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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Training of Handwashing Station Site Advocates From 76 Landing Beaches



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THE
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Cover photo: Section of Site Advocates at the Training (Credit: Amos Aidoo-CEWEFIA)

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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported
CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
KEEA	Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
SECTION 1 Background.....	2
1.1 Training Objectives.....	2
1.2 Expected outcomes.....	2
1.3 Facilitation Team:	2
1.4 Methodology:	2
1.5 Attendance.....	3
SECTION 2 TRAINING OUTCOMES	4
2.1 Opening.....	4
2.2 Presentations.....	4
2.3 Presentation on M&E Data Collection Tool:	4
2.4 Management of Hand Washing Stations.....	4
2.5 Communication Skills.....	4
2.6 Discussions/Questions.....	5
2.7 Demonstration	5
2.8 COVID 19 Check list form	5
SECTION 3 PICTURES OF THE TRAINING	6
SECTION 4 CONCLUSION	9
4.1 Challenges	9
4.2 Way Forward.....	9

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 A facilitator, Mad. Josephine O. Addo; project officer, CEWEFIA, (in white T-shirt and blue jeans standing in front) explaining how the COVI-19 virus is spread from person to person at the site advocacy training session at Cape Coast	6
Figure 2 Cross section of Group 2 site advocates at the training at Cape Coast. In the picture is a participant explaining a point during discussion time.....	6
Figure 3 Cross- section of Group 1 participants at the site advocates training at Mankessim ..	7
Figure 4 Health Officer, taken participants through hand washing practical	7
Figure 5 A participant demonstrating hand washing at the training	8

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Total number of participants in the Training	3
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SFMP COVID-19 Project is essentially important to fishers in helping to reduce the spread of the pandemic among fishers along the coasts of Ghana. As part of the project activities, to provide hand washing equipment at landing beaches, sites advocates are to be trained to effectively manage the hand washing stations at selected landing beaches of the selected project communities. In view of that CEWEFIA organized a one- day training for selected sites advocates in its project communities. The landing beaches in the coastal communities were therefore divided among SFMP implementing partners. CEWEFIA got to work with fishers from seventy-six (76) landing sites in thirty-one (31) fishing communities in the Central Region. The selection of the Site Advocates was done in collaboration with Chief fishermen from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) based on a set of criteria. The training has the purpose to equip the capacity of the sites advocates on the M&E data collection tool that will be used in monitoring Hand Washing Stations at landing beaches to ascertain behavioral changes. These site advocates have the role of managing the use of the hand washing stations that would be set up in their landing beaches and report to the implementing partner which is CEWEFIA.

On 9th July 2020, a one-day training session was held for the selected site advocates from the 76 landing beaches. The 76 participants were divided into two groups and trained on the same day at two (2) different venues namely Pensioners' House Conference Hall, Cape Coast and Ernestina Guest House, Mankesim, all in Central Region. Ekumfi and Mfantseman community landing sites (making 45 in number) formed one group, and Abura Asebu Kwamankese, Cape Coast and Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem fishing communities (comprising of 32 landing sites) formed another group. At the training, the participants were taken through Data Collection Tool to have understanding of the content and how it is filled. They were also trained in Phone-Polling System as one of the monitoring tools, hand washing practices and the use of nose mask. The day training has enlightened and built the capacity of site advocates in proper management skills and better communication skills to manage the water stations. CEWEFIA is therefore looking forward to distribute the washing equipment to various landing stations. These site advocates will be monitored closely to ensure that the skills learnt are applied effectively as intended. During the training all COVID-19 precautionary safety measures were followed to the letter to avoid any spread of the coronavirus.

SECTION 1 BACKGROUND

COVID -19 in fishing communities is critical in its spread and prevention. Fishers are more concerned about their fishing businesses than the consequences of spreading the pandemic and that some of them stand aloof in terms of observing the safety protocols. Despite the fact that the pandemic has had negative impact on business including fishing business. It is observed that, some of the fisher folks observe the COVID-19 safety protocols such as the wearing of face masks, hand washing but under the pressure from the Ghana police service through their monitoring visits to the landing beaches, and even that some yet only wear it on their chins pending the arrival of the police. Though Veronica Buckets had been provided to some of the landing beaches, however they are not easy to locate and also some of them mostly do not have soap thereby making it difficult to use. A Veronica Bucket is a plastic, hollow and solid object(container) which has a tap fixed onto it where the bucket is filled with water and used for hand washing (see pictures in Figures 4 and 5). This can be attributed to the fact that nobody is in charge of the facility. The World Health Organization has proven that strict observance of these COVID 19 safety measures can go a long way to limit the spread of the virus, hence the need to enhance the observance of these measures to curtail massive spread of the pandemic among the fishers and the country in general. SFMP COVID -19 project with the ultimate goal to reduce the spread of coronavirus and ensure sustainable fisheries management among fisher folks in Ghana, is implemented by local NGOs and institutions, and CEWEFIA is one of the implementing partners. As part of CEWEFIA's Activities is to train sites advocates on M&E data collection Tools to monitor and manage hand washing stations.

1.1 Training Objectives

The Objectives of the Training were to equip participants with:

- Proper management skills of the water stations.
- Better communication skills to manage the water stations.

1.2 Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes of the Training included:

- Participants trained in proper handling and management of handwashing stations.
- Participants communication skills enhanced.
- Effective use of the monitoring tool to monitor the project.

1.3 Facilitation Team:

The trainings were facilitated by CEWEFIA Team

1.4 Methodology:

The following methods were used to deliver the training message;

- Lecture.
- Presentations.
- Discussion.
- Call-polling exercise.
- Hand washing exercise.

1.5 Attendance

The training was attended by Sites Advocates. CEWEFIA team were also present. A total of seventy –six (76) participants comprising of fifty three (53) males and twenty three (23) females were present. The table 1.1 below shows the details of the attendance

Table 1 Total number of participants in the Training

Community	Participants	Males	Females
Mfantsiman & Ekumfi	44	26	18
KEEA,AAK, Cape Coast	32	27	5
Total	76	53	23

SECTION 2 TRAINING OUTCOMES

2.1 Opening

A total of 77 Participants attended the training sessions altogether. Participants were taken through the opening ceremony where the COVID-19 Project was introduced to them as they were being welcomed by the representative of the executive director of CEWEFIA, the members asked to feel relaxed and ask questions for clarification as the presentations goes on

2.2 Presentations

The facilitator gave a brief overview of the SFMP COVID-19 project with emphasis on the project goal and activities. According to the presenter, the goal of the project is to help reduce the spread of COVID -19 and offer economic relief to vulnerable fisher folks while ensuring sustainable management of fisheries resources along the coastal communities in Ghana.

There was a Presentation on the COVID-19 pandemic, how it is spread from one person to another and safety is protocols to prevent its spread.

Then afterwards a behavior change communication presentation was also done. This presentation had the objective of improving the communication skills of the Site Advocates in carrying out their duties.

2.3 Presentation on M&E Data Collection Tool

Participants were then introduced to the monitoring sheet which would be used to collect data at their stations for reporting purposes. Participants were taken through the steps in filling the form to ensure that they could do it on their own when they go to their stations. Participants were finally taken through the phone-polling system and were informed that it would be a form of monitoring tool that would be used to monitor them and to help them get more information on the project.

2.4 Management of Hand Washing Stations

Before the participants were taken through the essentials of managing the hand washing stations, they were trained on COVID 19 protocols such us proper hand washing technics, how and when to wear nose mask and the enforcement of social distance. They were then taken through the essentials of managing the hand washing stations such as:

- Siting of the hand washing station, ensuring it is visible and easy to identify.
- Ensuring availability of water at the station.
- Ensure proper disposal of waste water.
- Ensuring availability of soap at all times.
- Ensuring participants washing their hands.

2.5 Communication Skills

- How to comport themselves at the water station in terms of their speech and actions.
- The choice of language use in handling conflict and misunderstanding at the station.
- Encouraging fishers to wash their hands often to reduce spread of the virus.

2.6 Discussions/Questions

Time was allowed for the participants ask questions, contribute and seek for clarifications. Participants asked a lot of questions. The following are some of the pertinent ones:

- When will the water stations be available to the landing beaches?
- Whose role is it to decide on the site of the water station? Is it the Site Advocate or CEWEFIA?
- How will the stations be maintained after the project?

The facilitator in response to the questions explained, CEWEFIA is waiting upon the delivering of the washing stations from SFMP and in managing the stations after the project that the traditional authorities (GNCFC) would see to the continuance of the water stations.

2.7 Demonstration

There was a demonstration on hand washing. Some participants at the start were made to wash their hands to test their personal knowledge on the hand washing. A health promotion officer led the participants through the proper hand washing procedures.

2.8 COVID 19 Check list form

COVID -19 check list forms were filled for the participants after their temperatures were taken by the Ghana Health Service (GHS) staff present. The forms are scanned and attach to the report.

SECTION 3 PICTURES OF THE TRAINING

Below are some of the pictures of the training:



Figure 1 A facilitator, Mad. Josephine O. Addo; project officer, CEWEFIA, (in white T-shirt and blue jeans standing in front) explaining how the COVID-19 virus is spread from person to person at the site advocacy training session at Cape Coast



Figure 2 Cross section of Group 2 site advocates at the training at Cape Coast. In the picture is a participant explaining a point during discussion time



Figure 3 Cross- section of Group 1 participants at the site advocates training at Mankessim



Figure 4 Health Officer, taken participants through hand washing practical



Figure 5 A participant demonstrating hand washing at the training

SECTION 4 CONCLUSION

The training was carefully organized. It is expected that the site advocates would perform their duties well just as they promised after the training while thanking the project for the opportunity given them. CEWEFIA is therefore looking forward to receive the support from SFMP and distribute it to the landing beaches. During the training all COVID-19 precautionary safety measures were followed to the letter to avoid any spread of the coronavirus.

4.1 Challenges

Some of the selected advocates could not attend the meeting so they were replaced with persons from their communities.

It was difficult for some participants at the initial stage in filling the data collection form but with the help of the facilitator it was made easier.

4.2 Way Forward

- Distribution of Hand washing materials.
- Monitoring of hand washing among community members.
- CEWEFIA should look forward for funds from SFMP to implement other project activities as scheduled.