that contribute to creating fishing overcapacity, leading to overfishing and having an adverse impact on small-scale fisheries.

CHAPTER 6:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

All parties should take a holistic approach to small-scale fisheries development and management. States should promote investments in health, education, literacy, digital inclusion and other technical skills.

States should promote social-security schemes for all workers in small-scale fisheries along the entire value chain. States should support the development of schemes for savings, credit and insurance, with emphasis on inclusion and access of women to these services.

All should recognize the full range of activities of the small-scale fisheries value chain as being economic and professional operations.

States should promote decent work for all.

States should ensure the progressive realization of the right of small-scale fishers and fish workers to an adequate standard of living. States should pursue inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound economic policies in order that these workers earn a fair return from their labour, capital and management. States and other parties should support alternative income-generating opportunities. Conditions should be created for small-scale fishing communities to carry out their fishery-related activities.

Migration is a common livelihood strategy. States should recognize and address the underlying causes and consequences of transboundary movement of fishers.

States should address occupational health, safety and unfair working conditions. States should work towards elimination of forced labour and prevent debt bondage.

States should provide access to schools and education facilities, recognizing the importance of children's well-being and education for their future.

The complexity of safety-at-sea and inland waters and the multiple causes behind the deficiency should be recognized by all parties.

The safety and occupational health of small-scale fisheries must be integrated into the general management of fisheries.

States should protect the human rights and dignity of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in situations of armed conflict.

CHAPTER 7:

VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE

The central role of the post-harvest sub-sector of small-scale fisheries should be recognized by all parties. Women play a central role in the post-harvest sub-sector and this should be recognized by all parties.

Investments in appropriate infrastructures, organizational structures and capacity development of the post-harvest sub-sector should be fostered and provided by the state.

Traditional forms of associations of fishers and fishworkers must be recognized.

Ways must be sought to avoid post-harvest losses and create value addition.

States should promote equitable and non-discriminatory trade of small-scale fisheries products in local, national, regional and international markets. Promotion of international fish trade should not adversely affect the nutritional needs of people for whom fish is an inexpensive food that is critical to their diet and overall nutritional well-being.

Benefits from international trade should be fairly distributed and effective fisheries management systems should be in place to prevent overexploitation of fishery resources driven by market demand.

Environmental, social and other relevant assessments (among others) should be integral to the policies and procedures undertaken to ensure that adverse impacts of international trade on the environment and the culture, food security and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries can be gauged and equitably addressed.

Access to timely and accurate market and trade information for stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries value chain should be enabled by the state.

CHAPTER 8:

GENDER EQUALITY

Gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies. States should comply with their obligations under international human-rights law and implement the instruments to which they are party with regard to women's issues.

Specific measures to address discrimination against women should be adopted. Gender equality should be realized by establishing policies and legislation and altering those that are not compatible with this objective.

Functional evaluation systems should be developed to assess the impact of legislation, policies and actions for improving women's status and achieving gender equality.

Better technologies of importance appropriate to women's work should be developed.

CHAPTER 9:

DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Combating climate change requires urgent and ambitious action. Special attention should be paid to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands. An integrated and holistic approach with cross-sectoral collaboration is needed. Plans for adaptation, mitigation and aid, as appropriate, should be provided.

In case of disasters caused by humans that impact small-scale fisheries, the responsible parties should be held accountable. The impact of climate change and disasters on different facets of the post-harvest and trade activities should be taken into account. The concept of “building back better” should be applied in disaster response and rehabilitation. Energy efficiency along the whole value chain must be encouraged and promoted.

CHAPTER 10:

POLICY COHERENCE, INSTITUTIONAL CO-ORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

To promote holistic development in small-scale fishing communities, states should recognize the need for, and work towards, policy coherence.

States should develop and use spatial planning approaches, taking due account of the small-scale fisheries interests and role in integrated coastal zone management.

States should adopt policy measures to ensure the harmonization of policies that affect the health of marine and inland water bodies and ecosystems.

Fisheries policy should provide a long-term vision for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

There should be well-defined points of contact in government authorities and agencies for small-scale fishing communities.

Small-scale fisheries stakeholders should promote collaboration among their organizations.

States should promote local governance structures that contribute to effective management of small-scale fisheries. International, regional and sub-regional co-operation is needed to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries.

CHAPTER 11:

INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

States should establish, in a transparent manner, systems of data collection relevant for decision making on sustainable management of small-scale fisheries. Effective decision making requires communication and information. States should strive to prevent corruption, increase transparency and hold decisionmakers accountable.

Small-scale fishing communities are holders, providers and receivers of knowledge. Information of relevance, necessary for responsible small-scale fisheries and sustainable development, should be made available. Knowledge, culture, practices and technologies of small-scale fishing communities should be recognized and documented.

States should provide support to small-scale fishing communities — particularly indigenous people and women — that rely on fishing for subsistence. Existing and appropriate platforms and networks at the community, national and higher levels must be used to promote the flow and exchange of information.

States should make available funds for small-scale fisheries research and encourage data collection and analyses to be collaborative and participatory.

States should promote research into a variety of realms, in the context of gender relations in order, to inform strategies that will ensure equitable benefits for men and women in fisheries. Recognizing the role of small-scale fisheries, and in order to increase awareness of the nutritional benefits of eating fish, States should promote the consumption of fish within consumer education programmes.

