



**FEED THE FUTURE**  
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

# GHANA FISHERIES RECOVERY ACTIVITY (GFRA)



## Annual Performance Report 2023

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023



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Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity  
Annual Progress Report  
October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023  
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**COVER PHOTO:** Trainees of the GFRA Supplemental Livelihoods program proudly displaying their certificates at their graduation ceremony. **Photo Credit:** GFRA, 2023.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	iv
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	v
I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY .....	I
I.1 Project Description/Introduction.....	2
I.2 Executive 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 .....	8
2.1.3 Strategic Approach 3: Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, and Co-Management in Governance Practices for Fisheries Policymaking, Regulation,.....	13
2.1.4 Strategic Approach 4: Strengthen Constituencies to Promote and Implement Sustainable Fisheries Management .....	31
2.1.5 Strategic Approach 5: Improve use of science and research for policy and management decisions. ....	41
2.2 Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned .....	42
3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES.....	43
3.1 Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Success Stories .....	43
3.2 Integrating FP/RH Information and Services .....	45
3.3 GFRA's Social Impact Assessment and Community Engagement Plan.....	45
4. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL) .....	46
5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION .....	46
5.1 Grants & Subcontracts.....	47
6. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT .....	53
ANNEX I: Media coverage of Fisheries Issues as a result of GFRA support.....	54
ANNEX II: GFRA ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT (EMMR).....	57
ANNEX III: GFRA Detailed Annual Performance Results.....	63

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Participants at the livelihood launch .....	5
Figure 2: Left: Trainees producing bar laundry soap. Middle: A trainee displaying items she produced. Right: Training on flour confectionary (paloo). .....	6
Figure 3: TOT on business management and financial literacy in the Volta region .....	9
Figure 4: Inspection of a fish processing facility in Axim, Western Region .....	10
Figure 5: Development and promotion of new small pelagic recipes among chefs in Ghana .....	11
Figure 6: A picture showing trained traders and retailers in a branded tag .....	11
Figure 7: Selected members of MTC discussing SFCLS on national TV .....	12
Figure 8: A picture used in the public awareness campaign showing a certified fish retailer with branded tag .....	12
Figure 9: An FC officer engaging fishers at a landing beach in the Central Region .....	13
Figure 10: Summary of fisher support for Moratorium .....	14
Figure 11: Screenshot of Moratorium animation developed to educate fishers and the general public .....	15
Figure 12: Announcement of the 3-year moratorium by the sector minister in Accra. ....	15
Figure 13: Proposed illustrative process of canoe replacement during the moratorium .....	16
Figure 14: Map showing 6 fish production and important fish habitats and the communities surrounding the Cape Three Points area in the Western Region, Ghana .....	17
Figure 15: Volta Regional SPCC developing local action plans for effective implementation of 3-year moratorium in the Volta Region .....	20
Figure 16: Volta regional SPCC pose for a picture after their inauguration (Left), Swearing in of Advisory Committee of the SPCC (Right) .....	20
Figure 17: USAID Mission Director supports MOFAD Deputy Minister to symbolically mark the opening of the sea for fishing activity in the artisanal sector .....	23
Figure 18: LABEC members with traditional leaders, FC officers, marine police officers, DCE and GNCFC executive pose for a picture after the inauguration of LABEC at Adina, Volta region .....	28
Figure 19: GFRA Advocate Nana Nkanomamako IV in a radio discussion .....	37
Figure 20: A poster on CLaT .....	37
Figure 21: Left - Public Procession against GBV, Keta - VR. Right - A section of Traditional Leaders at a Durbar, Elmina - CR .....	38
Figure 22: Participants in a Role Play .....	39
Figure 23: Left - Newly Inaugurated CCPC in a photo with MMDA Officials and Traditional Leaders. Right - MCE and Paramount Chief for Keta congratulate a CCPC Member .....	40
Figure 24: A pupil speaks against CLaT through poetry .....	41

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: List of Media Houses Trained in Fisheries Management .....	33
Table 2: List of specialized trainings for key institutions and local structures .....	37
Table 3: FP/RH uptake at GFRA sites .....	45
Table 4: Numbers of livelihood beneficiaries reached with FP/RH .....	45
Table 5: List of current GFRA staff .....	46
Table 6: List of Active GFRA Grantees and Subcontractors .....	47
Table 7: Annual Performance Report FY23 .....	48

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AMELP</b>	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
<b>ACHF</b>	Alpha Communication and Health Foundation
<b>APS</b>	Annual Program Statement
<b>CAG</b>	Chefs Association of Ghana
<b>Chala</b>	Children Against Child Labor & Trafficking
<b>CCPC</b>	Community Child Protection Committee
<b>CESP</b>	Community Engagement and Safeguarding Plan
<b>CEWEFIA</b>	Central and Western Fish Improvement Association
<b>CFGoAG</b>	Canoe and Fishing Gear Association of Ghana
<b>CHRAJ</b>	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
<b>CLaT</b>	Child Labor and Trafficking
<b>COP</b>	Chief of Party
<b>CR</b>	Central Region
<b>CSIR-FIR</b>	Council for Scientific Research-Food Research Institute
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DAA</b>	Development Action Association
<b>DCOP</b>	Deputy Chief of Party
<b>DIS</b>	Development Information System
<b>DOG</b>	Department of Gender
<b>DOVVSU</b>	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
<b>DSW</b>	Department of Social Welfare
<b>EAFM</b>	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
<b>EDF</b>	Environmental Defense Fund
<b>EJF</b>	Environmental Justice Foundation
<b>EMS</b>	Electronic Monitoring System
<b>FC</b>	Fisheries Commission
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drugs Authority
<b>FIDA</b>	International Federation of Women Lawyers
<b>FMOC</b>	Fisheries Management Operational Committee
<b>FoN</b>	Friends of the Nation
<b>FP/RH</b>	Family Planning and Reproductive Health
<b>FSSD</b>	Fisheries Scientific Survey Division
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GESI</b>	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
<b>GFRA</b>	Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity
<b>GIZ</b>	German Development Cooperation
<b>GMA</b>	Ghana Maritime Authority
<b>GNCFC</b>	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
<b>GoG</b>	Government of Ghana
<b>GRA</b>	Ghana Revenue Authority
<b>GSA</b>	Ghana Standards Authority
<b>GTI</b>	Ghana Trade and Investment
<b>GUC</b>	Grants Under Contract

<b>IUD</b>	Intrauterine Device
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
<b>KEEA</b>	Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>LaBECs</b>	Landing Beach Enforcement Committees
<b>MCE</b>	Municipal Chief Executive
<b>MCS</b>	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
<b>MFA</b>	Mobilizing Finance in Agriculture
<b>MFMD</b>	Marine Fisheries Management Division
<b>MFMP</b>	Marine Fisheries Management Plan
<b>MMDA</b>	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly
<b>MOFAD</b>	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>MTC</b>	Multi-Disciplinary Committee
<b>NAFAG</b>	National Fisheries Association of Ghana
<b>NAFPTA</b>	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>NORAD</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
<b>OICG</b>	Opportunities Industrialization Centre, Ghana
<b>PAR</b>	Participatory Action Research
<b>PLS</b>	Progressive Licensing Scheme
<b>PRO</b>	Public Relations Officer
<b>PSCFACA</b>	Parliamentary Select Committee on Food, Agriculture, and Cocoa Affairs
<b>RoC</b>	Rights of the Child Club
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behavior Change Communication
<b>SFCS</b>	Safe Fish Certification Scheme
<b>SIA</b>	Social Impact Assessment
<b>SPCC</b>	Small Pelagic Co-management Committee
<b>STC</b>	Scientific Technical Committee
<b>TAC</b>	Technical Advisory Committee
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UCC</b>	University of Cape Coast
<b>UG</b>	University of Ghana
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VMS</b>	Vessel Monitoring Systems
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loans Association
<b>WR</b>	Western Region

## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

<b>Program Name:</b>	Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date:</b>	May 26, 2021 - May 25, 2026
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner:</b>	Tetra Tech ARD
<b>[Contract/Agreement] Number:</b>	72064121C00001
<b>Name of Subcontractors/Sub-awardees:</b>	DevWorks International and Hen Mpoano
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations</b>	Government of Ghana: Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Fisheries Commission of Ghana
<b>Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)</b>	Ghana: Central Region, Western Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023



## 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 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, GFRA implements a balanced and strategic approach to reduce fishing overcapacity and increase controlled access over Ghana's small pelagic fisheries sector to encourage ecological sustainability while also enhancing socioeconomic well-being and local resilience of artisanal fisherfolk and their communities. GFRA activities are implemented through a set of 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 Executive Summary

After laying a strong foundation in Year 1, GFRA rapidly expanded its activities throughout Year 2. GFRA reached 1,350 young fishers aged 15-35, with training on supplemental livelihoods to diversify their employment options and, in the long term, reduce pressure on fisheries resources. All of these individuals also received financial literacy and business development and management training to ensure that they have the financial skills to successfully participate in or run a business. By the end of the reporting period, 682 trainees had completed training and were resourced through a variety of measures to start work in their new trades.

Year 2 also saw the formal launch of the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS), a government led mechanism to promote widespread hygienic processing and handling of small pelagic fish. With GFRA support, 1,078 fish processors and traders (1,001 females and 77 males) across the country were trained on hygienic fish handling, processing, and marketing. A total of 61 fish processing facilities received SFCLS certification, 80 facilities passed inspection and will receive certification in November 2023, and 70 received minor recommendations that can easily be addressed before certification. Meanwhile, GFRA trained 70 fish traders and retailers already sourcing from certified fish processors on how to handle fish hygienically from the point of processing to sale to the consumer. This increase in the supply of Safe Fish certified product was complemented by a widespread consumer awareness campaign to increase demand for the produce along with innovative strategy to increase demand for Safe Fish product in higher end export and hospitality markets which also garner higher profit margins.

The greatest successes of Year 2 were in the policy and fisheries management realm. Building on the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development's strong commitment to address IUU and rebuild Ghana's fish stocks, GFRA supported the Ministry and Fisheries Commission to develop and announce a three year moratorium on new canoes entering the fishery. This measure complements the implementation of the Ministerial Directive on Industrial Trawl Gear, which has dramatically reduced fishing by the industrial trawl fleet. To support implementation, GFRA introduced a pilot to trial electronic monitoring technologies as tool for monitoring compliance. With GFRA support, the Minister is committed to ensuring that all industrial vessels fishing in Ghanaian waters are equipped with electronic monitoring systems by 2025, including introducing it as a licensing condition early in 2024. Year 2 also saw the selection of the Greater Cape Three Points Area as the final site for a



marine protected area, potentially the country's first, and an extensive yearlong process of community engagements to build acceptance and ensure local stakeholders are participating in the establishment process. Finally, GFRA supported the Fisheries Commission to design and institute a range of important co-management structures at the national, regional, and local levels including two national fisheries science and advisory committees, four regional co-management committees, and eleven local community enforcement committees. These institutions allow for fishers and other important stakeholders in the sector to participate fully in fisheries decision making, building a stronger basis for shared responsibility and action for fisheries recovery. Concurrently, GFRA successfully built strong constituencies among fishing groups, media, and underrepresented female and youth voices to support these reforms and management measures and become advocates in their own right for responsible fishing.

Finally, GFRA reached over 4700 individuals with training on gender based violence and child labor and trafficking that created platforms for communities to dialogue on these contentious issues and identified shared actions for prevention. As community attitudes towards these social problems started to shift, GFRA supported community leaders and district government to catalyze new community groups such as Child Protection Committees and Circles of Support to drive forward local actions.

## 2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

This section presents details on progress made in the reporting period according to GFRA's strategic approaches, results, and tasks.

### 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

##### *Result 1.1 Ghana's fishing fleet capacity and ecological carrying capacity aligned*

During Year 2, GFRA supported the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC) to recognize, establish, and operationalize two vital multistakeholder fisheries management advisory committees - the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) and the Fisheries Management Operational Committee (FMOC). The two advisory committees are enshrined in the 2020 Co-Management Policy and are integral to transparent and accountable fisheries decision-making by providing an officially recognized platform for fishers, academia, and other stakeholders to provide inputs and play an oversight role in fisheries policy formulation and implementation. The Ministry designated the STC the role of ensuring that policies and management decisions are informed by the best available scientific information and to guide the FC's Fisheries Scientific and Survey Division (FSSD) to ensure improved scientific data and models for fisheries management. The FMOC was established to drive reforms in fisheries management as codified in Ghana's 2022 – 2026 Marine Fisheries Management Plan (MFMP 2022-2026), gazetted on April 11, 2023. Throughout Year 2 and with GFRA advice and support, the FC organized regular meetings for the committees to help them fulfill their mandate.

In Year 2, every important fisheries management measure implemented by MOFAD/FC was reviewed by and informed by these two committees. As discussed later in this report, the committees contributed significantly to the review and finalization of the FC's 2022 Closed Season Impact Assessment Reports to enhance implementation of subsequent closed season (see Task 3.2.1) and the Ministerial Directive for trawl gear in the industrial sector (hereafter referred to as Ministerial Directive, see Task 3.2.4) to ensure the collection of high quality biological data needed to accurately assess the impact of the trawl gear. Following review of the 2022 Canoe Frame Survey (CFS) (see Task 3.1.1), the STC recommended that the FC's Fisheries Science and Survey Division (FSSD)

consider redefining how it defines *fishing effort* in its annual stock assessments of the fisheries sector. Currently, effort in Ghana's artisanal fisheries is the number of vessels, a simplistic definition given the growth in the size of vessels and the stronger horsepower engines and larger nets they are now using. Going forward, a subcommittee of the STC will work with the FSSD to redefine how it is measuring fishing effort and ensure it is more reflective of current trends by considering other parameters such as days spent fishing at sea, level of motorization, and gear size.

Having analyzed data from the 2022 CFS, which shows steady increases in numbers of canoes, size of canoes and motorization of canoes, the STC and FMOC also played a foundational role in advising MOFAD/FC on adopting the Moratorium given the urgent need to align fishing efforts with the small pelagic fisheries' ecological carrying capacity. These activities are further discussed under Tasks 3.1.1 and 3.1.3.

In Year 3, GFRA will continue to support the committees to review the 2023 impact assessment reports of the closed season, the 2022 stock assessment for small pelagic fisheries in Ghana, assess the data on the effectiveness of the Ministerial Directive as well as advising the Ministry and FC on strategies for capacity reduction and re-characterization of the artisanal canoes.

**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.**

During Year 2, GFRA trained 1,350 young fishers, aged 15-35, in supplemental livelihoods through three categories of training options. The first is long-term skills training which provides enrollees with 3-12 months of intensive training and apprenticeship to learn new skills and trades such as electrical installation, plumbing, construction, consumer electronic repairs, hairdressing, catering, and garment making. The second option is short term skills training which provides enrollees with 1-5 days of training for new, easier to learn trades such as flour confection, production of cosmetics, and production of soaps and detergents. The last option is the trading livelihood option where the beneficiary is supported to start a small business to trade locally in goods such as food and beverages, cosmetics, footwear sewing accessories and detergents. For all three options, trainees are provided supplementary training in entrepreneurship and business management to ensure they have the financial literacy skills to operate a business (see Task 1.2.3). Table 1 summarizes the Year 2 livelihoods accomplishments.

*Table 1: Year 2 results for supplemental livelihood training*

Type of Livelihood support	Numbers of individuals enrolled			Numbers of individuals graduated	Number of individuals still in training
	Total	Male	Female		
Long-term training	850	292	558	436	414
Short-term training	400	0	400	146	254
Trading	100	2	98	100	0
Total	1,350	294	1056	682	668

The Market Assessment Analysis for Livelihoods<sup>1</sup> GFRA conducted in Year 1 demonstrated that the success of the livelihoods program depends in large part, on a targeted recruitment and selection process. Recruitment must ensure that trainees are selected based on real need, show a demonstrable commitment to learning new skills, and have the competencies to do so. In order to ensure these three criteria were met, GFRA led the process of recruiting, screening, and selecting the individuals for all three of the livelihood options. This process included advertising the program on local radio stations and information centers and encouraging qualified applications through chief fisherman and

<sup>1</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00ZCGV.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZCGV.pdf)

other community leaders. GFRA first shortlisted qualified applicants for the long term training and conducted a detailed selection and screening process which including educational and psycho-social counseling for each selected beneficiary on their choice of skills trade and ability to follow through with the training. GFRA and grantees then identified 228 master trainers in various trade areas located in the same communities. This followed another recommendation from the Livelihoods Market Assessment, which indicated that livelihoods participants are more likely to complete trainings if they are held within their communities and they are learning on the job as apprentices to master trainers.

During Year 2, GFRA recruited two grantees with specialized expertise in providing skills training, mentoring, and counseling under the Grants Under Contract (GUC) to support the long-term skills training option, Opportunities Industrialization Centre Ghana (OICG) and Alpha Communications and Health Foundation (ACHF). During the year, OICG facilitated skills training for 550 youth, broken into two cohorts, in fisheries communities in the Central, Western, Greater Accra and Volta Regions. ACHF facilitated the training of a third cohort of 300 trainees in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions. OICG and ACHF both use an innovative approach to skills training and mentoring by formalizing the traditional apprenticeship model that is common in Ghana. Under this approach, the informal master trainer, also known as “master craftsman,” is trained on the approved Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) curriculum for each of the selected trades so they can in turn train the beneficiary to be proficient in the trade. This training approach is ideal for both literate and illiterate youth. All trainees also receive basic equipment that enhances their learning such as tools for those working in construction, baking ingredients and bowls for those in catering, and sewing machines for those in garment making. All trainees also received Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to ensure their safety. The provision of this basic equipment and PPE is a strong motivating factor to keep young people in their training because, for many, this is their first physical asset.

Following allegations of sexual misconduct against staff of GFRA grantee Friends of the Nation by some livelihood trainees in the Volta Region, GFRA reviewed its approach to promoting and registering young and potentially vulnerable fishers to the livelihood program to ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place. All promotional materials now include a number for anonymous complaints and a disclaimer stating that applications and enrollment into the livelihoods program are free from payment and favors of any kind. GFRA also recruited and trained community agents, GFRA hired individuals living and working in key GFRA communities, to support the promotion and registration of new trainees, thereby eliminating all third parties from the process. All GFRA supported livelihoods trainings will now also include an empowerment component to teach trainees, especially vulnerable young women, skills to improve their self-determination and prevent gender-based violence or manipulation.

In April 2023, GFRA and MOFAD formally launched the livelihood program at Camp Tsatse in Ada. The event was attended by the Special Advisor to the Minister, representatives of the District Chief Executive of Ada East, Chief Fishermen from the Greater Accra, and Volta Regions, OICG staff, and the over 300 youth enrolled in the long-term training program. The launch provided a forum to encourage more fishers to apply for the livelihood program while supporting the Ministry to promote the program as an option for fishers affected by the upcoming closed season.



Figure 1: Participants at the livelihood launch

Throughout the training period, GFRA, OICG, and ACHF continuously tracked the attendance and performance of all trainees and provided hands-on counseling, mentoring, and coaching to those who were falling behind or had personal challenges that affect their attendance at training. After 11 months of training, a bridging session was organized for all trainees due to complete their training to prepare them for any further post training support. The bridging phase is the last month of the training period when deliberate effort is made to have one-on-one interactions with each beneficiary to determine each beneficiary's readiness to apply the skills acquired once they complete training and tailor post training interventions to ensure success. Out of the 550 Cohort I and II trainees supported by OICG, 436 have completed their training while 114 will graduate by November 15, 2024. All 300 Cohort III trainees supported by ACHF are still in training and are expected to graduate in July 2024.

As part of the post training support provided by GFRA, a total of 428 Cohort I and II graduates opted to take the National Proficiency Level I Examination, the first level of examination on skills training under the TVET Qualification Framework. Upon passing these exams, the trainees will become certified in their various trades and more easily find jobs or recruit potential clients.

GFRA also partnered with the USAID Health Marketing Activity (HMA) to integrate family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) information and increase access to services as part of the livelihoods training process. Specifically, Master Trainers were trained in 3 modules – personal values and reproduction; conception, family planning and preventing sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and gender roles and stereotypes versus gender-based violence. The Master Trainers now serve as the first line of counselling to their livelihoods trainees and will make referrals to trained service providers in the communities if trainees are interested in accessing any FP/RH services.

Many applicants to the GFRA livelihoods program demonstrated strong interest in learning a new skill but were not able to commit to a long training process due to family, income, or other constraints. GFRA designed the short terms skills training option, which takes between 1-5 days, specifically for these individuals. GFRA engaged Creators Computer Clinic, a local training consultancy, to train youth in the production of detergents (liquid dishwashing soap and bar laundry soap), pain relief ointment, and flour confection (poloo and dry puff puff). During Year 2, 146 trainees learned how to identify the various production ingredients, the formulation processes for each of the products, and how to produce them. They were guided to cut and design the bar soap into tablet sizes and affix labels on packaging bottles before filling them with liquid dishwashing soap. After the training, all the trainees were provided with 'set up' ingredients to produce their first batch of products and will be mentored and coached over a period of six months to produce, package, market quality products, and manage their new enterprises profitably.



Figure 2: Left: Trainees producing bar laundry soap. Middle: A trainee displaying items she produced. Right: Training on flour confectionary (paloo).

Trading is a skill that some fisher youth have acquired over the years, especially those supporting the buying and trading of fish. Thus, those 100 youth who were reluctant to learn a new skill enrolled in the option to receive financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to start up new businesses trading in non-fishery related items. GFRA also provides these trainees with a small basket of "start up goods" such as toiletries, food items, and household goods to sell to help them kick start their new trading businesses. Finally, as described in Task 1.2.4, these trainees are also organized into Village Savings and

Loans Associations (VSLAs) to ensure continuous access to the finance needed to grow their trading businesses.

In September 2023, GFRA in partnership with USAID and MoFAD, celebrated the graduation of 300 (226 females and 74 males) livelihood beneficiaries from the Central and Western Regions who completed their skills trainings. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of MoFAD, the USAID Deputy Mission Director, Chief fisherman from the Nyiresia in the Western Region, master craftsman, and the 300 graduates and their families.

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

As reported under the previous section, GFRA provides trainees in all three livelihood options with specialized training on management of finances, entrepreneurship, marketing of goods, customer and client care, records keeping, accessing, and managing credit. All trainings utilize a standardized financial literacy and entrepreneurship manual developed by GFRA early in Year 2 to complement both livelihoods and post-harvest trainings (See Task 2.1.2). GFRA recruited Philnita Company Limited, a Ghanaian private sector development firm with extensive expertise in training business start-ups, business coaching, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and investment management, to deliver all trainings. By the end of Year 2, a total of 515 livelihoods trainees had received this financial literacy and entrepreneurship training.

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

Access to finance is a major barrier facing fishers, especially youth, in taking up new livelihood opportunities. Many fishers do not have savings or assets and are unable to access finance from formal institutions due to their lack of collateral. As a result, fishers struggle with the up-front capital needed to invest in their new trade or business. The Market Assessment illuminated four specific financial barriers that need to be addressed to ensure successful adoption of livelihoods: the payment of apprenticeship fees, a cost-of-living stipend during the training period, the purchase of materials needed for the training, and the purchase of start-up materials and equipment upon completion of the skills training. To bridge this gap, GFRA's long term training option fully absorbs all fees associated with the apprenticeship, provides the basic tools and equipment essential for a successful apprenticeship, and provides excelling graduates with essential start-up equipment on completion of the skills training. These complement the beneficiary's own savings towards the procurement of their startup equipment as agreed with the master trainer. GFRA made the decision not to support the cost-of-living stipend as the three other barriers to adoption have been addressed and trainees need to make their own financial contribution towards the training in order to ensure a high level of commitment to finish the training. For 100 high performing long-term trainees who demonstrated a strong capacity and competency to start their own enterprises and employ others, GFRA provided a full complement of tools and equipment after completion of the training. The equipment provided includes tile cutting machines, hairdryers, power drills, welding machines, and metal grinders.

Initially, GFRA planned to establish a \$100,000 revolving fund that could provide low-cost loans to livelihood trainees who have successfully completed their training. After extensive consultations with financial institutions, rural banks, the Feed the Future Mobilizing Finance for Agriculture Activity, and other micro-finance projects and institutions, GFRA realized that a \$100,000 revolving fund is not realistic. Rural banks were not interested in providing low interest loans given the current economic situation and without receiving high fees to house and administer the revolving fund. In addition, while \$100,000 seems like a large amount of financing, in reality, the management and operations costs for any entity managing this revolving fund would eventually consume the bulk of the fund. GFRA adjusted this strategy to instead focus on setting up Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for all youth participating in the livelihood program. VSLAs are a trusted platform in fishing communities to build a culture of savings among members, reinforce financial management skills, help maintain working capital due to other household commitments, and provide a platform for



continuous learning to improve business outcomes. All trainees, especially those choosing trading as a livelihood option, are encouraged to join GFRA supported VSLAs upon completion of their training. During Year 2, GFRA established 6 VSLAs for livelihoods trainees with a total membership of 55 individuals who have accumulated 178 USD (GHS 1,780) in savings. Given that livelihoods trainees are just starting to graduate, GFRA will accelerate VLSA establishment in Year 3.

GFRA continues to collaborate with MiLife Insurance Limited to extend its savings products to fisherfolk. Their financial product most popular with fishers is the MiWay micro insurance, a savings and life insurance product that provides money to dependents on the event of death of the subscriber. The product is available for those aged between 18-59 years and subscribed to through the MTN mobile money platform. A total of 277 fishers signed up for MiLife products. However, only 113 of them actively pay up their monthly subscriptions, indicating that continuous saving is a challenge GFRA needs to address.

### **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 subcontractor DevWorks leads implementation of all activities under Strategic Approach 2, which seeks to align with priorities within the Government of Ghana, specifically the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Food Research Institute (CSIR-FRI), and the FC, to improve the hygiene of fish produced in Ghana through the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS). The SFCLS is designed to regulate the Ghanaian fish processing industry through a certification system for fish processing facilities. GFRA also works closely with three key fish processing associations - National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), Central and Western Fishmongers improvement Association (CEWEFIA), and Development Action Association (DAA) – to effectively reach the over 15,000 Ghanaian fish processors and traders with information and training on the SFCLS.

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

##### **Task 2.1.1 Value Chain Analysis of Small Pelagic Fisheries**

GFRA's partner, DevWorks conducted a study to analyze the small pelagic fisheries value chain<sup>2</sup> in Year 1. The purpose of the study was 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 foods for local and regional markets. The research identified and quantified 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. It also identified major fish markets in Ghana, their production sources, and marketing dynamics. The study provided the basis for value chain improvements, market development, and awareness raising efforts to increase hygienic standards. During Year 2, GFRA utilized the findings of the study to initiate market sensitization and training of fish traders and retailers on hygienic fish handling and market sanitation in order to ensure that fish handling, marketing, and trading do not further contaminate processed fish, hence ensuring fish safety and quality throughout the value chain.

##### **Task 2.1.2 Establish financing mechanisms to support seafood businesses improve the quality, value, and marketability of their products**

GFRA, through DevWorks, established relationships with five financial institutions across GFRA intervention communities to link fishers, fish processors, and youth to financial products and services to enhance their businesses. The banks include Agave Rural Bank, Akatakyiman Rural Bank, Gomoa

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<sup>2</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA0212Z9.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0212Z9.pdf)

Community Bank, Ahantaman Rural Bank, and Microfin Rural Bank. These financial institutions are targeting fishing youth from GFRA's supplementary livelihood program as well as seafood business actors seeking to improve the quality, value, and marketability of their products. To date, over a hundred fish processors have already applied for or received various financial products and services through these banks and of these, 97 fish processors (92 females and 5 males) have accessed finance equivalent to USD 31,000 to invest in their business operations. GFRA worked with Akatakyiman and Agave Rural Banks to customize some banking products and services to specifically meet the needs the unique characteristics of the artisanal fish processing sector. For example, loans are timed to coincide with the end of the closed season which is also the beginning of the bumper harvest season when fish processors most need financing. These banks give a five month grace period upon lending to allow processors the time needed to process and store large quantities of fish and, thereby, accumulate savings. Loan repayments thus fall during the lean fishing period when market prices of fish are higher. By customizing the timing of loans and repayment to the variable nature of the fishing sector, these banks are more attractive and accessible to fish processing businesses.

Similar to the strategy deployed in the livelihoods program, GFRA also establishes VSLAs as a micro-credit financing mechanism for member fish processors and traders seeking to increase financial capital in order to improve the handling and quality of their fish products. GFRA, through DevWorks, conducted a training of trainers for 15 grantee partners and village agents<sup>3</sup> using the GFRA designed VSLA methodology. Using this training, these individuals supported the establishment of 59 new VSLAs for fish processors. Altogether, a total of 1,455 fish processors and traders are benefiting members of VSLAs.

To make artisanal fishery businesses more bankable, GFRA also introduced financial literacy and business entrepreneurship training for fish processors and traders through Philnita Company Limited using the same manual from Task 1.2.3. GFRA designed a training of trainers (TOT) model to create a pool of 50 fish processing and VSLA executives and 15 staff from GFRA grantee partners who can deliver business management and financial literacy training to GFRA supported fish processors and traders. The TOT provides training skills for business management topics such as savings, credit management, banking, marketing, client and customer management, digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and product design. In early Year 3, these trainers will provide the flow down financial literacy and business management training to members of VSLAs and fish processing association.



*Figure 3: TOT on business management and financial literacy in the Volta region*

### **Task 2.1.3 Enhance fish processing practices to meet quality and sanitation standards required for seafood product certification.**

To secure high-level government commitment and formalize the collaboration to develop, promote, regulate, and institutionalize the SFCLS, in Year 1 GFRA revitalized and supported the Multidisciplinary Technical Committee (MTC), formed under SFMP, to develop and implement a plan to scale up the impact and reach of the SFCLS. The key regulatory authorities (GSA, FDA, FC), fish processing associations, academia and research institutions, and the Ghana Chefs Association (GCA) form the MTC. Early in Year 2, DevWorks and Tetra Tech signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the GSA and FDA that outline respective roles and responsibilities under the SFCLS. The MOU with GSA supports the development and promotion of a national food safety standard for processed fish and the SFCLS as a certification to produce high-quality, value-added seafood products in Ghana. As the main institution focused on international trade markets, GSA will also support fish traders to

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<sup>3</sup> VSLA village agents are VSLA members who take on additional responsibilities to guide and form VSLAs and resolve conflicts, on formation and management of VSLAs.



access regional export market opportunities. The MOU with the FDA will ensure the safety and quality of processed seafood products through the promotion of the SFCLS as part of the agency's Progressive Licensing Scheme (PLS). The PLS is a GoG initiative that seeks to introduce a three-stage licensing regime to support small business units in improving the safety, quality, and wholesomeness of their products. The FC is promoting the scheme by preparing fish processors to meet the SFCLS requirements, as well as training and regulating safe fish on the local market. In support of mainstreaming the SFCLS, GSA has established a secretariat for the SFCLS, and the FC has designated one fishery technical officer from each region to oversee post-harvest activities, with the special responsibility of promoting the SFCLS. GFRA worked with the MTC to organize a national launch for the SFCLS with 400 participants which created an opportunity for all government agencies to formalize their recognition of the scheme and to create national awareness on safe fish production and consumption.

The MTC set a goal to reach a minimum of 5,000 fish processing facilities with certifications by the end of September 2025. To support this goal, GFRA worked with the FC and grantee partners DAA and CEWEFIA to train 1,078 fish processors and traders (1,001 females and 77 males) across the country on hygienic fish handling, processing, and marketing. 78% of these beneficiaries have also completed the business management and financial literacy training course to enhance their knowledge for business improvement. As part of the institutionalization of the scheme, GFRA collaborated with GSA, FDA, and FC to set up internal structures for effective implementation, including the training of 80 inspectors across the three agencies for SFCLS inspection and certification. Following the training, GFRA supported the inspectors to assess over 300 improved fish processing facilities for SFCLS certification with 150 improved facilities being recommended for certification. From these inspections and an original round of inspections conducted during Year 1, 61 fish processing facilities received SFCLS certification, 80 facilities passed and will receive certification in November 2023, and 70 received minor recommendations that can easily be addressed before certification. For those processors who were inspected but did not pass the inspection, FDA field officers, FC zonal officers, and CEWEFIA will continue to offer technical assistance and as they work toward certification.



Figure 4: Inspection of a fish processing facility in Axim, Western Region

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

### **Task 2.2.1 Establish new market opportunities for the sale of certified and high-quality artisanal seafood products to relevant buyers.**

GFRA leveraged the November 2022 West African Food Festival, the July 2023 Central Regional Fish Fair, and the January 2023 launch of the SFCLS to support Safe Fish certified processors to exhibit their fish products and reach potential customers who would be willing to pay more for high quality hygienic fish. Through these opportunities, certified fish processors established links with new consumers and received orders to supply certified fish products to both domestic and regional markets. The margin on these orders is about 40% higher than other processed fish on the market, providing an incentive for the certified processors to cover the cost of facility improvement and certification and provides a profit margin to motivate them.

In Year 2, GFRA awarded a grant to CAG to support development of a market for safe fish products in the hospitality industry, especially in high-end hotels and restaurants throughout Ghana. Recognizing the dearth of interesting and delicious recipes featuring small pelagics in high end hotels and restaurants, CAG created 10 new fish recipes featuring small pelagic fish. CAG then conducted four training sessions for 145 professional chefs and traditional caterers from hospitality establishments across the country. The training introduced participants to the concept of Safe Fish certified fish and to the new fish recipes and cuisines made from safe fish products. CAG also promoted these new

recipes among its members to differentiate these fish and increase demand. CAG then designed a strategy to recognize hospitality establishments committed to buying safe fish products through a recognition and certification scheme that will increase consumer confidence.

The CAG also produced a Safe Fish Special Edition as part of its nationally recognized television cooking show, *The Chef's Diary*. The series features high-level dignitaries in the fisheries sector preparing a range of delicious fish recipes using small pelagic fish sourced from certified fish facilities.



*Figure 5: Development and promotion of new small pelagic recipes among chefs in Ghana*

The series is a venue to raise consumer awareness of the benefits of consuming Safe Fish certified products. The Safe Fish Special Edition will air nationally starting November 2023.

Aside from export markets and high-end retail outlets, hotels, and restaurants, most small pelagic fish in Ghana is purchased and consumed through domestic fish markets. In order to diffuse the sale of Safe Fish certified fish across the country, GFRA is targeting 10 of the country's largest fish markets (Techiman, Tamale, Kejetia, Denu, Bolga, Wa, Ho, Agona Nkwanta, Assin Foso and Hohoe) as identified in the value chain analysis report, to both improve their own cleanliness standards but also to ensure they become recognized outlets for the sale and purchase of certified fish. Initially, GFRA planned to sell SFCLS certified fish in specially demarcated market areas for domestic buyers. However, GFRA realized that this strategy could have negative unintended consequences on those fish sellers who do not have certification yet and might be labeled as selling "unsafe" fish. Given this, GFRA changed strategies to train fish traders and retailers to maintain their original market spaces but improve their personal and environmental hygiene practices and ensure fish for sale is displayed in covered showcases. Safe Fish certified traders and retailers will be differentiated by branded tags issued by the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDA) environmental health department.



*Figure 6: A picture showing trained traders and retailers in a branded tag.*

To activate this strategy, GFRA worked with the MMDAs responsible for these markets, and specifically their Environmental Health Officers, to improve the hygiene and cleanliness of the fish markets and promote improved ways of safe fish presentation and sales in the marketplaces. During Year 2, GFRA trained 55 Environmental Health Officers, including 16 Regional Environmental Health Officers (REHO), on the SFCLS. Following the training, the REHOs began with targeted training and monitoring of fish traders and retailers in traditional markets to ensure hygiene and sanitation requirements were met. Meanwhile, GFRA trained 70 fish traders and retailers already sourcing from certified fish processors on how to handle fish hygienically from the point of processing to sale to the consumer. Early adopters have been provided with glass showcases to sell safe fish on the markets.

### Task 2.2.2 Improve reliable and timely access to market information.

The MTC developed an outreach and communication strategy for the SFCLS in Year I with the goal reaching 50% of Ghanaians. The SFCLS outreach and communication strategy seeks to raise awareness among consumers of small pelagic fish and seafood in Ghana about the health benefits of eating SFCLS-certified seafood products. The strategy explicitly avoids unintended negative consequences on the consumption of fish in Ghana by focusing on the importance of consuming good-quality and hygienic fish rather than emphasizing the unsafe fish currently dominating the market. Consumer education is also a market development tool for Safe Fish certified products, as consumers that are more aware of the importance of purchasing high quality hygienic processed fish would then increase the demand for these products. The strategy targets priority communication channels such as national TV and radio discussions, community information centers, social media, and jingles, billboards, and posters disseminated at the community level.



Figure 7: Selected members of MTC discussing SFCLS on national TV.

In March 2023, GFRA facilitated more than 20 national TV and radio discussions highlighting the health advantages of eating fish over other sources of protein and the importance of improving fish handling and processing through the SFCLS to maximize these advantages. These media discussions resulted in a high level of visibility for the SFCLS. GFRA also engaged Lintas, an Accra-based creative media agency, to develop original television animations, posters, and radio jingles to promote the SFCLS. Starting in June, GFRA aired the radio jingles and TV animations on national and regional television and radio stations, while also using social media influencers to reach consumers to generate conversations and discussions about the current issues in fish processing and shed more light on the need to choose safe fish. In addition, six billboards were erected in all of Ghana's major cities, where majority of consumers also reside, and posters were distributed to over 500 fish processors and traders to sensitize consumers about safe fish selection and consumption.



Figure 8: A picture used in the public awareness campaign showing a certified fish retailer with branded tag



### Task 2.2.3 Improve coastal household access to nutritious seafood products.

Together with GSA, FC, and FDA, GFRA has socialized the SFCLS among other projects and organizations investing in the fisheries post-harvest sector, including the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF). These organizations have agreed to adopt and reinforce the scheme in their projects as a means of promoting safe and hygienic fish production in Ghana. FAO has also shared comprehensive pictorial training manuals on hygienic fish handling, which will be used by all stakeholders to train fish processors under the SFCLS.

The MTC plans to develop a system for sharing data on safe fish applications, inspection, and certification among the three agencies. GFRA worked with FC to pilot a system for market price data collection, analysis, and dissemination to certified processors to help them make informed decisions on marketplace options. Post-harvest regional focal persons will collect the data weekly from markets across the nation for processing. An information dissemination platform will be fully deployed in Year 3.

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

#### 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

Data from the GFRA supported 2022 Canoe Frame Survey (see Table 2) shows an increasing trend in fishing effort in the artisanal sector in the face of dwindling stocks, as evidenced by an increase in the number of canoes, increase in canoe size, increase in fishing days, and increase in motorization of canoes. Even though Ghana has taken bold steps to reduce fishing pressure through the implementation of an annual closed fishing season and reduction in illegal fishing by industrial trawlers, an open access regime which allows for an uncontrolled number of canoes in the fishery coupled with their respective increase in motorization and sizes undermines the benefits of these management measures aimed at rebuilding the small pelagic stocks. New management measures to control the number of vessels fishing and other increases in fishing capacity – hereafter termed as “regulating access” - are therefore key to ensuring alignment of the fishing effort with the ecological carrying capacity of the fishery in the long term.

COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2004, 2013, 2016 AND 2022 CANOE FRAME SURVEYS																				
Numbers of	Volta Region				Greater Accra Region				Central Region				Western Region				Total			
	2004	2013	2016	2022	2004	2013	2016	2022	2004	2013	2016	2022	2004	2013	2016	2022	2004	2013	2016	2022
Fishing Villages	29	26	28	27	48	44	44	45	43	44	42	43	75	76	72	72	195	190	186	187
Landing Beaches	63	49	47	40	68	59	59	56	103	106	97	91	100	100	89	92	334	314	292	279
Motors	323	394	589	831	2144	2449	2234	2589	2097	3016	2994	3992	1841	3454	3305	3135	6405	9313	9122	10547
Fishermen	17382	18150	14699	11916	35168	39737	25844	30352	44303	40563	33373	39407	27366	40705	33602	28676	124219	139155	107518	110351
Pursing Nets	99	123	176	213	1185	1410	1315	1523	931	975	853	1166	382	577	1002	736	2597	3085	3346	3638
Beach Seines	384	423	493	420	158	194	142	136	198	221	209	196	163	236	240	249	903	1074	1084	1001
Line	0	30	78	78	586	600	510	451	280	349	387	455	67	163	369	361	933	1142	1344	1345
Lobster Set Nets	0	0	18	96	168	42	301	460	296	190	1472	1041	407	1004	1179	1112	871	1236	2970	2709
Other Set Nets	230	274	250	214	218	330	99	47	1788	1578	291	1308	768	679	119	82	3004	2861	759	1651
Ali	20	18	27	0	364	244	26	60	710	527	586	302	761	1084	413	382	1855	1873	1052	744
Drifting Nets	3	13		21	81	112		128	63	32		45	373	819		451	520	976	0	645
One Man Canoe	0	6	0	0	21	0	64	60	184	23	24	16	325	452	104	372	530	481	192	448
Total Canoes	736	887	1051	1042	2781	2932	2633	2865	4450	3895	3855	4529	3264	5014	4044	3745	11231	12728	11583	12181

Table 2 Regional summaries of 2004, 2013, 2016 and 2022 Canoe Frame Surveys

During the reporting period, GFRA supported the MOFAD/FC to develop and announce the 3-year moratorium (“Moratorium”) on new entrants of canoes in the marine sector, a key fisheries management measure to regulate access. As part of this process, GFRA led the FC and MOFAD in the development of a Moratorium implementation strategy through consultative processes with fishers and diverse stakeholders that emphasized inclusivity and active participation. Building on global best practices, GFRA developed a draft Moratorium implementation strategy, incorporated MOFAD/FC input, and then supported a meeting for the STC and FMOC to review and provide further input, ensuring that their views are considered in the implementation strategy. The committee specifically identified the urgent need for MOFAD/FC to engage other government agencies such as the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Forestry Commission on the Moratorium given their authority to track the movement of timber wood used to construct canoes. After seeing no forward movement on the Moratorium strategy, STC and FMOC leadership decided to personally engage the Minister, present the updated strategy, and encourage her to set concrete timelines for implementation.

Concurrently, GFRA and its local partner Hen Mpoano supported the FC to undertake a series of broader engagements on the Moratorium and its implementation strategy with fishers and other relevant stakeholders in the fishery sector at the national, regional and community levels. While it

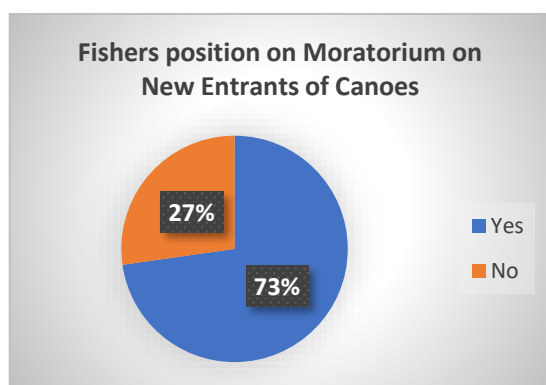


Figure 10: Summary of fisher support for Moratorium.

took considerable time, this participatory strategy was key to ensuring fisher and other value chain actor buy-in for a potentially contentious measure and thereby also build further political will to institute the measure. As a result of GFRA support, the FC engaged over 5600 fishers at the community and regional level including canoe owners, canoe carvers, boatswain, chief fishermen, fish processors and traders, fish mothers, traditional authorities, and district assembly members. A mix of cluster meetings and one-one engagements were employed during the community engagements with fishers at the landing beaches to deepen their understanding and solicit their support for implementation. At the end of each engagement, fishers voted to support the Moratorium and, as Figure 10 illustrates, 73% of participants expressed their support of the measure. Engagement of stakeholders at the regional and national level took a forum approach where the rationale for the Moratorium was shared with stakeholders. This approach provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to share their ideas, opinions, and personal experiences in the fisheries sector as well as discuss mitigation measures for the potential socio-economic impact of the management measure. At the national level, key government stakeholders such as the Regional Ministers, the Forestry Commission, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Food, Agriculture, and Cocoa Affairs (PSCFACA), and MMDA Chief Executives from all the 30 coastal districts were engaged to build consensus and identify opportunities for effective collaboration in the implementation of the Moratorium.



On September 14, 2023, GFRA supported MOFAD to officially announce the implementation of the Moratorium, which will take effect from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2026, followed by extensive print, radio, and TV press engagements. Following the announcement, GFRA provided additional communication support to further explain the concept of the Moratorium by supporting fishers and other government representatives to participate in TV and radio discussions at the national and regional levels on the need and benefit of the measure. GFRA also supported a broad awareness raising campaign regarding the Moratorium by airing specially designed jingles (see Figure 11) and animations on community information centers and local radio stations along the coast and printing posters and flyers for distribution amongst fishers across the four coastal regions.

*Figure 11: Screenshot of Moratorium animation developed to educate fishers and the general public*



*Figure 12: Announcement of the 3-year moratorium by the sector minister in Accra.*

As a result of these measures, fishers along the coast are now aware of the Moratorium and have a basic understanding of why it is needed, which should increase voluntary compliance. GFRA will continue to build fisher understanding and support for the Moratorium throughout Year 3 with engagements at the community, regional and national levels. Local action plans developed by co-management committees as well as fisher groups such as the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council will be supported by GFRA. The continuous airing of communication materials on various media platforms will also be supported in Year 3.

To ensure effective implementation of the Moratorium, GFRA supported MOFAD/FC to incorporate an enforcement strategy centered on voluntary compliance through Ghana's customary systems. Chief fishermen play a key role in enforcement of all fisheries management measures, including the moratorium, and promotion of responsible fishing at the community level. Thus, the respective chief fishermen at the landing beaches will collaborate with the FC to jointly monitoring compliance at the landing beaches while sustaining engagements with their constituents.

Compliance also depends on strong fisher engagement and transparency in decision making and the strategy builds on the recently formed regional Small Pelagic Co-management Committees (SPCCs) (see Task 3.1.3) and Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs) (see Task 3.2.4) to jointly monitor, oversee, and participate in implementation of the measure at the site level. Each regional SPCCs will develop, as part of their action plans, local means of enforcement. To ensure continuous engagement with fishers on the moratorium, SPCCs will conduct community level outreach sessions along the landing beaches in their regions. SPCCs will also organize town hall meetings with constituents to review moratorium implementation processes and solicit public input on the management measure. The LaBECs on the other hand will work directly with the FC to ensure

compliance at the beach level. While these measures will increase voluntary compliance by fishers with the Moratorium, financing formal enforcement and compliance mechanisms remain a challenge that GFRA will support FC/MOFAD to address in Year 3.

During the Moratorium, no new canoes can fish in Ghana's waters, However, broken or old canoes can be replaced with new canoes. To ensure clear guidelines for implementation, GFRA provided technical assistance to the FC to develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the canoe replacement process which outlines the processes a fisher needs to undertake to replace a broken

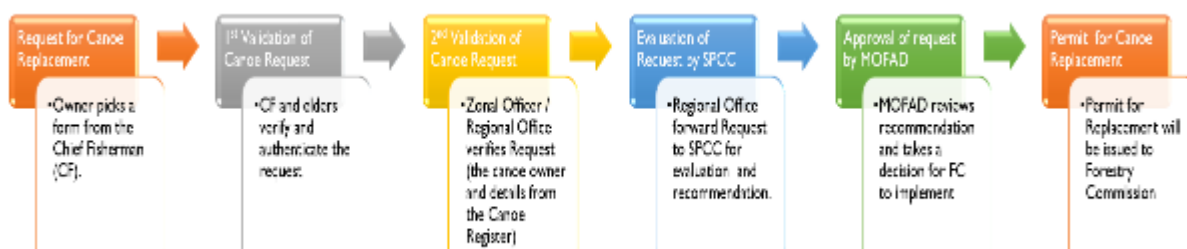


Figure 13: Proposed illustrative process of canoe replacement during the moratorium

canoe during the implementation period (see Figure 13). Of utmost importance is the active involvement of fishers throughout the replacement process. Thus, the chief fisherman plays a key role in verifying the accuracy of information provided by canoe owners on broken down canoes and the SPCCs are key to ensuring transparent and inclusive decision making on replacement of canoes.

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

GFRA is designed with an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) which recognizes the biological, economic, social, and physical interactions among components of fisheries systems and attempts to manage fisheries taking those interactions into account. This is demonstrated by the diversity of activities that are implemented under all GFRA Strategic Approaches. This also presents a perfect opportunity to support MOFAD and FC to effectively implement the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2022), the MFMP 2022-2026, and the National Fisheries Co-management Policy (2020) which are based on EAFM principles.

There are currently no Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Ghana, but the MFMP 2022-2026 indicates the designation of 2 MPAs by 2025. The establishment of MPAs is a small pelagic fishery recovery tool that complements the GFRA EAFM framework as it expands existing management measures to also protect the ecosystem in which fish inhabit. In Year 2, GFRA supported MOFAD/FC and their goal to establish MPAs through the MPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), formed and inaugurated by MOFAD in Year 1. The MPA TAC is a multi-stakeholder institutional committee with representatives from FC, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), civil society, and academia. The TAC was formed as an advisory body to lead the MPA establishment process and ensure broad government buy-in and long-term sustainability.

In Year 2, the MPA TAC determined two priorities for MPA establishment. First is the policy development process, which is necessary to understand the legal processes and frameworks to establish Ghana's first MPA and ensure full commitment by MOFAD/FC as the lead Government of Ghana (GoG) agency in the process. Second is a site level focus on the identification of priority areas for the establishment of MPAs for small pelagic fisheries management and the early engagement of communities in the design process to ensure buy-in and support for MPAs. The TAC agreed that engaging stakeholders at the community level to ensure a participatory approach to MPA establishment was as important as engaging government agencies at national level.

During Year 2, GFRA supported the MPA TAC on a prioritization process leading to the formal selection of the Cape Three Points area in the Western Region as the priority MPA site. The process



was guided by a site selection report that compiled all existing scientific data and information regarding species, habitats, and fisheries resources in the Greater Cape Three Points Area. The site selection report was enhanced by a participatory mapping process, led by Hen Mpoano, to gather local ecological knowledge from the very fishers who fish in the marine waters in Cape Three Points regarding important fish habitat and hotspots for fish spawning or nursery grounds that need to be protected under the MPA. The site selection report maps 6 priority areas for protection within a broader 1500 km<sup>2</sup> area as presented in figure 14.

While the MPA site selection was underway, GFRA supported the University of Ghana Law School to review and analyze the existing legal and policy frameworks that provide the legal basis for the establishment of MPAs in Ghana and make recommendations for further strengthening the legal framework in the future. Given the MPA's primary objective is fisheries management, the analysis identified MOFAD and FC as the most appropriate Government of Ghana (GoG) agency to lead the MPA development process working in close collaboration with other fisheries and ocean sector agencies such as the EPA and the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission. The study also identified 3 possible legal pathways for the establishment of MPAs – an Act of Parliament, issuance of a Ministerial Regulation, or Gazette Notification. Upon consideration of the study findings and recommendations, the MPA TAC decided to take the path of gazette notification to pursue this process as the best short-term option. After this decision, the TAC identified a step-by-step approach to advocate for the Minister of Fisheries to issue the gazette notification. GFRA will support the TAC to carry out the specific activities identified along these steps in Year 3.

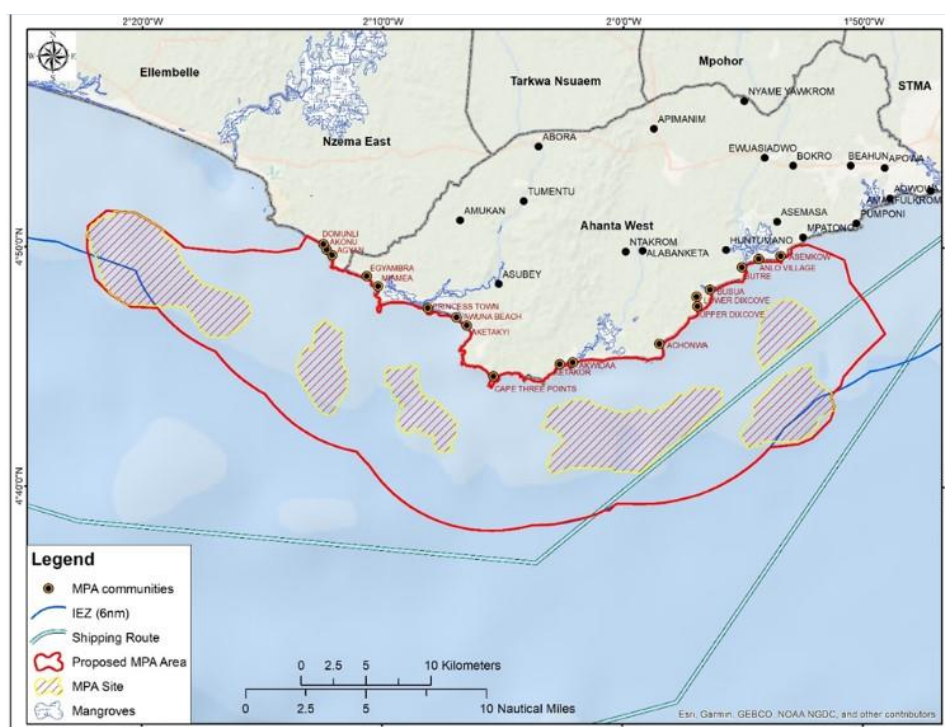


Figure 14: Map showing 6 fish production and important fish habitats and the communities surrounding the Cape Three Points area in the Western Region, Ghana

At the site level, GFRA through Hen Mpoano, conducted stakeholder mapping to identify 30 individuals, groups, and institutions at the regional and district levels and within the 14 communities abutting the Cape Three Points Area with interest and influence in the planning and establishment of the MPA. The analysis identified the stakeholders and their roles, understanding the hierarchy of the traditional fisheries governance systems in fishing communities, and categorizing and differentiating stakeholders based on interests and influence. Important stakeholders to the process include chief fishermen, paramount/sub-chiefs, fish queen mothers, FC, EPA, the District Assembly, NGOs, and oil and gas companies. The stakeholder mapping exercise lays the foundation for MPA establishment and

recognition at the regional, district and site level as well as identifies modalities for community education and engagement. It will also inform the design of community based MPA management structures that will be put in place in Year 3.

After these mapping exercises, GFRA through Hen Mpoano supported extensive stakeholder engagement to increase understanding, buy-in and support for the MPA in all the communities in the greater Cape Three Points area. First, a broad stakeholder engagement and consultation inception workshop was organized in the Western Region which laid the foundation for a series of 14 smaller community-specific consultations in the coastal communities abutting the Cape Three Points area, which then culminated in a final regional workshop to provide updates and solicit final support and approval to move forward with the MPA establishment process. The inception workshop and community consultations provided an entry point for discussing the MPA with all key stakeholders including traditional council members, community leadership, community members, chief fishermen, fishers, and fish processors, Western Regional government officials, Ahanta West Municipal Assembly officials, and Western Regional FC officials. Documentaries on the natural resource and biodiversity endowments of the Western Region including fishing, lagoons, wetlands, mangroves, rocky areas of the sea encouraged participants to appreciate the beauty and importance of the area. The Cape Three Points area was presented to workshop participants as uniquely rich in marine biodiversity and important for the country's fish production, necessitating protection by both government and community resource users in a co-management approach. Stakeholders were then introduced to the concept of community-led MPAs and the proposed participatory development process for buy-in, consensus building and collective support for the establishment of MPAs in the Cape Three Points area.

While stakeholders were generally supportive of a Cape Three Points MPA, these consultations provided opportunities to openly discuss stakeholder concerns. Many felt that an MPA is not likely to achieve expected outcomes if fishers continue to engage in illegal fishing practices, in particular light fishing. This highlights the need for continuous enforcement of existing rules against illegal fishing during MPA establishment. Stakeholders' greatest concern was the potential impact of MPAs on the livelihoods of fishers and other community people in the area. Despite these concerns, participants appreciated the fact that their views and suggestions contributed to the site selection process and advocated for their continuous involvement in the whole MPA development process. Traditional leadership authorities expressed their gratitude and support and asked for active engagements with the local people throughout the MPA development process. Finally, the Ahanta West Municipal Assembly stressed the need for the conservation of fisheries and coastal resources and pledged the full support of the Assembly in the MPA development process.

In the last quarter of Year 2, the MPA TAC visited the Cape Three Points area to better appreciate the value of the potential MPA sites and interact firsthand with government and community stakeholders to gain a more nuanced understanding of local issues to guide future decision making. Committee members also met with Dr. Steve Lindfield, the MPA Design Scientist hired by GFRA to scope out and design underwater research to quantify the specific ecological and fisheries resources, especially fish habitat, in the potential MPA areas. Their input will refine the research methodology, planned for February 2024.

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

Having sworn in the STC in Year 1, MOFAD demonstrated further commitment to the implementation of the co-management policy by inaugurating and swearing in the FMOC during the reporting period. Unlike the STC, which originated several years ago as the ad hoc Scientific and Technical Working Group, the formation and swearing in of the FMOC is a major milestone for Ghana's fisheries sector and demonstrates MOFAD/FC's strong willingness to directly involve resource users in the management of Ghana's fisheries. The FMOC's role is even highlighted in the gazetted MFMP 2022 – 2026, which state "no major departure from the stated management work plan will occur unless the Fisheries Commission is advised by the Fisheries Management Operational Committee."

Co-management is an avenue to amplify fisher voices in decisions about their fisheries by ensuring that their views are considered in policy formulation and implementation. It promotes ownership of management measures which are co-developed and implemented jointly by fishers and decision makers. To be successful, co-management structures must ensure grassroots participation of resource users in the management of the fishery resource. Due to the migratory nature of the small pelagic fisheries and the fishers who exploit the fishery, having only national co-management committees will not be representative enough nor will it afford the diverse stakeholders in the artisanal fishing sector an opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making process for the sustainable management of the small pelagic stocks. This rationale underpinned GFRA's work with MOFAD and FC to develop the concept of regional committees, which provide a broader platform to involve key stakeholders in the management of the small pelagic fishery. It also recognizes the dynamism amongst the stakeholders across the four coastal regions and allows for different user groups to actively participate depending on their dominance in each region.

Given that regional co-management committees are a new concept in the sector, GFRA led a collaborative process with the FC and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to develop a commonly agreed upon guidelines document that provides clear instructions, based on the Co-management Policy and other laws and regulations, for the organization and functioning of regional Small Pelagic Co-management Committees or SPCCs across the four coastal regions. The co-management guidelines present practical steps to be taken by the FC and any partners supporting their efforts to establish, implement and monitor regional co-management in the small pelagics fisheries sector in Ghana. The steps outlined were based upon the collective experience of the FC and partners in the development and extension of past fisheries co-management structures in Ghana.

After developing the draft guidelines with input from CSOs in the fisheries sector, GFRA organized a co-creation meeting with senior officers from MOFAD and FC to review and finalize the document. The meeting also served to update these senior officers on the national Co-management Policy for the fisheries sector as well as address simmering misunderstandings between the MOFAD and FC that had stymied the operationalization of the national policy. GFRA used the meeting to share the rationale for establishing regional SPCCs and a key outcome of the meeting was MOFAD's approval of the co-management guidelines document.

GFRA organized another co-creation meeting with FC regional directors and zonal officers to ensure a mutual understanding across regions on co-management and equip them with the skills to set up SPCCs. The FC officers were guided to identify fishery resource user groups with direct interest in the small pelagic stocks in their respective regions and select the most predominant user groups to constitute the membership of the SPCCs in the four regions. A key result of the co-creation meeting was the development of a commonly agreed upon terms of reference (ToR) for the SPCCs that outline the core functions, roles and responsibilities, and membership of the regional co-management committees.

After the workshop, GFRA worked with each FC regional director to organize a third co-creation meeting with all key resource user groups in their regions with a direct interest in the small pelagic fishery. The FC then shortlisted the most relevant associations for membership. Across all regions, primary stakeholders such as GNCFC, NAFPTA, and Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG) were prioritized for membership. Other stakeholders such as the African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA), Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association (GIFA), Marine Police, Cold Store Operators, chief fishermen, traditional authorities, migrant fishers, Konkohemaa (Fish Queens), Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), and CSO representatives were also included depending on their relevance and strength in that region.

GFRA together with Hen Mpoano, proceeded to support the FC to form four regional SPCCs in the four coastal regions. The committees have varying memberships, with an average membership size of 13, depending on the recognizable resource user groups in the respective regions. Each association that was selected by the FC to serve on the SPCC then held elections, supervised by the FC regional

director, to select the individual who will represent them on the SPCC. Traditional authorities such as the chiefs, FC, marine police, and RCCs were selected to serve on the SPCC advisory committees recognizing their important role as leaders in the sector but also minimizing the potential for intimidation or influence on decision making.

The Western and Central Regional SPCCs received training to equip them with the necessary skills to lead fisher-to-fisher dialogues in their respective regions. This provided a unique opportunity for fisher groups in these regions with disputes to work together for the first time, with the common objective of engaging fishers in selected management measures including the Moratorium. The Greater Accra and Volta Regional SPCCs received training and guidance to develop, review and adopt their TOR, develop their constitution, and elect their leadership to coordinate activities of the committees. The approach used in setting up the committees has helped build trust between fishers and the FC, especially in the Volta region where disputes between the GNCFC and CaFGOAG had delayed the formation of the regional committee. The formation of the SPCCs has thus provided a unique forum for addressing lingering disputes between user groups in the artisanal sector, ironing out their differences and working together to support MOFAD/FC in the implementation of management measures.

Upon the announcement of the 3-year moratorium on new entrants of canoes, the committees were guided to develop local action plans for effective implementation of the management measure. Through these action plans, each committee will directly engage fishers in their respective regions, to deepen their understanding on the rationale and benefits of the moratorium while promoting voluntary compliance at the various landing sites.



*Figure 15: Volta Regional SPCC developing local action plans for effective implementation of 3-year moratorium in the Volta Region*

Having formed the committees, GFRA and Hen Mpoano supported the MOFAD/FC to publicly recognize and delegate management authority to the SPCCs through a formal inauguration and swearing in ceremony during durbars in their respective regions.



*Figure 16: Volta regional SPCC pose for a picture after their inauguration (Left), Swearing in of Advisory Committee of the SPCC (Right)*

In Year 3, GFRA will support the FC to lead a process with the Western and Central SPCC members to review, adjust, and adopt a ToR that will guide their roles, responsibilities and ensure they function according to the guidelines. As done with the Greater Accra and Volta committees, they will also be guided to develop their constitution as well as elect their leadership.

GFRA will deliver a year-long series of technical and leadership training courses to equip all four committees with the necessary skills to function as co-management committees and develop an action plan for their fishery. GFRA's approach will continue to work with and through the FC, especially the Regional Directors and their staff, to build the capacity of the committees. GFRA and the FC will also create a fisheries leadership exchange platform that will bring all SPCC members together annually to share lessons and experiences. The platform will also provide a forum for conflict identification and resolutions. GFRA will also organize biannual meetings between the SPCCs and the LaBECs to ensure effective collaboration in the implementation of fisheries management actions.

Given the important role that artisanal fishers play in the co-management process, GFRA's partner Hen Mpoano conducted specialized co-management training workshop for 210 district GNCFC members in the Western and Central regions. The training empowered stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of co-management and how it builds shared accountability and decision making the role fishing associations can play, enabling them to navigate the evolving fisheries management landscape effectively.

**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**

After significant delays, Ghana's cabinet finally approved and gazetted the MFMP 2022-2026 for the marine fisheries sector in April 2023. The gazettment provides the needed legal backing for the implementation of the fisheries management measures enshrined in the plan. FC and MOFAD identified the lack of annual operational plans that prioritize and implement management measures as one factor undermining effective implementation of the previous (2015-2019) MFMP. Guided by this information, GFRA tapped US-based Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to draw upon their globally recognized Framework for Integrated Stock and Habitat Evaluation (FISHE) to design a series of capacity-building trainings for STC and FMOC members. The training series aimed to build STC and FMOC members' scientific and management capacity while developing Ghana's first fisheries Operational Plan for the MFMP 2022-2026. The trainings also provided the opportunity for members of the committee to review the fisheries management measures in the MFMP 2022-2026 and assess whether they are enough to rebuild and sustainably manage Ghana's fisheries.

As a result of the workshops, FMOC and STC developed a draft 2023/2024 Annual Operational Plan that transparently designates the actions to be taken in every calendar year to ensure the timely achievement of the priorities outlined in the MFMP 2022-2026. The Operational Plan also ensures that the MFMP 2022 – 2026 is responsive to the dynamics in the fisheries sector while also addressing emerging trends. It includes a set of technical measures to support the sustainable exploitation of the small pelagic stocks, including science-based performance indicators, reference points, harvest control rules, and management measures<sup>4</sup>. GFRA further supported a meeting chaired by the Deputy Ministry with senior management of MOFAD and FC to review the content of the draft Operational Plan and ensure alignment with the priorities of the ministry. This approach promotes ownership by the government while allowing them the opportunity to incorporate priority activities in the draft operational plan to their annual work plan. A key result of the meeting was a decision by the MOFAD/FC to develop its 2024 work plan around activities outlined in the draft Operational Plan. In this way, implementation of management measures in the long term will be a shared responsibility between government and stakeholders especially in the budgeting of activities in the management plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Reference points and harvest control rules are science-based fisheries management tools. Reference points are benchmarks that scientists and managers use to compare the current status of a stock or fishery to a desirable state. Harvest control rules are pre-agreed guidelines that determine how much fishing can take place, based on indicators of the targeted stock's status. These indicators are based on either monitoring data or models.



GFRA will continue to support the finalization and approval of the 2023/2024 annual operational plan for a subsequent launch at the November 2023 Fish Festival. The Fish Festival is an annual national event held by MOFAD to commemorate World Fisheries Day and celebrate the contributions of fishers to national development. GFRA supported the November 2022 Fish Festival, using it as a key platform to champion the implementation of key management measures such as the Moratorium. GFRA's support of the 2023 Festival supports MOFAD/FC to publicly launch the MFMP 2022-2026 and its 2023/2024 Annual Operational Plan and highlight the role of co-management in Ghana's fisheries, with a focus on the SPCCs and the LaBECs.

### **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, members of the PSCFAC were identified as GFRA fisheries champions who can use their status, platform and power to campaign and advocate for transparency and accountability in fisheries management and policy making. Recognizing the fact that EJP also has engagement of the PSCFAC as a core component of the Norwegian Agency of Development funded Sustainable Oceans Project, GFRA collaborated closely with EJP in Year 2 to develop and implement a common strategy to work with the Committee to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of effort.

Early in Year 2, GFRA participated in a two-day workshop organized by EJP to engage PSCFAC on critical fisheries issues with CSOs and identify the role they can play to demand transparency, accountability, and commitment from senior level fisheries officials. GFRA staff served as resource persons to present and discuss needed management measures such as the Moratorium, LaBECs, and the Ministerial Directive. Committee members promised to work towards the final approval of the MFMP 2022-2026, the review and update of the Fisheries Act 625, recognizing LaBECs for community fisheries law enforcement, as well as to engage the FC to accelerate progress towards the lifting of EU Yellow Card on Ghana. CSOs agreed to support Committee members to understand fisheries issues to be able to make informed fisheries policy decisions.

In Year 2, GFRA collaborated with EJP to prepare and disseminate policy briefs containing key messages targeting PSCFAC members on the importance of fisheries for livelihoods, income, and food and nutrition security, and therefore, the need for specific sustainable fisheries management measures and policies. GFRA then organized a high-level policy dialogue workshop for the PSCFAC fisheries champions to sit face-to-face with senior government fisheries management officials on urgent fisheries issues. High on the workshop's agenda were the announcement of the Moratorium, challenges arising from Ministerial Directive implementation including the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS), addressing IUU fishing, LaBECs, and the needed reforms to resolve the European Union (EU) Yellow Card. As a result of the workshop, Select Committee leadership expressed their unanimous support for the Ministry's aggressive reforms in the fisheries sector and commitment to collaborate on Yellow Card negotiations. They requested regular engagements with the Ministry to keep track of progress of these measures and also agreed to present fisheries issues in Parliament and advocate for adequate budgetary allocation to fisheries programs and activities during their engagement with the Ministry of Finance.

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

GFRA supported the FC to complete the rapid assessments and subsequent reports on the biological and socioeconomic impact of the 2022 closed season, which is summarized in the 2022 Closed Season Impact Assessment Report<sup>5</sup>. While GFRA supported data collection efforts for both assessments in Year 1, GFRA did not support these data collection efforts in Year 2 to encourage continuing FC ownership of the data collection process. GFRA did conduct training for MOFAD/FC senior staff and technical officers on the methodology used in assessing the socio-economic impact of the closed fishing

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<sup>5</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA0212Z1.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0212Z1.pdf)

season while enhancing their data collection skills in preparation for the 2024 closed season. Unlike the biological impact assessment, which needs to be done annually, GFRA recommended biannual socioeconomic impact assessments unless there is a significant development that would exacerbate the impact of the management measure on the fishers.

With support from GFRA, the FMOC and STC jointly reviewed and provided inputs in the draft impact assessment reports to ensure accuracy. The biological report concluded that the 2022 closed season, which coincides with the major upwelling season, improved the reproductive capacity of small pelagic species as evidenced by increases in catches of anchovies and round sardinella and increases in their sizes after the closure compared to before the closure. The report concluded that the 2022 closed season successfully ensured that the small pelagic species spawned, allowing the young fish to replenish the fishery. However, the report found that the prevalence of illegal fishing, especially fishing with small mesh sized nets, undermines any gains from the closure by contributing to excessive harvests of juvenile and immature fish after the end of the closure. This erodes the gains of the closed season and further delays the recovery of the dwindling stocks and calls for stricter enforcement of existing laws.

The socioeconomic impact assessment of the 2022 closed season revealed that even though the majority of fishers observed the closed season, they had limited prospects and means of earning a living during that time. This stemmed from their lack of employable skills beyond fishing, coupled with a lack of access to social networks to facilitate job opportunities. This finding supports GFRA's supplementary livelihood approach of equipping fishers with new skills, thereby creating more opportunities for them when fisheries management interventions affect their ability to fish. The report also indicated that the impact of closed season on the socioeconomic wellbeing of fishers is largely dependent on household size and number of dependents. Smaller households with fewer dependents were less impacted compared to larger households with more dependents. Interestingly, fishers interviewed for the assessment felt strongly that the closed season negatively affecting their lives, yet the majority were optimistic that the closed season would support the recovery of fish stocks and were committed to abiding by the measure.

To expedite the engagement of fishers and announcement of the 2023 closed season, GFRA supported MOFAD/FC to disseminate the biological and socioeconomic report findings with stakeholders during a national stakeholder engagement on the closed season. The engagement, which was chaired by the Minister, was also used to officially announce the July 1 – August 31 dates of the 2023 closed season. As done in previous years, the monthlong closure in July applies to all forms of fishing including the artisanal, semi-industrial, industrial fishing vessels and beach seines from shore, while the monthlong



Figure 17: USAID Mission Director supports MOFAD Deputy Minister to symbolically mark the opening of the sea for fishing activity in the artisanal sector

closure in August applies only to industrial fishing vessels. Even though GFRA was ready to help the MOFAD/FC announce the closure in January, giving fishers at least 6 months to adequately prepare towards the management measure, a delay in the finalization of the biological impact assessment made it impossible. To address this for the next closed season, GFRA will organize a national review workshop at the end of 2023 to examine Ghana's experience with the closed season since inception of the measure in 2019 through preliminary results and recommendations from the 2023 closed season. GFRA expects fishers and other stakeholders will take



advantage of this opportunity to formally request the Ministry's early announcement of the 2024 closed season.

Upon successful closure of the 2023 closed fishing season by MOFAD/FC, GFRA supported a durbar to mark the symbolic opening of the sea for fishing activities in the artisanal sector. The durbar included the USAID Mission Director, the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, and participation from diverse marine fisheries stakeholders and provided a national platform to advocate for the adoption of responsible fishing practices to maximize the gains of the closed season.

This year, through the leadership of the Honorable Minister acting in her capacity as Chair of the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), Ghana coordinated a regional closed season. Cote d'Ivoire observed their first ever closed season for all fleets in the month of July 1-31, 2023, to coincide with that of Ghana. Benin also observed a closure from June 16 to July 31, 2023, for their beach seine fisheries. FCWC continued to engage Togo, however they are yet to implement a closure.

#### **Task 3.2.4 Strengthen local and national efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by artisanal and industrial vessels**

GFRA assists MOFAD and FC to combat IUU fishing primarily by promoting voluntary compliance and promoting cooperative enforcement efforts that discourage unlawful fishing activities rather than supporting formal enforcement measures such as marine patrols. This involves supporting initiatives to engage local fishing communities in enforcement as well as the adoption of advanced technology to improve the effectiveness of the Government of Ghana (GoG) in monitoring, control, and surveillance activities at sea and in ports. Additionally, GFRA is involved in the implementation of behavior change programs, both for the public and local communities, to promote voluntary adherence to fishing regulations among both artisanal and industrial fishermen.

##### **National efforts**

The Ministerial Directive went into force in September 2022 and has resulted in a significant reduction in the numbers of industrial trawlers fishing in Ghana's waters. In Year 2, GFRA continued its vital support to MOFAD/FC's implementation of the Ministerial Directive which ultimately hinges on effective data collection and regular reporting to monitor the by-catch of small pelagic fish and the use of appropriate gear by these trawlers. To ensure regular oversight and monitoring, GFRA supported the FC in three priority areas. The first area of support was in the development of an implementation plan, particularly the development of protocols and resulting data for scientific data collection and compliance monitoring of the Directive. The second was to conduct comprehensive training for fisheries observers, FC enforcement officers, inspectors, skippers, and crew managers on the Directive's requirement and procedures for ensuring compliance. The final area was to ensure FC, MOFAD and their advisory committees reviewed results and recommended adjustments to the implementation of the Directive.

To ensure strong oversight of the Ministerial Directive, in particular whether vessels are complying and thereby reducing their catch of small pelagic, GFRA engaged with from FC's Marine Fisheries Management Division (MFMD), FSSD, and MCSD to review the implementation strategy for the Ministerial Directive. The meeting uncovered challenges related to collaboration across the Divisions on data collection and reporting, leading to an agreement on producing a shared progress report, mutually agreed upon outline, and clear timelines. The FC committed to submitting the first progress report by the end of 2023 to the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) to assess the effectiveness of the directive and make recommendations to improve its implementation. GFRA will also encourage the FC to share results with industry, fisheries observers, inspectors, and enforcement officers.

Fisheries observers play an important role in monitoring compliance onboard industrial fishing vessels and also providing data on fish catches during fishing trips. However, observer data and reporting are

infrequent and of poor quality. To address this challenge, particularly as it relates to the Ministerial Directive, GFRA supported MCSD to train 100 fisheries observers during the closed season, when boats are idle. The primary objective was to increase the understanding of observers on the Ministerial Directive on gear and how to collect biological and compliance data while at sea. The secondary objective was to refresh observers on their roles and responsibilities including identification of fishes of economic importance, fish sampling techniques, common fisheries infraction and sanctions, evidence gathering at sea, introduction to the operations of EMS, and safety at sea including countering harassment. It is clear that annual refresher trainings are necessary to improve observer competence and performance as the comparisons between the pre- and post-training assessments indicated an improvement in participants' understanding of the core duties of an observer.



Figure 18: A practical session on biological sampling during the observers training

A significant Year 2 success for GFRA is the introduction of Electronic Monitoring as a technological tool to enhance monitoring of industrial trawl vessel activity and specifically compliance with the Ministerial Directive. An EMS is the installation of video cameras, remote sensors, and global position systems on fishing boats to monitor fishing activities and collect valuable data such as fishing effort, catch composition, and bycatch. In Ghana, EMS promises to enhance compliance and law enforcement within the industrial fisheries sector by providing real time verifiable data on fishing activities that are often opaque and hard to monitor. In February 2023, GFRA supported a delegation from FC and MOFAD, including the Minister, to participate in a series of events during the 2023 Our Oceans Conference to highlight Ghana's progress in increasing transparency in fisheries governance and the fight against IUU fishing. These culminated in the Minister's public commitment during the Our Oceans Plenary to 100% transparency in the industrial fishing sector by requiring EMS to all industrial fishing vessels by 2025<sup>6</sup>. The Minister followed up this public commitment with a memo to Cabinet outlining the EMS, its importance, and the plan to go from pilot to scale by 2025, ensuring high level parliamentary support for this initiative. The Minister of Finance also mentioned the EMS trial during his Mid-Year budgetary review statement to parliament, demonstrating the strong government support for EMS. GFRA collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who has extensive experience working with industry and governments worldwide to design and implement EMS, to collaborate with FC/MOFAD to introduce an EMS pilot on three fishing vessels in Ghana. In April, GFRA supported FC to install EMS on three industrial trawl vessels with the cooperation of Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA). GFRA provided the MCS team with hands on skills



Figure 19: Minister of Fisheries inspecting cameras for EM installation with GFRA and TNC staff.

governance and the fight against IUU fishing. These culminated in the Minister's public commitment during the Our Oceans Plenary to 100% transparency in the industrial fishing sector by requiring EMS to all industrial fishing vessels by 2025<sup>6</sup>. The Minister followed up this public commitment with a memo to Cabinet outlining the EMS, its importance, and the plan to go from pilot to scale by 2025, ensuring high level parliamentary support for this initiative. The Minister of Finance also mentioned the EMS trial during his Mid-Year budgetary review statement to parliament, demonstrating the strong government support for EMS. GFRA collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who has extensive experience working with industry and governments worldwide to design and implement EMS, to collaborate with FC/MOFAD to introduce an EMS pilot on three fishing vessels in Ghana. In April, GFRA supported FC to install EMS on three industrial trawl vessels with the cooperation of Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA). GFRA provided the MCS team with hands on skills

<sup>6</sup> <https://mfa.gov.gh/index.php/ghana-commits-to-100-transparency-in-industrial-fishing-at-the-2023-ocean-conference/>

training on the installation of the EMS to enable them to provide basic trouble shooting. In addition, GFRA supported training for trawl owners, captains, and crew on EMS best practices such as placement and maintenance of equipment. GFRA formalized all stakeholder roles and responsibilities during the pilot phase through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FC and GITA that outlined plans for vessel selection, installation, and training on data analysis and compliance monitoring. The EMS pilot was officially launched by the Minister, with GITA leadership, during an official press conference on 19 April 2023 in Tema. During the event, which garnered considerable press coverage, the Minister reiterated her commitment to roll out the full implementation of EMS by 2025.

To date, trial results have been mixed, which is not unexpected. EMS has largely been utilized in countries with strong fisheries management systems and on tuna vessels, which are less complex than the Ghanaian industrial trawl sector which catches a large variety of species and uses different fishing gear. Going into the pilot, GFRA made it clear that the purpose of the pilot is to trial how EMS might work in the Ghanaian context and on industrial trawl vessels and to identify the challenges in order to inform the design of a more comprehensive system. Although EMS have been installed on the vessels for five months, the pilot has resulted in only two months of data for review and analysis largely due to two factors. First, the Ministry delayed issuing fishing licenses to these vessels because some had not yet met the Ministerial Directive requirements and others had not paid fees resulting from past fishing violations. Second, there was considerable damage to the equipment due to the rough conditions at sea and likely purposeful tampering. Five out of the fifteen cameras that were installed had to be replaced, the satellite antenna on one vessel was broken, and the main EMS receiver was disabled. Finally, one of the three vessels never set out on a fishing trip even though they were granted a license for reasons that were not disclosed by the vessel owner to the FC or GFRA. In August, FC and GFRA finally made the decision to transfer the equipment from this vessel to a new vessel.

With TNC support, GFRA developed a trip report summarizing the two months of data collected by the EMS regarding encounters with vessels at sea, the release of fish from nets, the sorting of fish, and crew activity on deck. GFRA provided introductory training for MCSD staff on the analysis of these results and how to use the data to monitor compliance with the Ministerial Directive and other regulations. The trip report indicated that trawlers are still landing juvenile and small pelagic fish, suggesting noncompliance with the requirements of the Ministerial Directive. GFRA presented these findings to MOFAD, FC and GITA leadership. Results also revealed considerable contradiction between the report provided by the FC Observers and that of the EMS.

Government and industry have expressed strong support for EMS, driven by the desire to secure Ghana's fisheries industry from the EU Yellow Card designation. The Minister has stated publicly that she is considering fully scaling up EMS on all industrial trawl vessels as a licensing requirement in early 2023. Over the next year, GFRA will fully support these efforts by developing an EMS Roadmap to outline how to implement 100% coverage of EMS, providing needed capacity building for FC staff who will administer the system, and providing some support to industry to offset costs of installation.

### **Local efforts**

Throughout Year 2, GFRA accelerated the "Eyes on The Water" program which involves the formation of volunteer community fishery enforcement groups composed of fishermen and members of the fishing community, commonly known as LaBECs. These committees undergo training to equip them with the skills to recognize, document, and report any suspicious illegal fishing activities to relevant authorities such as the FC, Marine Police, and Chief Fishermen. GFRA's Eyes on the Water activities have enjoyed strong community support since inception and are implemented in close collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders, including the FC, CSOs, the Navy, Marine Police, fishermen, and traditional authorities.

In executing this strategy, GFRA collaborated with the three organizations with strong experience in trailing community law enforcement models – Hen Mpoano, FON, and EJP – to develop a unified LaBEC concept. This approach was essential to ensure consistency across the various fishing communities

each organization will work with to establish LaBECs and to foster lasting ownership of LaBECs by the FC for sustainable, long-term success. GFRA facilitated several meetings to consolidate the views and opinions of these partners before finally settling on a finalized concept to be submitted to the FC for review and approval. GNCFC was also included in the process after development of the consolidated LaBEC model to ensure high level approval by fishers. Subsequently, the FC was formally consulted and approved the proposal for co-creating the LaBECs.

The FC approved consolidated LaBEC model consists of Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that encapsulate the establishment and operationalization of LaBECs to support community fisheries law enforcement activities. The Guidelines outline the scope of operations, member selection criteria and process, functions of the committee, institutional arrangements, and the LaBEC operational structure. The SOPs are a manual to direct LaBECs in their operations and describe how to handle violations of the fisheries law and regulations. GFRA also developed a standardized training manual to guide FC officers from across the four coastal regions in the step-by-step approach to take in establishing LaBECs. Finally, GFRA developed a common template for LaBECs to report IUU infractions.



*Figure 20: Development of LABEC training manual*

With the LaBEC model accepted by all stakeholders, GFRA worked with the FC to then develop and implement a strategy to establish LaBECs in a way that ensures government ownership from the start. FC Regional Directors are responsible for the overall operations of LaBECs and ensuring their alignment with the Fisheries Enforcement Units<sup>7</sup> (FEU) and Marine Police while FC zonal officers are directly involved in training LaBEC members and monitoring LaBEC operations at the community level. Since the FEU and Marine Police have the authority to conduct enforcement operations, they are responsible for acting on reports of infractions received from LaBECs. Where there are no Marine Police in the community, infractions can be reported to any police officer and dedicated police officers have been assigned to each LaBEC to facilitate the reporting process. To ensure uniformity in the application of the LaBEC Guidelines and SOP, GFRA conducted training for FC Regional Directors, zonal officers, MCSD, FEU and Marine Police in all four coastal regions. The training used the above referenced training manual to introduce participants to the step-to-step approach in establishing LaBECs and established a common reporting template which will be used by LaBECs in reporting fisheries infractions.

With the LaBEC model in place and the FC fully capacitated, GFRA supported FC to establish or strengthen a total of 11 LaBECs, 7 LaBECs in Greater Accra and Volta Regions and 4 LaBECs in the Western and Central Regions. GFRA provided direct support for all LaBEC activities in the Greater Accra and Volta Regions, while Hen Mpoano provided support for the LaBEC activities in the Western and Central Regions. FC officers first conducted preparatory meetings with the various opinion leaders of the selected communities, ensuring their buy-in and cooperation in the formation and operationalization of the LaBECs. The opinion leaders were then tasked with the responsibility of proposing members for the LaBEC based on the selection criteria outlined in the Guidelines.

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<sup>7</sup> Fisheries Enforcement Units (FEUs) were established in 2013 with personnel drawn from the Fisheries Commission, Ghana Navy, and Marine Policy Unit of the Ghana Police Service. The FEU's mandate is to enforce Ghana's fisheries and related laws in all its fisheries waters. The FEU operates from two bases, Tema and Takoradi.





*Figure 21: Training of FC officers, Marine Police and FEU on the guidelines and SOP of LABECS (Left), FC officer addressing traditional leaders during the preparatory meeting in Adina, Volta region (Right)*

GFRA then supported the FC to conduct training for LaBECs in the Volta Region (Kedzikope, Vodza and Adina), Greater Accra Region (Bortianor, Nungua, Lower Prampram, and Azizanya), and Western Region (Shama, Axim and Half Assini) with a focus on the rights and responsibilities of the community in promoting responsible fishing, building a strong understanding on ecological justifications for the fisheries laws and regulation, duties of LaBECs, fisheries regulations, IUU fishing and the process for reporting cases to fisheries law enforcement authorities. GFRA and Hen Mpoano procured LaBEC resources such as t-shirts, reflector vests, caps, shovels, rakes, wellington boots, and gloves to enhance their effective operations. Finally, GFRA supported MOFAD/FC to organize a community durbar to introduced LABEC members and explain their role and responsibilities to their communities as a means of strengthening enforcement and ensuring compliance within the artisanal fisheries sector. The attendance of FC leadership, District Chief Executives (DCEs) and Municipal Chief Executives (MCEs), Ghana Police, GNCFC and Community traditional authorities reinforced high level support and recognition of the LaBECs.



*Figure 18: LABEC members with traditional leaders, FC officers, marine police officers, DCE and GNCFC executive pose for a picture after the inauguration of LABEC at Adina, Volta region*

GFRA collaborated with Hen Mpoano and FC to monitor LaBECs and identify and address challenges confronting their operations. Even though these LaBECs are still in their infancy, they have already reported over 100 cases of fisheries infractions.

In Year 3, GFRA will continue to support MOFAD and FC to expand the EOTW by establishing an additional 15 LaBECs in Greater Accra, Volta, and Western regions while strengthening existing LaBECs through regular monitoring and refresher training. In addition, GFRA will organize exchange visits for LABEC members to share experiences among themselves and learn from each other.

### Promoting Responsible Fishing Practices Amongst Fishers

In Year 2, GFRA embarked on an exciting journey of participatory action research and community engagement to reduce illegal fishing practices common with Ghanaian fishers. Two Participatory



Figure 23: Responsible fishing posters in English, Ga, and Fanti

Action Media (PAM)<sup>8</sup> workshops held in Axim, Western Region, and Oshiyie, Greater Accra Region delved into the cultural factors influencing illegal fishing behaviors among fisherfolk in these areas. These workshops were built upon the findings from an earlier PAM conducted in Elmina, Central Region that also served as a training for GFRA staff and partners on implementing the PAM methodology and using results to design behavior change strategies. The PAM workshops provided profound insights into community members' perspectives regarding illegal fishing and responsible fishing and laid the foundation for the development of a Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategy to influence desired behavioral changes among fisherfolk. One highlight is the immense pride Ghanaian fishers have in their trade, which can be harnessed to promote responsible fishing behaviors. Additionally, fishers do not perceive all illegal fishing practices as equally harmful, suggesting the need for a tailored approach. Ultimately, ensuring that GFRA's SBCC strategies and communications products are culturally appropriate is paramount and involving the fishers in their creation was the best way to accomplish this.

In partnership with Lintas Ghana and building on the results of the PAM, GFRA supported the FC to create and distribute responsible fishing posters and broadcast jingles throughout community centers across the coast that resonate with fishers in 6 local languages (see Figure 21). These communication materials are designed to support community actions and government enforcement actions to reduce illegal fishing in the artisanal sector, with a focus on influencing fisher behavior to stop light fishing and the use of illegal nets. During Q4, GFRA also organized a workshop with the participants from the three PAM sessions to share final results, review the communications products, and make inputs to shape future productions. In the year's journey, from participatory action research to the development of a communication strategy, the creation of responsible fishing

<sup>8</sup> Action media is a formal qualitative research process that clarifies communication products and strategies. Participatory Action Media is an interactive communication strategy development methodology that utilizes Action Media to put the audience at the center of strategy and communications material development.

materials, and the collaborative workshop to refine our approach, GFRA continued to drive forward its mission of fostering responsible fishing practices and securing the future of Ghana's fisheries.

GFRA's SBCC strategy explored the use of two novel approaches to behavior change in Year 2: peer-to-peer engagements and flash mob dramas. Peer-to-peer engagements provide a forum for young male and female fishers to explore the reason for illegal fishing practices in their communities and promote sustainable fishing behaviors. GFRA organized 18 peer-to-peer engagements reaching 601 male, female, and youth fishers (see figure 23) in coastal communities across the Volta (Adina, Tegbi, Abutiakope), Western (Axim, Bususa, Half-Assini, Sham, Abuesi, Metika, Mangyea), Central (Anomabo, Moree, Mumford, Dago, Apam), and Greater Accra Regions (Ohiyie, Prampram, Azizanya). The peer-to-peer engagements are open dialogues, employing traditional storytelling and folklore sessions around bonfires at the beach to discuss the impacts of illegal fishing on the local fishing ecosystem. During the engagements, participants shared insights into their reliance on fishing for income and sustenance, opening the door for active and inclusive participation by all. GFRA also educated fishers on illegal fishing methods, the related laws, and the impact on Ghana's fisheries and marine ecosystems. Fisherfolk expressed genuine worries about the future of their profession, with many desiring to adopt sustainable fishing practices but facing challenges related to enforcement and government involvement.

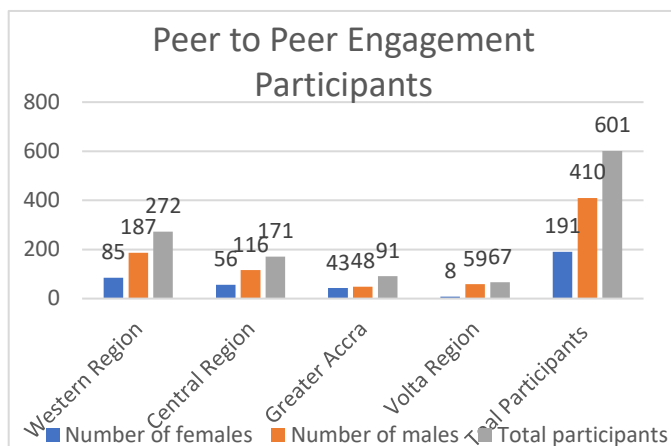


Figure 24: Breakdown of participants in Peer to Peer Engagements

The peer to peer engagement resulted in several interesting actions against illegal fishing. Participants from Azizanya, a community in the Greater Accra Region, reaffirmed their commitment to not practicing light fishing. Several other communities also demonstrated commendable commitment by deciding to voluntarily abstain from light fishing practices. A few ambitious participants also identified specific community-led actions such as painting community murals, conducting sensitizations and supporting enforcement efforts that GFRA will support in Year 3



Figure 25: Left: Fisherman making a submission during a peer-to-peer engagement. Right: GFRA leading a discussion during a Peer to Peer engagement

GFRA also empowered advocates against illegal fishing to organize flash mob dramas at three prominent landing beaches: Adina, Tema, and Mumford. A flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform for a brief time, then quickly disperse. These engaging and informative performances effectively conveyed the health implications of illegal fishing practices to the fisherfolk, capturing their attention and generating considerable enthusiasm. The animated response and positive feedback from fisherfolk demonstrated their readiness to embrace the truth about the detrimental effects of illegal practices on their health and the sustainability of fisheries. This innovative



flash mob initiative not only raised awareness but also played a vital role in encouraging the adoption of more responsible and sustainable fishing methods within these coastal communities.

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

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

**Task 4.1.1. Increase contributions of key constituencies, including women and youth, within fisheries co-management and decision making.**

Efforts to involve women and youth in fisheries decisions and management in Ghana have progressed, but these groups still face significant underrepresentation in decision-making roles across all levels of fisheries management. Despite their crucial role in the fisheries sector, women's voices remain particularly marginalized, limiting their opportunities to participate in the management of fishery resources. Additionally, women at the community level lack effective organization, which hampers their ability to leverage their numbers to advocate for responsible fishing practices and gain access to necessary business operating funds.



Figure 26: Flash mob drama display at Mumford landing beach, Central Region

Given the important role SPCCs will play in serving as a platform for stakeholder engagement and ownership of fisheries management decisions, GFRA and the FC intentionally designed equity principles into the formation of the regional SPCCs and the SPCC

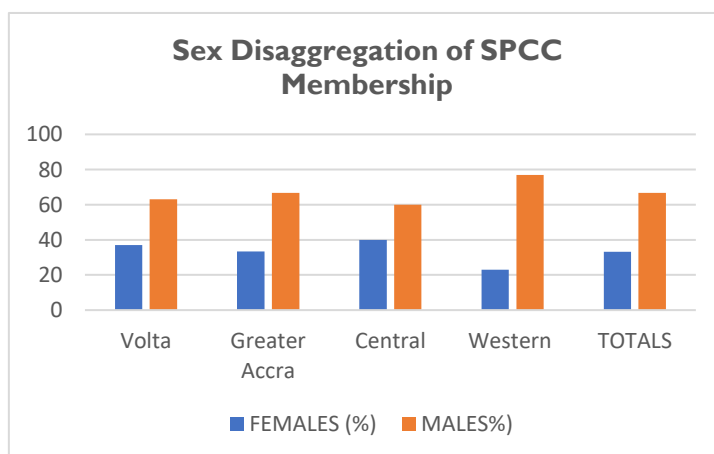


Figure 27: Gender Disaggregated Data on SPCC membership

guidelines include explicit advice for member organizations to prioritize young people and women in their nominations. Looking across the four regional SPCCs, 33% of members are female and 40% are youth. Central and Western Regions have the highest and lowest gender diversity with 40% and 23% female representation respectively (see Figure 27).

With the modest success made with representation of marginalized groups, GFRA recognized that further actions are required to remove anticipated barriers such as unhealthy social

norms, that could militate against their effective participation within the SPCCs. Therefore, GFRA developed a training curriculum and complementary manual as a guide for delivering comprehensive inclusion-themed trainings. Following the formation and inauguration of the regional SPCCs, GFRA provided all SPCC members and their advisory bodies with a training to provide the knowledge, skills, and tools to enable SPCC members to discharge their duties in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner. Discussions centered on key strategies for SPCCs to become safe and all-inclusive platforms for marginalized members to actively participate in discussions and decision making processes. Marginalized members in this case includes females, youth, and representatives of socially excluded groups such as crew members and migrants. There was consensus that the SPCC would project equity and inclusion as core principles in their dealings. The training also exposed SPCC

members to key gender issues in the sector such as Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT). In Year 3, GFRA will build the capacities of marginalized associations to be effective representatives of their constituents in the SPCC.

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

**Task 4.2.1. Build the capacity of key constituencies to campaign together.**

GFRA targets fisher associations and the media as key constituencies for capacity strengthening given their influence in formulating and implementing fisheries management measures. During Year 2, GFRA supported three fisher associations – GNCFC, NAFPTA, and the National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) – with organizational capacity strengthening. GFRA's capacity strengthening strategy for NAFPTA and GNCFC focuses on trainings and direct practical learning, strengthening local structures of the associations, and providing grants to the associations to implement key interventions such as Fisher-to-Fisher (F2F) dialogues. As part of this strategy, GFRA organized a workshop for 27 GNCFC and NAFPTA national executives to use situational analysis to identify challenges that have stifled the progress of their associations and jointly identify solutions to improve their ability to work together. Interestingly, both associations are challenged by similar issues such as weak organizational structures and the lack of annual plans and budgets, procedural guidelines, and membership databases. With GFRA support, these leaders identified solutions such as holding national, regional and district elections, developing annual budgets and developing manuals that guide and systematize operations. Over the last year, leaders of both associations were in an open conflict with one another, so an important and unexpected outcome of the meeting was that the association leadership agreed to put their differences aside and work in a more cordial and productive manner to advance sustainable fisheries in Ghana.

As a follow up to the workshop, GFRA supported GNCFC to hold its national elections to elect legitimate national leaders for the first time in over 20 years. A national president, a vice national president, a national organizer, and a national public relations officer were elected to lead the association. Nana Jojo Solomon, who was the acting National President, was formally elected as the National President.

At the regional level, GFRA accelerated activities initiated in Year 1 to strengthen NAFPTA and GNCFC regional structures with the ultimate objective of ensuring these associations are strong in the Western and Central regions. GFRA's partner, Hen Mpoano, conducted four regional workshops with GNCFC regional executives to develop a draft Manual of Operations to address the operational challenges mentioned in the previous paragraph. Hen Mpoano also conducted a workshop with 35 NAFPTA executives and FC zonal officers representing five coastal districts in the Central and Western Regions to assess the current state of organization among NAFPTA groups at the local and district levels and devise strategies for mobilizing and strengthening both new and existing women's groups within communities. Subsequently, NAFPTA Regional and District leaders mobilized women in their communities on the NAFPTA constitution, registration procedures, financial contributions, group dynamics, leadership roles, accountability, privileges for members, the concept of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), fish handling, and setting up kitchens for fish processing, among other relevant topics.

In Year 2, GFRA tapped the GUC to deepen the capacity strengthening strategy for fishing associations, giving them an opportunity to manage funds independently and benefit from GFRA's built in support to strengthen operational policies and grants management and administration for grantees implementing a GFRA GUC. In Year 2, GFRA awarded a grant the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council to facilitate a series of fisher to fisher (F2F) dialogues on a variety of topics ranging from the moratorium to livelihoods to responsible fishing in order to improve fisher participation in fisheries policy formulation and implementation. Under the grant, GNCFC held a national and four regional planning meetings at the respective coastal regions to train their F2F meeting facilitators and develop

a unified approach to engaging fishers. In Year 3, GNCFC will implement about 240 F2Fs across the four coastal regions. GFRA is currently finalizing a similar grant with NAFPTA which will take effect in early Year 3.

GFRA prioritized capacity strengthening support to NAFAG in Year 2 given the important role they play as the umbrella fisheries association for all of Ghana's fisheries association, providing one platform for a unified voice for fishing industry in the sector. Early in 2023, NAFAG undertook a reorganization and restructuring process and requested GFRA support to become more functional, active, and relevant to the needs of the fishing industry in Ghana. GFRA's supported NAFAG to finalize their draft constitution and develop financial and administrative SOPs and materials for the management of the Association. Early in Year 3, GFRA will support NAFAG to organize an Annual General Meeting to adopt the constitution and conduct elections to elect new executives for the management of the Association. The Annual General Meeting to elect executives was actually planned for the last quarter of Year 2 but was postponed to early Year 3 due to internal NAFAG constraints.

To strengthen media capacities, GFRA partnered with Lintas to design and launch a journalist fellowship program that aims to recruit student journalists into the limited pool of journalists reporting on fisheries and cultivate an interest among future journalists in fisheries story telling. Lintas held an introduction and briefing session on the fellowship and the fisheries sector for level 300 students at the University of Media, Arts, and Communication- Ghana Institute of Journalism (UNIMAC-GIJ) and 5 student journalists (3 women, 2 men) were selected as the first cohort of fellows. In Q4, the fellows underwent a series of comprehensive classroom trainings on fisheries in Ghana, following a detailed curriculum designed by GFRA to train media persons. This was followed by field visits to enable the students to get firsthand experience of real issues on the ground. The fellows are currently undergoing an internship program at selected media houses to learn how to produce fisheries stories and so far, have produced four stories on safe fish, closed season, illegal fishing, and a general overview of fisheries in Ghana (see Annex I).

#### Task 4.2.2. Facilitate information sharing and campaign organizing by key constituencies.

The media is a key constituency in the fisheries sector and plays an important role in holding policymakers accountable. GFRA supports several activities with media to encourage more in-depth reporting on priority fisheries issues with the aim of influencing policy and public opinion. As a result of this work, media coverage on fisheries issues was extensive, resulting in a number of print, TV, and radio news stories. Links to these stories are presented under Annex I.

*"It is important for journalists to have the right knowledge on fisheries, so we can engage appropriately on fisheries issues. This training has given us the background that we need - Patrick Dzramado, Sandcity Radio, Keta"*

This year GFRA trained 72 media persons, including journalists and editors working at 44 national and regional media houses across the coast (see Table I), on topics ranging from fish stock data to social issues such as GBV and CLaT. As part of the training, participants visited fishing landing beaches for firsthand experience with fisher's lives and realities. Through these trainings, key media persons from across the country were equipped with the knowledge and skills to better understand the fisheries sector and the challenges confronting the sector, better positioning the media to advocate for Ghana's fisheries recovery. The training was also designed to introduce participants to fisheries resource people who could be tapped for future media stories.

Table I: List of Media Houses Trained in Fisheries Management

SN	Media House	SN	Media House
1	Daily Graphic	24	Jubilee FM
2	Weekly Spectator	25	Holy FM
3	Victory FM	26	Fafa FM
4	Ghana News Agency	27	Sandcity Radio

5	Kekeli Radio	28	West End Radio
6	Peace FM	29	Citi FM
7	Ghana Television	30	Joy News
8	Obonu FM	31	Amenuveve FM
9	Business and Financial Times	32	TV3
10	Radio Ada	33	Okoli FM
11	Radio Shama	34	Ghanaian Times
12	Ahomka FM/Ocean TV	35	Benya FM
13	ATL FM	36	Business 24
15	Radio 360/Empire FM	37	Empire Fm
16	Sky Fm	38	Angel Fm
17	Gnews Prime	39	Radio Central
18	Asaase radio	40	Sompa TV/Radio
19	The Chronicle	41	Nzema Fm
20	Ebiam FM	42	MyNewsGhana
21	New Day FM	43	Radio Shama
22	ATL Fm	44	Rox FM
23	Nyce FM		

**Fisheries in the Media:** This year, GFRA awarded a grant to TV3 to increase their understanding and reporting of fisheries issues using their nationally popular TV programs to increase public awareness and government accountability. GFRA trained and mentored TV3 journalists and news editors on fisheries science, management, and social issues to better help them understand the sector and guide their story writing. In the reporting period, TV3 produced and aired 24 stories on various issues relating to fisheries across the coast. The stories were aired on the Evening News on Fridays and Saturdays at 6:55pm on their “Mission Ghana” segment. Mission Ghana highlights social and economic issues in Ghana, with the aim of achieving results from government and civil society organizations. As time went on, TV3 also created a separate segment called “Fisheries Eye” that solely airs stories on the fisheries sector and fishing communities. These stories focused on the adoption of supplemental livelihoods by youth, issues of CLaT and GBV in fishing communities, illegal fishing, and hygiene and sanitation in post-harvest value chain and fish handling. It is worth mentioning that one TV3 story on unhygienic fish handling and processing in Axim prompted the FC to hold a special training in Axim for fish processors on hygienic fish handling and processing. GFRA intends to continue with this grant to produce and air more stories in Year 3.

**Working with Advocates:** In Year 1, GFRA identified the “GFRA Advocates,” a group of 27 respected and influential fisherfolk leaders, some of whom are also GNCFC and NAFTPA members, from across Ghana’s coastal communities who can be mobilized to speak publicly about needed fisheries reforms. During Q2, GFRA held a training for the GFRA Advocates to equip them with advocacy skills and tools with a focus on leveraging their voice, identifying effective advocacy platforms, and being strategic in overall advocacy. GFRA augmented this with targeted training on the Moratorium as a fisheries management measure for immediate advocacy. After the training, advocates returned to their communities and immediately implemented their newfound knowledge. Belinise Wradi, a fish processor in Nungua, and Nene Agborke, a Canoe Owner in Prampram, took the initiative to engage with fisherfolk regarding the Moratorium. Hen Mpoano also identified 20 anti-IUU fishing advocates in the Central and Western region and conducted two training workshops to expose them to the dynamics of IUU fishing in Ghana and the challenges of law enforcement.

To highlight the June 5 International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing, GFRA supported community radio engagements with 5 of the GFRA trained Advocates. These advocates, who are fishers and community leaders, spoke out against illegal fishing in the artisanal sector on Radio Ada and Obonu FM in the Greater Accra region, Benya FM in the Central Region, Radio Shama in the Western Region, and Jubilee Radio in the Volta Region. During the radio discussions, advocates urged fishers to adopt

responsible fishing practices, called for community actions to curb illegal fishing, and for government to enforce fisheries laws.

In Year 2, GFRA intended to facilitate a meeting between GFRA Advocates and Champions but did not complete this activity because it was difficult to find an appropriate forum and venue for these disparate stakeholders to converge and engage. GFRA plans to utilize the upcoming Blue Economy Conference in November 2023 to ensure Advocates and Champions are able to sit and discuss fisheries issues of mutual interest.

**Supporting MoFAD/FC to Facilitate Information Sharing:** GFRA capitalized on a 2023 Fisheries Transparency Initiative report<sup>9</sup> highlighting the lack of publicly available fisheries data and reporting in Ghana to introduce a new activity in Year 2. The report recommended that MOFAD/FC make currently unpublished information public and provide a centralized portal for fisheries information to increase transparency in the sector. GFRA took up these recommendations and held a workshop with the corporate affairs staff of the FC and the Public Relations Unit of MOFAD to identify barriers and solutions to improve communication and information sharing with fisheries stakeholders. During the workshop, FC disclosed that they do not have a strategy to guide and support implementation of fisheries measures and utilized the workshop to draft a communication strategy for further completion by the FC's corporate affairs officers. GFRA is working with the FC to complete the communication strategy for adoption. In year 3, GFRA will further support MoFAD and FC with capacity strengthening to enable them to better share information, strengthen their communication activities and bridge gaps in their communications systems.

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

In Year 2 GFRA had two main strategies to reduce vulnerabilities to GBV and CLaT in the fisheries sector. The first strategy focused on ensuring that FC and MOFAD have a strong policy framework and capacities to address GBV and CLaT, and that all stakeholders are identified and coordinated. The second strategy focused on building local level capacities and actions critical to prevention focusing on the vulnerabilities identified in the Year 1 GFRA supported GBV and CLaT Vulnerability Assessments<sup>10</sup>. These two strategies are interlinked. National policies, capacities and coordination support the achievement of local actions to result in long lasting prevention and behavior change. In Year 1, GFRA focused on training and dialogues at the community levels to build understanding of the issues and identify early actions. In Year 2, GFRA expanded on these by extending the community training and dialogues to more communities. These resulted in a menu of local actions led by community leaders and advocates. The actions include the formation of Circles of Support against GBV, Community Child Protection Committees (CCPC), and public proclamations and durbars to raise awareness and register commitments. Many GFRA GBV and CLaT activities are implemented in an integrated fashion because of the interlinkages between the two topics and their vulnerabilities. Thus, GFRA is reporting these integrated national and local activities below. However, Year 2 also resulted in unique local actions for GBV and CLaT that are separate and discussed in detail under Task 4.3.1 for GBV and 4.3.2 for CLaT. It is also important to note that GBV and CLaT are also mainstreamed throughout all of GFRA's Strategic Approaches, and these activities are reported under their respective tasks.

**National Level Actions**

**Setting Policy Framework for Gender and Inclusion in Fisheries:** Key to the GFRA's success in addressing GBV and CLaT in the fisheries sector is ensuring strong government leadership, especially in enforcing anti-GBV and anti-CLaT regulations. During the year, MOFAD and FC formally adopted the GBV and CLaT vulnerability assessment paving the way for wide dissemination and institutional commitment to implement the recommendations. GFRA and MOFAD/FC also developed two policy

<sup>9</sup> <https://fiti.global/taking-stock-assessment-for-ghana>

<sup>10</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA0212ZC.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0212ZC.pdf) and [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA0212ZB.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0212ZB.pdf)



briefs summarizing these vulnerabilities and recommending key policy actions. Originally, MOFAD planned to develop a gender policy but revised this to the development of GBV and CLaT policy briefs based on the Vulnerability Assessments. Recommendations from the policy briefs will now serve as guidelines for implementing actions to achieve greater equity in the sector. Upon official request from the Ministry, GFRA initiated a process to revise the sector Gender and anti-CLaT strategies which will be conduits for implementing policy recommendations as laid out in the policy briefs. GFRA is also developing a Tool Kit to provide how-to guidelines for integration efforts. Relatedly, GFRA and MOFAD have initiated discussions to set up gender-responsive indicators to measure the sector's policies and programmes. At the site levels, GFRA is monitoring the activities of Zonal Officers and building their capacities to prepare them for implementing site level gender responsive policies and interventions.

**Building Synergies for Greater Inclusion in Fisheries Sector:** Gender equity and addressing CLaT are not prioritized in fisheries sector dialogues and there are no existing platforms for learning

and coordination for greater impact. To address these gaps, GFRA has been collaborating with key stakeholders at regional and national levels to build synergies and improve capacities for addressing gender and equity issues in an intentional manner. In Year 2, three (3) regional stakeholder dialogues were organized in Volta, Central and Western Regions where there was further emphasis on the need for coordination among institutions. These culminated in a national stakeholders Coordination and Learning workshop in Elmina in May 2023 where twenty-four (24) state and non-state organizations - including MOFAD, FC,



Figure 28: Participants at the CSOs Coordination & Learning Workshop

various departments of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protections (MOGCSP), Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MELR) Child Labor Unit, and partner MMDAs, as well as CSOs and media - shared experiences from implementing women's economic empowerment, GBV, and youth programming and discussed opportunities for achieving greater socio-economic and political balance in the fisheries sector. An important part of the coordination and learning workshop was training on emerging approaches to inclusive resource governance. MOFAD, MELR and MOGCSP, as the main government agencies for addressing CLaT and GBV in fisheries, took the opportunity to connect and map out ways to address the sector challenges in a coordinated fashion. A key outcome of this meeting is the Fisheries Sector GESI Platform to improve synergy, cross-learning, and data management. These deliberate actions at improving collaborations and partnerships are yielding great impacts already. For instance, the MELR now captures data on child labor in marine fisheries. Hitherto, the focus was only on the Volta Lake which meant that national data records were eschewing critical issues and interventions in the marine sector. GFRA is working with MOFAD to ensure that data is sufficiently presented.

**Local Capacity Building and Dialogues:** GFRA approaches GBV and CLaT prevention from the point of community education and collective actions. Since Year 1, GFRA has devoted significant effort to ensuring that communities appreciate the extent and consequences of GBV in fisheries through a series of community trainings. The trainings conclude with dialogue platforms that discuss solutions for reducing incidence of abuse against women, children, and men. Without fail, the dialogue platforms became venues for communities to critically analyze the issues, calling out the wrong, and fashioning out collective solutions. Influential persons such as chiefs, religious leaders and government officials use the dialogue platforms to make proclamations and statements against GBV and CLaT and impose responsibilities on leaders and members to make their communities violence-free. In Year 2, GFRA ramped up efforts to address GBV and CLaT by expanding these trainings and dialogues through the

work of key partners Hen Mpoano, Curious Minds, and CEWEFIA. Partnering with local officials, GFRA organized 30 GBV and CLaT trainings and dialogues for communities and institutions across the coast. Additionally, GFRA conducted specialized trainings for key institutions and local structures such as the Community Advocates, SPCCs, CCPCs and Circles of Support to enable them to lead specific agendas on GBV and CLaT prevention and women's participation in fisheries management. As Table 4 illustrates, 4,748 people (61% females and 39% males) benefitted from these trainings.

Table 2: List of specialized trainings for key institutions and local structures

Type of Training	Total Participants	Male	Female
Community Trainings (GBV & CLaT)	4376	1654	2722
GESI Training for Advocates	50	20	30
GESI Training for SPCC	83	32	51
GESI Training for CSOs and Government Officials	45	18	27
GESI Training for CCPCs	84	33	51
GESI Training for Circles of Support	30	12	18
Community Information Center Operators (GBV & CLaT)	80	78	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4748</b>	<b>1847</b>	<b>2901</b>

It is worth noting that there has been a noticeable shift in attitudes towards GBV and CLaT in communities that have hosted two years of GFRA supported dialogues and training. During Year 1, community members often agreed that GBV is pervasive and acknowledged the abuses meted out to women in fisheries, however, they became evasive and resistant when the dialogues shifted to the need to commit to local actions to safeguard women from GBV. At the end of Year 2, local communities demonstrate strong intent to collaborate and implement multiple actions and a zeal to be a part of a new positive narrative about their communities. In some cases, such as Keta, anti-GBV and anti-CLaT sentiments have become part of the regular discourse at fisheries leadership meetings, signifying an important shift as they explore solutions.

**Media and Social and Behavior Change:** In Year 2, GFRA initiated media campaigns against CLaT and GBV to complement community level actions with wider reach and impact. At the national level, TV3 Network documented and broadcasted compelling stories of CLaT from a 360-degree perspective that analyzed the situation, identified the problem and drivers, and discussed the solutions. There are early indications that this strategy may contribute to behavior changes and actions. For instance, at a community durbar in June, an opinion leader in Mumford lamented about a TV3 story on CLaT in the community and called on members to act to counter CLaT saying, "it is an indictment on us". Further, GFRA Advocates led eight (8) radio discussions across popular coastal radio stations.



Figure 19: GFRA Advocate Nana Nkanomamako IV in a radio discussion

In addition, GFRA has worked with Lintas to develop jingles and posters informed by community level fisheries actors for mass communication on preventing GBV and CLaT in fisheries. The posters and jingles were tested and validated across GFRA communities before finalization. In preparation for dissemination, CEWEFIA trained 80 Landing Beach Information Center Operators in Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipal Assembly (KEEA) to use their platforms to campaign to fishers against GBV and CLaT. The audio-visual materials will be a blueprint for advocacy.



Figure 20: A poster on CLaT

### Task 4.3.1. Decrease women's vulnerability to Gender Based Violence (GBV)

In Year 2, site level anti-GBV interventions focused on utilizing community dialogue platforms (reported above) and public durbars to deepen commitments and generate response actions. During this period, advocates also actively engaged community leaders and government officials to implement local actions. In the process, Circles of Support emerged as an important response system. These local actions may not only serve the respective communities that initiated them, but could become learning points for MOFAD, FC and other national bodies to implement inclusion policies in the fisheries sector.

**Community Durbars and Public Proclamations:** Public events in Ghana mobilize communities to strongly rally around an issue. GFRA took advantage of the annual commemoration of 16 Days of



Figure 21: Left - Public Procession against GBV, Keta - VR. Right - A section of Traditional Leaders at a Durbar, Elmina - CR

Activism Against GBV to highlight the unique challenges women and girls in fisheries communities face and gather support for addressing them. Commemoration durbars attracting over 800 women, men, and youth were organized in Elmina and Keta respectively, preceded by public processions along the major streets. Participants in the processions carried placards with messages to create awareness against GBV. Traditional and religious leaders, youth and women's groups, fisher associations and heads of government departments and agencies graced the durbars as speakers and participants. At the durbars, community leaders made important proclamations against GBV aimed to provoke positive shifts in attitudes and behaviors. For example, in his address, the Municipal Chief Executive for Keta, gave his commitment to protect women and vulnerable persons in the municipality.

*We traditional leaders will no longer be impediments to the pursuit of justice for abuse survivors. All abuse cases, including domestic violence would be referred to the relevant institutions for action. This is important. - Adjoa Kweigyewa, Queen Mother, Bantoma- Elmina*

**Formation of Circles of Support Against GBV:** GFRA, through Hen Mpoano, collaborated with Shama District Assembly to form two Circles of Support against GBV during Year 2. They are the first pilots of a new model of Circles of Support and will guide similar actions in partner districts across the regions. Circles of Support as originally conceptualized by government and development partners are government institutions that collaborate on Gender Based Violence. However, this framing failed to address barriers to accessing protection services and safe spaces for GBV survivors. Therefore, GFRA worked with the Assembly to adapt the existing framework to better suit the local context. The new Circles of Support that GFRA is piloting are localized and built on existing informal structures within communities such as VSLAs, local chapters of fisher associations and youth groups that are accessible to all. A group of passionate individuals that volunteer themselves in groups (at least 10 members) can also form Circles of Support. In order to become a Circle of Support, each group undergoes intensive assessment and trainings to certify that the group and its members have the capacity to provide care to victims of abuse.



The Abuesi and Aboadzi Circle of Support is an interesting example. After the series of community trainings and dialogues, the communities nominated reputable volunteers to form a Circle of Support



Figure 22: Participants in a Role Play

comprised of fisher leaders, community leaders and community members passionate about preventing and responding to GBV. The Circle of Support aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for survivors and those at risk of GBV and CLaT and empower them to challenge harmful norms. Members were trained by the Department of Social Welfare and other mandated institutions to instill the values of care, support, and inclusivity. These groups are now ready to provide counselling, guidance, and generally show compassion to survivors of abuse. The Circles of Support also have the right resources to provide case referrals

to the institutional response systems, where necessary.

#### Task 4.3.2. Decrease local vulnerability to child labor and trafficking (CLaT).

In Year 2, CLaT specific community interventions included public proclamations and formation of CCPCs building on several interesting findings that emerged specific to CLaT from the community dialogues. A significant number of participants admitted publicly that they perpetrate CLaT. It was evident during the dialogues that some communities have normalized engaging children as laborers and oppose changes that might eliminate the practice. It is also a general belief among fishers that fishing is a skill learned on-the-job and must be acquired early in life (e.g., 6 years old), and not as an adult. This belief systems, coupled with widespread poverty, continue to drive high incidents of CLaT in coastal communities. Through the trainings, dialogues and other SBCC activities, GFRA seeks to re-orient fishers and build communities that are resilient and united against CLaT.

*What do I do if I cannot afford the cost of my children's education and cannot sufficiently feed them? Will government do it for me? No, I must do what I can, and that includes getting the child into an economic activity to supplement my efforts. - 39 yr. old fishmonger in Dago, Central Region.*

**Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs):** The formation of GFRA supported CCPCs is a direct outcome of the community dialogues. Similar to Circles of Support, the concept of CCPCs originated as formal district level committees made up of major governmental organizations such as the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Ghana Education Service, and Ghana Health Service among others. However, district level is costly, unsustainable, and does not render services at the community level where CLaT violations occur. GFRA therefore worked with the three distinct MMDAs to set up ten (10) Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) that mimic the

district level structure but in a more practical and engaging manner. Each CCPC is composed of 7-11 members. The Assemblies worked with local communities to identify and train worthy nominees in accordance with local government procedures. The CCPCs lead in identifying or receiving child



Figure 23: Left - Newly Inaugurated CCPC in a photo with MMDA Officials and Traditional Leaders. Right - MCE and Paramount Chief for Keta congratulate a CCPC Member

welfare cases at the community levels for redress. They also serve as local child protection advocates. GFRA and Grantees will monitor and provide technical support to address potential challenges and learn lessons for replication in other districts. In Chorkor and Tema, GFRA grantee Curious Minds worked with the Assemblies to form District Anti-CLaT Networks with similar mandates, structures, and membership as the CCPCs. Table 5 presents the full list of CCPCs and District Anti-CLaT Networks.

Table 5: GFRA supported CCPCs and Anti-CLaT Networks

No.	Structure and District	Community
1	Community Child Protection Committees	Adzido
2	Keta Municipal	Vodza
3		Kedzi
4		Anlo-Afiadenyigba
5	Community Child Protection Committees	Hweda
6	Gomoa West District	Dago
7		Mumford
8	Community Child Protection Committees, Jomoro Municipal	Metika
9		Bonyere
10		New Town
11	District Anti-CLaT Networks, Accra Metropolis.	Chorkor
12	District Anti-CLaT Networks, Tema Metropolis	Tema

So far, CCPCs across the districts have been inaugurated and are holding community sensitization meetings, and addressing issues around school drop-out, teenage pregnancy and child neglect, all of which are major contributors to CLaT in fishing communities.

#### Public Commemorations Against Child Labor:

GFRA and partners Hen Mpoano, CEWEFIA and Curious Minds commemorated World Day Against Child Labor with two durbars and a public colloquium in Dago, Anomabo, and Tema, mobilizing a total of 700 participants. The commemorative events provided public platforms for influential leaders to renew commitments to preventing child labor. Dago is a community known for a very high incidence of CLaT and as a result of the durbar, the Municipal Coordinating Director, paramount chiefs, and religious leaders made strong calls for action. Children played a critical role

*We will fight the negative tag that places Dago in the same basket with child labor. We will dissociate ourselves from the negativities of child labor. My people, arise, and let us fight it together! - Paramount Queen Mother, Dago.*

during the durbar. They engaged community members on the dangers of child labor through thought-provoking drama, poetry and cultural performances that resulted in deeper community dialogues during the durbar. After the events, several community members approached GFRA staff to discuss ways to rescue children that have been trafficked, and how they can better secure these children's future. GFRA has referred the individuals to join in the

livelihoods program and has also provided guidance on how to bring their children back as well as connecting them to local resources.



**Child-Led Advocacy against CLaT:** Through GFRA Grantee Curious Minds, GFRA is positioning children and adolescents as strategic advocates against CLaT in Tema, Chorkor and Azizanya.



Figure 24: A pupil speaks against CLaT through poetry

Throughout Year 2, Rights of the Child (RoC) Clubs were formed in all three communities and members received training to lead anti-CLaT advocacy in their respective communities. In addition, community members were socialized to understand and accept this unconventional role of children in anti-CLaT advocacy. Since their formation, the ROCs have co-facilitated community dialogues with external resource persons. Additionally, seven in-community broadcast sessions were held. The sessions were recorded and played on Obonu FM, a local Ga station in Accra. In all sessions, children engage the discussions from their own perspectives in a way that draws compassion. The ROC Clubs have subsequently trained new sets of children to ramp-up anti-CLaT

campaigns. Given children's unique vulnerabilities, GFRA monitors the dialogues between children and adults closely while also supporting Curious Minds to implement their own organizational safeguards that protect children.

## 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.**

**Task 5.1.1. Build GoG and co-management association capacity to effectively manage and apply data and research findings.**

During the reporting period, GFRA planned to improve FC capacity in fisheries data collection, storage, and transmission to improve the management of data. This activity was included in the first APS solicitation under the GUC, however, no proposals successfully met the GUC requirements. GFRA included this activity in the second APS, released in Q3, and GFRA received several strong proposals in the first round of reviews with the intent to complete this activity in Year 3.

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

**Task 5.2.1. Facilitate provision of relevant and timely scientific information and research**

In Year 1, GFRA brought together scientists from the FC and academia and industry stakeholders to develop a research agenda to ensure a strong scientific basis for the development of small pelagic fisheries management measures. In Year 2, GFRA harnessed the newly established STC to review this research agenda, provide inputs, and formalize five key research priorities for the small pelagic fishery as follows:

1. Understanding shifts in the ocean upwelling (minor and major) periods and their intensity off the coast of Ghana and how it affects small pelagic fisheries.
2. Analysis of existing FC data on ocean environmental parameters (nutrients, pH, salinity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen) on the abundance of small pelagics.
3. Collection of primary data on marine debris and heavy metals from illegal mining and their impact on small pelagic fish and the fishery.
4. An economic valuation of Ghana's marine fisheries sector to update the statistics on the contribution of Ghana's marine fisheries sector to the economy and on the numbers of Ghanaians employed directly and indirectly by the marine fishery sector.

## 5. Establishing the specific impacts of climate variability on the small pelagics in Ghana

These research areas are based on current gaps and needs in the fisheries sector, especially the need to update outdated data used in defining the contribution of the fisheries sector to the livelihoods of Ghanaians and the need to understand the impact of climate change and environmental parameters on the small pelagic stocks. GFRA utilized the second APS released under the GUC to solicit proposals for this research and early in Year 3 the STC will lead and review and selection process as well as provide guidance for the execution of the research grants allocated to successful applicants.

### **Task 5.2.2. Strengthen the process for academia and technical advisory groups to support GoG fisheries management and decision making.**

In Year 2, GFRA developed and signed a new subcontract with the University of Cape Coast-Centre for Coastal Management (UCC-CCM) that includes training and research and collection of scientific data and information that will support fisheries management and policy decision making. An important component of that subcontract is the organization of the November 2023 Conference on Fisheries and Coastal Environment (CFCE) in Accra with GFRA leading the sustainable fisheries management in Ghana theme of the conference. Throughout Year 2, GFRA participated in UCC-CCM planning meetings for the conference to discuss thematic areas, submission and review of abstracts, conference application fees, partners, sponsors, speakers, and participants. In addition to supporting the planning of the conference, under the UCC subcontract GFRA will support the participation of fishers from across the coast to ensure that their perspectives are included in the presentations and audience of the conference. In a parallel Policy-makers Forum, GFRA will ensure the participation of industry and the leadership of the PSCFACA in a roundtable decision maker forum where GFRA Champions and other actors discuss research result summaries and related policy implications and propose actions to be taken for improving fisheries management.

## 2.2 Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned

- GFRA has already learned many lessons from the experience of attracting and enrolling the first cohort of livelihoods beneficiaries. At first, GFRA tied the initial promotion of the livelihood program with the closed season, when the potential trainees had high interest in the program. However, those who had applied during the closed season quickly lost interest as they returned to fishing and fishing related livelihoods. There are also large regional differences in fishers' interest in adopting new livelihoods. Beneficiaries in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions are more responsive and interested in taking up a supplementary livelihood than those in the Central and Western Regions. Finally, the continuous mentorship and monitoring of trainees provided by GFRA and OICG was important to ensuring they stayed in training until completion. As a result, GFRA had only 12 dropouts who were immediately replaced with other youth on the waiting list.
- GFRA partnerships with local government institutions are impeded by the lack of resources and commitments on the part of the institutions. For instance, regional stakeholder dialogues on GBV and CLaT identified the reinvigoration of District Child Protection Panels as critical for implementing local anti-CLaT actions. However, after detailed scoping across partner districts, GFRA found these require heavy financial investment from GFRA to cover unallowable costs such as sitting allowances which raised questions of commitment and sustainability. The idea was therefore modified and localized into the formation of community-based committees to ensure more sustainable outcomes.
- GFRA has focused GBV and CLaT activities on preventative actions, however, addressing vulnerabilities to GBV and CLaT requires a compendium of complementary actions. The addition of new grantee FIDA, a women focused legal aid entity, presents opportunity to supplement on-going preventive actions with paralegal services and provide linkages to protection services for comprehensive outcomes.

- Co-management committees will be key to sustaining the milestones achieved in Year 2. Since 2024 is an election year, supporting the committees and their respective constituents to promote voluntary compliance will help to address the politicization of fisheries management actions and prevent past situations where enforcement of fisheries regulations is relaxed for fear of losing electoral votes.
- GFRA's strategy to enhance access of fishery businesses to finance is through VSLAs and the rural banks. Fish processors are more willing to access finance through their VSLAs than banks due to the high interest rates ranging from 40-50% and negative past experiences with the banking sector crisis, which led to the collapse of many financial institutions. However, financial literacy training and adapting financial products that are tailored to the fishing industry increased processor's willingness to access finance through rural banks.

### 3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

#### 3.1 Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Success Stories

In Year 2, GFRA developed a GESI strategy to guide project efforts to mainstream gender and social inclusion into all aspects of fisheries management and socialized it with all GFRA staff and grantees to ensure all are acquainted with the plan and their roles in achieving it. In planning and executing activities, staff are deliberate about representation, participation, and issue prioritization to ensure diverse members of society are involved and benefit from the program. Overall, GFRA trainings, workshops, and other activities reach more females (62%) than males (38%). This is not distributed equally across GFRA's strategic approaches. SA2 emphasizes females because fish processors and traders are predominantly women. Meanwhile, GFRA is investing greater efforts to encourage young male fishers to apply for the livelihoods trainings to balance out the fact that mostly females (60%) are benefitting from the program to date. All major strategies, manuals, and guidelines under the project – for instance the co-management guidelines - are taken through a gender responsive review to ensure they are framed to address diverse needs and nuanced perspectives.

GFRA has several success stories specific to gender equality and addressing gender based violence which are summarized below.

**Empowering Women in Coastal Fisheries Management:** Across the coast of Ghana, a new narrative is unfolding regarding women's participation in marine fisheries management. For generations, women have been the backbone of Ghana's local fishing industry, yet they and their contributions are often underrepresented in fisheries policies and management decisions. Through a concerted effort to promote gender inclusivity in this traditionally male-dominated sector, women's roles and voices are now being recognized as worthy participants in fisheries co-management associations. Through GFRA's partnership with MOFAD, FC and industry practitioners, women now serve on newly established co-management committees at national and regional levels. The Scientific and Technical Committee, an important national co-management body ensuring strong science underpins fisheries management decisions, not only has fair representation of women (40%), but it is also chaired by a woman. Similarly, females comprise 33% of the membership of all regional Small Pelagic Co-management Committees (SPCCs). Concurrently, GFRA and its partners have held local level dialogues and trainings across the coast to ensure women have the capacity and can advocate for fair representation for in decision-making. While participation can always improve, these female members of co-management committees represent an important building block for women to progressively contribute their voices, experiences, and power to manage Ghana's fisheries in an inclusive manner. Being on the co-management bodies provide women strategic opportunities to influence fisheries policy formulation

*"We do not seek power for the sake of it. Our (women's) experiences in the sector are completely different from men's. We have waited for this opportunity for long to tell our stories the way we know it. Fisheries policies must reflect all of our needs and interests", Nana Akissi Adentsin, Konkohemaa (Fish Queen) – Busia, WR.*

and implementation. The journey of women in fisheries, from marginalization to empowered leadership, is a clear demonstration of the power of education, empowerment, and collaborative partnerships. The value of this transformation not only holds potential for women's empowerment, but for the sustainability of the fisheries sector in general.

**Creating Safe Spaces for Addressing GBV:** Two years ago, when GFRA organized its first set of community dialogues about gender based violence (GBV) in the Shama District, male participants

*This initiative is inspiring. I have encountered cases of abuse where I was unsure of the appropriate means to assist the victims. Through the training and the network that has been established, it has equipped us with the capacity to provide support to individuals at risk of GBV, and survivors. Helen Afenyi, Circle of Support Member.*

questioned the project's priorities. The fisheries closed season had just ended and fishermen wondered why the discussions did not center on 'more relevant topics' such as access to subsidized fuel and the effects of the closed season on their finances. "Gender Based Violence is a normal part of life. Let's discuss bread and butter issues" claimed one such participant. Today, after repeated dialogues and community engagements through the

GFRA project, the story is different. Fisheries communities acknowledge the negative consequences of GBV and are actively collaborating with their local Assemblies to establish systems to prevent GBV. In August, communities in Aboazi and Abuesi were so passionate about ending the cycle of violence against women that they established two Circles of Support. These are informal community groups that receive intensive training to certify the group to provide counseling and care for current or potential victims of abuse. These two Circles of Support conduct small but impactful actions such as holding meetings at designated points where interested people gather to share their stories, seek advice, offer help to those in need, and support case referrals. The Circle of Support's commitment is to provide safe spaces for holding dialogue on GBV and counselling and providing care for survivors in an environment of safety and trust. The Circle of Support concept has received endorsement through community dialogues organized by GFRA and the Department of Social Welfare. In remote fishing communities with limited access to protection services, the Circles of Support provide a much needed platform for ensuring actions against GBV.

**A Community's Awakening to Fix Address Teenage Pregnancy:** In Kedzi in the Volta Region, at least 3 out of 10 girls drop-out due to teenage pregnancy. Although the Ghana Education Service 'Back to School Policy' encourages pregnant and nursing students to progress in their schooling, most do not. In July 2023, GFRA partner, TV3 Network, broadcasted the story of five (5) girls who have fallen victim to unplanned, teenage pregnancy due to poverty and abuse. The TV story was a call to action for community leadership and government officials, led by the Department of Social Welfare, Ghana Education Service, and community leaders, to raise awareness and curtail further abuse and neglect. The Community Child Protection Committee in Kedzi also started monitoring the girls and offering counselling as needed. After extensive counselling, the girls decided to return to school. However, the risk of falling victim a second time is high if underlying economic vulnerabilities are not addressed. Through the livelihood programme, GFRA is offering short-term skills training for the girls to afford a sustainable source of income to cater for their education and provide for their babies. The businesses they will establish will be run concurrently with their schooling. The skills training will be complemented with empowerment training to build their confidence, inspiration, and assertiveness to secure their future. GFRA and its partners will guide the girls to re-write their stories for the future to turn them into success stories.



## 3.2 Integrating FP/RH Information and Services

In Year Two, USAID approved a partnership between GFRA and Health Marketing Activity to expand FP/RH services to fishing communities. Unplanned pregnancies, sexually active youth, teenage pregnancy, and large family sizes are common in these communities, possibly due to lack of access to family planning services. The partnership kicked off in November 2022 with an outreach event at the National Fish Festival. Since then, HMA has organized fifteen outreach and education events across GFRA sites that have directly reached 6758 fishers with family planning education, counselling, and service provision (see Table 6). According to HMA, the rates of uptake are significantly higher than usual engagements in non-fisheries communities and upon receiving counseling individuals are decisive and sure of their choices. The high rates of uptake of longer term FP methods such as implants, injectables and pills is indicative of much needed information and services to allow women to plan the timing and spacing of their children. To sustain this, HMA trained Health Personnel to provide door-to-door services for 14 GFRA communities.

Table 3: FP/RH uptake at GFRA sites.

Product/Service	Uptake
Condoms	6403
Injectable (DMPA)	94
Implant	156
Pills	98
IUD	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6758</b>

The HMA compiled a Reproductive Health Training Curriculum geared towards young people to specifically encourage GFRA livelihood trainees to have autonomy over their reproductive health. OICG also received training on the FP/RH modules to carry out training for master craftsmen in the Central and Western regions. The curriculum is taught by clinical health service providers over a 6 month period and reinforced by master craftsmen during their daily interactions with the livelihood trainees. The health service providers visit the livelihood trainees twice a month to take them

Table 4: Numbers of livelihood beneficiaries reached with FP/RH

Category of Trainee	Greater Accra	Central	Volta	Western	TOTAL
No. of Health Providers trained	3	24	-	64	91
No. of Master Craftsmen trained	-	25	-	58	83
No. of OICG staff trained	-	4	-	5	9
No. of Livelihood Beneficiaries reached	13	82	-	215	310
No. of Communities reached with messages	1	3	4	6	14

through the lessons. It is important to note that at each visit to a master craftsman's shop, all apprentices available at the shop, whether beneficiaries of GFRA's livelihood program or not, are included in the training and thus benefit from this FP/RH lecture. Livelihood trainees are awarded a badge upon completion of each module after undergoing a verbal

knowledge assessment. For sustainability purposes, livelihood beneficiaries will be recognized as FP champions after they have completed all 3 modules, to keep the FP/RH conversation ongoing with their communities and peers.

## 3.3 GFRA's Social Impact Assessment and Community Engagement Plan

In Year 2, GFRA upgraded project safeguards, particularly related to the livelihood program which engages with youth and women vulnerable to poverty and manipulation. The project's Community Engagement Plan was refreshed and renamed the Community Engagement and Safeguarding Plan (CESP) to emphasize GFRA's zero-tolerance for abuse. The CESP now includes mechanisms for safeguarding all individuals that come into contact with the project with clear processes for preventing and responding to sexual misconduct and all forms of abuse, particularly against children, youth, and vulnerable adults. GFRA conducted a training for internal staff and another one specifically for grantee and subcontract partners on the requirements CESP and required all participants to sign a statement

acknowledging their adherence with the CESP and its principles. GFRA also assesses potential risks associated with project engagements with communities to anticipate mitigation measures in line with the CESP.

## 4. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

GFRA is responsible for ensuring that data generated from activities and interventions is reliable and accurately collected, processed, and verified in a timely manner to inform both reporting and adaptive management of the project activities. GFRA's primary data comes from activities conducted by the program implementation staff and the annual outcome survey for project results and outcome indicator reporting. GFRA's MEL team conducted formal training for grantees and subcontractors on the MEL system, policies, procedures, templates, and forms and provided ongoing mentoring to ensure accurate reporting. The MEL team collaborated with the project implementation team to revise the AMELP in order to accommodate new targets resulting from the ceiling increase and lessons learned during implementation. GFRA organized its second annual Pause and Reflect Workshop in March 2023, which was examined learning questions pertaining to livelihoods, post-harvest, and fisheries management strategies and informed adjustments to the project's theory of change and resulting approaches.

In September 2023, GFRA conducted an annual outcome survey to capture project outcome data. The survey sampled members who have completed their livelihood training and collected information on their employment status and improved economic benefits. The survey also sampled and collected data from processors who complete trainings in financial literacy and entrepreneurship and SFCLS in order to assess their improved economic benefits and their application of improved management practices. Aside from their inclusion in this annual report, the outcome indicator survey results will be presented in a comprehensive outcome survey report.

Early in Year 2, USAID MEL and the Ghana MEL Platform conducted a data quality assurance (DQA) on the GFRA MEL system and its data collection procedures. In addition, Tetra Tech's home office MEL lead conducted an internal DQA on the data collection systems and the annual results reported by GFRA. Table 11 presents the summary of GFRA's Year 2 results while Annex III presents the detailed results that will be reported in the Development Information System (DIS).

## 5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In Year 2, GFRA closed the Takoradi office and moved staff to the Accra office due to the strong presence of subcontractor Hen Mpoano, who continues to lead GFRA site level interventions in the Western and Central Regions. GFRA terminated a grant to Friends of the Nation, who were leading activities in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions, due to weak institutional safeguards. GFRA took over direct implementation of all activities in the Volta and Greater Accra regions.

Given the increase in site level activities and the need to ensure GFRA staff are on the ground to ensure strong safeguards, especially over the recruitment of livelihoods beneficiaries, GFRA hired 11 Community Field Agents on a short term consultancy basis to work closely with the technical team, grantees, and other members of the GFRA team to identify and support the implementation of its site level activities. Table 10 presents the list of all active staff under the GFRA.

Table 5: List of current GFRA staff

Current GFRA Staff hired by Tetra Tech	
1.	Chief of Party – Heather D'Agnes ( <i>key personnel</i> )
2.	Deputy Chief of Party – (Operations) Maxwell Amoah ( <i>key personnel</i> )
3.	Policy and Enforcement Advisor – Dr. Godfred Ameyaw Asiedu ( <i>key personnel</i> )
4.	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Advisor – Baviina Safia Musah ( <i>key personnel</i> )
5.	Operations Manager – Afua Nyarkoa Asare

6. Electronic Monitoring System Advisor - Papa Yaw Atobrah
7. Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Specialist – Doris Amponsaa Owusu
8. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Specialist - Kusi Boateng
9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist – Christian Npaa-Emwin Kuder
10. Fisheries Management Specialist – Socrates Apetorgbor Segbor
11. Social and Behavior Change Communication Specialist – Perfectual Labik
12. Fisheries Officer – Sheila Fynn Korsah
13. Community Officer – Yvonne Delali Avornokadzi
14. Community Officer – Deborah Polley
15. Communication Officer – Matilda Mensah
16. Livelihoods Officer – Anthony Mankona
17. MEL Assistant - Anabel Guo Mwinsongme
18. Accountant – Moses Nii Abbey
19. Administrative and Logistics Assistant – Cecilia Nana Adwoa Arthur
20. Grants and Subcontract Assistant – Efua Atta Koomson
21. Events and Travel Coordinator – Theresa Biney
22. Driver – Isaac Aduoku
23. Driver – John Edumadze
24. Driver – Mohammed Sani
25. Driver - Joshua Letsa
26. Receptionist – Mavis Korkor
27. Cleaner - Comfort Nuamah

## 5.1 Grants & Subcontracts

GFRA works in close partnership with 16 organizations under the GUC and subcontracts. In Year 2, GFRA issued 8 grants under APS I to support livelihoods, post-harvest, behavior change, and GESI objectives. In July, GFRA launched APS II to solicit new grants and support a co-creation approach to identifying new partners to support all five of GFRA’s strategic approaches. GFRA received 27 concept papers during the first round and anticipates awarding at least 10 grants to successful applicants.

The Grants and Administration team organized a Grantees and Partners meeting in June 2023 to build a shared understanding of GFRA goals and approaches, share recent progress to know what is working well and what could be improved, and to provide training on GFRA requirements for branding and marking, MEL, safeguards for vulnerable beneficiaries, and financial management.

Table 6: List of Active GFRA Grantees and Subcontractors

GRANTEES	SUBCONTRACTORS
Opportunities Industrialization Centre Ghana (OICG)	Hen Mpoano
Central and Western Fishmongers improvement Association (CEWEFIA)	Lintas Ghana Limited (Mullen Lowe)
Chefs Association of Ghana (CAG)	Philnita Company Limited (PCL)
Children and Youth in Broadcasting-Curious Minds (CYIB-Curious Minds)	Creator’s Computer Clinic (CCC)
TV3 Network	DevWorks International
Development Action Association (DAA)	Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
Alpha Communications and Health Foundation (ACHF)	The Nature Conservancy
Ghana National Canoe and Fishermen Council (GNCFC)	
International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)	

Table 7: Annual Performance Report FY23

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
1	Fishing Mortality at MSY for small pelagics (Fmsy)	Annual	Increasing	NA	Stable	Increasing			Baseline Fmsy RS: 0.2 FS: 0.1 2022 Fmsy RS: 1.74 FS: 3.34  2022 data is preliminary based on Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) assessment and will be updated by December 2023. Based on this data Fmsy is increasing.
2	Biomass to produce MSY for small pelagics (Bmsy)	Annual		0	Stable	Decreasing			Baseline Bmsy RS: 122,830 mt FS: 41,656 mt 2022 Bmsy RS: 49,818 mt FS: 10,196 mt  2022 data is preliminary based on CECAF assessment and will be updated by December 2023. Based on this data, Bmsy is decreasing suggesting that the fishery is not reaching its potential sustainable yield.
3	Number of people trained in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and/or livelihoods programs	Quarterly	10,100	270	2,000	1768	88%	2,038	419 current livelihoods trainees will complete their trainings in FY24 and GFRA plans to scale up OICG training to 2,000 more trainees in FY24.



#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
4	Percent of individuals with better employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs (EG.6-15)	Annual	75%	0	65%	97%	149%	97%	Trainees interviewed for the outcome survey indicated that they have better employment following their participation in the GFRA livelihood program.
5	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (GNDR-2)	Quarterly	65%	91%	65%	92%	141%		GFRA exceeded the target because most interventions to increase access to productive economic resources target women in the post-harvest sector.
6	Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (YOUTH-3)	Quarterly	50%	2%	50%	8.41%			The results for this indicator are driven by the fish processors, who are mainly over 30 years of age. GFRA is targeting more youth in Year 3 by recruiting those from the livelihood trainings into VSLAs.
7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs (EG.4.2-7)	Quarterly	7,225	316	1,700	1,939	114%	2,255	GFRA has formed 81 VSLAs with a total membership of 1,939. Most of the membership are post-harvest processors.
8	Value of financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	Annual	\$20,000.00	0	\$3,000	\$30,352 <sup>11</sup>	1,011.7%		GFRA's work with rural banks successfully increasing finance accessed by processors.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter/en/?from=USD&to=GHS&amount=1> October 13, 2023 – 1USD to 11.729 GHS

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year I FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
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	9,205	287	1,855	725	39%		GFRA does not measure improved economic benefits for six months after the individual has received assistance. In Y2, most individuals completed training in Q3 and Q4 of FY 23 resulting in only 1,168 individuals to sample for the outcome survey. GFRA will increase results in Year 3 given the increases in livelihoods trainings. GFRA will target all participants trained after the survey in Year 3.
10	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-24)	Annual	No LOA as per FtF handbook	140,000	140,265	140,894	100%	140,894	140,000 individuals are reported applying a key fisheries management measure - the closed season - while 894 individuals from the post-harvest sector are applying key management practices in post harvest handling, value-added processing, marketing, and distribution.
11	Number of artisanal fishing canoes registered as a result of USG support	Annual	15,775	0	500	1,655	331%	1,655	This is secondary data from the FC. A baseline of 14,275 canoes were registered at the start of the project. During Year 2, an additional 1655 were registered during the GFRA supported Canoe Frame Survey.
12	Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support (EG.3.1-d)	Annual	<a href="#">link to the Excel spreadsheet</a>						

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
13	Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-25)	Annual	No LOA as per FtF handbook	500,000	530,000	530,000	100%	530,000	This target was achieved through support of the Closed Season as an improved management practices and the selection of the Greater Cape Three Points MPA area which is 30,000 ha.
14	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-2)	Annual	572,140	500,000	530,000	530,000	100%	530,000	Same as indicator 13 above
15	Number of reports made by community enforcement (i.e., Eyes on the Water, LaBECs) units on suspected violations to law enforcement. (Custom)	Quarterly	840	0	120	118	98%	118	GFRA formed 6 Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs) that started reporting violations in Q4.
16	Number of people that apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-6)	Annual	700	0	100	74	74%	74	GFRA underperformed on this target because most LaBECs were just inaugurated in Q4, leaving little time for application of the law. GFRA catch up in Year 3.
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	11,500	1,528	2,200	3,165	144%	4,693	Due to the emphasis on community dialogues and trainings related to the moratorium and closed season, GFRA was able to reach larger numbers of fishers than anticipated.

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
18	Percent of women and youth members participating in fisheries co-management committees (custom)	Annual	40%	39%	20%	40%	198%		GFRA formed 6 co-management – 2 national level and 4 are regional level. Inclusion of women and youth in these committees was prioritized by the fisher associations who nominated members.
19	Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions (Custom)	Annual	193	8	30	32	107%	40	
20	Number of people trained in the prevention of human trafficking (PS 5.3-15)	Quarterly	9,000	1,351	2,500	3,290	132%	4,641	GFRA decided to accelerate this work in Year 2 and lay the groundwork for community actions against CLaT and GBV.
21	Number of public proclamations and actions against GBV and Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT). (Custom)	Annual	58	2	10	10	100%	12	Public proclamations are made publicly by influential leaders such as religious leaders, chiefs, and leadership of fisher associations. Actions include the adoption of local by-laws on GBV and CLaT, reporting of perpetrators and counselling of perpetrators/victims
22	Number of unique GBV and CLaT awareness materials designed or adopted through foreign assistance	Semi-Annual	37	0	12	11	92%	11	These materials include community dramas, jingles, posters, and branded clothing.
23	Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs	Quarterly	No LOA as per FtF handbook	2,824	145,265	149,817	103%		



## 6. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

The GFRA financial report for the period ending September 30, 2023, is below.

		Cumulative FY 2021	Cumulative FY 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4	Cumulative FY 2023	Cumulative Project	Budget estimate for Next Quarter (Q1)
		May 25 2021 to Sept 30, 2021	Oct 1, 2021 to Sep 30, 2022	Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2023	Jan 1, 23 to Mar 31, 2023	April 1, 23 to June 30, 2023	July 1, to Sept 30, 2023	Oct 1, 2022 to Sep 30, 2023	May 25 2021 to Sept 30, 2023	Oct 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023
		USD	USD	USD	USD	USD		USD	USD	
1	Total Est. USAID Amount								23,643,471	
2	Total funds obligated								9,609,995	
3	Funds expended:									
3.a	Direct Cost	352,164	2,402,350	696,180	573,253	750,876	1,168,573	3,188,882	5,943,210	\$ 771,597
3.b	Grants Under Contract	0	28,188	60,919	144,571	134,908	180,505	520,903	549,092	\$ 154,164
3.c	Indirect Costs	92,248	526,467	126,542	115,170	139,059	196,694	573,052	1,191,767	\$ 200,725
3.d	Fixed Fee	38,906	242,558	96,565	5,061	126,639	7,861	236,126	517,589	\$ 88,642
4	Total funds expended:	483,318	3,199,563	980,206	838,055	1,151,482	1,553,633	4,523,376	8,201,658	\$ 1,215,128
5	Funded Value remaining (2 – 4)								1,408,337.00	
5	Total Value remaining (1 – 4)								15,441,813.00	

	Accruals for next quarter (Q1)			
	30-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec	Total
DIRECT COST	203,337	226,016	342,243	771,597
Indirect cost	44,265	47,710	62,190	154,164
Grants	45,074	75,559	80,092	200,725
Fixed Fee	-	60,853	27,789	88,642
Total	292,676	410,138	512,314	1,215,128

## ANNEX I: Media coverage of Fisheries Issues as a result of GFRA support

	STORY SLUG	PROOF/VERIFICATION	THEMATIC AREA
1	Mission: Ensuring Safe Fish Processing: Promoting Best Practices in Half Assini, Western Region.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6TNoJamf3o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6TNoJamf3o</a>	Safe Fish Handling and Processing
2	Mission: Safe Fishing Handling - Processor Uses Improved Processing Methods	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XxlQqcBs3I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XxlQqcBs3I</a>	Safe Fish Handling and Processing
3	Child Labour & Trafficking: Spotlight on Elmina Community	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkSCbtUencc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkSCbtUencc</a>	CLaT
4	Children Fish at Expense of Education in Mumford Landing Beach C/R	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ng-Xt3eqO0A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ng-Xt3eqO0A</a>	CLaT
5	Mission: School Children Engage in Fishing in Half Assini W/R	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLWkZbtdlBw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLWkZbtdlBw</a>	CLaT
6	Mission: Marine Resource Under Threat in Half Assini W/R	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkwYylIaobo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkwYylIaobo</a>	Safe fish handling/illegal fishing
7	Ghana's Declining Fish Stock: Spotlight on Half Assini, Western Region.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KPOCeTrupA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KPOCeTrupA</a>	Illegal fishing
8	Unapproved Fishing Nets: Spotlight on half Assini, Western Region	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KV8PNygow">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KV8PNygow</a>	Illegal fishing
9	Safe Fish Processing: Spotlight on unhygienic practices, certification.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E379xBUzW8c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E379xBUzW8c</a>	Safe fish handling and processing
10	Balancing Demand and Safety: Fish Processing Challenges at Elmina Landing Beach	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9CAYXmzE7k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9CAYXmzE7k</a>	Safe fish handling and processing

11	Mission: Promoting Sustainability - The Importance of Responsible Fishing Practices	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2EWBqEbRPw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2EWBqEbRPw</a> .	Illegal Fishing
12.	Mission: Tackling Unapproved Fishing Nets: Focus on Elmina, Central Region	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtkmklZ7kkg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtkmklZ7kkg</a> .	Illegal Fishing
13.	Mission: Monofilament Net Ban - Ensuring Fisheries Resource Protection in Ketu, Volta Region	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0tNwgT0slQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0tNwgT0slQ</a>	Illegal fishing
14	Mission: Fishing Woes: Fishermen Express Concern Over Declining Fish Stocks in the Volta Region	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVwAevWZJm8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVwAevWZJm8</a>	Illegal Fishing
15.	Mission: Combatting Illegal Fishing: Focus on Elmina, Central Region	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpJlcVevkgU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpJlcVevkgU</a>	Illegal Fishing
16	Mission: Rejoice Adjorlolo's Journey as a Female Boat Owner in a Male-Dominated Field	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_w7nGXooQJs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_w7nGXooQJs</a>	Illegal fishing
17	Mission: Christian Gavor Explores Alternative Livelihoods in the Face of Fishing Decline	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV88jpZQsCw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV88jpZQsCw</a>	Economic resilience/supplemental livelihood
<b>FISHERIES EYE</b>			
18	Fisheries Eye: Safe Fish Handling at Winneba (Re-broadcast)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-MkupjYbOk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-MkupjYbOk</a>	Safe fish handling
19	Fisheries Eye: Supplemental Livelihood	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4BriNKIxI4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4BriNKIxI4</a>	Supplemental/alternative livelihood
20	Fisheries Eye: Teenage Pregnancy in Fishing Communities	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emA5IkU5JrU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emA5IkU5JrU</a>	CLaT
21	Fisheries Eye: Women Against 'Light' Fishing	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzCPXPj8xUw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzCPXPj8xUw</a>	Illegal Fishing

22	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYMyeBTDtmk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYMyeBTDtmk</a> Fishes Eye: Tackling Illegal Fishing	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYMyeBTDtmk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYMyeBTDtmk</a>	Illegal Fishing
23	Fisheries Eye Closed Season Compliance	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HqtrX8IwjE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HqtrX8IwjE</a>	Illegal Fishing
24	Fisheries Eye: Women's Challenges in Fisheries Sector	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jtv8DXUtHsM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jtv8DXUtHsM</a>	GBV/Illegal fishing
<b>MEDIA FELLOWS STORIES</b>			
1	Feature article	<a href="https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/The-closed-season-chronicles-a-glimpse-into-the-middleman-s-world-1827371">The Closed Season Chronicles: A Glimpse Into The Middleman's World - AmaGhanaonline.com</a>	Closed season
2	Feature Article	<a href="https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/The-contamination-of-fish-in-our-markets-1827371">https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/The-contamination-of-fish-in-our-markets-1827371</a>	Post-Harvest
3	News Article	<a href="https://thechronicle.com.gh/feature-unraveling-the-story-behind-use-of-illegal-fishing-nets-in-ghana/">https://thechronicle.com.gh/feature-unraveling-the-story-behind-use-of-illegal-fishing-nets-in-ghana/</a>	Illegal fishing
4	Feature Article	<a href="https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/The-unsung-heroes-of-ghana-s-fishing-industry-1827371">The Unsung Heroes of Ghana's Fishing Industry (gbcghanaonline.com)</a>	General
<b>OTHER STORIES</b>			
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://dangmecommunity.wordpress.com/2022/12/09/madame-victoria-recalled-her-youthful-age-around-the-landing-beaches-of-ghanas-coasts-joy-and-sorrow/">https://dangmecommunity.wordpress.com/2022/12/09/madame-victoria-recalled-her-youthful-age-around-the-landing-beaches-of-ghanas-coasts-joy-and-sorrow/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/stringent-law-enforcement-on-fisheries-crucial-consultant.html">https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/stringent-law-enforcement-on-fisheries-crucial-consultant.html</a></li> <li><a href="https://dangmecommunity.wordpress.com/2022/12/30/sdgs-and-fish/">https://dangmecommunity.wordpress.com/2022/12/30/sdgs-and-fish/</a></li> </ul>		

## ANNEX II: GFRA 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 imposes 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 2022 to September 2023\_\_

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 <a href="#">USAID Sector Guidelines for Fisheries</a> .	<p>The activities of the GFRA have adhered to the best practices outlined in the USAID sector guidelines for fisheries.</p> <p>Under the support of the ecological carrying capacity study to inform fisheries management decisions, the majority of capacity-building trainings and planning include the integration and/or reflections on best practices, such as the design of the GFRA's interventions to include activities that prevent or reduce overfishing for all fish populations, particularly the small pelagic. At the start of the implementation process, a stock assessment was conducted to determine the current status of the fish populations. Through the Science and Technical Committees (STC), the co-management committees, and the fishing associations, GFRA is striving towards a participatory process in fisheries management that is inclusive. GFRA is also collaborating with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to transition from open access to managed or regulated access systems via the registration of all canoes and vessels and the imposition of the moratorium on new entrants. Likewise, other controls of fishing efforts, like the closed seasons and the redesign of fishing gear to reduce by-catch in the industry trawl sector, assist in the management of the fishing stock.</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
<b>RESULT 1.2: ALTERNATIVE AND DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS FOR FISHERIES COMMUNITIES INCREASED, INCLUDING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH</b>			
Assess and identify viable alternative livelihood options	All livelihood options identified would be screened for their environmental friendliness and sustainability.	All the livelihood options identified for implementation were screened for their impact on the environment. For example, none of the livelihood options involve the construction of buildings, aquaculture, or the use of limited and endangered forest products. The livelihoods that have been prioritized involve long-term skills training with a duration of 3–12 months for trade areas such as electrical installation, plumbing, consumer electronic repairs, and garment making; short-term skills training with a duration of 1–5 days for trades such as flour confection and production of household detergents; and the goods-based option, where the beneficiary is supported to start a small business to trade in goods such as food and beverages, cosmetics, footwear sewing accessories, and detergents.	
Support employment transition and capacity development of individuals exiting fisheries.	Environmentally destructive livelihoods will not be promoted.	During Year 3, youth in fisheries will continue to 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.	
<b>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</b>			
<b>RESULT 2.1 SEAFOOD PRODUCT QUALITY, VALUE, AND NUTRITIONAL BENEFIT ENHANCED</b>			
Conduct value chain analysis	All training and capacity building activities must incorporate and promote sound environmental management practices in general conformity with relevant chapters of <a href="#">USAID's Sectoral Guidelines</a> . In specific GFRA will:	In line with GFRA's Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP), GFRA is reflecting USAID Sector Guidelines for Fisheries in the Safe Fish Certification and Licensing Scheme (SFCLS). Specifically, certified fish processors are encouraged to adopt improved and energy efficient fish smoking technologies to reduce the consumption 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>Enhance fish processing practices to meet quality and sanitation standards required for seafood product certification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote adoption and use of improved, energy efficient and low emission fish processing technologies.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Support for micro and small-scale processing enterprises will follow guidelines outlined by the <a href="#">Food processing resource efficient and cleaner production briefing and resource guide for micro &amp; small enterprises</a> . GFRA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of environmentally friendly packaging materials for fish products. Specifically, the use of bio-degradable and recyclable materials.</li> </ul>	<p>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 with proper waste management is one of the requirements under the SFCLS. As a requirement under the SFCLS, DevWorks is reducing environmental pollution through proper waste handling by fish processors.</p> <p>GFRA is promoting the use of food grade packaging materials for fish packaging and discourages the use of cement papers and old newspaper.</p>	
STRATEGIC APPROACH 3 STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CO-MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNANCE PRACTICES FOR FISHERIES POLICYMAKING, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT			

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
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 marine fishing practices will include best practices regarding sustainable harvesting, multiple use, and social implications of fisheries management including principles of environmental protection, social and conflict management, and sustainability.	Development of a strategy to guide the implementation of the 3-year moratorium factored in global best practices while identifying measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the management measure on the resource users. Promotion of the use of fiberglass canoes and reducing the overdependence on wood for the canoes are other environmental benefits of the management measure in the long term. GFRA ensured active fisher participation as well as inclusion of marginalized group who have direct interest in the resource, will reduce potential conflicts.	
Establish EAFM framework to enhance fisheries co-management, policymaking, regulation, and enforcement.	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.	Implementation of other management measures were based on best practices for example, the timing and implementation of fishing closed season coincides with the spawning period, and thereby ensuring that the management measure will achieve its objective of allowing young fish to join the fishery.	
Increase fisheries co-management association capacity to operate effectively and reduce conflict.	Additionally, planning and management will analyze the sustainability of fisheries and implications of planning and management on protected areas and non-target aquatic species.		
Update and strengthen implementation of national small pelagic fisheries management policies and programs	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.		
Identify and support GFRA Champions to strengthen political will in support of consistent and equitable enforcement of fisheries regulations.	No stun, dynamite, chemical, or long line fishing methods or use of bed nets (insecticide or non-treated) for fishing.  Training and support will promote and abide by fishing regulations, including appropriate sizes and catch limits, lure types, by-catch		

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>Support implementation of closed seasons within artisanal fishing waters.</p> <p>Strengthen local and national efforts to combat IUU fishing by artisanal and industrial vessels.</p>	<p>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>		



### ANNEX III: GFRA Detailed Annual Performance Results.

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year I FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
1	Fishing Mortality at MSY for small pelagics (Fmsy)	Annual		0	Stable	Increasing			<p>Baseline Fmsy RS: 0.2 FS: 0.1</p> <p>2022 FMSY RS: 1.74 FS: 3.34</p> <p>2022 data is preliminary based on Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) assessment and will be updated by December 2023. Based on this data, Fmsy is increasing. Effective enforcement of key management measures such as the 3-year moratorium should contribute to stabilizing the effort.</p>
2	Biomass to produce MSY for small pelagics (Bmsy)	Annual		0	Stable	Decreasing			<p>Baseline Bmsy RS: 122, 830 mt FS: 41, 656</p> <p>2022 Bmsy RS: 49, 818 mt FS: 10, 196 mt</p> <p>2022 data is preliminary based on CECAF assessment and will be updated by December 2023. Based on this data, Bmsy is reducing. The current figures are lower than the reference points, which suggests that the</p>

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
									fishery is not reaching its potential sustainable yield.
3	Number of people trained in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and/or livelihoods programs	Quarterly	10,100	270	2,000	1,768	88%	2,038	119 Beneficiaries in Volta and Greater Accra regions are in the process of completing their training under OICG. ACHP is training 300 beneficiaries who will be completing in FY24. GFRA is in the process of negotiating a grant with OICG to train 2,000 more in FY24.
	Sex: Male					222			
	Sex: Female					1,546			
	Age: 15-29					637			
	Age: 30+					1,131			
4	Percent of individuals with better employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs (EG.6-15)	Annual	75%	0	65%	97%	149%	97%	The initial beneficiaries followed up indicated that they have better employment following their participation in the GFRA livelihood program.
	Numerator					66			
	Denominator					68			
	Total number of female participants reporting better employment					66			
	Total number of male participants reporting better employment					0			
	Total number of females participating in workforce development programs					68			
	Total number of males participating in workforce development programs					0			

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
5	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (GNDR-2)	Quarterly	65%	91%	65%	92%	141%		GFRA exceeded the target in Year 2 because the majority of interventions to increase access to productive economic resources targeted women in the post-harvest sector.
	Numerator			289		1,780			
	Denominator			316		1,939			
6	Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (YOUTH-3)	Quarterly	50%	2%	50%	8.41%			The results for this indicator are driven by the fish processors, who are mainly over 30 years of age. GFRA is targeting more youth in Year 3 by involving those from the livelihood trainings into VSLAs.
	Numerator			7		163			
	Denominator			316		1,939			
	Numerator: Number of male youth program participants					22			
	Denominator: Number of male program participants					159			
	Numerator: Number of female youth program participants					141			
	Denominator: Number of female program participants					1,780			
7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs (EG.4.2-7)	Quarterly	7,225	316	1,700	1,939	114%	2,255	GFRA has formed 81 VSLAs with a total membership of 1,939. Most of the membership are post-harvest women who are mobilised into VSLAs.
	Sex: Female			289	1,491	1,780			

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
	Sex: Male			27	132	159			
	Age: 15-29			7	156	163			
	Age: 30+			309	1,467	1,776			
	Product Type: Savings			316	1,623	1,939			
	Product Type: Credit								
	Duration: New					1,623			
	Duration: Continuing					316			
8	Value of financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	Annual	\$ 20,000.00	0	\$3,000	\$30,352 <sup>12</sup>	1011.7%		GFRA was able to work with Rural Banks and Microfinance institutions that have been successful in increasing their coverage to processors.
	Debit: Cash					356,000			
	Debit: In-kind								
	Value								
	Size of recipient(s): Individual Enterprise					293,500			
	Size of recipient(s): Small and Medium					62,500			
	Sex of recipient(s): (Male)					21,900			
	Sex of recipient(s): (Female)					334,100			
	Age of recipient(s): (15-29)					3,000			
	Age of recipient(s): (30+)					353,000			

<sup>12</sup> <sup>12</sup> <https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter/en/?from=USD&to=GHS&amount=1> October 13, 2023 – 1USD to 11.729 GHS



#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
	Number								
	Size of Recipient (Individual)					89			
	Size of Recipient (Small/Medium Enterprises)					8			
	Sex of Recipient (Male)					5			
	Sex of Recipient (Female)					92			
	Age of Recipient (15-29)					1			
	Age of Recipient (30+)					96			
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	9,205	287	1,855	725	39%		This results for this indicator are low because GFRA does not measure improved economic benefits for six months after the individual has received assistance. In the case of GFRA, many of the individuals completed training in Q3 and Q4 of FY 23, so we only had 1,168 individuals to sample when conducting the outcome survey. GFRA will increase results in Year 3 given the increases in livelihoods trainings planned. GFRA will target all participants trained after the survey in Year 3.
	Sex: Male					21			
	Sex: Women					704			
	Conservation Law Compliance category: Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing					725			
10	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-24)	Annual	No LOA as per FtF handbook	140,000	140,265	140,894	100%	140,894	GFRA has achieved this target. 140,000 individuals are reported applying a key fisheries management measure - the closed season - while 894 individuals from the post-harvest sector are applying key management

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
II									practices in post harvest handling, value-added processing, marketing and distribution and others - facility arrangement
	Value Chain Actor Type: Smallholder producers					140,000			
	Sex: Disaggregates Not Available					140,000			
	Age: Disaggregates Not Available					140,000			
	Management Practices: Wild-caught fisheries management					140,000			
	Value Chain Actor Type: People in private sector firms					894			
	Sex: Female					876			
	Sex: Male					18			
	Age: 15-29					81			
	Age: 30+					813			
	Management Practices: Post Harvest Handling					824			
	Management Practices: Value-added processing					227			
	Management Practices: Marketing and distribution					300			
	Management Practices: Other					318			
	Number of artisanal fishing canoes registered as a result of USG support	Annual	15,775	0	500	1,655	331%	1,655	This is secondary data from the Fisheries Commission. A baseline of 14,275 canoes were registered at the start of the project. During Year 2, an additional 1655 were registered during the GFRA supported Canoe Frame Survey. This indicator has a baseline value of 14,275.

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
12	Milestones in improved institutional architecture for food security policy achieved with USG support (EG.3.1-d)	Annual	<a href="#">link to the Excel spreadsheet</a>						
13	Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance (EG.3.2-25)	Annual	No LOA as per FtF handbook	500,000	530,000	530,000	100%	530,000	This target was achieved through GFRA support of the Closed Season as an improved management practices and the delineation of the Greater Cape Three Points MPA which is 30,000 ha.
	Type of Hectare: Freshwater or marine ecosystems					530,000			
	Sex: Association Applied					530,000			
	Age: Association Applied					530,000			
	Mgt Practice: Wild-caught fisheries mgt					530,000			
14	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-2)	Annual	572,140	500,000	530,000	530,000	100%	530,000	Same as indicator 13 above
	Ecosystem: Costal-Marine				530,000				
	CLC: IUU				530,000				
15	Number of reports made by community enforcement (i.e., Eyes on the Water, LaBECs) units on suspected violations to law enforcement. (Custom)	Quarterly	840	0	120	118	98%	118	GFRA formed 6 Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs) that started reporting violations to law enforcement.

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
16	Number of people that apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance (EG.10.2-6)	Annual	700	0	100	74	74%	74	GFRA achieved this target because most of the LaBECs were inaugurated in Year 2, Q4. GFRA anticipates accelerating LaBEC establishment and reporting in Year 3.
	Sex: Male					63			
	Sex: Female					11			
	CLC: IUU					74			
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	11,500	1,528	2,200	3,165	144%	4,693	Due to the emphasis on community dialogues and trainings related to the moratorium and closed season, GFRA was able to reach larger numbers of fishers than anticipated.
	Male					1,838			
	Female					1,327			
	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing					3,165			
	Subject Matter of Natural Resource Training			Female	Male	Total			
	Natural Resource Training (Co-Management)			793	979	1,772			
	Natural Resource Training (Journalism)			40	77	117			
	Natural Resource Training (Close Season)			103	230	333			
	Natural Resource Training (Moratorium)			273	433	706			
	Natural Resource Training (MPA)			0	0	0			
	Natural Resource Training (Canoe)			0	0	0			

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
	Natural Resource Training (LABEC)			16	96	112			
	Natural Resource Training (Capacity Strengthening)			102	23	125			
	Natural Resource Training (Other)			0	0	0			
18	Percent of women and youth members participating in fisheries co-management committees (custom)	Annual	40%	39%	20%	40%	198%		GFRA formed 6 co-maangement committees by the end of FY23. 2 are national level committees and 4 are regional level co-management committees. Inclusion of women and youth in these committees was prioritized by the fisher associations who nominated members.
	Numerator: number of women and youth in co-management committees					36			
	Denominator: total membership of co-management committees					91			
19	Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions (Custom)	Annual	193	8	30	32	107%	40	
	Individuals					22			
	CSOs					10			
	New					17			
	Continuing					5			
20	Number of people trained in the prevention of human trafficking (PS 5.3-15)	Quarterly	9,000	1,351	2,500	3,290	132%	4,641	GFRA decided to accelerate this work in Year 2, to lay the groundwork for community actions against CLaT and GBV.
	Male					1,258			
	Female					2,032			



#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
21	Number of public proclamations and actions against GBV and Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT). (Custom)	Annual	58	2	10	10	100%	12	Public proclamations are proclamations that are made in public by influential leaders such as religious leaders, chiefs, and leadership of fisher associations. Actions include the adoption of local by-laws on GBV and CLaT, adoption of local GBV and/or CLaT monitoring plans, reporting of perpetrators and counselling of perpetrators/victims
	Proclamations					7			
	Actions					3			
22	Number of unique GBV and CLaT awareness materials designed or adopted through foreign assistance	Semi-Annual	37	0	12	11	92%	11	These materials include community dramas, jingles, posters, branded clothing (T-shirts) and books.
	GBV					3			
	CLaT					8			
	Both								
23	Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs	Quarterly	No LOA as per FtF handbook	2,824	145,265	149,817	103%		
	Sex of individuals participating								
	Male					3,552			
	Female					6,265			
	Disaggregates Not Available					140,000			
	Age Category of individuals participating								
	School-aged					369			

#	Performance Indicator	Reporting Frequency	LOA Target	Year 1 FY22 Actual	YEAR 2 FY 2023				
					Y2 FY23 Target	Y2 FY23 Actual	Performance Achieved % (Reported Annually)	Cumulative (FY22/FY23)	Explanation
	15-29					1,729			
	30+					7,688			
	Disaggregates Not Available					140,031			
	<b>Type of individuals participating</b>								
	People in USG-assisted Private sector firms					1,551			
	Laborers (Non-producer diversified livelihoods participants)					654			
	Producer: Smallholder farmer					3,547			
	Disaggregates Not Available					144,279			