



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

GHANA FISHERIES RECOVERY ACTIVITY (GFRA)



Annual Performance Report 2022

October 1, 2021, to September
30, 2022



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity
Annual Progress Report
October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

October 15, 2022

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by Tetra Tech through USAID Contract No. 72064121C00001, Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA).

This report was prepared by:

Tetra Tech
159 Bank Street, Suite 300
Burlington, Vermont 05401 USA
Telephone: +1 (802) 495-0282
Fax: +1 (802) 658-4247
Email: international.development@tetrattech.com

Tetra Tech Contact:

Heather D'Agnes, Chief of Party
Telephone: +233 (0) 599034200
Email: heather.dagnes@tetrattech.com

Authority/Disclaimer:

Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Contract (72064121C00001), awarded on May 26, 2021, to Tetra Tech ARD, and entitled the Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA). This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the GFRA team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the GFRA team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

COVER PHOTO: USAID Ghana Mission Director, Kimberly Rosen, supports the Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mavis Hawa Koomson to symbolically open the sea to mark the end of the 2022 fishing closed season for the artisanal sub-sector

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	v
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	vi
I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY	1
1.1 Project Description/Introduction.....	2
1.2 Annual Summary.....	2
2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	3
2.1 Progress Narrative	3
2.1.1 Strategic Approach 1: Align Fisheries Capacity with Ecological Carrying Capacity of the Small Pelagic Fisheries while Enhancing the Socio-economic Well-being and Resilience of Artisanal Fisherfolk.....	3
2.1.2 Strategic Approach 2: Increase the Quality and Value of Artisanal Fishers' Products to Maintain Household Income and Enhance Availability of Nutritious Foods for Local and Regional Markets	7
2.1.3 Strategic Approach 3: Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, and Co-Management in Governance Practices for Fisheries Policymaking, Regulation, and Enforcement.....	12
2.1.4 Strategic Approach 4: Strengthen Constituencies to Promote and Implement Sustainable Fisheries Management.....	21
2.1.5 Strategic Approach 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions.....	25
2.2 Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned.....	25
3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES.....	26
3.1 Gender Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI)	26
3.2 GFRA's Social Impact Assessment and Community Engagement Plan	27
4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	28
5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	35
6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS.....	36
6.1 Strategic Approach 1: Align Fisheries Capacity with Ecological Carrying Capacity of the Small Pelagic Fisheries while Enhancing the Socio-economic Well-being and Resilience of Artisanal Fisherfolk	36
6.2 Strategic Approach 2: Increase the Quality and Value of Artisanal Fish Products to Maintain Household Income and Enhance Availability of Nutritious Foods for Local and Regional Markets.....	37

6.3 Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen transparency, accountability, and co-management in governance practices for fisheries policymaking, regulation, and enforcement.	38
6.4 Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen constituencies to promote and implement sustainable fisheries management.	38
6.5 Strategic Objective 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions.	39
7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	40
ANNEX: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT (EMMR)	1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Consultant engaging youth at a landing site in Ankobrah in the Western Region.....	5
Figure 2: Livelihood promotion and registration at Anyaman in the Greater Accra Region with support from the Chief Fisherman.	6
Figure 3: Formation of VSLA groups in Tema	8
Figure 4: MTC meeting to review and develop a new SFCLS strategy.....	9
Figure 5: Training of fish processors on SFCS	10
Figure 6: Training of fish processors on packaging and access to higher markets	10
Figure 7: Strategic meeting to brainstorm on market development opportunities for SFCLS products ..	12
Figure 8 Fishers mending their nets at the Tema Canoe Basin during the 2022 closed season.....	17
Figure 9 A canoe fishing at the Togo-Ghana boarder during the 2022 closed season.....	18
Figure 10 Before and After Methodology for the Closed Season.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Figure 11: Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mavis Hawa Koomson, delivering her remarks.....	36

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Key Illegal Fishing Behaviors Identified	20
Table 2: AMELP Performance Report FY22.....	30
Table 3: Table of indication staff position and their names.....	35

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Agricultural Development Bank
APS	Annual Program Statement
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
CEMLAWS	Centre for Maritime Law and Security
CEP	Community Engagement Plan
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Fish Improvement Association
CFGoAG	Canoe and Fishing Gear Association of Ghana
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
COP	Chief of Party
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CR	Central Region
CSIR-FIR	Council for Scientific Research-Food Research Institute
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAA	Development Action Association
DAF	Director of Administration and Finance
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation
F2F	Fisher-to-Fisher Dialogue
FC	Fisheries Commission
FDA	Food and Drugs Authority
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMOC	Fisheries Management Operational Committee
FoN	Friends of the Nation
FSSD	Fisheries Scientific Survey Division
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GFRA	Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association
GITA	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
GoG	Government of Ghana
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GSA	Ghana Standards Authority
GUC	Grants Under Contract

Hon	Honorable
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
KEEA	Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem
KII	Key Informant Interview
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MELR	Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations
MFMD	Marine Fisheries Management Division
MFMP	Marine Fisheries Management Plan
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MoGSP	Ministry of Gender and Social Protection
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTC	Multi-Disciplinary Committee
NAFAG	National Fisheries Association of Ghana
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPOA-IUU	National Plan of Action to combat IUU
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
OISL	Opportunity Savings and Loans
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PLS	Progressive Licensing Scheme
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SCLS	Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Specialist
SFCS	Safe Fish Certification Scheme
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SSNIT	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
STC	Scientific Technical Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UCC	University of Cape Coast
UG	University of Ghana
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VA	Village Agents
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WR	Western Region

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Program Name:	Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity
Activity Start Date and End Date:	May 26, 2021 - May 25, 2026
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Tetra Tech ARD
[Contract/Agreement] Number:	72064121C00001
Name of Subcontractors/ Sub-awardees:	DevWorks International and Hen Mpoano
Major Counterpart Organizations	Government of Ghana: Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Fisheries Commission of Ghana
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Ghana: Central Region, Western Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region
Reporting Period:	October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

1.1 Project Description/Introduction

On May 26, 2021, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded Tetra Tech the Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA), a 5-year \$17.88 million contract to mitigate the near collapse of Ghana's small pelagic fisheries sector and establish a durable basis for its ecological recovery.

To fulfill this purpose, a balanced and strategic approach will be implemented that reduces fishing overcapacity and increases controlled access over Ghana's small pelagic fisheries sector to encourage ecological sustainability while also enhancing socio-economic well-being and local resilience of artisanal fisherfolk and their communities. GFRA activities will be implemented under an overarching framework using an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) inclusive of relevant strategic interventions to collectively achieve GFRA's five interdependent strategic approaches, as follows:

- Strategic Approach 1: Align fisheries capacity with ecological carrying capacity of the small pelagic fisheries while enhancing the socio-economic well-being and resilience of artisanal fisherfolk.
- Strategic Approach 2: Increase the quality and value of artisanal fish products to maintain household income and enhance availability of nutritious foods for local and regional markets.
- Strategic Approach 3: Strengthen transparency, accountability, and co-management in governance practices for fisheries policymaking, regulation, and enforcement.
- Strategic Approach 4: Strengthen constituencies to promote and implement sustainable fisheries management.
- Strategic Approach 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions.

1.2 Annual Summary

GFRA had a successful first year of project implementation, making progress in some key strategic approaches while laying a solid foundation for the next four years in the others. Strategic Approach 2 saw the most advances, with the reinvigoration of the Class I certification for safe and hygienic fish processing and upgrade in strategy towards the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme. In order to ensure long term success of the Certification, GFRA also embedded ownership and licensing within institutions with the mandate to certify food products, namely GSA and FDA. GFRA led a process by which GSA, FDA and the FC developed a certification checklist that outlines all the improvements processors must make to their fish processing in order to qualify for certification. GFRA also supported the training of 300 fish processors on the requirements of the certification and anticipate that by the start of Year 2, 70 of them will be certified. Concurrently, GFRA identified institutions such as rural banks and Village Savings and Lending Associations to support fish processors to save and access the financing needed to upgrade and maintain their fish processing facilities for certification. Finally, GFRA started to build a strategy to link certified fish processors with retail markets that will value and pay more for hygienic and safe certified fish.

In addition to the acceleration of work under Strategic Approach 2, GFRA built on USAID's past investments under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) in introducing and institutionalizing a key fisheries management measure, the closed fishing season, under Strategic Approach 3. During Year 1, GFRA supported the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC) to announce the closed season early, thereby allowing fishers some time to prepare, and conduct extensive grassroots communications on the closed season through Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues, radio jingles and other media outreach. By all accounts, fishers

obeyed the closed season and fish catches in August were abundant. More importantly, the closed season has truly been institutionalized as an annual management measure with senior Ministry leadership stated publicly on several occasions that “the closed season is here to stay.” GFRA has also supported biological and socio-economic impact monitoring to ensure that the FC and Ministry are adapting their planning and implementation of the next closed season.

Illegal fishing is a serious threat to the sustainability of Ghana’s small pelagic fish stocks, and addressing these illegalities is another important GFRA strategy under Strategic Approach 3. The Minister has shown interest in addressing illegal fishing in the industrial fishing sector, and successfully eliminated the illegal transshipment of fish commonly known as saiko. GFRA recognized the Minister’s new Gear Directive for industrial trawlers as a potentially game changing opportunity to dramatically reduce on illegal catch of small pelagics. As such, GFRA supported the Ministry and FC to institute several measures including consultations with industry and training of crew, captains, law enforcement and observers to ensure successful implementation and compliance. For the past month, since the directive went into effect on September 1, 2022, no industrial trawl vessels have received licenses to fish because they do not meet the requirements of the Gear Directive.

Alongside these successes, in Year 1 GFRA laid the groundwork for successful implementation of the project’s livelihoods strategic approach (SA 1), establishment of a marine protected area for small pelagic fisheries (SA3), reducing gender-based violence and child labor and trafficking (SA4), crosscutting behavior change communications (SA4), and ensuring good research underpins management decisions (SA5). GFRA is certain that activities and results will accelerate across these strategic approaches in Year 2.

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Progress Narrative

2.1.1 Strategic Approach 1: Align Fisheries Capacity with Ecological Carrying Capacity of the Small Pelagic Fisheries while Enhancing the Socio-economic Well-being and Resilience of Artisanal Fisherfolk

During Year 1, GFRA laid a solid foundation to accomplish Strategic Approach 1 (SA1). GFRA validated past stock assessments using updated data to show that stocks are overfished then supported the Fisheries Commission (FC) to accurately determine fishing effort, through a canoe frame survey that identifies the number of active canoes of the artisanal fleet. This data, combined with the biological data the FC collects annually on stocks, will provide the basis in Year 2 for the most up-to-date and accurate ecological carrying capacity assessment of small pelagics. GFRA also supported the formation of the Science and Technical Committee (STC), the primary platform for fisheries stakeholders to review fisheries data and science for management decision making, including the carrying capacity assessment. To advance the adoption of alternatives to fishing, GFRA conducted market research to identify suitable supplementary livelihoods and the conditions needed to ensure successful update of those livelihoods. GFRA also registered 683 youth interested to take up supplementary livelihood training, 300 which were enrolled in the livelihoods program by the end of Year 1.

- **Result 1:1 Ghana’s fishing fleet capacity and ecological carrying capacity aligned**

During the reporting period, GFRA contracted a consultant to assess the small pelagic fishery capacity limits and make recommendations to inform management of the resource. The report utilized the latest available data (2020) from the Fisheries Scientific Survey Division of the Fisheries Commission (FC) to

confirm what previous stock assessments have found, that the four small pelagic fish species are overfished and demonstrating conditions of both growth and recruitment overfishing. The stock assessment revealed that a total biomass of 324,156 tonnes is required to restore the small pelagic stocks to maximum sustainable yield level whereas only 44,771 tonnes, or 13.8%, are available. Given this biomass, the assessment indicates that only 9,000 canoes should be active in the fishery, as opposed to the 14,462 on the registry. The recommended management target is to reduce the canoes to the number required at a maximum sustainable yield in order to move the current biomass to that at the sustainable yield level.

Recognizing that the current estimate of canoes is outdated and unreliable, GFRA supported the FC to undertake a canoe frame survey to determine fishing effort, the number of active canoes exploiting the small pelagic stocks, a number that will underpin an accurate carrying capacity assessment. In July 2022, when all canoes were docked due to the closed season, GFRA supported the FC to do a thorough count of all canoes across Ghana's 292 landing beaches. The analysis of this data will conclude in early November 2022 and be publicly presented. It will also form the basis of GFRA's ecological carrying capacity assessment of the small pelagic fisheries, along with the FC's analysis of the 2022 biological stock status of the fishery.

Another major accomplishment in Year 1 under SAI was the formation and inauguration of the Scientific and Technical Committee, a multistakeholder body established under the 2019 co-management policy with the mandate to examine fisheries data and science and make recommendations on management actions. The committee also considers, where applicable, indigenous fishers' knowledge and experience during the formulation and the development of management measures and recommendations. GFRA supported MOFAD and the FC to develop the STC's terms of reference and identify the 13-member committee, made up of representatives from industry, academia, government, and civil society organizations. The Deputy Minister for MOFAD, Honorable Moses Amin, swore in the STC on September 14, 2022. In his inaugural address, the Deputy Minister underscored the relevance of co-management globally as an effective strategy for ensuring shared responsibility between government and resource users to promote compliance, fisheries stock recovery and sustainable management. In Year 2, the STC will play a crucial role in validating the revised fishing effort data from the canoe frame survey and the estimated sustainable yields shared by the FSSD, which will result in a realistic ecological carrying capacity estimate. The STC will also be instrumental in using this data to make recommendations for management actions.

- **Result 1.2: Supplementary and diversified livelihoods for fisheries communities increased, including for women and youth.**

Task 1.2.2. Support employment transition and capacity development of individuals exiting fisheries.

As part of efforts to encourage fisherfolk, particularly youth to take up supplementary livelihoods, GFRA conducted a market analysis of suitable supplementary/diversified livelihoods that are socially and financially suitable for fisherfolk and identified the resources and skills required to increase successful uptake of these livelihoods. The survey targeted men and women from 19 years to 35 years and out of school youth aged 15 years to 18 years and explored their interest and ability to go back to school or enroll and complete skills trade apprenticeships.



Figure 1: Consultant engaging youth at a landing site in Ankobrah in the Western Region.

GFRA then validated the survey findings at a workshop with representatives of the fisheries associations (GNCFC, NAFPTA, DAA and CEWEFIA), government agencies and civil society organizations focused on skills trade and business development, the Association of Small-Scale Artisans, financial institutions, and youth. The inputs of these participants strengthened the recommendations of the report and informed GFRA's selection of livelihood options and design of appropriate support to beneficiaries to increase livelihoods uptake.

As a result of the market analysis, GFRA will target youth, defined in Ghana as 15-35 years of

age, for the adoption of new and diversified livelihoods. The market analysis shows that this demographic among fishing communities is most likely to adopt and sustain new trades. GFRA will provide these beneficiaries with both training and financial support to learn new trades such as construction (electrical, masonry, tiling, painting, plumbing, welding & fabrication), livestock rearing and vegetable production, and trading, event décor, cosmetology, tailoring/garment making, consumer electronics and automotive engineering.

These trades align with the Government of Ghana's agenda to promote technical and vocational education for youth under the Ghana Skills Development Initiative. In addition to directly providing skills building to livelihoods beneficiaries, GFRA is also partnering with the Ghana TVET Voucher Project¹ (under the Commission for TVET) and the Association of Small-Scale Artisans² to ensure the TVET Voucher project includes additional fisherfolk from the four regions.

GFRA used the Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues and other community socialization platforms to promote, and register interested youth in the livelihood program. Discussions at these fora focused on the need to encourage youth fishers to take up supplementary livelihoods to improve economic resiliency in the face of dwindling fish stocks.

¹ Ghana TVET Voucher Project (GTVP) is a project co-financed by the German Government (KfW) under Ghanaian – German Finance Cooperation. GTVP is implemented by the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) under its broader Ghana Skills Development Initiative. GTVP provides demand-driven training vouchers, essentially discounts on training fees, to COTVET-registered master craft persons, their apprentices, and workers. The vouchers are used to fund competency-based training courses in COTVET– accredited training institutions and the assessment and certification of National Proficiency Levels II and I under the National TVET Qualification Framework.

² Association of Small Scale Artisans is an umbrella body for trade sector associations and district-based business groups in Ghana.

GFRA learned during the desk review that beneficiary selection is one of the most crucial steps in ensuring success in any livelihood program. Beneficiaries must demonstrate interest and commitment to adopting a new livelihood and must demonstrate that they can financially support themselves during the training period. GFRA enlisted GNCFC and NAFPTA to distribute application forms soliciting this information and evidence of these commitments in selected GFRA sites along 14 landing beaches in Keta and Anloga in the Volta Regions, Mumford, Elmina, and Cape Coast in the Central Region, Azizanya and Anyamam in the Greater Accra Region and Half Assini, Axim, Sekondi and Shama in the Western Regions to solicit participant interest in GFRA's livelihoods program. By the end of Year I, 683 youth applied to the program to be trained on the fourteen trades identified.



Figure 2: Livelihood promotion and registration at Anyaman in the Greater Accra Region with support from the Chief Fisherman.

GFRA utilized the project Grants Under Contract Annual Program Statement (APS) to identify the Opportunities and Industrialization Centre, Ghana (OICG) as a partner to facilitate the livelihoods training for 300 beneficiaries in the Central and Western Regions. In Q4, GFRA signed the grant agreement with OICG who will enroll these 300 beneficiaries with a master trainer or training institution to support the learning needed for these new trades.

Task 1.2.3 Increase financial literacy, business management and entrepreneurship skills for livelihood beneficiaries

GFRA will complement the skills training of the beneficiaries with financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to ensure they can manage their trades and businesses upon completion of the training. In Year I, GFRA engaged a consultant to develop the financial literacy and entrepreneurship training manual which will be used to train the beneficiaries after they have completed the skills training and for those who want to engage in trading as a livelihood. GFRA will deliver the training using an experiential participatory approach conducive for young adults with low literacy. This same manual will also be used to train post-harvest beneficiaries under Objective 2.

Task 1.2.4 Improve access to finance for livelihood beneficiaries to increase uptake.

During the reporting period, GFRA and its partner DevWorks International identified and established financial partnerships with commercial banks, rural banks, microfinance institutions, and insurance providers to link fishers, fish processors, and youth to financial products and services available in the GFRA communities. Financial products and services will support youth to develop a savings mentality and access credit to purchase machinery, equipment or working capital. As these financial partnerships will also benefit post-harvest actors adopting the Safe Fish Certification Standard, more details are provided under SA2, Task 2.2.2. In addition, GFRA signed an MoU with miLife Insurance Company to introduce and sign up interested fishers to its mobile money-enabled micro savings and insurance products. The miLife team sensitized fisherfolk on these products at the Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues in the Volta and Central Regions, resulting in some fisherfolk signing up for the services.

2.1.2 Strategic Approach 2: Increase the Quality and Value of Artisanal Fishers' Products to Maintain Household Income and Enhance Availability of Nutritious Foods for Local and Regional Markets

GFRA accelerated work under SA 2 during Year 1 thanks to GFRA subcontractor, DevWorks, who leads all of the activities under this strategic approach. Year 1 accomplishments are underpinned by a value chain assessment conducted early in the project to identify value chain actors, analyze their relationships in the small pelagic fish value chain, and assess market demand for improved fish and opportunities for value addition. At the same time, GFRA identified and partnered with financial service providers willing to support artisanal fisheries businesses looking to improve the hygiene and standards of their processing. GFRA also assessed existing Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in GFRA sites for capacity strengthening and established new VSLAs.

More fish processors were trained and prepared for certification under the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS) to promote the supply of hygienic and quality fish on the market. The Multidisciplinary Technical Committee (MTC) rebranded the SFMP piloted Class I Certification as the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS), with the aim to transform the SFCLS into a national food safety standard to regulate and protect domestic seafood production and facilitate trading with other regional markets. GFRA initiated exploration of new markets for certified fish, including linking NAFPTA as a supplier to NshoNam, a technology-enabled fish marketing solutions provider USAID introduced to GFRA.

- **Result 2.1: Seafood product quality, value, and nutritional benefits enhanced.**

Task 2.2.1 Value Chain Analysis of Small Pelagic Fisheries

GFRA's partner DevWorks conducted a value chain analysis of the small pelagic fisheries value chain to inform strategies and interventions aimed at increasing the quality and value of Ghana's artisanal fish products to maintain household income and enhance the availability of nutritious seafoods. The research identifies and quantifies relationships throughout the pelagic fish value chain, including production, processing, distribution, and consumption. It maps key actors, assesses actors' habits, practices, and competencies, and determines the effectiveness of their linkages and functions. The study also identifies market demands and requirements and opportunities for value addition. Findings from the study show a close-knit relationship and interdependency among value chain actors, especially given the role that value chain actors play in financing fishing operations along the value chain.

Report findings formed the basis for GFRA's value chain improvement activities (see Task 2.2.4) and provided data and evidence to inform awareness raising about safe and hygienic fish processing standards. During Q4, GFRA developed information, education, and communication (IEC) materials based on the report to sensitize fishers and other fisheries actors in the value chain on the importance of hygienic processing and adoption of the Safe Fish Certification.

Task 2.2.2 Partnerships with financial service providers to support artisanal fishery businesses and supplementary livelihood interventions

In Year 1, GFRA identified partnerships with financial institutions to link fishers, fish processors, and youth to tailored financial products and services. Financial products and services will support youth and

fishers pursuing alternative and supplementary livelihood options available under GFRA as well as seafood business actors seeking to improve the quality, value, and marketability of their products under Strategic Approach 2. To inform these activities, GFRA conducted a scoping study on financial institutions such as rural banks operating along the coast. The study indicated that there are a number of tailor-made financial products and services that fishers could benefit from, including investment opportunities to save for the closed season. To formalize these partnerships, GFRA executed Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with Akatakyiman Rural Bank, which operates along the west coast of Ghana, and Agave Rural Bank, which operates along the east coast of Ghana. GFRA's partner DevWorks will continue to facilitate post-harvest actors' access to finance and investment through these partnerships, as well as assist these beneficiaries in developing the necessary financial literacy skills to improve their bankability and savings culture. The bank will also assist fishers to open suitable bank accounts. In Quarter 4, after establishing these partnerships, GFRA and these financial institutions jointly conducted bankability and financial products and services training for 103 fish processors.

Task 2.2.3 Village Savings and Loans Associations as a financing option to support artisanal fishery businesses

GFRA is leveraging Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) as a financial mechanism to promote the adoption and practice of hygienic and safe fish production and sales as well as adoption of livelihood interventions under Strategic Approach I. Early in Year I, GFRA conducted a rapid assessment of the performance of the existing VSLAs in GFRA fishing communities. Based on this assessment, GFRA identified the need to strengthen existing VSLAs and form new ones in GFRA target communities. GFRA will align all project supported VSLAs with the fish processing associations active in each area (NAFPTA, CEWEFIA and DAA).



Figure 3: Formation of VSLA groups in Tema

This brings many benefits. First, these associations are ready built structures with strong communications, decision-making and conflict resolution, which can be deployed to rapidly address the common challenges facing VSLAs in Ghana. Second, utilizing these structures allows GFRA to scale up VLSAs quickly, monitor them effectively, and ensure they are sustainable past the life of the project.

During Quarter 4, GFRA conducted a training of trainers (TOT) session for selected Village Agents (VA) and Fisheries Commission (FC) zonal officers to facilitate the formation of the VSLAs. Village Agents were selected from existing VSLAs as well as members of NAFPTA who were interested in forming new VSLAs. Working with these trained VAs, GFRA established 12 new VSLAs and identified an additional 8 to strengthen. In Year 2 GFRA will continue to build the capacity of these new VSLAs, establish 20 new VLSAs, and will work to strengthen 25 existing VSLAs. GFRA will also deploy grantees under the GUC (CEWEFIA, DAA, and NAFPTA) to conduct monitoring and financial literacy training for these VSLA groups.

Task 2.2.4 Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS)

Due to the high levels of microbiological and chemical contamination detected in processed fish on the market in Ghana (see Task 2.2.5), the drive to regulate fish processing and preservation methods has accelerated. A key result is the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS), which was reinvigorated and advanced during GFRA's first year

The SFCLS seeks to regulate the Ghanaian fish processing industry through a certification system for fish processors.

The scheme recommends using improved fish processing methods and techniques as well as hygienic practices to reduce the microbial and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in processed fish and to ensure the production of safe and hygienic fish and fishery products.



Figure 4: MTC meeting to review and develop a new SFCLS strategy

GFRA reconvened the Multidisciplinary Technical Committee (MTC) formed under SFMP to review the Class I Certification, now rebranded as Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS). The review examined the pilot strategy established under SFMP and resulted in the development of a detailed implementation strategy to expand uptake and ensure adoption by key government institutions. Members of the MTC now include FC, Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Food Research Institute (CSIR-FRI), Ghana Chefs Association, NAFPTA, Development Action Association (DAA), Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA), University of Ghana (UG), and University of Cape Coast (UCC).

For sustainability and streamlining purposes, the committee proposed that the SFCLS be aligned with existing food licensing and certification processes already established by the FDA and the GSA. The SFCLS will leverage the FDA's Progressive Licensing Scheme (PLS) for small-scale and cottage-sized food processors that want to sell their products in higher end domestic retail outlets such as grocery stores. The PLS is a Government of Ghana (GoG) initiative of a three-stage licensing regime to support small business units to improve the safety, quality, and wholesomeness of their products. For the GSA, the SFCLS will target the export market by harmonizing with the agency's fish export certification processes that guide inter-African trade activities. GSA can also connect certified fish processors with export market prospects. Although the FC will not play a licensing or certification role, they play an important role in training and monitoring fish processors and ensuring that certified fish is available in the local fish markets, where the majority of Ghanaians source their fish. With GFRA support, the FC will also build the capacity of fish processors to adopt the certification, thereby increasing the supply base and ensuring a constant supply of safe and healthy fish for these markets. FC will collaborate with the various District Assemblies to create designated spaces in the local fish markets to delineate sales of certified fish products. This will increase access to nutritious and safe seafood products for the local market.

To achieve adoption of and compliance with the scheme, enforcement measures must be implemented to deter unhealthy and unsafe fish production in Ghana. The MTC meeting organized in Q4 proposed numerous measures to ensure that the SFCLC is legally enforceable. GFRA, led by FC, will support the establishment of fish post-harvest operational guidelines, a legally recognized code of conduct, which incorporate the SFCLS, citing a policy provision in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy as an anchor. Meanwhile, the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851) gives the FDA the authority to regulate all food processes and products in Ghana. Beginning in Year 2, GFRA will work with GSA to transform the SFCLS into a national food safety standard to regulate and protect domestic seafood production and facilitate trading with other regional markets. The MTC recommended that FDA establish a regimented monitoring system (periodic and spot visits) to ensure compliance. The MTC also developed targeted behavioral change communication messages for the various value chain actors to raise awareness of the SFCLS and its benefits among producers, processors, traders, and other stakeholders. Fisher Associations, who GFRA will engage as grantees in Year 2, will be used as strategic agents for change in the fishing communities. Consumer education on the SFCLS will also serve as a market-development tool for certified seafood products, as consumers will seek out these products due to their increased awareness. With rising demand for certified seafood products, the price of these products is likely to rise significantly, providing an economic incentive for processors to embrace the scheme.

GFRA worked with FC to train over 300 fish processors on the requirements of the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS). Through DAA (a sub-contractor), GFRA also trained 15 fish processing facilities on the scheme. Following the training, GFRA worked with FDA, GSA, and FC to inspect fish processing facilities in compliance with the SFCLS checklist. Over 70 fish processors have improved their processing facilities and will likely receive the SFCLS certification early in Year 2.



Figure 5: Training of fish processors on SFCS



Figure 6: Training of fish processors on packaging and access to higher markets

Task 2.2.5 Partnerships with Fishery Actors

GFRA is strengthening and formalizing its partnership with fishery actors and government institutions to support the implementation and sustainability of activities under Strategic Approach 2. GFRA developed MOUs with GSA and FDA to formalize the role of the two institutions in developing the SFCLS into standards, offering public education on the SFCLS, and supporting fish processors to acquire licenses and

certificates. The MOUs, and their accompanying workplans, have been fully reviewed and vetted by both institutions and will be signed early in GFRA's Year 2.

GFRA also partnered with CSIR-FRI to assess the health and safety of consuming small pelagic fish sold in Ghana's fish markets. Under the partnership, CSIR-FRI and DevWorks collected samples of smoked fish from fish markets in the four coastal regions. The results of the analysis show low levels of concentrations of toxic heavy metals, lead and arsenic and wide variability of microbial content, likely attributed to the fact that the samples were collected from different processors and sellers applying different hygienic practices along the value chain. However, the analysis indicates that the samples contain high levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), a class of chemicals that result from burning wood, coal, and oil and is ingested through consumption of grilled or charred meats, including smoked fish.

In Year 1, GFRA signed an MOU with NAFPTA that outlined the terms of partnership. Under this MOU, GFRA conducted a series of training-of-trainers (TOT) including on the SFCLS, value-added seafood product development, introduction of financial products and services, and identification and training NAFPTA members as Village Agents for VSLAs. These NAFPTA focused TOTs reached 310 fish processors for SFCLS, 146 fish processors for value addition, and 74 village agents for the formation and strengthening of VSLAs.

- **Result 2.2: Inland and regional access to high quality and nutritious seafood expanded.**

Task 2.2.6 Establishment of new market opportunities

GFRA is collaborated with NshoNam, a technology-enabled fish marketing solutions provider, to link Safe Fish Certified processors to higher markets. NshoNam has a large network of fresh fish buyers, including hotels, restaurants, local food vendors, and individual customers. A strategic meeting was held with the leadership of NAFPTA and NshoNam to link certified processors as suppliers to NshoNam. Following this, NAFPTA has supplied NshoNam with processed fish, as well as value-added seafood products such as sardinella and shrimp powder for their customers.

As part of the market development efforts, GFRA also held a strategy meeting with GSA, CSIR-FRI, Ghana Chefs Association (GCA), DAA, and NshoNam to discuss and identify potential premium markets that might be interested in buying certified fish. Among the highlights of the meeting was the opportunity to work with GCA to link certified processors with hotels and other hospitality companies. In addition, the GCA agreed to advertise the SFCLS product through their numerous networks and *The Chef Diaries* television program. In addition, GFRA plans to use periodic food fairs to promote SFCLS products through exhibition and matchmaking. Other potential market opportunities include national and regional hotels, hospitals, restaurants, schools, and seafood enterprises. GFRA recognizes that this strategy of increasing market demand hinges on ensuring there is a regular and consistent supply of certified fish and will be working hard during Year 2 to purposely link certified processors to these market opportunities.



Figure 7: Strategic meeting to brainstorm on market development opportunities for SFCLS products

As part of its efforts to educate consumers, GFRA will hold workshops for chefs and purchasing officers of potential consumer companies. These workshops will teach chefs and purchasing officers about the different levels of contamination and why they should only buy certified fish products. As explained earlier, GFRA and the FC will also target existing fish market centers such as Agona Nkwanta Market, to build and promote a designated space for local consumers to purchase SFCLS products. This will help consumers identify SFCLS products as only certified products will be displayed for sale in that area. In addition to these marketplaces, SFCLS products will be available in exclusive markets in strategic areas and within formal market spaces.

Recognizing that markets must be monitored to guarantee there is no infiltration of uncertified fish products, GFRA will work in Year 2 with the FDA and GSA to create a system to prevent this future potential challenge.

2.1.3 Strategic Approach 3: Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, and Co-Management in Governance Practices for Fisheries Policymaking, Regulation, and Enforcement

During Year I, GFRA laid the basis for Ghana's transition toward a limited access governance regime. GFRA's emphasis was on ensuring management actions such as the closed season and a potential moratorium on new canoe entrants were well understood and consulted with fishers. This grassroots strategy was complemented by a national level strategy to strengthen implementation of existing regulations such as the closed season and adopt new regulations such as the Ministerial Directive on Gear to improve fisheries management and address illegal fishing. In Year I, GFRA also initiated key co-management bodies at the national level (Scientific and Technical Committee and Fisheries Management and Operations Committee) and the local level (Landing Beach Enforcement Committees). The 8 Landing Beach Enforcement Committees GFRA supported in Year I also support implementation of the project's Eyes on the Water strategy. Finally, GFRA consulted broadly with key stakeholders to identify key illegal fishing practices to target through social and behavior change strategies and build a cadre of

advocates and champions who can be deployed throughout the project's timeframe to build political will for sustainable fisheries.

- **Result 3.1: Enhancements implemented to effectively conduct fisheries management activities.**

Task 3.1.1 Facilitate Ghana's transition toward a limited-access governance regime

Ghana's open-access management regime in the artisanal fishery has contributed to overcapacity in the sector. It has contributed to the growing number and sizes of artisanal canoes, as well as significant increase in the horsepower of outboard motors and sizes of fishing gear. This, coupled with the prevalence of illegal fishing, has significantly contributed to the near collapse of the small pelagic stocks. To address this, during Year 1 GFRA engaged fishers through Fisher-to-Fisher (F2F) dialogues to build consensus and propose management actions to regulate access to the fishery. Fishers recommended an immediate implementation of the moratorium management measures, which will regulate access to new entrants of canoes across four coastal regions. Fishers also highlighted the key role of the chief fisherman and canoe owners in driving effective implementation. The 3-year moratorium on new entrants of canoes is already enshrined in the draft Fisheries Management Plan (2022 – 2026) and the F2F dialogues demonstrate that the measure will receive broad acceptance among fishers. In Year 2, GFRA will build on this consensus across policy and local fisher stakeholders to advance a moratorium on new entrants to the artisanal fisheries sector as a first step to reduce fishing effort to sustainable levels and prevent collapse of the fishery. In theory, this measure will result in a long-term decrease in the numbers of canoes as canoes and fishers age out of the fishery. GFRA will work closely with the Fisheries Management Operation Committee (FMOC, see Task 3.2.1) and the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) in the development of the strategy, including an engagement plan to ensure other sectors such as the industrial trawl and inshore fisheries are fully engaged.

As highlighted under Strategic Approach 1 (SA 1), GFRA will use data resulting from the Canoe Frame Survey (CFS) and concurrent vessel validation exercise to inform the co-development of an access regulation strategy in Year 2 with MOFAD and FC. The vessel validation exercise was conducted alongside the CFS to clean up the vessel registry by identifying duplicate canoe numbers, removing inactive canoes, and registering new canoes constructed before and during the exercise. Whereas the Canoe Frame Survey is undertaken every four years, the FC should undertake the vessel validation exercise annually to update the registry as new canoes are registered and others are decommissioned.

Data from the CFS and vessel validation exercise will also guide the recharacterization of artisanal canoes in Year 2. Since canoes have increased in size, from a one-man-paddled canoe to canoes with more than 20 crew members and navigated using outboard motors, artisanal fishing has transitioned from a subsistence activity to a commercial one that warrants licensing, as done in other countries and in accordance with the Fisheries Act 2002, Act 625. The data from the recharacterization exercise will guide the standardization of canoes in Year 2, where canoes that fall within a yet-to-be-determined range may be classified as inshore and licensed accordingly.

Task 3.1.2 Establish an EAFM framework to enhance fisheries co-management policymaking, regulation, and enforcement

GFRA's strategy and strategic approaches are closely aligned with the Ecological Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). During project start up, GFRA consulted fisheries stakeholders at different levels to gather information and solicit inputs into program implementation with a focus on EAFM. Stakeholders indicated that EAFM is already mainstreamed in Ghana's primary fisheries management and

policy documents such as the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2022) currently under Parliament review, the Marine Fisheries Management Plan (2022-2026) and the National Fisheries Co-Management Policy (2020). There was consensus among stakeholders that the operationalization of fisheries co-management through the strengthening of co-management committees and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas as a spatial tool for small pelagic fisheries management were priorities for GFRA.

In Year 1, GFRA supported the Fisheries Commission to take important steps towards the establishment and operation of a Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for small pelagic fisheries management and recovery. Given that no MPAs exist yet in Ghana, GFRA supported MOFAD and FC to organize a stakeholder consultation workshop where government, CSOs, industry, research and academia convened to assess actions taken to date and collectively outline priority activities to advance the MPA establishment. GFRA also supported the establishment and two seminal meetings of a 6-member MPA Technical Advisory Committee to advise the FC on MPA planning and implementation with 1 member from FC, 1 from EPA, 1 from Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), 1 from GNCFC, 1 from Academia and 1 civil society representative. Two foundational recommendations emerged from the three MPA focused workshops GFRA supported. First is the need to review the existing laws and policies governing marine spaces in Ghana to determine whether the current framework will support the gazetting of marine waters needed to establish an MPA. Second is the prioritization of 5 potential MPA sites with the potential to impact the health of small pelagic fisheries, based on past fisheries and biodiversity data collected along Ghana's coast. The MPA Technical Advisory Committee prioritized sites in the Kanga Rock area, Saltpond, Nakwa, Ankaful area and Cape St. Paul Lighthouse area. The FC also has prioritized Cape Three Points area in the Western Region and the Volta estuary area in the eastern part of Ghana. Given the FC's strong interest in the Cape Three Points area, GFRA undertook a scoping trip to the Cape Three Points area. The local community and the District Assembly assured GFRA of their commitment and support to the establishment of an MPA in the area. In Year 2, GFRA will support further secondary data collection and analysis to present a priority MPA site.

In Year 2, GFRA will support the FC to conduct the legal and policy review and support further secondary data collection and analysis to support the MPA Technical Advisory Committee to select the most appropriate sites for the establishment of MPAs for small pelagic fisheries management and recovery. Community, public and government consultations will occur alongside these processes that will feed into development of management plans for selected MPA sites.

Task 3.1.3 Increase fisheries co-management association capacity to operate effectively

The management of Ghana's fisheries has transitioned from a top-down consultative management framework to an approach that provides for some delegation of authority to resource users and other stakeholders in the decision-making processes. The Co-management Policy for the fisheries sector confirms the government's readiness to divulge some management authority to resource users and include them in developing and implementing fisheries management actions for the sustainable management of the fishery. Even though the policy was approved in 2020, its implementation has delayed due to misunderstandings between the MOFAD and FC on who should lead the process. Notwithstanding this, in Year 1 GFRA collaborated with MOFAD and FC to form two large scale co-management committees in the form of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and the Fisheries Management Operational Committee (FMOC), to provide timely scientific advice for sound management and provide oversight responsibility for the implementation of fisheries management plans, respectively. MOFAD led the swearing-in ceremony for the STC, providing the necessary recognition for the

committee as a 'service provider' to the FC. This also ensures that recommendations by the committee will feed into management decisions at both the MOFAD and FC. Whereas the STC has been formalized, the FMOC will remain an ad-hoc committee until Parliament approves the FMP (2022-2026).

During the reporting period, GFRA socialized the co-management policy at the community level through its local partners FON and HM. The community level engagements provided an opportunity to educate fishers on the concept of co-management and bring them up to speed on the content of the policy. It builds the necessary foundation for fisher inclusion in subsequent co-management committees that GFRA will support MOFAD and FC to be formed at the sub-national level in Year 2. It also ensured that fishers are well informed on their role in supporting fisheries management actions at the community level and how their voices are amplified at the national level through co-management arrangements.

Resolving the communication gap between the MOFAD and FC and forming the STC and the FMOC provides a clear pathway for GFRA to accelerate the establishment of co-management in Ghana in Year 2, particularly at the subnational level. These committees, once formed, will receive scientific advice from the STC and oversight from the FMOC but will ensure that fisher voices and actions are amplified from the community level to the nation level, ensuring that their views and inputs are considered in policy formulation or management decision making.

- **Result 3.2: GoG and co-management association capacity enhanced to equitably and consistently enforce existing laws, regulations, and programs.**

Task 3.2.1 Update and strengthen implementation of national small pelagic fisheries management policies and programs

Ghana's Marine Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) provides the framework for the recovery and sustainable management of the country's marine resources. MOFAD and FC developed the plan to ensure active participation of stakeholders in the management of the fish stocks, while improving collaboration between the government and fishers in the development and implementation of fisheries management actions in the spirit of co-management. Early in Year 1, GFRA participated in a public validation meeting for the draft FMP (2022 – 2026), which is yet to be gazetted by Parliament. The MOFAD and FC, however, proceeded to implement key actions in the plan while awaiting Parliamentary approval. They identified the absence of an Operational Committee as a key weakness in the effective implementation of the previous FMP (2015 – 2019). As a result, in Year 1 GFRA supported the FC to form an ad-hoc Fisheries Management Operational Committee (FMOC) to oversee the implementation of the draft FMP (2022 – 2026). The committee, which will be formally inaugurated when the FMP is gazetted, is tasked with developing annual operational plans to monitor effective implementation of the FMP. As Figure 1 demonstrates, the annual operational plans set out priorities from the FMP each year to ensure timely implementation of activities. In Year 2, GFRA will support and guide the FMOC to develop the 2023 annual operational plans with operational objectives in line with the FMP.

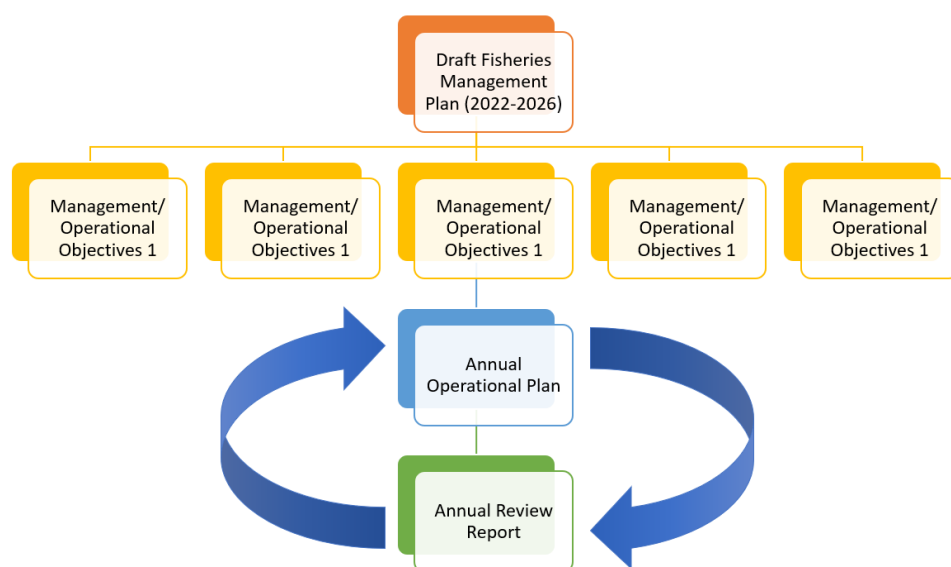


Figure 1 Illustration on how operational plans support effective implementation of the FMP (2022-2026)

Task 3.2.2 Identify and support GFRA Champions to strengthen political will in support of consistent and equitable enforcement of fisheries regulations

In Year 1, the University of Rhode Island organized a study tour on sustainable fisheries management for the MOFAD Minister, senior FC staff, parliamentarians, and industry leadership. GFRA did not support the participants to attend the tour but it did send the GFRA Policy and Enforcement Advisor to build relationships with these sector leaders. After the study tour, GFRA brought participants together to review study tour outcomes and identify implementation strategies for the vision and action plans developed at the end of the study tour. Following the workshop, GFRA identified several participants as potential “champions,” influential citizens and high-level public servants including senior government officials, members of the judiciary, parliamentarians, political appointees, fishing industry leaders, and traditional authorities, who will contribute to strengthening political will in support of sustainable fisheries. GFRA also engaged with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs as potential champions.

In Year 2, GFRA will build the capacity of champions to understand and appreciate fisheries management challenges, engage key stakeholders, and provide leadership and communication to advance political will for transparency and accountability in fisheries management and consistent and equitable enforcement of fisheries regulations.

Task 3.2.3 Support implementation of closed fishing seasons within artisanal fishing waters.

Closed fishing seasons are management measures that support the recovery or sustenance of a fishery. It is a biological resting period aimed at reducing fishing pressure on stocks during a period where they are most productive, allowing the fish a chance to spawn to replace the lost population due to fishing and other natural causes. During the reporting period, GFRA worked with the MoFAD to successfully implement Ghana’s third closed fishing season, which took place from July 1 - 31, 2022 for all marine fisheries except for licensed tuna vessels in the maritime EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of Ghana, and additionally August 1 – 31, 2022 for industrial vessels. GFRA supported the FC to develop a 2022 closed season implementation plan for all fleets that ensured an early announcement of the 2022 closed season

as well as proper planning of related communications and monitoring activities. With GFRA support, MOFAD and FC led a national stakeholder engagement meeting in March 2022 to share results of the 2021 closed season and officially announce the 2022 closed season. Contrasted with the previous June 2021 closed season announcement, this announcement gave fishers more time to prepare financially for the closure. The meeting also provided the needed platform for dialogue with fishers on the impact of the 2021 closed season and efforts to address shortfalls of the closure. The MOFAD and FC also shared their efforts at addressing illegal fishing, including arrests and prosecutions made during the closure while encouraging fishers to comply with the closure in 2022 and stop illegal fishing to maximize the gains of the closure.

To ensure all fishers were aware of and would comply with the closed season, GFRA provided MOFAD with communications support including developing and printing 10,000 posters, issuing announcements in the newspapers, and producing radio jingles in English, Fante, Ga, Ewe, and Adangbe. The jingles were aired repeatedly on community information centers and 8 radio stations across the coast. Since the canoe frame survey and vessel validation exercise were conducted during the closed season, these communications products also educated fishers on both and explained why they were important.

During closed season field monitoring and engagement with fishers across the four coastal regions, GFRA observed full compliance with the closed season. Even though there were a few fishing activities observed during the first five days of the closure, interventions from the Fisheries Enforcement Unit, coupled with other activities such as the Canoe Frame Survey and vessel validation exercise ensured that all canoes vessels were stationed at their respective landing beaches. Fishers reported using the closure to mend their nets, attend to social events, and seek medical attention.



Figure 8 Fishers mending their nets at the Tema Canoe Basin during the 2022 closed season

Whereas it was observed that fishers in Ghana fully complied with the 2022 closed season, reports indicated that Ghanaian migrant fishers and local fishers in neighboring countries such as Togo and Cote d'Ivoire fished along their borders with Ghana. This frustrated fishers in Ghana, who threatened to fish during the closed season if nothing is done to address the issue. It further emphasizes the urgent need for regional-wide closures between Ghana and its immediate neighbors to maximize



Figure 9 A canoe fishing at the Togo-Ghana boarder during the 2022 closed season

the impact of the closure while addressing potential conflicts in the future. The minister for MOFAD initiated bilateral engagements with her Ivorian counterparts to advocate for a regional fishing closed season for the small pelagic stocks, a significant step to address the aforementioned issue. It is anticipated that both Cote d'Ivoire and Togo are likely to join Ghana in the 2023 closed season.

To effectively assess the impact of the 2022 closed season, GFRA supported the FC to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan and trained enumerators to collect biological and socioeconomic data effectively and efficiently. The support from GFRA helped to address challenges with data collection encountered by the FC enumerators in 2021 as well as enhance their skills to improve the collection of data needed to assess the impacts of the 2022 closed season. With GFRA support, the FC was able to plan for consistent data collection across all four sampling sites unlike 2021 where data collection was only consistent at one sampling site in Tema. Also, GFRA instituted a before and after methodology (Figure 10) to ensure proper assessment of the closure's impact.

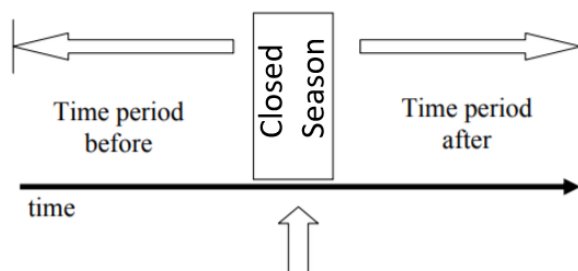


Figure 10 The before and after sampling methodology for the closed season.

For the biological impact assessment, four sampling sites were selected from across the four coastal regions, where FC enumerators and their supervisors collected and electronically submitted data via Kobo toolbox to the national coordinators for analysis and interpretation. The coordinators, made up of members of FC divisions FSSD, MCS and MFMD, provided overall oversight of activities related to the assessment and monitoring of the 2022 closed season. GFRA will support FC enumerators and national coordinators to conduct and present a rapid impact assessment in November to provide early results for decision-making purposes. GFRA will support FC to present a full impact evaluation based on six months of monitoring in May 2023.

GFRA's post-closed season field monitoring revealed that fishers landed more and bigger sized fishes in August than those landed before the closure, which was expected because food for the small pelagics peaks at this period. Early analysis of the data indicates that the quantity of catches and individual sizes of the fish then decreased in September. Early theories suggest that this could be due to excessive harvesting of mature fish prior to spawning in August and supports previous scientific recommendations to close the sea during August and September, which is peak spawning period. As these are only anecdotal results from enumerators, GFRA and the FC will utilize November's rapid assessment to guide discussions on the timing of the 2023 closed season.

In Year 2, GFRA will continue to support the MOFAD and FC in implementing the 2023 closed season. However, in the interest of sustainability GFRA will attempt to reduce support over time. Year 2 closed season support will focus on building capacity for socio-economic impact assessments since the FC does not have a standard protocol for socio-economic data collection to assess the impact of closed seasons. GFRA will also support the ongoing biological data collection due to the FC's acute budgetary constraints.

Task 3.2.4 Strengthen local and national efforts to combat IUU fishing by artisanal and industrial vessels

In Year One, GFRA made significant strides to support MOFAD and FC commitments to combat IUU fishing by artisanal and industrial vessels. For industrial vessels, GFRA placed emphasis on the successful implementation of the new Ministerial Directive on the use of fishing gear by industrial trawlers. The Minister of MOFAD issued the Directive to prevent industrial trawlers from using illegal fishing nets that target small pelagic, thereby ensuring compliance with their fishing license to harvest demersal fish. GFRA has prioritized support to MOFAD and FC with planning and implementation of the directives because controlling the use of fishing gear by trawlers has a potential to significantly reduce huge illegal catches of small pelagic fish by the industrial sector.

As soon as the Directive was issued, GFRA supported a two-day consultation between all owners of the industrial vessels and MOFAD and the FC to discuss challenges and opportunities in implementing the directive. This resulted in the "Elmina Accord," an agreement between industry and MOFAD/FC on the steps to be taken to ensure industry is prepared for and complying with the directive. It also provided industry with a forum to voice their concerns prior to the directive coming into effect, further supporting compliance. In support of the preparatory actions outlined in the Elmina Accord, GFRA supported MoFAD and FC to organize training workshops for 300 participants essential to compliance , monitoring and enforcement of the gear directive. These participants included skippers and crew managers of industrial trawlers, FC fisheries observers, fisheries enforcement officers, inspectors, and prosecutors. These trainings ensured these actors understand the technical specifications of the gear directive, their responsibilities to ensure compliance, and the reason for its adoption to halt the capture of the capture of juvenile fish and reduce discard and bycatch. Fisheries observers were targeted because of the critical role they play on the vessels to gather data for management decision making and gathering and reporting evidence for investigation and possible prosecution. Fisheries enforcement officers and inspectors were trained to identify prescribed fishing methods or gears for enforcement and to produce quality data and evidence which can be used in court in the prosecution of violators of the directive. Since the Ministerial Directive went into force on September 1, 2022, no trawlers have received their licenses to fish.

In Year 1, GFRA significantly advanced the establishment of a standardized and formally recognized Eyes on the Water strategy. GFRA collaborated with the FC to organize a stakeholder workshop with the

participation of FC senior officials, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), FON and HM to discuss a common approach to establishing Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs) as a mechanism to support community fisheries law enforcement. A common approach is needed to ensure standardization across sites and build FC ownership of the LaBECs for long term sustainability. Three landing beach enforcement concepts were identified - the LaBECs piloted by EJF, Community IUU Monitoring Groups piloted by FoN, and the Fisheries Watch Volunteers piloted by HM. The FC, EJF, HM and FON have now agreed to establish a common local enforcement model based on the successful aspects of all 3 models when reinvigorating or establishing new community fisheries enforcement committees. As a follow up to this workshop, GFRA codified the common model by developing Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for the establishment and implementation of LaBECs that will be reviewed by partners and approved by FC for final adoption in Year 2.

Alongside these initiatives GFRA, through partners HM and FON, utilized Year 1 to establish or reinvigorate 8 LaBECs. HM initiated the process to establish 3 LaBECs in Half Assini, Axim and Shama in the Western Region and reinvigorate 1 LaBEC in Elmina in the Central Region. FON also initiated steps to form 1 new LaBEC in Denu and reinvigorate 1 in Kedzikope, in the Volta Region as well forming 2 new LaBECs in Azizanya and Tema in the Greater Accra Region. Because there have been no previous experience with LaBECs in the Western Region, Hen Mpoano organized a study tour for members of the Half Assini, Axim, and Shama LaBECs to the Central Region, where LaBECs have been operational since 2018. The study tour allowed Western Region LABEC members to learn from the experience of other LaBEC committee members in the Central Region. After the study tour, LaBECs developed action plans for their work in the Western Region to guide the implementation of community fisheries law enforcement in the Western Region.

In Year 2, 120 LaBEC committee members will participate in a series of training workshops that HM and FON will organize to provide them with the required skills to effectively conduct their duties.

Employing Social and Behavior Change Communication in Addressing Illegal Fishing

A key aspect of GFRA's strategy to address illegal fishing in the artisanal sector is to encourage fishers' voluntary compliance with existing fisheries laws and regulation through culturally appropriate behavior change strategies to encourage fishers to fish responsibly. To guide this strategy, GFRA held a workshop with stakeholders to build consensus on the priority illegal fishing activities taking place in the artisanal, industrial, and semi-industrial fishing sectors in Ghana that urgently need to be stopped (see Table 1) and curate creative, targeted messages to change behaviors driving these illegal fishing activities.

Table 1: Key Illegal Fishing Behaviors Identified

Key Illegal Fishing Practices that Need Urgent Addressing	
Industrial Trawl Sector	Artisanal/Inshore Sector
Landing of juveniles, excessive by-catch, fish dumping caused by the use of inappropriate, illegal fishing gear	Use of illegal/undersize mesh nets and possession of juvenile fish
Trawling in the Inshore Exclusive Zone (IEZ)	Use of explosives and chemicals
Opaque Beneficial Ownership arrangement	Light fishing
	Trawling in the IEZ by inshore fishers

To develop strong communications messages and approaches to these identified IUU priorities, in Quarter 4 GFRA initiated Participatory Action Media Research, a methodology borrowed from the

USAID Health funded Accelerating Social and Behavior Change (ASBC) project to anchor the project's behavior change strategy. This methodology allows GFRA to deepen understanding of culturally and contextually grounded community perspectives on barriers and challenges related to pelagic fishing in Ghanaian settings from the perspective of fishers, fish traders, fish processors, canoe owners, local officials, community stakeholders. It also allows fishing communities to develop solutions and actions to identified barriers and challenges; identify the key attitudes and values supporting change processes; and develop related communications. The findings of the study are expected to lead to a clear articulation of values underpinning change, a vision for the future and actions necessary to achieve this vision and inform the development of a SBCC strategy to influence fisher behavior towards adopting legal fishing practices. GFRA held the first research workshop in Elmina in Quarter 4 and GFRA will conduct three more in Year 2.

2.1.4 Strategic Approach 4: Strengthen Constituencies to Promote and Implement Sustainable Fisheries Management

In Year 1, GFRA began strengthening the capacity of key constituents to participate in fisheries co-management. It also started building capacity among journalists, selected media groups and parliamentarians to campaign and advocate for fisheries reforms as champions. GFRA undertook a rapid mapping of potential fisheries champions and a platform was provided for the champions to identify and share reform priorities. GFRA also conducted foundation research needed to inform its GBV and CLAT strategies and build strong collaborations with stakeholder essential to successful implementation. At the same time, GFRA initiated community engagements raise awareness and lay the groundwork for communities to better identify preventative actions.

- **Result 4.1: Local capacity strengthened for key constituencies, including women and youth, to participate in fisheries co-management.**

NAFPTA is a key constituent in Ghana's fisheries sector. Being predominantly female, and with presence across the country, the Association can strategically represent voices of women and other vulnerable groups in the sector. Their role in fish post-harvest activities also make them strategic partners for promoting safe fish production, marketing and consumption and supporting fisheries management actions in general. However, NAFPTA's effectiveness is impeded by leadership and capacity gaps. In Year 1, GFRA sought to support NAFPTA to position itself as an important industry player by organizing two leadership reflection and capacity building workshops for NAFPTA's executives. These workshops achieved two key outcomes. First, NAFPTA national executives enhanced knowledge and interest in advocacy for gender and social inclusion in fisheries; and second, they conducted an honest self-evaluation of NAFPTA which allowed them to identify solutions. The discussions ended with an action plan to address existing conflicts within NAFPTA, strengthening the Association, and position it to effectively represent women and be an important broker in the fisheries sector. To achieve the action plan, NAFPTA executives established sub-committees with mandates to direct various thematic actions. One immediate outcome of the action plan was the subsequent NAFPTA self-organized sensitization workshops on child labor and trafficking in the Anyamam area.

- **Result 4.2: Capacity among journalists, media groups, and other key constituencies strengthened to campaign and advocate for fisheries reforms and improved management.**

Early in Year 1, GFRA conducted a rapid mapping and survey of key individuals, organizations, and institutions who can actively support and promote actions that protect and recover Ghana's small pelagic fishery. These 'GFRA Advocates' will mobilize constituents, stakeholders, advocacy groups, and GFRA champions to build support for GFRA priorities and will agitate in support of fisheries reform. GFRA then organized a two-day (February 22-24, 2022) workshop in Elmina with nineteen journalists from selected media houses, ten fisherfolk advocates identified by GFRA, eight advocacy groups, and the University of Cape Coast. The workshop provided a platform for participants to identify shared reform priorities and platforms for the recovery of small pelagic fisheries in Ghana. Reform priorities include addressing IUU and the harvesting of juvenile fish both in the artisanal and trawl/industrial sectors, reversing the decline in fish stocks, addressing selective enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations, especially in the industrial trawl sector, and increasing political will for reforms. On key behavior change areas for the recovery of the fishery, participants agreed that fishers need to stop IUU fishing practices and adopt sustainable fishing practices.

The 7th Organization of African Caribbean Pacific States (OACPS) meeting of 79 Ministers of Fisheries from member states provided a unique opportunity for GFRA fisheries advocates to highlight issues of interest to the recovery of Ghana's fisheries. GFRA supported the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council to organize a regatta (canoe race) on April 3, 2022, at the Tema Canoe Basin to launch the event. The regatta was attended by the Honorable Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mavis Hawa Koomson and her Deputy, Moses Anim. Also in attendance were the Assistant Secretary-General of the OACPS, Ghana's Ambassador to Brussels, fisherfolk and their leadership, Chiefs, and the Tema Traditional Council. GFRA fisheries advocates made speeches that appealed to fishers to adhere to the 2022 fishing closed season, for artisanal fishers to adopt responsible and sustainable fishing practices and stop illegal fishing, while calling on the Government to enforce the fisheries laws to reduce IUU in the trawl/industrial sector. The advocates also encouraged fishers to work together to eliminate child labor and trafficking in the sector and their communities.

Building on the successes of Fisher-to-Fisher (F2F) dialogues started by the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, in Q2 GFRA continued implementing this unique engagement platform for fishers and policy makers. First, GFRA facilitated a meeting with leadership of GNCFC, NAFPTA and the Fisheries Commission to set the agenda and develop objectives for the 2022 dialogues. The overall objective that emerged was to garner support for management measures being implemented by MoFAD/FC under the national fisheries management plan and encourage artisanal fishers' voluntary compliance and self-governance. Between May to June 2022, GFRA and its partners Hen Mpoano and Friends of the Nation then supported GNCFC, NAFPTA and the FC to hold 14 Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues across the four coastal regions with 1,345 (852 men and 493 women) fishers. Friends of the Nation engaged fishers in Ningo-Prampram, Ada, Tema and Bortianor clusters in the Greater Accra Region and Adina, Keta and Anloga clusters in the Volta region. In the Western and Central regions, Hen Mpoano organized dialogues with fishers representing Half-Assini, Axim, Dixcove, Sekondi, Cape-Coast and Apam clusters.

On June 30, following the Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues, GFRA and its partners Hen Mpoano and Friends of the Nation brought together about 101 stakeholders (fishers, CSOs, MoFAD, FC officials and zonal officers, UCC, and GFRA partners Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation and UCC) for a Fisher-to-Fisher postmortem workshop. The workshop sought to examine a) successes, best practices and lessons on the organization and implementation of the dialogues; b) development of key steps towards the implementation of the moratorium on new entrants of canoes; and c) consensus towards key management measures such as closed season, canoe registration, and canoe frame survey. GFRA

presented outcomes from the dialogues to fisherfolk for their review, inputs, and validation. A key result of the postmortem workshop is the consensus by fishers on the implementation of a moratorium on new entrants of canoes.

Result 4.3: Vulnerability of local women and children to fisheries-related gender inequities, gender-based violence, and child labor decreased.

Early in Year I, GFRA held consultation meetings with key national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MELR), that have mandates for protection and promotion of rights of vulnerable persons, particularly women and children, to assess their understanding of these issues in the fisheries sector. In October 2021, GFRA held a joint initial meeting with the Fishery Commission's Post-Harvest and Marine Fisheries Units, which double as Gender and CLaT Coordination Units respectively to discuss the project's gender and social inclusion aspirations, particularly around Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) and general inclusiveness in the fisheries sector. The Focal Officers for both Units expressed frustration about a lack of budget to implement actions in support of women's and children's welfare in fisheries. The previous USAID-funded Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) produced two important documents for the sector: the National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and the Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking Strategy. While both strategies are very useful guides for implementing national commitments to the welfare of women and children in fishing communities, little has been implemented and both strategies have since expired.

A key Year I result under this Task was the development of two foundational vulnerability assessments to guide GFRA's strategy to address Gender Based Violence and Child Labor and Trafficking in the fisheries sector in Ghana. The two assessments sought to understand the underlying causes of violence and abuse in the homes and within fishing value chains, as well as the factors contributing to high levels of child labor and trafficking in the sector. The findings indicated that deep rooted, toxic social norms laced with economic vulnerabilities have disadvantaged women, children and other marginalized groups in fishing communities and exposed them to abuse of various forms.

Vulnerability Assessment recommendations guided GFRA in developing comprehensive GBV and CLaT strategies that center on prevention, targeting fishing communities and constituents to raise public awareness on GBV and CLaT to build significant interest in curating local solutions. GFRA will develop complementary materials and roll-out and extensive social and behavior change communication activities for engendering anti-GBV and anti-CLaT actions. Local advocates and opinion leaders are expected to have an outsized influence on norms and behaviors on these social issues. Thus, GFRA will organize community dialogues that result in local solutions and actions complemented with local systems for redress, such as community care and support groups.

However, the strategy acknowledges the need for victims to receive protection and prosecutorial actions to achieve holistic impact. As GFRA is not sufficiently resourced to provide these services, GFRA plans to develop strong partnerships with others who can. GFRA's Vulnerability Assessments also established that while there is significant institutional interest in the two respective issues, limited collaborations and coordination limit the effectiveness of interventions. In order to leverage support services and address GBV and CLaT more comprehensively in GFRA sites, GFRA intends to collaborate with local and national state and non-state stakeholders to implement effective and complementary actions. To this end, GFRA hosted a regional workshop in Keta in Q4 to share its strategy, learn what others are doing, and identify opportunities to build mutually beneficial partnerships in addressing GBV and CLaT. For CLaT, there were partners such as Challenging Heights, International Justice Mission,

Volta Revival Foundation and Partners in Community Development Programme (PACODEP) that engage in rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficking victims. These are important for linking up child trafficking cases GFRA may encounter on the ground. For GBV, there are major challenges in accessing services, and payment for medical assessments for victims continues to be a barrier to justice for victims. A stakeholder, the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) offered to train individuals as paralegals to provide basic legal advice at site levels, to bridge the gap in access to justice. State and non-state partners also appreciated their potential roles in GFRA's anti-GBV and anti-CLaT strategy. For instance, Ghana Health Service would support with reproductive health education; GES with school-based, child-centered activities; NCCE and Department of Social Welfare would play different roles in building public awareness around GBV and CLaT.

While these foundational assessments and stakeholder engagements were taking place, GFRA launched activities to raise awareness among key fisheries stakeholders on gender and child labor issues in the sector. These included trainings for GFRA Advocates, trainings for FC Officials, local dialogues, and a high-profile durbar to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labor. Recognizing the role of partnership in addressing gender inequity in fisheries, GFRA equipped 45 local advocacy constituents with skills and knowledge to promote gender and social inclusion in fisheries. Following that, some advocates successfully undertook specific anti-GBV and CLaT actions. In the same period, GFRA trained 50 FC officials to effectively mainstream GBV and CLaT issues in their roles in fishing communities. Pre- and post-workshop assessments indicated significant increase in interest and knowledge to mainstream the two issues. In Year 2, GFRA will monitor, and support, implementation of mainstreaming action plans developed by participants.

Additionally, GFRA and partners HM and FON initiated a series of 12 community trainings and dialogues across landing sites in Elmina, Axim, Mumford, Shama, Half Assini, Dago, Kedzi, Tema, Anyamam, Azizanya, Dzelukope and Denu. The dialogue platforms were created to increase knowledge on GBV and CLaT and promote public conversations around same. A total of 1,396 men (563) and women (833) participated and jointly shared their perspectives on the topics. In an attempt to break the barrier between communities and government officials who are service providers, the training sessions were delivered by relevant government officials such as Department of Social Welfare and Community Development of the respective MMDAs.

Finally, GFRA and the FC held a high-profile community durbar in June 2022 to mark the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) in Apam, in the Central Region. The durbar brought together fisherfolk, state institutions and industry players to dialogue and create publicity around child labor in fisheries. It was jointly celebrated by GFRA and the FC to as a strategy to mobilize local voices and garner interest for anti-Child Labor actions across the Coast of Ghana, and Apam in particular.

As reported under GFRA's Indicator Table 2, in Year 1 two public proclamations against GBV were also recorded. The Paramount Chief of Apam admonished his subjects to respect children's rights and desist from engaging them in harmful practices. He stated that an anti-CLaT action will be implemented to deter perpetrators. The Paramount Queen mother of Apam, Leaders of Fisher Associations (NAFPTA, GNCFC), GFRA Advocates, Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MoELR), District Assembly, Ghana Education Service also made proclamations against GBV and CLaT.

2.1.5 Strategic Approach 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions.

- **Result 5.1: Capacity strengthened nationally and locally to apply and adaptively manage scientific information and research results in support of fisheries policy and management.**

A key result under this Strategic Approach was the development of a peer reviewed research agenda to prioritize areas of research needed to improve the management of small pelagic fisheries. As the STC is the key forum to finalize the research agenda and was not in place until later in Year 1, GFRA developed a strawman research agenda through consultations with academic institutions and relevant scientific bodies such as the Fisheries Survey and Scientific Department (FSSD) of the Fisheries Commission (FC), and influential individuals such as the Ex-Director of FSSD, and Technical Adviser to the Minister (MoFAD). GFRA hosted a research agenda workshop to present the findings of these informal consultations to the FC and influential academia from University of Cape Coast, University of Ghana, and members of civil society. At the workshop, participants finalized a research agenda that will be presented to the STC for their input and adoption. Recommended research activities cover various areas including better understanding environmental factors such as climate change on small pelagic fisheries, improving oceanographic data collection and statistics, examining the social and economic conditions of fishing communities, documenting fishers' traditional knowledge of marine fisheries and special investigations on developing issues in marine fisheries such as illegal gold mining and plastic ocean pollution that call for urgent attention and advice. The report also recommended that information should be regularly disseminated through special reports, news bulletins, conferences, community radio and round table discussions.

- **Result 5.2: Capacity of academic research institutions and relevant scientific advisory bodies strengthened to support fisheries management.**

All Year 1 accomplishments related to the Science and Technical Committee, a key scientific advisory body, are reported under SAI. GFRA also initiated discussions with the University of Cape Coast Centre for Coastal Management (UCC – CCM) aimed at establishing a partnership with this institution. The next step is to formalize the partnership through an MOU early in Year 2 and discuss capacity building needs, particularly the support for a Fisheries Science Symposium in October 2023.

2.2 Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned

- The need for supplementary livelihoods in fishing communities has become more pressing than before as fish stocks continue to dwindle, yet fishers may not entirely exit the fishery in the short term as they remain lifelong fishers. However, the additional income will make them more willing to support fisheries management measures, especially during closed seasons, and may ultimately shift them away from fishing. One topic of constant discussion between GFRA staff and partners is how to ensure GFRA livelihoods interventions are supporting fisheries management measures such as the closed season and the moratorium, as fishers will suffer economically from any management measure. GFRA is aware of this and actively seeking to ensure that livelihoods beneficiaries are also those affected by management measures.
- During the establishment of LaBECs, it has become clear that women are not interested in fisheries enforcement activities because they consider fishing a man's domain. This perception, whether real or assumed, has significant impact on women's participation in fisheries management

activities. Hen Mpoano has encountered resistance in encouraging women to join newly formed LaBECs. Reasons for their lack of interest included the fear that their processing and trading businesses could be impacted negatively as reprisal for interfering with men's activities. They also fear that monitoring and enforcing fisheries regulations could result in physical scuffles. The lesson requires GFRA to effectively monitor and contextualize gender mainstreaming, with empowerment as the guiding principle. One way to mitigate the challenge is to define specific roles that women are more comfortable with, for example monitoring and reporting CLaT or IUU activities at the beaches rather than out at sea. GFRA also plans to provide all LABECs members (including potential female members) with gender and social inclusion training to ensure their activities are implemented in safe and gender responsive manner.

- Men are also less interested in what they consider to be traditionally female issues such as conversations around GBV and CLaT. As a result, female participants in GBV and CLaT community dialogues were more invested in the discussions than their male counterparts. In Half Assini for example, even though male participants confirmed that GBV and CLaT were menaces that must be addressed, they constantly diverted the conversation to topics they considered more worthy, such as closed season, premix fuel and IUU. It took careful facilitation to keep male participants engaged and the dialogues on track. Learning a lesson from this, GFRA will mainstream these conversations with men about GBV and CLaT into other fisheries management platforms to gain gradual acceptance from fishers. This was tested successfully with the Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues.
- While there are similarities across coastal communities, there is significant variation in the manifestations of GBV and CLaT due to cultural differences. GFRA would be guided by this fact and implement solutions with local partners in ways that are appropriately targeted and responsive to locally salient issues. This lesson is also relevant for other aspects of GFRA, particularly in the implementation of sustainable fisheries management actions.
- Implementation of policy actions requires multiple levels of engagement between the MOFAD and FC. Even though the FC is the implementation arm of the ministry, communication gaps means that GFRA has to ensure MOFAD is informed of any key interventions undertaken with the FC. Going forward, GFRA will ensure the participation of key officers from both the Ministry and the Commission to bridge the communication gap while enhancing effective collaboration between them in the implementation of policy and other management actions. GFRA will similarly need to play a key role in improving cooperation amongst the FC divisions to fast-track the implementation of field activities.
- DevWorks learned that in some situations, MOUs with government agencies and certain financial institutions are subjected to content review by their legal teams and board members, resulting in potential delays in collaboration activities. DevWorks will integrate these lessons learned into future activity planning.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Gender Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GFRA has been deliberate about mainstreaming GESI mainstreaming across all five project Strategic Approaches. In Year 1, all assessments and studies GFRA conducted integrated GESI perspectives to produce balanced perspectives of the issues. For instance, the value chain and market analysis; livelihoods assessment as well as the socio-economic impacts of the closed season incorporated questions that were analyzed with the GESI lens to tease out the gender issues and power play. The outcome of this integration is the availability of data to support nuanced interventions. For instance, the value chain analysis revealed unique forms of vulnerabilities for men and women in fishing value chains. Men have significantly limited access to financial services to fund fishing expeditions. They therefore depend heavily on women, who are more privileged in this instance. This positions women to exercise monopoly for setting prices when catch is landed. The Gender Based Violence Vulnerability Assessment however found that women's comparative financial access advantage tends to increase their risks of financial abuse, both at household and workplaces as husbands neglect their financial obligations; and as fishers perpetually return empty-handed from expeditions and fail to repay women, leaving most indebted to financial institutions. Perspectives like this have informed our strategies for addressing gender inequities in fisheries.

The livelihoods strategy also integrates GESI by presenting a comprehensive approach that acknowledges the systemic causes of economic exclusion and suggests solutions that are not only economically viable, but also socially inclusive. In its approach for addressing economic vulnerabilities, 10% of livelihood beneficiaries will come from vulnerable fishing households, particularly those that are vulnerable to GBV and CLaT. This is in acknowledgement of the potential ripple impacts that economic empowerment could serve on fishing capacity and socio-economic wellbeing of fisherfolk, including reduced incidence of GBV and CLaT. Through a household vulnerability assessment process, vulnerable households have been mapped out for the purpose. In ensuing years, GFRA will test, document lessons, and adapt best practices for addressing economic vulnerabilities through the livelihood program.

Additionally, GFRA has integrated GESI in its promotion of safe fish standards, as led by DevWorks. Incorporated in the SFCLS assessment checklist is a requirement for adherence to national labor laws, particularly on CLaT. Under the scheme, a fish processor that engages child labor would fail certification, and lose opportunities provided under the scheme. The introduction of this assessment criteria is expected to provoke consciousness for anti-CLaT in the post-harvest side of the fisheries value chain and contribute to reduced incidence.

GFRA has also purposely embedded gender and social issues in fisheries management activities. This year's Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues featured discussions on gender and child labor in fisheries. Females represented 37% of participants and articulated their interest and concerns from their experiences as women and fish processors. As GFRA and its partners define the LaBEC model, there has been a conscious consideration for mainstreaming gender and social inclusion. Female representation in the LABECs is encouraged, yet as discussed under the challenges section, is proving quite difficult to achieve. To safeguard women, GFRA will approach the integration efforts with tact and caution. Specific roles will be defined for women to ensure they serve effectively and safely. In ensuing quarters, the LABECs will be trained to appreciate GESI and build an empowering environment for successfully integrating women's voices into fisheries management.

GFRA's grants also integrate GESI. Applicants are required to demonstrate how GESI is integrated into their activities, either as standalone or mainstreamed actions.

3.2 GFRA's Social Impact Assessment and Community Engagement Plan

As per USAID's requirement, GFRA conducted a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) during its start-up phase to assess potential impacts that GFRA interventions could have on communities and people. Its report (*GFRA Social Impact Assessment and Implementation Plan, December 2021*) highlighted several social, political, and economic changes that could arise out of GFRA's activities, including potential negative, unintended impacts. GFRA developed a Community Engagement Plan (CEP) as a practical tool for implementing the SIA recommendations and for positioning GFRA to mitigate the risks associated with GFRA activities in fishing communities. The CEP guides GFRA staff and associates in their activities and interactions with constituents at all levels. It identifies the diversity of constituents GFRA engages with, and sets protocols for safeguarding people in these relationships, as well as building strong partnerships for effective project outcomes.

In the course of Year 1, the CEP was socialized among GFRA Staff, and subsequently reviewed at the project Year 2 work planning retreat in July 2022. The review identified areas for improvement, including the need to institute socialization of the CEP as a requirement for all new GFRA partnerships.

As an institution, Tetra Tech continues to hold standards and ethics high in the implementation of GFRA by creating spaces for staff to learn and dialogue about codes of conduct. In March 2022, (then) GFRA Program Manager, Gina Green provided refresher training for staff on ethics and codes of conduct. It was an important exercise for staff to express their commitments, doubts and questions and receive support to always enable appropriate conduct.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Throughout Year 1, GFRA successfully established robust and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems and processes. First, GFRA submitted and then revised the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP) to include targets for all indicators. In addition, GFRA developed a strong MEL Database Management System using the Airtable platform. This system will be the main project management tool and is expected to start running in Q1 of FY2023. The MEL Specialist collaborated with the technical staff to produce two data collection tools (activity attendance sheet and Institution Membership Sheets) and eight output monitoring forms on Airtable that will collect data to feed into the Airtable database management system. Finally, GFRA ensured all staff and partners fully understand and can apply the GFRA indicators in their project planning and reporting. This included organizing a training with GFRA partners HM and FON for knowledge sharing and capacity building to ensure a strong understanding of GFRA PIRS.

During the reporting period, GFRA also organized its first Pause and Reflect workshop from March 15-17, 2022, which included all GFRA staff, the GFRA Tetra Tech Program Manager, staff from partners Hen Mpoano and DevWorks, and staff from USAID Ghana and Washington. Two-hour virtual sessions were scheduled on each of the three days of the event to discuss GFRA's strategic approaches to IUU fishing in the artisanal and industrial sector, the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) and emerging livelihoods strategy. The Pause and Reflect workshop provided GFRA with the opportunity to review the project's theory of change and results chains given new information, circumstances, and findings from various recently completed project assessments. The main workshop result was the recognition that GFRA's theory of change and results chains are still valid and relevant, given that the project is only in its tenth month of implementation and circumstances have not changed dramatically. Only slight adjustments will be needed for the livelihoods and IUU fishing chains and the consensus on the EAFM presentation was that the specific approaches that were presented were still

too vague and that GFRA needs to present a much more strategic approach to EAFM that builds off GFRA's results chain.

In the first quarter of year two, the MEL specialist will undertake trainings/or orientation for all GFRA staff and partner staff on the use of the Airtable platform tools for data collections and submission with. There will be follow ups after the Q1, FY23 data submissions to provide targeted support to partners MEL staff. The year will also witness the organization of annual pause and reflect workshop and spot checks on data submitted.

Table 2 presents GFRA's performance across all AMELP indicators for the FY22 reporting period

Table 2: AMELP Performance Report FY22

#	Performance Indicator	YEAR I FY 2022								
		Reporting Frequency	Year I FY22 Target	Quarter Actual				YI FY22 Actual	Annual Performance Achieved to date (in %)	Explanation
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
1	Fishing Mortality at MSY for small pelagics (Fmsy)	Annual	0					0		The FC did not produce a stock assessment in 2022 because COVID 19 stopped 2021 data collection. The FC plans to produce one in June 2023, based on 2022 data, which will be the first time we can report this indicator.
2	Biomass to produce MSY for small pelagics (Bmsy)	Annual	0					0		Same as above
3	Number of people trained in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and livelihoods programs	Quarterly	0		32	0	255	287		While there was no anticipated target for Year I, SA2 activities advanced rapidly including financial literacy trainings for fish processors pursuing the SFCLS that were conducted during this reporting period
4	Percent of individuals with better employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs (EG6-16)	Semi-Annual	0					0		When participants finished the workforce development program an assessment will be conducted 6 months after completion to identify those with better employment
5	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (GNDR-2)	Quarterly	60%				88%	88%	147%	GFRA exceeded the target in Year I because the majority of interventions to increase access to productive economic resources targeted women in the post-harvest sector

#	Performance Indicator	YEAR I FY 2022								
		Reporting Frequency	Year I FY22 Target	Quarter Actual				YI FY22 Actual	Annual Performance Achieved to date (in %)	Explanation
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
6	Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (YOUTH-3)	Quarterly	50%				5%	5%	10.0%	This indicator is driven by the livelihoods trainings, which target youth. However, the livelihoods trainings will not start until Year 2, so GFRA did not accomplish its target in Year 1.
7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs (EG.4.2-7)	Quarterly	250		0	0	314	314	126%	12 group-based savings associations (VSLAs) have been formed which gives a total membership of 314
8	Value of financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	Quarterly	0							Year 1 focused on partnerships with financial institutions and financial literacy training. Reporting on value of financing accessed will start in Year 2
9	Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-3)	Annual	1,000				287	287	29%	Majority of the beneficiaries were trained in the last quarter of FY22, that led to only a few people with resulting improved economic benefits. However, most of them will be reported in the Q1 of FY23.
10	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-24)	Semi-Annual	140,000				140,000	140,000	100%	According to the FC and substantiated by field monitoring, there was 100% compliance during the close season, which led to the 100% target achievement.

#	Performance Indicator	YEAR I FY 2022								
		Reporting Frequency	Year I FY22 Target	Quarter Actual				YI FY22 Actual	Annual Performance Achieved to date (in %)	Explanation
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
11	Number of artisanal fishing canoes registered as a result of USG support	Annual	1,000					0		GFRA relies on secondary data from FC for this indicator and the data has been collected as part of the canoe frame survey and vessel registration exercise. Unfortunately, the FC's data analysis has been very slow. We expect the data to be validated in January 2023, so we will report it in our Year 2 Q2 report.
12	Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support (EG.3.1-d)	Annual	0							This will be reported in Year 2.
13	Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-25)	Annual	500,000				500,000	500,000	100%	This was achieved through the closed season as the entire coastline of Ghana was affected by the closed season.
14	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance.	Annual	500,000				500,000	500,000	100%	Same as above.
15	Number of community enforcement units reporting suspected violations to law enforcement authorities (custom)	Quarterly	0					0		Activities and subsequent reports on this indicator will start in Year 2.
16	Number of people that apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-6)	Annual	0					0		Activities and subsequent reports on this indicator will start in Year 2

#	Performance Indicator	YEAR I FY 2022								
		Reporting Frequency	Year I FY22 Target	Quarter Actual				YI FY22 Actual	Annual Performance Achieved to date (in %)	Explanation
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
17	Number of people trained in sustainable natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-4)	Quarterly	1,500		142	1,345	83	1,570	105%	GFRA was on track with training beneficiaries on sustainable fisheries.
18	Percent of women and youth members participating in fisheries co-management committees (custom)	Annual	17%				38.5%	38.5%	226%	This presents data on the % of women in the STC and FMOC co-management committees. Out of 26 committee members 10 were women.
19	Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions	Annual	8			2	6	8	100%	
20	Number of people trained in the prevention of human trafficking (PS 5.3-15)	Quarterly	1,500		0	849	547	1,396	93%	GFRA was close to reaching the target through community dialogues on GBV and CLAT and fisher to fisher dialogues.
21	Number of public proclamations against GBV and Child Labor and Trafficking.	Annual	2			2		2	100%	See SA 4 narrative for more details on the 2 public proclamations.
22	Number of unique GBV and CLaT awareness materials designed or adopted through foreign assistance	Semi-Annual	0					0		Activities and subsequent reporting on this indicator will start in Year 2
23	Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs	Quarterly	2,000			2,194	630	2,824	141%	This target was exceeded. GFRA was able to target a large number of beneficiaries during the reporting period. This target was also

#	Performance Indicator	YEAR I FY 2022								
		Reporting Frequency	Year I FY22 Target	Quarter Actual				YI FY22 Actual	Annual Performance Achieved to date (in %)	Explanation
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
										overachieved due to the acceleration of SA2 financial literacy and entrepreneurship training.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In Year 1, GFRA successfully established offices in Accra and Takoradi and hired technical and operations staff (see Table 3) to successfully manage the implementation of Year 1 activities. In Q1 of Year 2, GFRA will assess the project's dependence on the Takoradi office, especially given Hen Mpoano's strong presence in Takoradi, and decide whether to continue operating that office.

In order to rapidly implement activities at the site level, GFRA established strong working relationships and integrated work planning processes with subcontractor Hen Mpoano to lead interventions in the Western and Central Regions and grantee Friends of the Nation to lead activities in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions. GFRA works closely with subcontractors DevWorks and Development Action Association in the implementation of all post-harvest activities and signed a new grant agreement at the end of Year 2 with Opportunities International Centre Ghana (OICG) to support the livelihoods strategic approach.

In Year 1, GFRA launched an Annual Program Statement to solicit new grants and support a co-creation approach to identifying new and innovative partners to support all five of GFRA's strategic approaches. GFRA received 39 concept papers and selected 10 to move to the full application stage. One grant, OICG, was awarded in Year 1 and the rest will be awarded early in Year 2.

GFRA has also identified new subcontractors that will be engaged early in Year 2 to provide the project with specialized technical support - Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to lead a series of fisheries workshops with the STC and FMOC and Mullen Lowe to support GFRA with media and creative services to inform project communications and behavior change activities.

Table 3: Table of indication staff position and their names

Position
Tetra Tech staff
1. Chief of Party – Heather D'Agnes (<i>key personnel</i>)
2. Deputy Chief of Party – Lionel Amewusika Awity (<i>key personnel</i>)
3. Director of Administration & Finance – Maxwell Amoah (<i>key personnel</i>)
4. Policy and Enforcement Advisor – Dr. Godfred Ameyaw Asiedu (<i>key personnel</i>)
5. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Advisor – Baviina Safia Musah (<i>key personnel</i>)
6. Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Specialist – Doris Amponsaa Owusu
7. Community Fisheries Field Agent (Accra office) - Kusi Boateng
8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist – Christian Npaa-Emwin Kuder
9. Fisheries Management Specialist – Socrates Apetorgbor Segbor
10. Grants and Subcontract Specialist – Cornelius Kwaku Kumi
11. Communications, and Social and Behavior Change Communication Specialist – Perfectual Labik
12. Administrative and Logistics Assistant – Cecilia Nana Adwoa Arthur
13. Accountant – Stephen Tenkorang
14. Administrative Assistant (Takoradi office) – Efua Atta Koomson
15. Community Fisheries Field Agent (Takoradi office) – Sheila Fynn-Korsah
16. Events and Travel Coordinator – Theresa Biney
17. Driver (Accra office) – Isaac Aduoku
18. Driver (Takoradi office) – John Edumadze
19. Driver (Accra office) – Mohammed Sani
20. Cleaner (Accra office) – Mavis Korkor
21. Cleaner (Takoradi office) – Isaac Donkor
22. Communication Officer – TBD (under recruitment)

Position
23. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Officer (MCS) – TBD (under recruitment)
24. Fisheries Officer – TBD
DevWorks staff
25. Market and Private Sector Specialist – Emmanuel Kwarteng
26. Value Chain Specialist – Akua Amoa Okyere-Nyako

5.1 Project Communications and Events

During Year I, GFRA supported a range of events under the five Strategic Approaches such as the OACPS Regatta, the Commemoration of the Day Against Child Labor, and the Announcement of the Closed Season. A major GFRA event highlight from Q4 that has not been mentioned is the national durbar to mark the end of the 2022 fishing closed season for the artisanal sub-sector. The event was held at Otum in the Central Region and was attended by the Honorable Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the USAID Mission Director, and representatives from all key fisheries stakeholders. The USAID Ghana Mission Director used the opportunity to congratulate the fishers on voluntarily complying with the closed season.

GFRA developed a project factsheet, a factsheet on its Grants under Contract Program and a briefer on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. GFRA also developed three success stories, one of which highlighted USAID successes in institutionalizing the closed season and was published on the USAID Medium blog;

<https://medium.com/usaaid-2030/giving-the-fish-a-break-1d6d84341aaf>



Figure 11: Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mavis Hawa Koomson, delivering her remarks

Figure 12: Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mavis Hawa Koomson, delivering her remarks

6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

For the next quarter (October 1 to December 31, 2022) which is the first quarter for 2023 fiscal year, GFRA will undertake the following activities:

6.1 Strategic Approach I: Align Fisheries Capacity with Ecological Carrying Capacity of the Small Pelagic Fisheries while Enhancing the Socio-economic Well-being and Resilience of Artisanal Fisherfolk

- Convene and support the STC to review an implementation plan for the Ministerial Directive on the use of fishing gear by the industrial trawl sector, on bycatch landings at the two designated ports of Tema and Takoradi
- Oversee the facilitation of skills training and mentoring for 300 Cohort I beneficiaries by grantee (OICG) in six sites (Half Assini, Axim, Sekondi, Shama, Elmina and Mumford) across the Western and Central Regions.
- Oversee the facilitation of the skills training and mentoring for 200 Cohort II beneficiaries in four sites (Keta, Anloga, Azizanya and Anyamam) in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions
- Identify and engage financial institutions to manage revolving funds and work with them to define the terms and modalities for the disbursement and repayment of the funds by livelihood beneficiaries across GFRA sites
- Recruit a consultant to train beneficiaries on financial literacy and entrepreneurship
- Support DevWorks to work with fish processing associations and subcontractors to establish new VSLAs and strengthened existing ones across GFRA sites to strengthen existing VSLAs.
- Work with DevWorks and fisheries associations to promote and enroll interested beneficiaries for financial savings products including MiLife savings products & micro insurance.

6.2 Strategic Approach 2: Increase the Quality and Value of Artisanal Fish Products to Maintain Household Income and Enhance Availability of Nutritious Foods for Local and Regional Markets

- Work with financial institutions to introduce fishers to bankability and extend existing financial products and services to GFRA supported fish processors and livelihoods beneficiaries.
 - Develop new relationships with three financial institutions
 - Work with the Akatakyiman and Agave Rural Banks and three new financial institutions to introduce beneficiaries to their banking products and service
- Work with fish processing associations to establish new VSLAs and strengthen existing VSLAs across GFRA sites
 - Formation of 25 new VSLAs in coastal communities
 - Strengthen 20 existing VSLAs
- Conduct business development trainings for fish processing businesses and entrepreneurs who are nearing SFCLS certification to improve their bankability and support their access to financing across GFRA sites
 - Conduct 20 trainings on financial literacy, business management, and entrepreneurship
- Support MTC to develop systems and structures to ensure sustainability of the SFCLS
 - Meetings with FC, FDA, and GSA
 - Support MTC to train FC, GSA, and FDA certification auditors on the SFCLS
 - Support FC to develop operational guidelines, extension, and training manuals for the post-harvest sector
- Work with fish processing associations to conduct post-harvest handling and processing training including hygiene, sanitation, and food safety using SFCLS as a guide
 - Grantee and sub-contract partners (i.e., DAA, NAFPTA, CEWEFIA) conduct training on SFCLS requirements
 - Grantee and sub-contract partners (i.e., DAA, NAFPTA, CEWEFIA) conduct inspections and coaching on improved processing

6.3 Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen transparency, accountability, and co-management in governance practices for fisheries policymaking, regulation, and enforcement.

- Convene and support the STC to review Closed Season assessment reports and make recommendations to guide the implementation of subsequent closures towards the recovery and sustainable management of Ghana's marine fishery
- Support MOFAD/FC to develop strategy for implementation of 3-year moratorium on new entrant, with emphasis on the artisanal sector
- Meet with MOFAD and FC to finalize co-management strategy
- Organize a workshop with FC management to co-create nature and form, of regional co-management committees
- Support FC to develop TOR for co-management committees
- Convene a workshop to guide Fisheries Management Operational Committee to develop 2023 operational plan for the implementation of the FMP (2022 - 2026)
- Convene and support the FMOC to review strategy on implementation on 3-year moratorium on new entrants of fishing vessels across all sectors in the marine fishery
- Liaise with MOFAD/FC to develop an implementation plan for 2023 closed season
- Support MOFAD/FC to undertake rapid biological assessment of 2022 closed season
- Support FC to organize multistakeholder workshop to validate Biological and Socioeconomic impact assessments of the 2022 closed season.
- Support FC with biological impact assessment of 2023 closed season
- Support the MOFAD to commemorate World Fisheries Day
- Conduct legal and policy review for the establishment of MPAs for small pelagic fisheries management and recovery
- Develop MPA Technical Advisory Committee workplan for the establishment of MPAs
- Support MOFAD and FC to effectively implement ministerial directive on the use of fishing gear by industrial trawlers
- Develop data collection protocols for monitoring implementation outcomes of ministerial directives on the use of fishing gear by industrial trawlers
- Finalize Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for LaBECs
- Organize high-level workshop for senior level fisheries officials to discuss IUU fishing
- Conduct three Participatory Action Research
- Develop and pre-test Illegal fishing SBCC materials
- Roll out SBCC campaign on illegal fishing in artisanal sector

6.4 Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen constituencies to promote and implement sustainable fisheries management.

- Conduct training for GNCFC and NAFPTA national leaders on advocacy, media engagement, public speaking fund raising, proposal writing, etc.
- Organize a national workshop with GNCFC leaders to develop operational manuals
- Hold a Workshop with NAFPTA Central and Western Regional executives to develop mobilization strategy
- Develop constituency strengthening strategy for NAFPTA and GNCFC

- Organize training for Editors and Journalists on Fisheries management
- Support FC & GNCFC workshop to discuss F2F modalities and set agenda
- Conduct capacity building workshop for regional fisherfolk leaders to facilitate F2F dialogues
- Support communities to initiate and institute actions against GBV and CLaT
- Work with fisher associations, community leaders and relevant state institutions to form circles of support for GBV prevention and response
- Refresh/Strengthen district child protection panels
- Collaborate to implement child labor activities in district annual plan – initiate discussions
- Support the enrolment and monitoring of beneficiaries on livelihoods program
- Provide support to FC to revise national gender and anti-CLaT strategy for fisheries
- Develop tool kit/ guidance for integrating GESI in fisheries
- Collaborate to commemorate 16 days of activism against GBV

6.5 Strategic Objective 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions.

- STC adopts and launches the research agenda with fisheries stakeholders and decision makers
- Sign MOU with University of Cape Coast
- Initiate planning discussions for the Fisheries Science Symposium

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

		May 25 to Sept 30, 2021	Oct 1 to Dec 31 2022	Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2022	April 1 to Jun 30, 22	July 1 - Sept 30, 22	Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022	May 25 2021 - Sept 2022
		USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
1	Total Est. USAID Amount							17,881,665
2	Total Funds Obligated							4,500,000
3	Funds Expended							
3a	Direct Cost	352,164	571,793	467,142	568,465	794,764	2,402,164	2,754,328
3b	Grants Under contract	-	-	-	16,746	11,442	28,188	28,188
3c	Indirect Costs	92,248	116,542	120,698	123,113	166,114	526,467	618,715
3d	Fixed fee	38,906	57,663	39,499	27,292	118,104	242,558	277,050
4	Total Funds expended	483,318	745,998	627,339	735,616	1,090,424	3,199,377	3,678,281
5	Funded Value Remaining (2-4)							821,719
6	Total Value Remaining (1-4)							14,203,384

Accruals for next quarter (Q1)

	31 Oct 2022	30 Nov 2022	31 Dec 2022	Total
Direct Cost	209,916.90	240,369.63	262,569.63	712,856.16
Indirect Cost	56,362.77	48,698.99	55,407.90	160,469.66
Grants	33,853.00	24,400.00	29,000.00	87,253.00
Fixed fee		46,545.80	16,673.00	63,218.80
Total	300,132.67	360,014.42	363,650.53	1,023,797.62

ANNEX: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT (EMMR)

1.0 PURPOSE

Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Reports (EMMRs) are required for USAID-funded projects when the 22CFR216 documentation governing the project impose conditions on at least one project/activity component. EMMRs ensure that the ADS 204 requirements for reporting on environmental compliance are met.

2.0 SCOPE

The following GFRA EMMR documents the status of each required mitigation measure over the preceding project year as stipulated in the project's Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan (EMMP). It provides a succinct update on progress regarding the implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures implemented as detailed in the EMMP. It summarizes field monitoring and if encountered, issues and actions taken to resolve identified issues.

3.0 PROJECT EMMP SUMMARY

GFRA is an activity that falls under the 2021 USAID/Ghana Food Security Project (FSP) Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). The FSP IEE identifies six intervention categories with various sub-interventions for all activities that are expected under the IEE. The FSP IEE negative determinations that are relevant to GFRA grouped by Intervention Category are listed below:

1. Intervention Category 1: Human capital, institutional, government and Civil Service Organization capacity building for research, policy, management, and outreach across sectors (e.g., agriculture, nutrition, fisheries).
 - Negative Determination: Sub-intervention 1.2, Capacity building in policy, planning, financing, and oversight of nutrition and food security interventions.
2. Intervention Category 2: Increase productivity and effectiveness of agricultural and fisheries practices.
 - Negative Determination: Sub-intervention 2.2, Training and capacity building on post-harvest/capture storage, drying, handling, and processing
 - Negative Determination: Sub-intervention 2.5, Adoption of post-harvest loss reduction technologies.
 - Negative Determination: Sub-intervention 2.6, Training, capacity building, field research and demonstrations on or in support of sustainable fisheries practices.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

For all activities identified with potential environmental impacts, GFRA conducts regular monitoring to ensure that the impacts are being mitigated. GFRA staff involved in the implementation of those activities are involved in the regular monitoring while the MEL specialist conducts a review annually prior to the submission of the annual report. It should be noted that most activities that have environmental impacts, particularly those related to the Safe Fish Certification trainings and adoption, will start in GFRA's project Year 2, so special attention will be paid to environmental monitoring as those activities scale up.

EMMR TABLE FOR FEED THE FUTURE GHANA FISHERIES RECOVERY ACTIVITY

Start and End Dates of Period Covered (month/year): __October 2021 to September 2022__

Project/Activity/Sub-Activity	Mitigation Measure(s)	Summary Field Monitoring/Issues/Resolution (i.e., monitoring dates, observations, issues identified and resolved)	Outstanding Issues, proposed resolutions
STRATEGIC APPROACH 1. ALIGN FISHERIES CAPACITY WITH ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES WILE ENHANCING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE OF ARTISANAL FISHERFOLK.			
RESULT 1.1 GHANA'S FISHING FLEET CAPACITY AND ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITY ALIGNED			
Support ecological carrying capacity study to underpin fisheries management decisions.	Capacity building in policy, planning, financing, and/or oversight of nutrition and food security interventions must, to the extent practicable, integrate or otherwise reflect best practices such as those identified in the USAID Sector Guidelines for Fisheries .	GFRA's activities has followed the best practices under the USAID sector guidelines for fisheries. Under the support ecological carrying capacity study to underpin fisheries management decisions, most capacity building trainings and planning includes the integration and/or reflections on the best practices such as the design of the GFRA's interventions to include activities that prevents or reduce overfishing for all fish population especially for the small pelagic. The stock assessment conducted at the beginning of the implementation process gave an understanding of the current status of the fish stocks. GFRA through the Science and Technical Committees (STC) and the co-management committees and the fishing associations is working towards an inclusive participatory process in the fisheries management. GFRA is also, working with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to move from the open access to managed or regulated access systems through the registrations of all canoes or vessels and the imposition of the moratorium on new entrants. Likewise, other controls of fishing efforts like the closed seasons and the redesigning of fishing gear to reduce by-catch in the industry trawl sector to help in the management of the fishing stock.	
RESULT 1.2: ALTERNATIVE AND DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS FOR FISHERIES COMMUNITIES INCREASED, INCLUDING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH			

Project/Activity/Sub-Activity	Mitigation Measure(s)	Summary Field Monitoring/Issues/Resolution (i.e., monitoring dates, observations, issues identified and resolved)	Outstanding Issues, proposed resolutions
<p>Assess and identify viable alternative livelihood options</p> <p>Support employment transition and capacity development of individuals exiting fisheries.</p>	<p>All livelihood options identified would be screened for their environmentally friendliness and sustainability.</p> <p>Environmentally destructive livelihoods will not be promoted.</p>	<p>GFRA conducted a livelihoods feasibility assessment to identify viable livelihoods for project beneficiaries. During the selection of livelihoods, environmental impacts were taken into consideration. For example, no livelihoods that involve construction of buildings, aquaculture, or use of limited and endangered forest products were considered. The livelihoods that have been prioritized involve trading in basic commodities, training for masonry, electrical installment, seamstress, hairdressing, and other similar trades. During Year 2, livelihood beneficiaries will receive training on these trades and GFRA will conduct another assessment to ensure they do not have a negative environmental impact as part of the EMMP.</p>	
STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INCREASE THE QUALITY AND VALUE OF ARTISANAL FISH PRODUCTS TO MAINTAIN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND ENHANCE AVAILABILITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS			
RESULT 2.1 SEAFOOD PRODUCT QUALITY, VALUE, AND NUTRITIONAL BENEFIT ENHANCED			
<p>Conduct value chain analysis</p> <p>Enhance fish processing practices to meet quality and sanitation standards required for seafood product certification</p>	<p>All training and capacity building activities must incorporate and promote sound environmental management practices in general conformity with relevant chapters of USAID's Sectoral Guidelines. In specific GFRA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote adoption and use of improved, energy efficient and low emission fish processing technologies. Promote sustainable sourcing of fuelwood for processing fish, specifically the use of fast-growing wood species from woodlots or plantations. GFRA will discourage the use of mangroves for fish smoking. 	<p>In line with GFRA's Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP), GFRA is reflecting USAID Sector Guidelines for Fisheries in the SFCLS. Specifically, certified fish processors are encouraged to adopt improved and energy efficient fish smoking technologies to reduce the consumption of fuelwood. In all the SFCLS trainings, GFRA instructed fish processors to properly dispose of their liquid kitchen waste into soak away pits and solid waste at designated municipal waste disposal and treatment systems. Compliance to proper waste management is one of the requirements under the SFCLS.</p>	

Project/Activity/Sub-Activity	Mitigation Measure(s)	Summary Field Monitoring/Issues/Resolution (i.e., monitoring dates, observations, issues identified and resolved)	Outstanding Issues, proposed resolutions
	<p>All introductions of post-harvest technologies and use of machinery must be screened for environmental and social impacts over the lifetime use of equipment assessing its potential impacts on air, water, and soil pollution, labor safety and sustainability. In specific GFRA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the adoption of best waste management practices for both liquid and solid waste from fish processing activities, specifically, disposal of waste through the municipal waste disposal and treatment system. <p>Support for micro and small-scale processing enterprises will follow guidelines outlined by the Food processing resource efficient and cleaner production briefing and resource guide for micro & small enterprises . GFRA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of environmentally friendly packaging materials for fish products. Specifically, the use of bio-degradable and recyclable materials. 		
STRATEGIC APPROACH 3 STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CO-MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNANCE PRACTICES FOR FISHERIES POLICYMAKING, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT			
3.1: ENHANCEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT			
3.2: GOG AND CO-MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CAPACITY ENHANCED TO EQUITABLY AND CONSISTENTLY ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS, REGULATIONS AND PROGRAMS			
Facilitate Ghana's transition toward a limited-access governance regime.	All training, technical assistance, and capacity building for skills related to inland fishing practices will include best practices regarding sustainable harvesting, multiple use, and social implications of fisheries management including principles of environmental	These mitigation measures are proposed to start in the year 2 of GFRA implementation, however during the year 2 workplan planning process these mitigation measure have been taken cognizance of.	

Project/Activity/Sub-Activity	Mitigation Measure(s)	Summary Field Monitoring/Issues/Resolution (i.e., monitoring dates, observations, issues identified and resolved)	Outstanding Issues, proposed resolutions
<p>Establish EAFM framework to enhance fisheries co-management, policymaking, regulation, and enforcement.</p> <p>Increase fisheries co-management association capacity to operate effectively and reduce conflict.</p> <p>Update and strengthen implementation of national small pelagic fisheries management policies and programs</p> <p>Identify and support GFRA Champions to strengthen political will in support of consistent and equitable enforcement of fisheries regulations.</p> <p>Support implementation of closed seasons within artisanal fishing waters.</p> <p>Strengthen local and national efforts to combat IUU fishing by</p>	<p>protection, social and conflict management, and sustainability.</p> <p>Fisheries planning and management support to local or national agencies/ministries or stakeholders will include analysis of climate vulnerabilities of fisheries and climate risks to the proposed management system. Additionally, planning and management will analyze the sustainability of fisheries and implications of planning and management on protected areas and non-target aquatic species.</p> <p>The promotion of fishing as a source of protein and income generation will make all efforts to educate the target audience on identify appropriate and inappropriate fishing practices.</p> <p>No stun, dynamite, chemical, or long line fishing methods or use of bed nets (insecticide or non-treated) for fishing.</p> <p>Training and support will promote and abide by fishing regulations, including appropriate sizes and catch limits, lure types, by-catch regulations, fishing seasons, permit/license and zoning requirements, and reporting to local authorities.</p> <p>Fishing in protected fishing areas will be discouraged unless explicitly included in a formal Fisheries Management Plan and allowed under Ghanaian regulations.</p>		

Project/Activity/Sub-Activity	Mitigation Measure(s)	Summary Field Monitoring/Issues/Resolution (i.e., monitoring dates, observations, issues identified and resolved)	Outstanding Issues, proposed resolutions
artisanal and industrial vessels.			

USAID REVIEW OF EMMR

Approval:	Kristopher (Toby) Rowell, COR	Date
Clearance:	[NAME], Mission Environmental Officer [<i>as appropriate</i>]	Date
Clearance:	[NAME], Regional Environmental Advisor [<i>as appropriate</i>]	Date
Concurrence:	[NAME], _____ Bureau Environmental Officer [<i>as appropriate</i>]	Date

DISTRIBUTION:

Distribution lists may be customized by Bureau or Mission. Please follow Bureau- or Mission-specific guidance. Delete if not used.