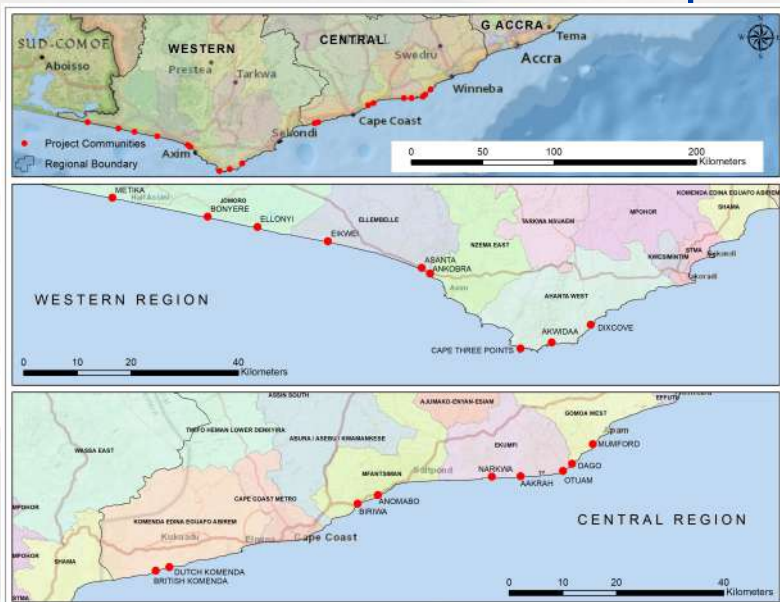


Location

The WiFVEs Project will work in 18 marine fishing communities in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana.



In the Central Region, the communities include Dago, Mumford, Aakra, Narkwa, Otuam, Anombo, Biriwa, Dutch Komenda and British Komenda.

In the Western Region, the project focuses on 9 marine fishing villages i.e.: Dixcove, Cape Three Points, Akwidaa, Ankobra, Asanta, Ekwei, Ellonyi, Bonyere and Metika.

Partner Profiles

Hen Mpoano is a Ghanaian Non-Governmental Organisation based in Takoradi in the Western Region. In collaboration with local and international partners, it is helping address food insecurity, climate change, over-fishing, gender inequality, urbanization and poverty.

It is the Lead Partner responsible for overall programmatic and financial management and reporting. It will manage the web-mapping portal, lead capacity building workshops for prosecutorial chain actors and facilitate implementation of all project activities in the Western Region.

CEWEFIA is a Ghanaian Non-Governmental Organisation based in Elmina, Ghana, West Africa. It is focused on socio-economic development of women and girls in rural Central and Western Region of Ghana.

It will lead activities to synthesize social norms in fishing communities and provide temporary safe shelter with accompanying package of legal aid, psychosocial and livelihood development support to GBV survivors identified during project implementation.

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Project Funded by the
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WiFVEs

Women in Fisheries Against Violence



Project Brochure

A Project Implemented by

Hen Mpoano





Background

Fisheries provides cheap animal protein, contributes 15% and 3.5% to agricultural and total gross domestic product (GDP) respectively, and creates jobs for 2.7 million people as fishermen, fishmongers, fish processors and traders. The roles of

women and men in Ghana's fishing industry are defined by traditional gendered roles – men undertake fishing expeditions while women comprise the large share of people responsible for fish processing and marketing.

In addition, women are engaged in fishery-related activities close to the household and focus on small catches of highly nutritious fish for immediate household consumption. In spite of these predefined roles, some women own vessels and canoes and are financiers of fishing expeditions. Nonetheless, the roles performed by women are under-represented in the sector due to harmful cultural norms and practices and societal conventions.

Often, women are disadvantaged and do not exercise the same rights and opportunities as men in the fisheries sector. Most marginalized are the women who do not own productive assets, such as boats, engines, nets or even processing equipment.

Besides, seasonality and upwelling regimes along the coast of Ghana and the larger Gulf of Guinea triggers temporary/permanent seasonal migration of fish processors and fishmongers (mostly women and youth, including adolescents) to coastal destinations both far and near their communities of origin. And in their places of destination, migrant fishers, notably women, live without access to secure land tenure and credit and have no voice in decisions that affect their livelihoods.

Although existing national legislation protect their rights, lack of knowledge about these laws inhibits women's ability to defend their rights and demand protection from duty bearers. The foregoing factors have predisposed and led many women in fisheries into violence, abuse and discrimination.

The Project

The Women in Fisheries Against Violence (WiFVEs) Project is a three-year (2022 – 2024) project funded by the European Union (EU) which has an overall objective of achieving gender equality in Ghana by advocating against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), abuse and discrimination in Ghana's marine fisheries sector.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Project works to ensure GBV is socially unacceptable by

- Deploying digital innovations like the use of GBV Web mapping tool (dash board) and social media to enhance advocacy communications to policy audience at Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Creating supportive networks of community based structures involving fisherfolk leaders, husbands and young men (men as allies) who are trained in gender responsive life skills including preventing and responding to GBV to spearhead the campaigns for gender –equitable norms and attitudes in fishing communities
- Strengthening systems and promote measure for reporting physical violence and abuses, supporting survivors of sexual and physical violence and prosecution of perpetrators of Violence Against Women
- Enhancing access to social services and livelihood opportunities both for survivors and women at-risk of GBV.

Project Goal

The WiFVEs project intends to achieve Gender Equality within Ghana's Fisheries Sector by advocating against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), abuse and discrimination, building capacities of fisher folk and their leaders to prevent and respond to GBV in fishing communities, supporting law enforcement against GBV, while improving access to social services and livelihood opportunities by women at-risk and survivors of GBV.

Specifically, the results achieved will promote;

- a) development and implementation of advocacy actions leading to enhanced public awareness and knowledge of duty bearers on the dynamics of Violence, Abuse and Discrimination (VAD) against women and on harmful social norms in Ghana's marine fisheries sector;
- b) capacity development of women, men, youth and fisher folk leaders in preventing and responding to GBV in Central and Western region fishing communities;
- c) enforcement of legislation against GBV in Central and Western region fishing communities by strengthening institutions along the prosecutorial chain;
- d) access to care facilities and social services for survivors of GBV in Central and Western region fishing communities and
- e) entrepreneurship skills and access to livelihood opportunities for women at-risk and survivors of GBV in Central and Western Region fishing communities.

Key Stakeholders

WiFVEs project works closely with the government of Ghana and relevant stakeholders, groups, including MoGCSP, DOVVSU, GHS, DSW, MoFAD, fisher folk leaders and associations in the Central and Western Region fishing communities in Ghana.