

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Advocacy for Responsible Fishing World Rural Women's Day



NOVEMBER, 2017





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Cover photo: SFMP Chief of Party, Mr. Maurice Knight delivering his speech during the celebration. (Credit: Abraham Asare)

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ACRONYMS

CEWEFIA Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association

CRC Coastal Resource Center

DAA Development Action Association
DQF Daasgift Quality Foundation

FtF Feed the Future HM Hen Mpoano

MOFAD Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

SFMP Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

SMEs Small and Medium Enterprises

SNV Netherlands Development Organization

UCC University of Cape Coast URI University of Rhode Island

USAID United States Agency for International Development

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DAA would like to express their profound gratitude to USAID/SFMP for their financial and technical support. We also want to thank the Chiefs and Elders of Mumford traditional area for their support, cooperation and contributions during the meeting and celebration, and the contributions made by the DCE of Gomoa West District, Chief Fishermen, Assembly members, District Fishery Officers, community advocates, women groups, implementing partners and NGOs. We say thank you and God bless you.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International rural women's day is commemorated on the 15th October in 2008 in honour of rural women involved in agriculture and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

In Ghana, 46% of the economic active populations of women are in agriculture. According to the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS4), a female heads one in every three households but there are distinct differences in terms of location. For instance, whiles the national average of female-headed households is about 34%, the percentage of female-headed households is about 40% in rural coastal areas. This implies more women are becoming the backbone of families in these areas in terms of being the bread winners.

This year's international rural women's day was held at Mumford in the Central region. The annual celebration recognizes the invaluable role rural women play in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. As part of this year's celebration, (USAID) through Sustainable Fisheries Management Project brought together stakeholders under the theme "Sea and Land Galamsey: The Impact on Food Security."

The objective was to highlight some of the negative effects of galamsey (or illegal mining) on the sea and on land, as well as encourage women and girls to become change agents in the fight against unsustainable practices in the fisheries sector.

The event brought together over 300 rural women from different parts of Ghana, 30 dignitaries including the District Chief Executive of Gomoa West and the Chief of Mumford. The invited guest addressed the audience on the theme with a call to government to stop illegal practices on the sea.

The keynote address was delivered by the DCE of Gomoa West who reiterated the government's commitment to tackle the menace. The members of DAA, climaxed the event with a role play to demonstrate the detrimental effect of illegal fishing -"sea Galamsey" on fishing households.

There was a poem recital by an adolescent the impact of illegal fishing and mining on agricultural lands and households. A call was made to all present to be change agents on sustainable management of natural resources.

A call was also made to government to prosecute culprits.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Ghana, 34% of all households are headed by women, with 40% of these households living in rural coastal areas. Rural women are also responsible for about 80% of food produced in Ghana, contributing 48% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Amu, n.d.).

International Rural Women's Day is celebrated on the 15th October year to honour rural women in agriculture and their contribution to rural development and food security. This year's event took place on 14th of November, 2017 at Mumford in the central region. The event was organized by DAA under the USAID/Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

1.1 Arrival, Registration and Opening

The event was held at the Mumford Lorry Park. 300 women from the various groups under the Development Action Association, the Chief of Party for USAID/SFMP, the District Chief Executive ,Chiefs and people of Mumford participated in the event, which was chaired by the Queen Mother of Mumford, Nana Abena Pokua I. Madam Lydia Sasu, the Executive Director of DAA gave the welcome address.



Figure 1. Madam Lydia Sasu - Executive Director of DAA delivering the welcome address

2. CELEBRATION PROCEEDINGS AND SPEECHES

Some of the invited dignitaries addressed the audience on the theme for the event-below is a summary of their submissions.

2.1 Chairperson - Nana Hemaa Abena Pokua I

The Chairperson Nana Hemaa Abena Pokua 1, called on fisherfolk to use modern responsible methods, devoid of chemicals and other harmful substances to harvest and process fish to ensure the consumption of quality wholesome fish by all. She admonished parents to support their children in their education and not hire them off as labourers.



Figure 2. Nana Hemaa Abena Pokua – Chairperson for the event delivering her acceptance speech

2.2 Chief of party of SFMP - Mr Maurice Knight

The Chief of Party of USAID/SFMP, Mr Maurice Knight indicated that the project has in the last three years supported over 4000 Ghanaians, 3000 of whom are women with requisite skills training to improve on their contributions to the economy.

According to him, galamsey is harmful to and agricultural lands and marine resources, he therefore entreated the community to avoid destroying the environment.

He urged the community to collaborate with government in the fight against galamsey to ensure food security. He advised fisherfolk to desist from using unauthorized chemicals and other materials in the processing of fish.

Mr. Knight, impressed upon all the fisherfolk especially parents to refrain from the using children for any job or activity that affects their physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing, but rather invest in their children education.

"I was raised by a single mother; she didn't give me all I wanted but gave me what I needed. I am where I am today because of her"

Maurice Knight (CoP - USAID/SFMP)



Figure 3. Mr. Maurice Knight delivery a solidarity message from SFMP/USAID

2.3 DCE of Gomoa West - Hon. Baisie Nkum

The DCE of Gomoa West District, Hon. Bismark Baisie Nkum expressed his delight on the theme for the event - 'Sea and Land Galamsey: Impact on Food Security' as apt. He mentioned that natural resources are key in the development of any nation. According to him, poor fishing methods have polluted the environment and brought about dwindling stocks, land degradation, water pollution, high cost of living and food insecurity.



Figure 4. DCE of Gomoa West District, Hon. Bismark Baisie Nkum

He encouraged the Chiefs, Fishermen, and everyone involved in the fishery sector to adopt



Figure 5. Representative for the Winneba Municipal Assembly, Mr. Anthony Buckland responsible practices for harvesting, processing and preservation of fish to keep the consumers healthy.

2.4 Winneba Municipal Assembly Representative – Mr Anthony Buckland

The representative for the Winneba Municipal Assembly, Mr Anthony Buckland expressed his gratitude to USAID/SFMP for improving the livelihoods of fish processors along the coast. He emphasised on the harmful effects of galamsey and the use of chemicals to fish on the environment

2.5 Women in Agricultural Development Representative (WIAD) – Mrs Esther Akomaning

Mrs Esther Akomaning, also reiterated the immense contribution by of women in the homes and communities. She entreated rural women to use modern methods of processing fish, adopt new technologies and raise awareness about the benefits of these methods.



Figure 6. Mrs. Esther Akomaning delivering her solidarity message

3. ADVOCACY ISSUES AND ROLE PLAY

Madam Florence Nartey, who represented the Fish Processors Association admitted that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been one of the major reasons for the dwindling fish stocks and the impoverishment of fisherfolk. She therefore urged the central government to arrest and prosecute all those who flout the laws on fishing.

Mrs. Agnes Quansah, the president of the Anchovies (Amoni) Dryers' Association testified about the new technology introduced by DAA in collaboration with the Gomoa West District Assembly to dry Amoni. According to her, the dried fish processors in her community do not dry fish on the bare floor anymore, but on solar drying racks which are hygienic and improves the quality of the dried fish.

The Mumford fish processors association performed a drama to educate the audience on the harmful effects of illegal fishing methods and its consequences on the marine life and humans who consume the fish.



Figure 7. Scene from the role play performed by Mumford drama troupe



Figure 8. Another scene from the role play performed by Mumford drama troupe



Figure 9. Additional scene from the role play performed by Mumford drama troupe



Figure 10. Musicians in the role play performed by Mumford drama troupe

4. **CONCLUSIONS**

As we laud the presidential initiative to ban "galamsey' rural women can only hope that it not be a short term measure, but will be followed up with strong policies and enforcement.

Fisherfolk should adhere to all the fisheries laws, especially those on IUU and the proposed closed season.



Figure 11. Traditional leaders at Mumford appreciating the "the thank you tour led by the Executive Director of DAA.

5. PHOTO GALLERY AND EXHIBITION



Figure 12. Hon. Bismark Baisie - District Chief Executive of Gomoa West District Assembly



Figure 13. Maurice Knight - CoP of SFMP



Figure 14. Madam Stella Quartey and Florence Nortey (fish processors from Winneba, delivering an advocacy message on IUU the "Galamsey of sea"



Figure 15. Nana Abena Pokua I – Chairperson for the occasion and Queen mother of Mumford



Figure 16. Mr Kobina Baiden – Fisheries Commission officer from Winneba addressing the audience



Figure 17. Madam Esther Akomaney – WIAD Central Regional Director delivering a solidarity message



Figure 18. Mr Cephas Edzeani – District Police Commander of Gomoa West District



Figure 19. Nana Edwey VI – Paramount Chief of Mumford Traditional Area



Figure 20. Nana Kobina Caiquo – Chief Fisherman of Apam – delivering a solidarity message on behalf of the Chief Fishermen of Winneba, Mumford and Mankoadze



Figure 21. Madam Lydia Sasu – Executive Director of DAA



Figure 22. Participants observing a miniature fish drying rack (an intervention supported by USAID/SFMP)



Figure 23. Maurice Knight – CoP SFMP in a chat with some participants



Figure 24. Madam Agnes Quansah demonstrating a miniature fish drying rack



Figure 25. Maurice Knight – CoP SFMP – Interacting with some participants at the exhibition stand



Figure 26. Dwomaman Fish processor group from Mumford singing



Figure 27. Exhibition stands during the WRWD Celebration

APPENDIX 1: MEDIA REPORT - PRINT



APPENDIX 2: KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DCE OF GOMOA WEST DISTRICT, HON. BISMARK BAISIE NKUM

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. BISMARK BAISIE NKUM, DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GOMOA WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY ON OCCASION OF WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY ON TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 2017 AT MUMFORD.

MR. CHAIRMAN — Mans Clarperon None Poble
THE EXECUTIVES OF SFMP — Chief of Penty
FISH MONGERS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

THE MEDIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is with great desire that I stand before you today with this invitation to help celebrate this year's World Rural Women's Day here in Mumford.

My utmost appreciation goes to the organizers of this program for choosing Mumford to host this International celebration. This clearly shows that, Mumford is highly recognized for its fishing activities. The evidence of this is that, since the inception of the National Farmers and Fishers Day Celebration, Mumford

has

Community have been able to win the National Best Fisherman award on four (4) occasions nationwide and this is highly commendable.

I would like to use this occasion to commend the Chief Fishermen, all the Chairmen of the Landing Beaches in the district as well as all fish mongers whose efforts have resulted in the provision of fishes to feed all the communities in the district as well as other districts in the country.

Nananom, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme for this year's celebration "Sea and Land Galamsey, Impacts on Food Security" is an excellent one for this occasion. Natural resources are very important for development and production processes however, they can never be substituted for agriculture, food and farmlands. Galamsey activities seem to be taking the place of farming activities and in the process rendering the lands and water bodies unproductive and not usable.

The result of Galamsey operations within the District, Country and the World as a whole has in many ways affected the livelihood of the people by displacement, relocation and even resettlement. The socio-economic, environment, and the lives of the inhabitants of the catchment areas are adversely affected by Galamsey activities which has led to food shortages, land degradation, water pollution, high cost of living, food price hikes and many other factors.

The most common problems associated with Galamsey operations are physiological disorders and bacterial diseases followed by scorch and fire outbreaks. This is mostly because of the pollution caused by the chemicals used in the mining processes. The chemicals pollute the soil, water bodies and even the air leading to poor crop growths. Due to the vast nature of this illegal mining, many trees are cut down making the place bare for easy wind and water erosion thereby reducing soil fertility that has led to poor crop cultivation.

Galamsey' does not only pollute rivers and other water bodies but also leaves death traps for miners themselves and other farmers

within the mining communities. These activities contribute to hunger because, vast farm plantations like cocoa, palm, coconut, oranges are being destroyed and the top soils which is the main sources of nutrients to plant that has taken several years to gain are also being removed and therefore making our arable land infertile.

Nananom, no one can deny the fact that the operations of Galamsey which has become a national plague has left numerous acres of land and water bodies across the country especially Central, Ashanti, Western and Eastern region wild and degraded. The lands and water bodies are also polluted, making it weak for Agricultural purposes. Chemicals used for extracting gold for instance, mercury, cyanide and other complex chemicals are discharged into the soil and water bodies and these have dispossessed the land and the affected water bodies of its natural properties to perform it natural functions to mankind.

We are so grateful to the government of Ghana for setting up operation Vanguard to help curb this menace in the country.

In addition, the government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development has put in place the necessary measures to ensure constant supply of premix fuel to all the fishing communities on regular bases. All these signify the government's commitment in supporting fishing activities in Ghana.

The also have record left from the last form the last form the last following fishing activities to would like to indicate that, the District Assembly is prepared to

I would like to indicate that, the District Assembly is prepared to support fishing activities in the district since that is the major occupation in the district.

I congratulate all fishermen and fishmongers in the district for your role in the fishing business and wish you a successful celebration.

Thank you

Trails orbort sentation, encounted problems

associated with proceeding of fith in filly couldnot may cause a problem for an national

APPENDIX 3: MEDIA ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WRWD CELEBRATION

Media House	Туре	When	Where	Language	Who
GTV	15 Minutes Discussion Morning Show	13 th November 2017	Accra	English	Grace Quaye & Emelia Nortey.
Radio Peace	15 Minutes Discussion on Radio Peace's morning show	14 th November 2017	Winneba	Twi/Fante	Grace Bondzie Anthony Appiah
Ahomka FM	15 Minutes Discussion on Ahomka FM's morning show	13 th November 2017	Elmina	Twi/Fante	Nii Adamafio Nassam Ibrahim Florence Nartey
Peace FM	Pre–event and post interview	November 12 & 14, 2017	Accra	Twi	Lydia Sasu,

APPENDIX 4: ISSUE BRIEF FOR THE WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S **DAY CELEBRATION**







ISSUE BRIEF

World Rural Women's Day - 2017

Theme: "Sea and Land Galamsey: Impact on Food Security"

Rural women farmers constitute 41% of women living in rural areas and The threat of IUU fishing practices to the sustainability to fishery rethey produce 70% of the nation's food crops, whilst men produce cash sources which will in turn affect livelihoods of which majority will be

crop and livestock production from decision making to land prepara- mongers during lean season or during implementations of prudent fishcessing, storage, marketing as well as food preparation for family. Rural threat from the "land Galamsey" menace which plagues the nation. gates as retailers and wholesalers.

In 2013 the European Commission showed Ghana a 'yellow card' for The chosen theme, "Sea and Land Galamsey: Impact on Food Security" its fish exports to the EU market due to the country's failure to con-highlights some of the challenges facing rural women in their quest to trol Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices. The ban fulfill their multiple roles in this country. The negative effect of was lifted in 2015 when the country showed some commitments in 'galamsey' on our sea and land is affecting food security in our homes tackling IUU fishing in the country.

rural women cannot be underestimated.

The rural women farmers presence is felt throughout the value chain of Farmlands which can serve as alternative livelihood support to rural fish tion, nursery management, transplanting, planting, harvesting, pro- ery management measures such as close season continue to face major women are also the main aggregators of agriculture produce from farm This has led to the loss of fertile farming lands by rural women who can supplement family incomes and livelihood supports.

and the nation at large.



A Sketch of a fisherman practicing 'light' fishing



Aerial photograph of River Pra showing the harmful effects of 'Galamsey

KEY ISSUES

Many rural fisher folks of whom majority are women stand in danger of losing their major income generating activities and other supporting livelihood through IUU fishing (sea Galamsey) practices and "land Galamsey activities. Some major underlying factors include:

- The use of chemicals such as DDT, Dynamite, carbide, under mesh size nets and light by fishers in Ghana water have led to dwindling stock of fish catches over the years. Many rural women fish processors have lost their livelihood due to the use of these illegal fishing and processing methods.
- IUU fishing practices is a modern day "Galamsey of the Sea". 'Saiko" fishing is an illegal system where trawlers stay on fishing but catch unapproved fishes by-catches are sold to other local fishermen on the high seas.
 - Low compliance and weak capacity for law enforcement within this sector have increased the challenge of fighting this menace.







- The recent uncontrolled mining of precious minerals across the length and breadth of the Ghana has led to the ruined and destruction of many water bodies and farm lands, especially those of cash crops. Many rural families (single women family led) have lost their basic source of livelihood leaving many of these families "landless". Many rural women are unable to cultivate food crops for family consumption and income, therefore a threat to food security.
- Changing use of land for non-agricultural purposes is posing constant challenge to food security in the country. Areas that used to supply food stuffs such as cassava, vegetables, maize, etc. have all been converted to estate lands for housing. Many of these areas have been re-zoned and marked for residential development. This has led to decrease in farm land available to women farmers who used to farm on these lands without any proper training for other diversified and alternative livelihood support for them.
- Urbanization and "Galamsey" leading to smaller size and the continual cultivation on the same piece of land results in great nutrients loss, some women cannot afford the cost of the right guarantees of fertilizers that they need. They are not able to practice land rotation which leaves land to fallow and therefore replenish nutrients naturally. Pest attack on crops also leads to low yields for example the devastating effect of the fall army worm. Mining of minerals, sand wining and urbanization has also taken over livestock grazing fields. Even water bodies that were used by grazing animals are all contaminated. Livestock's are dying of thirst especially during the dry seasons. Some livestock farmers are feeding their stock maize and wheat bran or the cereals which is quite expensive.

THE WAY FORWARD

- While we welcome the Presidential initiative on the placement of moratorium on "Galamsey" in the country, it is our hope that this is will not be a short term measure and be followed up with strong policies and enforcement that will sustain this measure.
- Laws being put up by the fisheries commission must be adhered to. These include some months of closed season for certain fish species. Right mesh net size to allow small fish to grow bigger and have the chance to spawn at least once before being caught must be enforced. Reinforce ban on light fishing and the use of chemicals in fishing.
- Traditional leaders need to be on guard against developers that will propose sites for hotels, upscale residential development and industrial facilitates that will displace fishing communities and erode fishing as a way of life and as an important heritage that should be preserved and protected for future generations of Ghanaians to enjoy.
- Local government and other agencies need to strictly enforce laws against illegal sand mining that is causing downstream impacts in communities and increasing their susceptibility and vulnerability to flooding and erosion placing lives and livelihoods at risk.

Women, especially single female headed households, often have difficulty securing farm land that can help feed their families and secure income that allows them to keep their children in school and out of the hands of child traffickers.

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USAID GHANA SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

APPENDIX 5: PROGRAMME OUTLINE







Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

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PROGRAM OUTLINE WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY (WRWD)

Venue: Mumford, Central Region Date: November 14th, 2017

Theme: 'Sea and Land Galamsey, Impact on Food Security'

8:00am	Arrival/ Registration (Exhibition & Musical Interlude)
9:15am	Opening Prayer
9:20am	Introduction of women groups/ Welcome address
9:40am	Introduction of Chairperson
9:45am	Chairperson's response
9:55am	Musical Interlude
I 0:00am	Why WRWD - Statement
10:15am	Musical Interlude
10:20am	Role play – Drama and Advocacy Issues (
	Emerging Issues Affecting Food security)
11:20am	Musical Interlude
11:25am	Solidarity Messages
11125411	USAID/SFMP
	FC/MOFAD Central Region
	MCE – Efutu Municipal Assembly
	Paramount Chief (Mumford, Apam and Ankamu)
	Chief Fishermen/Konko Hemaa/Traditional Authorities
	YARA
	FAO
	NAPETA
	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
12.25	Musical Interlude
12.25 pm	
12:30 pm	Key Note Address – "Sea and Land Galamsey: impact on food security?"
01.00	(DCE Gomoa West D.A)
01:00 pm	Musical Interlude
01:05 Pm	Chair's closing remarks
01:15 pm	Vote of thanks
01:20 pm	Closing Prayer
01:25 pm	Closing, Refreshment, Exhibition and Departure

SFMP is funded by USAID/Ghana and implemented by CRC-URI with a consortium of partners: Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, SNV, SSG Advisors, DAA and CEWEFIA.

APPENDIX 6: CELEBRATION BANNER AND T-SHIRT FOR THE CELEBRATION











WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY (W.R.W.D)

Theme: "Sea & Land Galamsey: Impact on Food and Security"

Venue: Mumford, Gomoa West District, Central Region.
Date: November 14, 2017

Special Guest of Honor: Hon. Bismark Baisie District Chief Executive, Gomoa West.



Development Action Association — DAA (Local Implementing Partner — USAID Sustainable Fisheries Management Project)

