

## **Narrative report on Ghana**

### **Implementation of the SSF Guidelines**

ICSF has collaborated with the FAO globally and nationally on the implementation of the SSF guidelines. A three-country project to strengthen small-scale fishing communities and to produce global information product in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was commissioned in Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria (<https://www.icsf.net/resources/icsf-fao-three-country-project-brazil-ghana-nigeria-2021-2023/>). The project has been successfully completed and the final products are getting ready for publication.

Multiple consultative meetings were held in Ghana to draft a national policy on SSF, based on a human rights-based approach, ensuring sustainable and responsible fisheries. The consultative meetings were an important first step in the consultative process beginning in July 2021 and ending in February 2022. Participants and representatives of key small-scale fisheries stakeholder groups identified the common issues and concerns that the proposed SSF policy should address; as well as the associated actions for a human rights-based SSF policy framework for more sustainable and responsible small-scale fisheries.

Concerns that emerged were grouped into two categories, ineffectiveness of existing policies and absence of policies. The issues and concerns raised and their prioritized actions for policy formulation were also presented in tandem with the thematic areas of the SSF Guidelines. The feedback from the meetings informed the focus and content of the national workshop. A summary of the discussions was prepared to support the drafting of the national policy. A variety of communication materials on the SSF guidelines were also generated.

The national policy workshop was held on 6-7 December 2022 in Accra within the context of developing a national small-scale fisheries policy with a human rights-based approach (HRBA). The feedback from the consultative meetings were discussed, reviewed and validated by the major small-scale fisheries stakeholders. An overview of the proposed draft policy, complementary to existing legislative and policy instruments on the SSF sector along with specific, targeted interventions to respond to the needs and aspirations of fishers and fish workers in line with human rights standards, was presented. Participants discussed the document in detail, offering suggestions on the wording and terminology before accepting the recommendation that

the post-workshop adjusted draft is subjected to a final validation process before adoption by MoFAD, FC and FWOs.