



NEWSLETTER

PROJECT UPDATE (February – October 2022)

About WiFVEs

The Women in Fisheries Against Violence (WiFVEs) project, which was awarded in 2021, is a three-year endeavor funded by the European Union and implemented by Hen Mpoano and CEWEFIA as partners. It aims at combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in all of its physical, economic, psychological, and sexual forms in coastal fishing communities of Central and Western Regions.

Furthermore, the project seeks to achieve gender equality within the fishery sector through supporting advocacy against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), abuse and discrimination in Ghana’s marine fisheries sector. The project is being implemented in 18 coastal fishing communities within 7 districts in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana.

For further information about the WiFVEs project, visit <https://henmpoano.org/women-in-fisheries-against-violence/>

Project Launch

The Project, was officially launched at a mini durbar at Anomabo on August 2022. The launch of the project enhanced awareness about its objectives, actions and expected outcomes as part of the processes to strengthen engagements with relevant actors for its successful implementation. The event saw the participation of the Head of EU Delegation, regional and district level duty bearers, traditional council and a section of fisherfolk from the project areas in Western and Central Regions.



Figure 1: Group photo of Dignitaries at the mini-durbar

Mr Jesitan Tetteh Sanakey, the Central Regional Director of the Fisheries Commission (FC), assured that his outfit does not consider violence against women and girls a social canker only, but a developmental challenge which affects majority of the Ghanaian population and inhibit their contribution to national development.

Mr Massimo Mina, the Head of Cooperation of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Ghana mentioned that, the EU will continue in its support to Ghana within the fisheries sector and promotion of gender equality.

The event ended with a call to all stakeholders to actively work to end GBV in the country.

Baseline Studies And Gender Analysis Validation Workshop

To understand the dynamics and impact of gender inequalities and harmful social norms in coastal fishing communities and to establish the pre-project status of violence perpetrated by intimate and non-intimate partners, a baseline assessment and an analysis on Gender-Based Violence in Ghana’s Marine Fisheries Sector has been conducted. A workshop was held in July 2022 in Takoradi, where relevant stakeholders working within the GBV space were invited to validate findings of the assessments.



Figure 2: Discussions on the findings of the reports

The comments received at the workshop were incorporated into the final report. The results of the two studies have become the basis for subsequent engagements. Visit <https://henmpoano.org/women-in-fisheries-against-violence/> to access factsheets that summarize the findings.

Communications Strategy Workshop

The Communication Strategy for the WIFVES Project, is intended to provide details on the strategy that would ensure awareness and high visibility of the activities carried out during the project lifespan.

For this reason, a workshop was held at Nakoff Hotel, Takoradi on the 25th March 2022 to discuss the strategy

Participants at the workshop included representatives from the Ministries of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) (Western and Central Regions), Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), and Gender Officers (Western and Central Regions),



Figure 3: A group presenting key messages developed at the workshop

Other participants were Officers from the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Police Service and Gender officers from the Fisheries Commission (Western and Central Regions).

The outcomes of the discussions were incorporated into the draft communications strategy document.

Radio Discussions on GBV Baseline Assessment and Analysis in Fishing communities

A radio discussion was held on Spice FM Morning Show hosted by Kwame Offei in Takoradi. Madam Cythnia Arthur, a community anti-GBV champion together with the WIFVES Project manager, Adiza Owusu, used the platform to advocate against some of the violence, abuse and discrimination faced within the fisheries line of work within fishing communities.



Figure 4: Discussions on the findings of the reports on air at Spice FM

The discussions were based on the findings of the GBV baseline assessment and analysis in fishing communities.

Education and Sensitization Towards Reviving Dormant Fisher Associations

The WIFVES project also undertook series of community level engagements to create awareness on the forms, drivers and effects of GBV on women, children and the marginalized groups. The engagements were used to mobilize and strengthen fisher folk associations to support advocacy and campaigns against Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Discrimination within the fisheries sector. CEWEFIA led engagements in the Central Region while Hen Mpoano led meetings in communities in the Western Region.





Figure 5: Community engagements in Western and Central Regions

Based on these engagements the team strategized on which leaders to engage to begin the process of behavioural change communication. Over 2000 fisher folks have so far been reached in the Central and Western Regions.

Sensitization Session for Journalists

A workshop was held on August 25, 2022 to update journalists on GBV concepts, laws and impacts on victims. Participants were also briefed on key issues to look out for when reporting on GBV to protect and offer support for GBV victims by exposing GBV-related incidents and their drivers.

At the end of the session, journalists were invited to apply for grants in a call for proposals for the production of short stories and documentaries on GBV within the project area.



Figure 6: Participants discussing impacts of GBV on victims

Production and screening of Drama on GBV in selected communities

The use of drama and theatre performance has proven to be an effective approach to creating awareness as it has the power to attract a large audience.



Figure 7: Video shoot of drama in progress



Figure 8: A section of the community viewing the drama video at Ekwei

A 50-minute pre-recorded drama addressing legislations and conventions protecting the rights of women, intersections between GBV and fisheries, structural inequalities, and harmful social norms in fisheries was screened in selected project communities.

Trainer of Trainers workshop organized for leaders of fisher associations in advocacy, communication and leadership.

A Trainer of Trainers workshop was organized to equip leaders of fisherfolk associations with the skills to lead community-wide advocacy against GBV and influence positive behaviors in the fisheries sector. Fisherfolk leaders including fish processors, mongers, traders received capacity building trainings on right based approaches, GBV, leadership, conflict management and negotiations, with which they are leading advocacy actions within their communities.



Figure 9: Participants at one of the capacity building trainings

Media & Publicity

A number of project-related news items have been published both on electronic and print media. Links to these publications are shown below;

Sex for Fish a Major Cause of Violence against Women- Research: <https://beachfmonline.com/sex-for-fish-a-major-cause-of-violence-against-women-research/>

Sex for Fish Discussion at Spice FM Excerpts; <https://youtu.be/yKHN3-9OUeU>

Hen Mpoano leads a project to tackle gender-based violence in fishing communities: <https://gna.org.gh/1.21536604>

Workshop on WifVEs held in Takoradi:

<https://thebftonline.com/2022/08/10/workshop-on-wifves-held-in-takoradi/>

Hen Mpoano empowers fishing communities against gender-based violence;

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1181439/hen-mpoano-empowers-fishing-communities-against.html>

Hen Mpoano empowers fishing communities against gender-based violence; <https://gna.org.gh/2022/09/hen-mpoano-empowers-fishing-communities-against-gender-based-violence/>

EU commits € 450000 to gender empowerment in fishing communities;

<https://gna.org.gh/2022/09/eu-commits-e450000-to-gender-empowerment-in-fishing-communities/>

Gender-Based Violence: Partners call for end to menace among fisher folks;

<https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/general/gender-based-violence-partners-call-for-end-to-menace-among-fisher-folks/2022/>

News Hour at 7pm (8th September, 2022) _Excerpt available at HM YouTube Channel;

https://www.facebook.com/gbcghana/videos/450548320375673/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C-GK2C&ref=sharing

(HM YouTube Link: https://youtu.be/pB2nq_dCQLo)

About the Partners



The European Union (EU) maintains diplomatic relations with nearly all countries in the world and undertakes a range of actions with partners. The EU with its Member States is the world's leading humanitarian donor with humanitarian aid as a key pillar of the EU's external action and an important part of its ability to project its values globally. The EU continues to work to prevent and resolve conflicts, support resilient democracies, promote human rights and sustainable development, and contribute to a rule-based global order.

Hen Mpoano

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.



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 regions 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.

Contact Information

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