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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Progress Report



OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Hen Mpoano



Friends of the Nation

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Cover photo: The Agbadza dance performance at the World Fisheries Day in Keta, Ghana on 21 November 2017 (CREDIT: CRC/URI)

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SNV	http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
SSG Advisors	http://ssg-advisors.com/

ACRONYMS

ACCSP	Atlantic Cooperative Coastal Statistics Program
ASMFC	Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission (US)
CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
DOPA	Densu Oyster Pickers Association
F ₂ F	Fisher to Fisher (Dialogues)
FC	Fisheries Commission
FoN	Friends of Nation
FSSD	Fisheries Scientific and Survey Division of the Fisheries Commission
FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
FWV	Fisheries Watch Volunteers
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GITA	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
IR	Intermediate Results
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (Fishing)
LEK	Local Ecological Knowledge
LUSPA	Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMFMP	National Marine Fisheries Management Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	vi
1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY	1
1.1 Program Description / Introduction	1
1.2 Summary of Results.....	2
2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	10
Progress Narrative & Implementation Status	10
IR 1: Strengthened Enabling Environment for Marine Resources Governance	10
Provide Inputs For Final Co-management Policy Draft and Inputs For Legal Reforms .	10
Harmonizing Regional Fisheries Policies	10
IR 2: Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management.....	10
Knowledge Exchange Visit to the United States	10
UCC/URI Dual-Degree program	11
UCC PhD Student Semester at URI.....	11
Environmental Planning Data Hubs for the Western and Central Regions: Program-wide Geospatial Support, Services and Products	12
GIS Training for FC Zonal Officers (Support to FC)	12
UCC/DFAS/CCM Capacity Development	12
IR 3 Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement	13
Fisher-2-Fisher (F2F) Dialogue Program	13
Public Outreach and Communications - Media Engagement	14
Event Showcasing and Exhibition	15
CiviCRM Contact Management	16
IR 4 Applied Management.....	16
Implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan	16
Law Enforcement through Volunteer Watch Programs.....	20
Community Based Management.....	21
Value Chain and Post-Harvest Improvements	24
IR 5 GENDER	29
Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries	29
IR 6 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	30
Fisheries Future Plan (FFP)	30
Tigo Fishers' Network (TFN).....	30
IR 7 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT	31

CSO Capacity Development	31
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	31
Monitoring Evaluation Knowledge Management and Learning Plan	31
Implementation Challenges	31
M&E Plan and Update	32
3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES and USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES	32
3.1 Gender Equity and Female Empowerment	32
3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms	32
3.3 Environmental Compliance	32
3.4 Global Climate Change	32
3.5 Policy and Governance support	32
3.6 Local Capacity Development	33
3.7 Public Private Partnerships	33
3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation	33
4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT	33
5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES	33
6. LESSONS LEARNED	34
7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS	34
8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	36
ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY	37
ANNEX B: TRAINET REPORT	45

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Fisheries Commission’s zonal officers participating in GIS training in Accra.....	12
Figure 2 Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Elizabeth Afoley Quaye, delivering her address at the 2017 World Fisheries Day in Keta, Ghana surrounded by members of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association.....	14
Figure 3 Number of Media Publication on SFMP Activities	15
Figure 4 Celebrants dancing to commemorate International Day for Rural Women at Mumford, Central Region.....	16
Figure 5 Fish processors sharing experiences on SFMP hygienic fish handling training at Tsokomey in the Ga South District.....	18
Figure 6 Fisheries Working Group Meeting at Central (left) and Volta (right) regions.....	20
Figure 7 Marine police officers practicing new skills on rescue swimming at Takoradi Harbor	20
Figure 8 Community folks filling poly pot with soil and mangrove seeds at Ankobra nursery site in the Western Region	22
Figure 9 Members of Densu Oyster Pickers Association planting mangroves around Densu estuary at Tsokomey in the Ga South Municipality.....	23
Figure 10 Mangroves planted during the 1st phase of the restoration process in April 2017 at Densu estuary at Tsokomey in the Ga South Municipality	24

Figure 11 Trained oyster pickers collecting data on water quality from the Densu estuary at Tsokomey.....27

Figure 12 A scene of drama performance on child labor at the National Farmers Day28

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Sustainable Fisheries Management Project Summary..... 1

Table 2 Summary of Results: Year 4 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2017).....6

Table 3 List of PHD Students from UCC 11

Table 4 Trainings reported for the period October 1–December 31, 2017.....45

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Table 1 Sustainable Fisheries Management Project Summary

Program Name:	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
Activity Start & End Date:	October 22, 2014 to October 31, 2019
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Coastal Resources Center University of Rhode Island
Agreement Number:	AID-641-A-15-00001
Name of Sub-awardees:	Hen Mpoano Friends of the Nation SNV Netherlands SSG Advisors Central and Western Fishmongers Association (CEWEFIA) Development Action Association (DAA)
Major Counterpart Organizations	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fisheries Commission
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries)	Ghana: Central Region, Western Region, Greater Accra Region, Volta Region
Reporting Period:	October 1 – December 31, 2017

1.1 Program Description / Introduction

The objective of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), a five-year project (October 2014-October 2019), is to rebuild marine fisheries stocks and catches through adoption of responsible fishing practices. The project contributes to the Government of Ghana’s fisheries development objectives and the US Government’s Feed the Future Initiative. Working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC), USAID/Ghana SFMP aims to end overfishing of key stocks important to local food security through achievement of the following intermediate results:

- Improved legal enabling conditions for co-management, use rights and effort-reduction strategies
- Strengthened information systems and science-informed decision-making
- Increased constituencies that provide the political and public support needed to rebuild fish stocks
- Implementation of applied management initiatives for several targeted fisheries ecosystems

More than 100,000 men and women involved in the local fishing industry are expected to benefit from this project and tens of thousands of metric tons of additional high quality low cost food supply from fisheries can be regained via improved and sustainable management of the marine fish stocks in Ghana’s waters.

The Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography is the lead implementer of the SFMP and works in consortium with other international and local partners, including SNV Netherlands Development Organization, SSG-Advisors, Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, and the Central & Western Fishmongers

Improvement Association in Ghana (CEWEFIA) and Development Action Association (DAA). The project complements and coordinates closely with two other projects in the USAID/Ghana Coastal Program Portfolio: The Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP) and the University of Cape Coast/Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science (UCC/DFAS) Institutional Strengthening Project.

The SFMP builds on the best practices and lessons learned from the USAID-Ghana's Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance (ICFG) Program implemented from 2009-2014. In this follow-up, SFMP is focusing efforts on small pelagic fisheries along the entire coastline as well as fisheries and essential mangrove fish habitat in three coastal estuaries- The Densu, Pra and Ankobra systems. Additionally, improvements in the value chain of smoked fish, important to tens of thousands of women fish processors is supported. The project is also undertaking actions towards reducing child labor and trafficking in the Central Region of Ghana. Key government clients of this project include the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Fisheries Commission, the Regional Coordinating Council's Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) Planning Departments and associated districts in the Central and Western Regions; and the Marine Police. Additional support is provided to a number of local NGOs and women's associations that are active in fisheries management issues and serving either as core or supporting partners in the implementation of this project.

This progress report hereby details activities, results, and lessons learned during the first quarter of Project Year 4 (FY18). It also explains how partners contributed to the achievement of set targets and how these achievements will be sustained to meet the overarching goal of SFMP.

1.2 Summary of Results

Highlights of activities and achievements for the first quarter of Year 4 include the following:

Strengthening Enabling Environment for Marine Fisheries Management: SFMP completed stakeholder engagements on the content of the draft fisheries co-management policy with regional and national level stakeholders. The efforts represent two years of SFMP support to MOFAD for the development of this framework document. Inputs were received from over 320 individuals and the final draft policy on fisheries co-management was submitted to MoFAD on December 19, 2017. Final adoption is expected by the end of the 3rd quarter of Year 4. While insufficient by itself, it is one of several elements needed to support more effective fisheries management in Ghana for rebuilding the depleted fish stocks by improving stakeholder support for and compliance with needed regulations to reduce excessive fishing effort.

Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management: SFMP completed the laboratory analysis of 700 samples of round Sardinella (*S. aurita*) and flat Sardinella (*S. maderensis*) from 12 countries along the West Africa coast that will form the basis for stock delineation of the shared population structure for these species. The assessment is part of the thesis work of a University of Cape Coast staff person studying at the University of Rhode Island and represents part of SFMP's contribution to science-based capacity for Ghana.

A new Bramor unmanned aerial vehicle was acquired and tested, and related flight, mapping and analysis training started for staff of SFMP implementing partners University of Cape Coast and Hen Mpoano. Four days of flight training was conducted by the Slovenian producer of the Bramor (C-Astral). The process was started with the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority to register the aircraft. Once this equipment is operational and permitted for use, the coastal environmental mapping capabilities at UCC, cooperating NGOs and government

agencies, will be substantially enhanced. The Bramor will also support mapping needs of the USAID Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project and research efforts of staff and faculty at UCC.

URI/CRC designed and hosted a study tour to the United States for senior MoFAD staff (2), Ghana Fisheries Commission (4), and private sector partners and representatives of the major fishing industries (5). This was co-sponsored by SFMP, The World Bank supported West Africa Regional Fisheries Project, the Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association and the Ministry of Fisheries. The tour included a one-week visit to various state and federal fisheries agencies in Rhode Island and Washington DC and focused on science for management, governance and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU). The delegation was exposed to the state-of-the-art systems of inter-state fisheries management and valuable lessons on approaches to co-management, data collection, processing programs, and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement: SFMP supported ongoing Fisher-to-Fisher (F2F dialogues led by the Ghana National Canoe Fishers Council). The F2F dialogues, started in Year 3, will be a continuing feature of SFMP support through the end of the project in 2019. By that time, the dialogues will be fully supported by the GNCFC and local Chief Fishermen offices, as well as the Ghana Fisheries Commission. The F2F dialogues are an important platform for fishers to directly participate in developing and implementing policies to rebuild key fish stocks in Ghana, and increase their understanding and commitment to comply with fisheries laws. Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues also provide Fisheries Commission staff with an opportunity to collaborate directly with fishers on policy implementation issues, an invaluable contribution to the institutional framework of sustainable fisheries management in Ghana.

SFMP supported Ghana's celebration of World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2017 focusing on fisherfolk consensus on actions necessary to rebuild and sustainably manage Ghana's coastal fisheries. Highlighted during the celebration was the role that Fisher-to-Fisher dialogues are playing in fisherfolk commitments to responsible fishing practices and the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan. Fishermen from across all regions were present and agreed to submit letters to the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development requesting the official establishment of an additional, regular non-fishing day in all coastal regions.

During the quarter, the project delivered 76 days of funded technical assistance in natural resources management in addition to normal partner implementation and disseminated 15 information products in the local media focused on building constituencies and support for sustainable fisheries management for key stocks.

Supporting Implementation of Applied Management Initiatives: Recommendations for a closed season for all fishing sector fleets were submitted to MoFAD by the SFMP-supported Science and Technical Working Group (STWG). Recommendations were aligned with the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan except for the recommendation that the canoe fleet be included. In the NMFP, the canoe fleet is specifically excluded from closed season requirements. However, inclusion of the canoe fleet is critical since it makes up the majority fishing pressure on small pelagics which is the most important fishery for local food security and employment.

SFMP worked in partnership with the Fisheries Commission to engage over seventy-five (75) (59 males and 16 females) Paramount Chiefs, Queen Mothers and Chief Fishermen from coastal fishing areas in the Central and Volta Regions. A key feature of the SFMP Year 4

implementation plan is to increase the involvement of traditional authorities in supporting sustainable fisheries management in Ghana. SFMP team members gave presentations on the current state of coastal fisheries, the main issues contributing to decline and the roles and actions need of traditional authorities to increase civil society support for sustainable management, especially closed seasons for the artisanal fleet, additional non-fishing day adoption in all coastal regions, the content of the Ghana National Fisheries Management Plan and ways to link with Fisheries Commission actions going forward.

In FY 17, community-based fisheries co-management plans were drafted with communities in Ankobra, Pra and Densu estuaries to promote effective management of the fisheries resources. During the FY 18 first quarter, SFMP supported the Ankobra community-based fisheries management committee to engage over 300 people on the draft provisions of the plan during the Kundum Festival held on October 28, 2017. Participants included traditional authorities, municipal chief executives, fishers and residents from estuarine communities. In Pra, 507 people (261 males and 246 females) were engaged in ten (10) community meetings focused on increasing community/stakeholder support for the implementation of the Pra co-management plan. Feedback from stakeholders was collated for and included re-organization of the co-management committee and suggested revisions to the draft co-management plan. In the Densu estuary, SFMP worked with members of the Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA) in Tsokomey, Tetegu and Faana to establish a mangrove plantation to address loss of mangrove cover throughout the Densu Delta from unchecked harvesting of mangrove for fuel. A total of 76 community people (11 males and 65 females) participated in a mangrove replanting exercise of 2,700 mangrove seedlings covering three hectares in reforestation areas identified by the communities with SFMP support.

A total of 37 local artisans from all regions were trained in local construction of the *Ahotor (comfort)* oven, a new, cleaner, healthier and more profitable technology for smoking fish developed by SFMP and the Fisheries Commission. Training of local artisans will reduce the cost of constructing ovens and accelerate adoption across all coastal regions. SFMP hosted a tour in the Central Region for participants of an international FAO meeting to highlight the success and availability of the stove to broaden development partner support for Ahotor Stove adoption in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa.

Supporting implementation of applied management, a total of 37 micro-businesses (all males) received business development training in stove construction; 154 persons received short-term agricultural sector productivity and food security training; 285 (22 males and 263 females) members of producer organizations and community based organizations received training and assistance from the project in business management and development.

Supporting Gender Equity and Empowerment: The Ghana Gender Network, supported by SFMP, achieved a key milestone by convening its third annual meeting during which a comprehensive action plan was presented to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD). The plan focused on working with and supporting the Ministry to implement the Fisheries Sector Gender Mainstreaming Strategy approved by the sector Minister in December 2016.

SFMP continued support for the 'Hownam (fish processor) Dialogue series on leadership and conflict management by training 46 members (6 men, 40 women) of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association, (NAFPTA) in the Keta South and Ketu Municipalities in the Volta Region. The training introduced the concepts of group dynamics, the importance of leadership and conflict resolution as a tool to enhance conflict management skills, and methods of supporting community group stability and sustainability. This improved skills of women leaders and fish processors in the small-scale fisheries sector and increased their

confidence and ability to have their voices heard on critical management issues in sustainable coastal fisheries management. The women identified key issues of importance for their attention including combatting illegal fishing and supporting new management measures such as closed seasons and a second fishing holidays.

Promoting Strategic Private Sector Partnerships: SFMP private sector partners continue to engage fisherfolk in implementing the Fisher's Future Plan (FFP) micro-insurance program designed to protect fishers and fish processors from catastrophic economic impacts due to death or disability. Micro-insurance partner groups reviewed performance of the program in FY 17. Focus group discussions between private sector partners – Millennium Insurance, UT Life Insurance and Vodafone and over 130 fisherfolk - were conducted and discussed key challenge of subscribers in making payments through the mobile platform designed for this program. Lessons learned are being applied by FFP partners to better understand customer perspectives, inform product redesign, and guide in adjusting strategies for successful scale-up of the product coast-wide. To date, over 3000 people have signed up for the plan.

A parallel program, the TIGO Fisher Network (TEN) which connects fishers and fish processors with free limited service conducted exercises in Elmina and Axim communities to support the rapid expansion of the network in the coming months, including change of the program's name to the Airtel-Tigo Fisheries Network to match the recent rebranding of Tigo corporate rebranding.

These SFMP private sector engagement programs generated a combined \$15,046 in new private sector capital investments during this quarter.

Supporting Improved Capacity Development: Weak institutional capacity is a key obstacle to sustainable fisheries management in Ghana and SFMP responds to this by providing ongoing organizational capacity development for civil society organizations positioned to make important contributions to sustainable fisheries management. A review meeting with the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council (GNCFC) was conducted to identify and accelerate organizational capacity development for the organization in the next quarter. GNCFC leads the Fisher-to-Fisher Dialogue program with SFMP support. A joint review was conducted with the Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association that produced financial projections and requirements for implementing its strategic plan. This includes a schedule for fully initiating its fundraising efforts to support engagement of the all members in sustainable fishing dialogue and action as described in its strategic plan, previously developed with SFMP support. As these critical stakeholder producer groups are strengthened, they are becoming more effective at advocacy and dialogue with decision makers on actions they will support to rebuild Ghana's marine fisheries.

Four PhD students from the University of Cape Coast successfully completed their semester abroad at the University of Rhode Island alongside the community of Ghanaian master degree students already at URI. Master students continued classes and work on their dissertation data analysis, and interacted with the high level delegation of government and private sector fisheries partners hosted by URI. The international study program jointly supported by the SFMP and the USAID-UCC Institutional Strengthening Project is increasing the scientific knowledge base and expertise in the country. It directly contributes to the creation of a new, more capable cadre Ghanaian fisheries scientists, who upon graduation, will apply their skills to the advancement of fisheries science and management in Ghana.

Table 2 summarizes the standard USAID indicators for SFMP showing results completed in the first quarter of FY 18 vis-a-vis targets. Significant deviations between results and targets are explained in Annex A which also shows custom project indicators.

Table 2 Summary of Results: Year 4 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2017)

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 4 (FY18) Results	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY 18	Q3 FY 18	Q4 FY 18	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Number of hectares in areas of biological significance and/or natural resource showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-1)	0	Tracked	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (Tracked annually)
Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (FTF 4.5.1(24)) 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	0	Fish Act – Step 3	Fish Act -Step 2-ongoing	Fish Act -Step 2-ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fish Act-Step 2-ongoing	Y
		NMFMP - Step 4	NMFMP - Step 3	NMFMP - Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	NMFMP - Step 3	
		Co-mgt. policy – Step 4	Co-mgt policy Step 4 – ongoing	Co-mgt policy Step 4 – ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-mgt policy-Step 4 –ongoing	
		Ankobra (CBMP) - Step 4	Ankobra CBMP - Step 3	Ankobra CBMP -Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ankobra CBMP - Step 3	
		Pra (CBMP) - Step 4	Pra CBMP- Step 3	Pra CBMP- Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pra CBMP- Step 3	
		Densu(CBMP) - Step 4	Densu (CBMP) - Step 3	Densu (CBMP) - Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Densu (CBMP) - Step 3	
		CLaT strategy –Step 4	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	
Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop, implement,	0	19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (Tracked annually)	

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 4 (FY18) Results	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY 18	Q3 FY 18	Q4 FY 18	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
managed and access fisheries management plans		(16 Ongoing, 3 New added)							
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	0	770	76 (10%)	76 (10%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	76 (10%)	N
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-26)	0	3,205 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (Tracked annually)
Number of District Assemblies supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	0	5	6 (120%)	6 (120%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 (120%)	Y
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	0	100,000 (assumes national measure for small pelagics adopted)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	N (no significant management measure yet implemented by FC)
Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	0	950	37 (4%) M-37(100%) F- 0 (0%)	37 (4%) M-37(100%) F- 0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	37 (4%) M-37 (100%) F- 0 (0%)	N

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 4 (FY18) Results	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY 18	Q3 FY 18	Q4 FY 18	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
Value of agricultural and rural loans as a result of USG assistance (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-6	0	\$ 37,723	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	N
Number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving agricultural-related credit as a result of USG assistance (RAA) EG.3.2-3	0	100	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	N
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FTF 4.5.2-38)	0	Tracked, No target	\$15,046	\$15,046	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$15,046	N/A
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))	0	6 (2 new-NAFAG & GIFA)	2 (33%)	2 (33%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 (33%)	Y
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(27))	0	2,530	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F-263(92%)	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F-263(92%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F-263(92%)	N
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(12))	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A (target of 2 over LoP already achieved)
Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change,	0	3,124	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	N

Standard Indicators	Baseline FY 2015	Annual Target	Year 4 (FY18) Results	Q1 FY18	Q2 FY 18	Q3 FY 18	Q4 FY 18	Annual Performance Achieved to the End of Reporting Period (%)	On Target Y/N
disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/4.8.2-6)									
Number of persons/hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (4.8.1-29)	0	42,328	1,278 (3%) M-554 (43%) F-734 (57%)	1,278 (3%) M-554 (43%) F-734 (57%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,278 (3%) M-554 (43%) F-734 (57%)	N
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-1	0	4,074	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	N
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported degree-granting agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) EG.3.2-2	0	5	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	Y

¹ This indicator is similar to the Feed the Future indicator: Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (FtF 4.5.2-13)

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Progress Narrative & Implementation Status

IR 1: Strengthened Enabling Environment for Marine Resources Governance

Employing a combination of legal and policy reform initiatives carried out at national and sub-national levels, this component provides support to develop technical products that build awareness among stakeholders through a blend of bottom-up and top-down approaches. Supporting the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Commission to spearhead all fisheries policy arrangements, SFMP works closely with MoFAD and the FC to facilitate effective marine resource governance by supporting the development of improved enabling conditions for sustainable fisheries management.

Provide Inputs For Final Co-management Policy Draft and Inputs For Legal Reforms

SFMP continued support for MoFAD on a draft fisheries co-management policy for Ghana. To broaden public support and understanding, SFMP supported a series of public consultations that included over 320 individuals on the draft policy and processed the inputs for final revisions. The revised Policy Framework on Fisheries Co-Management for Ghana was completed and submitted to the MoFAD on December 19, 2017 in a meeting led by the Deputy Minister for MoFAD and the Director of the Fisheries Commission. The Ministry agreed to return official government comments by January 20, 2017 and move forward immediately once those comments are incorporated into the draft policy.

Harmonizing Regional Fisheries Policies

During the reporting period, SFMP completed the laboratory analysis of 700 samples of round sardinella (*S. aurita*) and flat sardinella (*S. maderensis*) from 12 countries (Morocco, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Gabon, Congo, and Angola). This analysis will form the basis for a stock discrimination assessment that delineates the extent that these stocks are shared across these countries and appropriate actions by the GoG for domestic action and coordination with other countries to restore these stocks within Ghana waters. Samples from three countries (Guinea, Liberia and Angola) were contaminated as a result of bad handling during the shipping and are being recollected to complete the assessment.

IR 2: Science and Research Applied to Policy and Management

Knowledge Exchange Visit to the United States

Co-sponsored by SFMP, WARFP, and the MoFAD, URI/CRC hosted a study tour to the United States for a senior delegation of government and private sector representatives from MoFAD (2), Fisheries Commission (4), and representatives of major fishing companies in Ghana (5). The delegation traveled to Rhode Island and Washington DC (NOAA) and focused on science for management, fisheries governance, and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing in highly interactive discussions with fishermen, state and federal officials, and during participation in the annual ASMFC meeting. The delegation was exposed to the state-of-the-art systems of inter-state fisheries management and valuable lessons on co-management, data collection and processing, and IUU fishing controls. Exchanges focused on direct contributions to the implementation of the Ghana National Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019). Highlighted in meetings were ways to address the complexity of fisheries management through government-private sector cooperation (e.g., commitment to closed seasons, data collection and gear research, etc.) and joint interventions aimed at reducing fishing pressure and ending open and free access in artisanal fisheries.

Specific areas covered included:

- Fisheries data collection programs established by the Atlantic Cooperative Coastal Statistics Program (ACCSP).
- Fisheries management authorities in the U.S across state, interstate and federal agency coordination mechanisms.
- Collaborative fisheries management in the U.S. (policy, legislative and institutional arrangements, implementation experience through regional, interstate and state fisheries management councils).
- U.S. Sea Grant Program and its contributions to fisheries and aquaculture development through public-private partnerships and extension programs of participating public universities.
- U.S. fisheries law enforcement experience and strategies to combat IUU through tools such VMS, and communication and coordination mechanisms between agencies.
- Aquaculture development, planning and regulation.

UCC/URI Dual-Degree program

Following the signing of the MOU between URI and UCC to strengthen ties between the two institutions in FY 17, a dual-degree program in the areas of fisheries science, policy and aquaculture was designed between URI-CELS and UCC-DFAS. The final agreement to establish the dual degree program was approved by the faculty senate/board of both URI and UCC achieving final and formal recognition of the program and moves the program immediately toward implementation in FY 18. Graduate students from UCC and URI will be able to enroll in a dual-degree program built on the exchange of research and education curricula and joint faculty supervision. Upon successful completion of program requirements, students from either URI or UCC will be awarded MS or PhD from both universities. The first cadre of candidate is expected to enroll in Fall-2018 semester.

UCC PhD Student Semester at URI.

Four PhD students from UCC successfully completed the Fall 2017 semester at URI in various departments. Housed at the University’s Graduate Village and mentored by URI faculty and CRC staff, they attended classes, and participated in short training programs and external visits within a scheme jointly carried out by the URI and the UCC.

Table 3 List of PHD Students from UCC

PhD Student	URI Advisor	Classes Attended	Special Training
Jemimah Kassah	Jeremy Collie	Ecological statistics Fisheries Oceanography Seminar	One-week Fish age and growth training. NOAA, Woods Hole, MA
Margaret Dzakpasu	Candace Oviatt	Ecological Statistics Biological Oceanography Seminar	Biological Oceanography field visits Save The Bay, RI.
Michelle Clottey	Kathy Castro	Ecological Statistics Fish Stock Assessment Seminar	Fish age and growth training. NOAA, Woods Hole, MA
Lawrence Ahiah	Michael Rice	Ecological Statistics Shellfish Aquaculture Seminar	One-week training in tilapia selective breeding and aquaculture University of Arizona, AZ

Students attended a weekly seminar lead by Dr. Donald Robadue with assistance from other CRC staff (Dr. Elin Torell, Dr. Najih Lazar, and Dr. Brian Crawford). Each student was assigned to a URI faculty member and worked on a special project of interest and relevance to their dissertation research.

Environmental Planning Data Hubs for the Western and Central Regions: Program-wide Geospatial Support, Services and Products

Mapping of the three SFMP-supported community-based fisheries management pilot sites – Ankobra, Pra and Densu estuaries – is essential for communicating and building community and government stakeholder awareness about the conditions of estuarine fisheries habitats. During this quarter, Hen Mpoano supported map production and continuing spatial analyses for fisheries management the estuaries. New maps were incorporated into the draft community-based co-management plans for these sites and used for communication on co-management plans with fisheries stakeholders at the community, district and national levels.

GIS Training for FC Zonal Officers (Support to FC)

GIS technology has revolutionized geographic analysis in fisheries resources management in many countries although using GIS for collecting, analyzing and managing data in Ghana's fisheries sector is still evolving. During this quarter, SFMP worked with implementing partners to train 16 Fisheries Commission zonal officers (6 females and 10 males) selected from all four coastal regions in the application of GIS for fisheries data management. Training sections included utilizing GIS software QGIS and Google Earth Pro mobile mobile applications for spatial data analysis. These officers are now able to collect and process fisheries-related data with mobile GPS devices, conduct basic GIS-based analyses with fisheries data, and produce customized maps with new and previously existing data.



Figure 1 Fisheries Commission's zonal officers participating in GIS training in Accra.

UCC/DFAS/CCM Capacity Development

A new more capable fixed-wing Bramor unmanned aerial vehicle was acquired, tested and used for training University of Cape Coast and Hen Mpoano partners (SFMP previously provided a vertical take-off UAV). The Bramor is launched from a powerful catapult and is capable of covering much larger areas than the smaller vertical take-off UAV. A Four day training event was conducted led by a C-Astral (maker of the Bramor) instructor and the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority began processing the required UAV registration application. Requirements for Ghana UAV pilots have been completely revised and are more stringent

than at the beginning of the project. Responding to this, SFMP revised its training program for the Bramor to comply with the new requirements. Development of a sustainability plan for the Bramor was started including a cost structure that would allow UCC/CCM to charge appropriately for the collection and processing of UAV imagery produced with the new equipment.¹

IR 3 Creating Constituencies and Stakeholder Engagement

Fisher-2-Fisher (F2F) Dialogue Program

The Fisher-to-Fisher dialogue initiative continues to gain traction after its inception in 2016. With an overall objective of building public support for and voluntary compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan, the F2F provides a platform for fishermen to directly engage in the nation's effort to rebuild dwindling small pelagics stocks as well as resolve conflicts at landing beaches across the country. The initiative provides checks and balances for chief fishermen as they are compelled to lead by examples as they facilitate the F2F dialogues. The F2F program also gives the Fisheries Commission an opportunity to collaborate directly with fishermen. This is gradually helping fisherfolk appreciate the need to enforce fisheries laws with an emphasis on avoiding selective enforcement (e.g., equal enforcement across all fisher groups regardless of political, cultural or economic positions).

Chief Fishermen in the Volta region without donor funds, organized dialogue sessions involving 200 fishers (Boatswain, Boat owners, chief fishermen and fishers), the Keta and Ketu Municipal Chief Executives, Fisheries Enforcement Unit, Marine Police and members of the Premix to address issues on the use of illegal net and light fishing. This prevented potential conflict amongst the fisherfolk in the Adina community.

The F2F dialogues were highlighted by the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, which leads the dialogues in all regions with support of SFMP, at this year's World Fisheries Day Celebration in Keta Municipality, Volta Region, on Tuesday, 21 November, 2017. During the celebration, government and traditional authorities acknowledged the success of F2F dialogues in generating consensus on actions aimed at rebuilding and sustaining Ghana's coastal fisheries, as well as the challenges they still face. Stakeholders and government representatives expressed their high expectations for the F2F as a key collaboration mechanism to rebuild depleted coastal fisheries stocks. The World Fisheries Day event had over 500 participants from all four coastal regions and included the Minister of Fisheries (Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye), the King of Anlo States Torgbui Sri III, National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association members and other key stakeholders in the fishing industry. Artisanal fishers in attendance reiterated their commitment to instituting an additional weekly non-fishing day across the country to reduce fishing pressure on stocks. They also emphasized the importance of fair and equal enforcement of the fisheries laws which has been perceived as biased in some cases. Discussions for fisheries sector leaders were arranged on Ghana Television, Obonu FM

¹ Late in the quarter, C-Astral recalled the main body of the UAV to replace critical electronic components forcing a delay of key activities until Q2.

and Jubilee FM to align with the event and increase public awareness about the various challenges confronting Ghana's coastal fisheries.



Figure 2 Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Elizabeth Afoley Quaye, delivering her address at the 2017 World Fisheries Day in Keta, Ghana surrounded by members of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association.

Public Outreach and Communications - Media Engagement

The SFMP communications unit intensified its efforts to increase visibility of sustainable fisheries management issues through various media channels. Radio and television discussions, documentary shows, newspaper and online news coverage and media staff trainings were conducted. The chart below presents SFMP media activities by modality for the first quarter of year four. There were 37 individual coverage events in which 13 were for television (35%) and the remaining on radio, internet and newspaper.

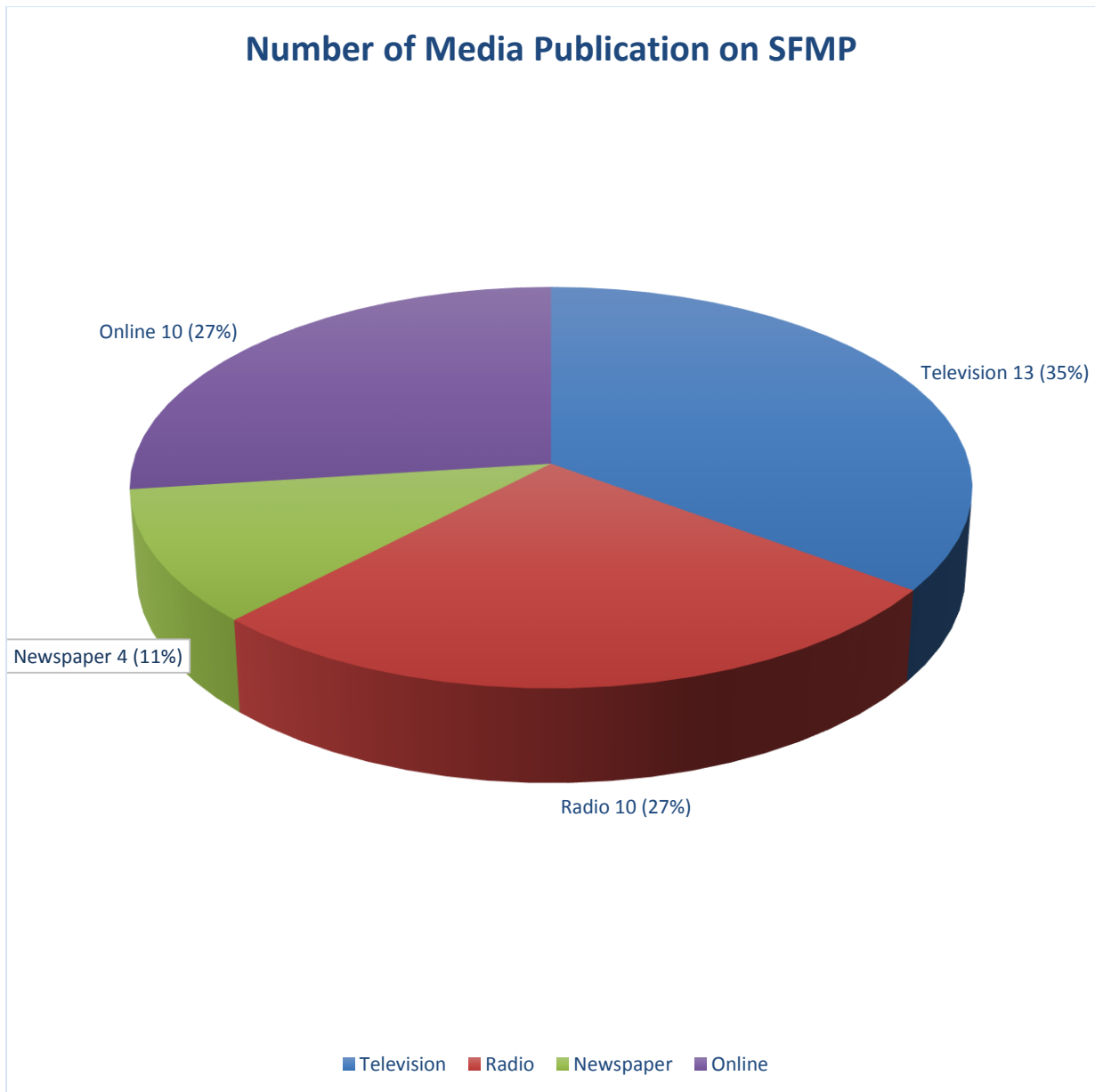


Figure 3 Number of Media Publication on SFMP Activities

Event Showcasing and Exhibition

Event showcasing and exhibition are two very important functions of communication that educate and inform the public on sustainable fisheries management activities, results, achievement and impacts. The communication unit supported the organization of two separate exhibitions on World Fisheries Day and International Day for Rural Women to showcase results, achievements, successes and remaining challenges for sustainable fisheries management in Ghana. SFMP exhibitions attracted more than 500 people. In addition to directly supported exhibitions, the communication unit developed and distributed to partners 25 pull-up banners on good fishing practices and 800 T-shirts with key messages encouraging good fishing practices, preventing child labor and trafficking, and promoting healthy, hygienic fish campaigns in fishing communities in all four coastal regions.



Figure 4 Celebrants dancing to commemorate International Day for Rural Women at Mumford, Central Region

CiviCRM Contact Management

The SFMP developed CiviCRM contact management system continues to serve as a very powerful tool for managing stakeholder contacts for the project. Within the quarter, more than 500 stakeholders' contacts were updated into the system. This system is used to increase stakeholder knowledge and awareness of sustainable fisheries management issues and actions needed. The total number of individuals in the data base is 5,495.

IR 4 Applied Management

Implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan

Sector-wide Closed Season Recommendation

With support from SFMP, the STWG submitted recommendations for a sector-wide closed season to MoFAD for consideration and approval. MoFAD is yet to respond officially although SFMP held direct discussions with the Minister, Chief Director of MOFAD and the Director of the Fisheries Commission on this recommendation. Moving forward in Quarter 2 will be based on a communications strategy for the closed season developed in Quarter 1 focused on support for rapid action on a sector-wide closed season. While measurable progress is being made for a sector-wide closure, the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan excludes the artisanal sector from closed seasons. SFMP awareness raising through media, training and the F2F dialogues is building support among artisanal stakeholders to voluntarily support a sector-wide closed season. There are significant political challenges to achieving the sector-wide closed season although a closed season for the industrial sector

(i.e., not including semi-industrial and artisanal) is being conducted from January-February 2018.

Support for Implementation and Monitoring of Estuarine Management Measures

Working closely with fishers in five estuarine communities and the Western Regional Fisheries Commission, a draft management plan for the Ankobra river estuarine fishery was developed in Year 3. Key management measures in the plan include closed seasons, closed areas, mesh size restrictions and mangrove conservation. A ten-member management committee comprised of representatives from the five participating estuarine communities was formed to oversee implementation of the plan. The committee gained official recognition and was registered by both Ellembelle and Nzema East district assemblies as representatives of an official association of Ankobra estuarine fishers.

During this quarter, SFMP supported the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management Committee to raise awareness of provisions in the Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan. Using the Kundum Festival held on October 28, 2017, over 300 people, including traditional authorities, municipal chief executives, fishers and residents from the estuarine communities participated in durbars. The engagement helped to increase commitment and ownership among the local stakeholders for the formal approval and implementation of the fisheries management plan for the Ankobra river estuary.

Video screening on IUU in 15 landing sites

Weak enforcement of fisheries regulations and perception of fisheries laws as illegitimate by many fisherfolk contributes to increased illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in Ghana's artisanal and inshore fishing zones. Within these areas, canoes (artisanal fishing boats) are the main source of illegal fishing activities.

SFMP promotes voluntary compliance with fisheries regulations and fosters adoption of good fishing practices through beach-level behavioral change communication campaigns on IUU fishing. During the reporting period, IUU videos were screened in both Fante and Ewe languages in Metika, a fishing community in the Western region. The use of local languages for the video screening enhanced communication and understanding, and promoted effective post-screening discussions among over 100 fishers on the negative impacts of bad fishing practices. At the end of the event, fishers called for cooperation among themselves and with government, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations to end bad fishing practices.

Commenting on the impacts of illegal fishing, the Chief of Metika Nana Ernest Whajah said *“Growing up as a young boy in my community, I used to fish with ordinary baskets. The fishes came close to the shore that you needed no canoe to catch what you will eat. But now, one has to go very far offshore in search of fish, yet we come home with empty nets”*

Stakeholder Engagement and Implementation of National Fisheries Management Plan

Recognizing the importance of traditional authorities and their roles in promoting fisheries compliance as well as behavioral change, SFMP expanded its engagement program to more effectively include the participation of paramount chiefs, sub-chiefs, queen mothers, and other traditional leaders in coastal communities. As ‘custodians’ of coastal communities’ welfare, traditional authorities can successfully support implementation of traditional fisheries management measures by enacting customary by-laws and norms which regulate access and pressure on marine resources, particularly related to closed seasons and additional non-fishing days along the coast. The success of Ghana's Fisheries Management Plan

depends on effective collaboration with these key authorities/stakeholders in all coastal regions.

SFMP organized meetings with paramount chiefs, queen mothers and sub-chiefs from coastal fishing areas in the Central and Volta Regions during Quarter 1. These meetings provided platforms to share the content of the NFMP with seventy-five (75) traditional leaders (59 males and 16 females). Almost all the traditional leaders said at the meetings that, this was the first time they had heard about the NFMP. The engagement sessions created a platform for the Regional Fisheries Commissions' staff to interact with the chiefs and other traditional authorities on government's plans for the implementation of the NFMP. An important aspect of the programs was providing opportunities for traditional leaders to discuss their roles among themselves and their respective responsibilities in the implementation of the NFMP.

At both meetings traditional leaders formed working groups to refine their roles and explore the drafting of a traditional leaders' charter on fisheries that provides guiding principles based on traditional leaders' effective participation in fisheries governance. Stressed in both meetings was their readiness to support fisheries governance and strong, urgent action by the Fisheries Commission.

Constituency Building through Peer-to-Peer Engagements

Continuing SFMP's focus on peer-to-peer learning and information exchange among fisherfolk and other community members, especially those engaged in fish processing, SFMP conducted its quarterly review meeting with local fisherfolk on December 12, 2017 at the interim DAA Fisheries Training Center at Tsokomey in the Greater Accra Region. The meeting focused on successes in behavioral change during the first three years of SFMP implementation process and how these successes inform action in the final two years of the project. Many of the 75 participants (85% women) expressed their appreciation for the knowledge, capacity building and leadership skills learned through the three years of SFMP support. The participants shared their experiences on how healthy and hygienic fish handling training has helped to improve their fish processing businesses.



Figure 5 Fish processors sharing experiences on SFMP hygienic fish handling training at Tsokomey in the Ga South District

The peer to peer knowledge sharing session during the meeting provided an opportunity to for participants to generate and share feedback on the hygienic fish handling, processing and business record keeping. The meeting also served as a platform for fisherfolk to learn of various activities planned for SFMP Year 4 and provide comments.

SFMP organized three kick-off meetings with three municipals assemblies (Effutu, Gomoa West and Ga South), chief fishermen, fishers, fish processors, and other stakeholders. A total of 100 stakeholders (60 males and 40 females) attended these meetings focused on increased

collaboration on good fishing practices. Municipal assembly members agreed to support improve sanitation at the various fish processing and landing sites with the Ga South Municipal Assembly agreeing to support the Tsokomey Youth Association in cleaning and maintaining the landing site at Tsokomey. At the meeting with the Apam, Municipal Assembly, the chief fisherman promised to support fish processors' livelihoods by donating a stretch of land for installing hygienic and safe drying and smoking facilities of anchovies.

As a follow on to these meetings, SFMP implementing partners agreed to support regular quarterly briefing meetings with municipal assemblies and other stakeholders to continually discuss progress and further areas of collaboration and support for fisheries issues.

Fisheries Working Group (FWG) Quarterly Regional Coordination Meetings with SFMP Partners.

An important part of sustaining good practices is stakeholder participation and coordination for improved fisheries governance at the regional level that complements national and local level engagements. In line with this, two (2) regional Fisheries Working Group (FWG) meetings were organized in the Central and Volta Regions. In attendance were 63 stakeholders (50 males and 13 females) including representatives from the Fisheries Commission (FC), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council (GNCFC), National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), Marine Police, Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU), Navy, Social Welfare Department, Central Region Development Commission (CEDECOM), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), District Assemblies, inshore fishers, representative of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and others.

The meetings provided a platform for participants to share, discuss and assess progress in implementing the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan (NFMP) 2015-2019 including noting that IUU fishing, especially illegal trans-shipment (Saiko) in Elmina, Apam, Tema and other areas, was particularly destructive and a disincentive for local fishers to support the NFMP implementation or compliance with the fisheries laws. Fishers expressed the position that if these practices are allowed to continue they also should not be expected to comply with national requirements. Participants agreed to draft and submit an advisory letter to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Fisheries Commission and the FEU to encourage them to address the IUU fishing.

Participants were updated on national canoe registration exercises in central region and recommendations were made on the need to train the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) on the canoe registration numbering system to ensure effective enforcement of the laws and arrest of fishers using destructive methods of fishing.

At both meetings the Fisheries Commission committed to providing electronic & hard copies of the canoe registration data to the FEU and the coastal district assemblies to support enforcement. Participants recommended improved engagement on the NFMP by increasing direct stakeholder participation in the implementation process.



Figure 6 Fisheries Working Group Meeting at Central (left) and Volta (right) regions

Law Enforcement through Volunteer Watch Programs

The Fisheries Watch Volunteer Program is an initiative between the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development that is supported by the SFMP. In 2016-2017, over 50 fishers from 2 coastal fishing districts were trained as Fisheries Watch Volunteers (FWV) to support fisheries education and voluntary compliance in their fishing districts. With SFMP support, the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development developed a plan to replicate and establish 6 more FWV groups in selected coastal districts across Ghana.

In a separate but parallel initiative, SFMP continues to work with the Marine Police Unit of the Ghana Police Service to strengthen their capacities on Fisheries Laws and Regulations through a competence-based capacity development and training program. The objective of this program is to promote competence-based fisheries enforcement deterrence through trained and prepared voluntary enforcement teams that can apply knowledge, skills and the right attitude (KSA) in fisheries enforcement.



Figure 7 Marine police officers practicing new skills on rescue swimming at Takoradi Harbor

During Quarter 1, SFMP provided a 5-day, competence-based field training exercise for marine police at the Ghana Port and Harbor Authority (GPHA) in Takoradi and Albert Bosomtwi Sam Fishing Harbor in Sekondi during which thirty-one (31) marine police

personnel were trained in practical field competency exercises on fisheries laws and compliance, rescue swimming, at-sea communications, maritime firefighting, enforcement and protocols for boarding of vessels. Five (5) personnel who had no swimming skills since joining the unit five years ago had their first swimming lessons during the exercise.

The practical skills acquired by the personnel during the exercise were very useful in building the capacities of the personnel to respond to demands for enhanced deterrence and to contribute to responsible fishing, which is a key requirement for rebuilding the declined marine fish stocks and ensure food security for many Ghanaians.

Community Based Management

Effective implementation of the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan requires the application and enforcement of appropriate sanctions against fishers who violate collectively agreed rules. During Quarter 1, SFMP organized a meeting with the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management committee, local sub-chiefs and elders of the Ankobra estuarine communities (Adelekezo, Ajomoro Eshiem, Eziome, Kukuavile, Sanwoma) to document existing community rules and sanctions governing the use of fisheries and natural resources in the estuary. Documenting existing knowledge and practices will serve as the foundation for developing appropriate fisheries-related sanctions. It was expressed during the meeting that, with the exception of Sanwoma and Eziome, the other three (Adelekezo, Ajomoro Eshiem and Kukuaville) estuarine communities have existing sanctions against offence of fishing holidays, use of chemicals for fishing and fishing in closed areas. These sanctions range from seizure of fishing nets, fines including a sheep, bottles of drinks, payment of 700 Ghana cedis up to a maximum sanction of reporting offenders to the police for prosecution at district court.

During the next quarter, these and other rules will be discussed with residents of all estuarine communities and fines for offenders collectively decided and incorporated into a finalized version of the Ankobra Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan.

The 10-member Ankobra community-based fisheries management committee will oversee implementation of the Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan. The committee includes fishers from the five affected estuarine communities. Through SFMP's facilitation, the committee members developed a constitution and elected executives for administration of the committee. This provides the basis for official recognition of the fisheries management committee by the Ellebelle and Nzema East District Assemblies.

Restoration of degraded sites within CBFM plan area

As part of actions to ensure a healthy Ankobra estuarine fishery, a mangrove nursery site was prepared to enable raising of high quality mangrove seedlings for re-planting in degraded areas during Year 4. About 20,000 ‘poly-pots’ for nursing seedlings were procured, 16,200 of these poly-pots were filled with soil and 3,000 planted with mangrove propagules (seedlings). Mangrove nursery site preparations and management were carried out by community inhabitants and have consequently increased community-wide knowledge and practical actions to protect mangrove ecosystems such as demarcating and maintaining buffers areas along the river stretch where mangrove harvesting is currently prohibited.



Figure 8 Community folks filling poly pot with soil and mangrove seeds at Ankobra nursery site in the Western Region

Community Level meetings on Socialization of the Draft Pra Co-Management Plan

In Year 3, as part of the ecosystem fisheries management and community resilience planning processes, a Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan was drafted to promote effective management of the fisheries resources in the Pra Estuary. During the first quarter, several community meetings were held to widely socialize the Pra Community-Based Fisheries Management Plan with stakeholders. A total of 507 community members (261 males and 246 females) were engaged in ten (10) community meetings. The meetings mobilized community and stakeholder support for the implementation of the plan. Feedback from the communities’ stakeholders was collated to aid in the re-organization of the membership of the management committee. Each of the beneficiary communities nominated one person to be part of the management committee to replace the proxy representatives nominated earlier.

During the meetings, stakeholders provided additional input to update the plan and recommended specific sections for revision. Inputs were collated and will be incorporated into the final draft plan for submission with other CB-FMPs to the Fisheries Commission. Voluntary compliance standards were one of the main areas of agreement during the meetings. Next steps will be final endorsement through a continuing process at the district and regional level before final presentation to the Fisheries Commission for approval.

Second Phase of mangrove replanting at the Densu Estuary at Bortianor/Tsokomey in Greater Accra Region (10,000 seedlings)

The loss of mangrove cover throughout the Densu Delta (an international RAMSAR protected area) in the Ga South district of Ghana is caused by clearing of the mangroves as source of fuel wood for domestic cooking and fish processing. This loss has impacted on soil and water quality. In order to address these challenges, SFMP established a mangrove plantation as part of its pilot Community-Based Management Plan for the Densu estuary, with oyster as the fishery resource. This was led by the Densu Oyster Pickers Association (DOPA) in Tsokomey, Tetegu and Faana. The women oyster pickers embarked on the 2nd phase of mangrove restoration on November 21, 2017 by planting 1,500 mangrove seedlings. A total of 76 community people (11 males) embarked on the mangrove planting exercise.



Figure 9 Members of Densu Oyster Pickers Association planting mangroves around Densu estuary at Tsokomey in the Ga South Municipality

To date, SFMP assisted the women's oyster association to plant 2,700 mangrove seedlings. Under the protection of the association, most of the first phase mangroves that were planted are still alive and well.

SFMP will continue to assist the DOPA women, as 12,000 mangrove seedlings are expected to be planted by the end of FY 18 and will build their capacity for full scale adoption of the co-management plan. The group has been assisted by SFMP to draft their own constitution. The group received material support from the project in the form of safety gears such as sandals for harvesting oysters in the estuary and life jackets. SFMP would continue to monitor progress of the oyster activities and assist in any capacity building activities.



Figure 10 Mangroves planted during the 1st phase of the restoration process in April 2017 at Densu estuary at Tsokomey in the Ga South Municipality

Value Chain and Post-Harvest Improvements

Extension Strategy for Widespread Scale-up of Improved Smoker Technology

Monitoring of stove financing schemes and Ahotor oven construction activities were undertaken across the coastal communities of the Central Region during Quarter 1. Participating financial institutions promoted greater mainstreaming to potential customers as part of strategies to deepen awareness and increase demand for the Ahotor oven. 16 additional processors were registered to purchase the improved oven design through the financing scheme. Sixteen out of one hundred loans targeted for disbursement were approved and stove construction has started.

The Ahotor oven was included in a follow up assessment plan for all fish smoking stoves in Ghana at the FAO meeting of experts in Cape Coast on November 14-16, 2017. Dr. Margaret Ottah Atikpo (SFMP's Fisheries Postharvest Specialist) and Mrs. Jessica Nkansah (Head of the Fish Export Unit of the Ghana Standards Authority) submitted a paper on the Healthy Fish Class 1 grading system to the FAO meeting of experts that highlighted the Ahotor oven potential.

In coordinated efforts to promote healthy fish production for the Ghanaian market, SFMP collaborated with partners to carry out an Ahotor stove construction training for community based artisans in coastal residential centers. The training contributed to youth employment potentials by equipping young artisans with the relevant skills to construct the Ahotor oven as alternative livelihood option.

This activity increased the number of stove building artisans as a means of re-enforcing the supply side of the market Ahotor oven market. Community-based artisans who benefited from the training are now available to construct, maintain, and retrofit existing ovens in line

with design principles of the healthier Ahotor designs. In turn, trained artisans are expected to also drive demand as they search for new clients.

The trainings were held in two different locations; one in the Volta Region between 29th November 29 to December 1, 2017, and the other in the Central Region between December 4-8, 2017. Six (6) participants (all males) from Dzemeni, Hohoe, Keta and Ketu in the Volta Region benefitted from this skilled training and thirty-one (31) artisans from Apam, Winneba, Moree, Biriwa, Anlo Beach, Bomingo, Axim, Secondi, and Elmina benefited from the training in Western, Central and Greater Accra regions. All trainees received hands-on guidance from certified Ahotor builders supported by a discussion of the practical reasons the technology produced healthier fish and used less fuel wood.

The SFMP post-harvest team took advantage of the trainings to raise awareness and demand for the Ahotor oven in the Central Region by participating in radio programs to speak on the emergence of Ahotor oven as an improved fish smoking technology. The post-harvest team also participated in the Moree fish processor association meeting to talk about the benefits of Ahotor oven and the Class 1 recognition scheme which resulted in six people signing up for Ahotor oven purchase.

On the national stove promotion efforts, eleven (11) double unit Ahotor ovens were constructed in quarter one with construction of additional units started but not completed in the Volta, Central and Greater Accra regions.

MSME business development

Fire and Safety Outreach

SFMP conducted fire and safety training in four target communities including Sekondi-Ngyresia, Anlo Beach, Elmina and Moree in the Central Region to educate and reduce risk from fire hazards during fish smoking. Little or no knowledge about fire prevention and safety practices greatly contributes to major fire outbreaks at homes and fish smoking facilities across the coastal regions. Training included discussions on the composition of fires, safety practices, causes of fire outbreaks, types of fires and relevant requisite extinguishers. A total of 237 (66 males and 171 females) participated in the four outreaches.

Monitoring of VSLA activities

SFMP partners facilitated the formation of two VSLAs at Ajomoro Eshiem and Adelekazo as part of early actions for the Ankobra estuarine communities during Year 2 of the SFMP. The purpose was to organize these community members into groups to develop an understanding of and positive attitude toward savings. VSLA's also greatly contribute to community cohesion and stability, including management of natural resources. In Year 3, DQF took over coaching and mentoring of these VSLAs in addition to the two groups formed at Kukuavile and Ezioime. During the reporting period, all 4 VSLA groups were transitioned back to Hen Mpoano as a result of DQF's completion of its contract under SFMP.

During this reporting period, SFMP partners conducted support visits to the VSLA groups at Ajomoro Eshiem and Kukuavili. An assessment conducted on the both group's progress reveals that Ajomoro Eshiem VSLA was progressively doing very well with regular meetings of members, strict observance of contribution and loaning procedures. The Kukuavile VSLA group had not been meeting or saving in the past six weeks. Challenges were discussed with VSLA members and included the need for more regular follow-up support from SFMP partner teams. The Adelekazo and Ezioim VSLA groups are scheduled for a monitoring visit in the second quarter of Year 4.

Insulated Fish Containers

Postharvest value addition to captured fish would be greatly enhanced for fish processors with the adoption of better handling practices including the use of ice at sea by fishers and use of ice while awaiting smoking. Twenty large insulated containers were procured for demonstration of icing techniques for fish processors in all regions. These containers were presented to Fisheries Commission by USAID for onward distribution to fisherfolk on October 9, 2017. Insulated containers for on-board fish icing by canoe fishermen will be procured in Quarter 2 in collaboration with Fisheries Commission. Delivery will be followed with training so that fishers understand proper layering of ice as a start to hygienic cold chain handling of fish along the value chain until processed.

DAA Fisheries Training Center

Inspection of the DAA Fisheries Training Center was carried out on October 13, 2017 that identified deficiencies in kitchen and bathroom sinks, cabinets, lights, and safety railings. Meetings were conducted with the contractor to review requirements and completion is now expected in Quarter 2.

Refurbishment of CEWEFIA Processing Hall and Family Traditions facility

An inspection visit was conducted on December 14, 2017 of refurbishment construction at CEWEFIA Fish Processing Center. Work was identified as complete and the contractor was discharged for all completed work. Work already completed for the refurbishment of the CEWEFIA Family Traditions processing facility was also satisfactory however part of the work is yet to be done including dislodging of a septic tank that needs to be corrected.

Advocacy for Responsible Fishing during World Rural Women's day - Celebrations in Greater Accra and Central Region

Rural women constitute about 41% of the Population of Ghana and produce about 70% of the nation's food, yet their role has not received much recognition. Fish processors in Ghana, of which majority are women, play a critical role in advocating and curtailing irresponsible fishing and processing practices as many of them finance fishing including purchase of canoes, fuel and fishing gears.

This year's International Day for Rural Women (World Rural Women's Day) was celebrated in Ghana at Mumford, a fishing community in the Gomoa West District of the Central Region of Ghana on November 14, 2017 and highlighted the major issues confronting rural women and related solutions. The event attracted 317 people participants (257 females) including the Paramount Chief of Mumford, Gomoa West District Chief Executive, Chief fishermen of Winneba, Apam, Mumford, grass root women associations of DAA under the chairmanship of Queen Mother of Mumford.

"I would like to indicate that the District Assembly is prepared to support fishing activities in the district since that is the major occupation for our people"
– Hon. Mismark Baisie, District Chief Executive for Gomoa District

Research and Data collection

The continuous degradation of mangroves around Densu estuary has been identified as a contributing factor for the decline in Oyster stock in the area. In response, SFMP initiated development of a Community Based Co-Management Plan for the oyster fishery resource in the area. As part of the support, women in the women's oyster pickers association were trained in water quality monitoring as a way to increase their understanding of how to maintain water conditions at the various harvesting sites to sustain their livelihoods and

improve oyster growth. Thirty community oyster pickers received training in Year 3 in oyster ecology and biology were selected to learn how to collect and understand water quality data collection including water salinity (surface and bottom), turbidity, and pH. Data now has been collected for six months and women are beginning to understand the cycles of water quality that affect oyster growth. The next step is for the women to use their knowledge to identify areas that experience lower water quality fluctuations and make plans to seed these areas with new oysters under the final Densu Community Co-Management Plan.



Figure 11 Trained oyster pickers collecting data on water quality from the Densu estuary at Tsokomey

Reducing Child Labor and Trafficking in Fisheries in Central Region

Coordination Efforts

A SFMP CLaT team meeting was held on Thursday, November 23, 2017 to develop and coordinate team anti-CLaT activities in the fisheries sector in FY 18. The team reviewed their work for year three and discussed lessons learned to improve efforts in Year 4. Potential synergies were identified among partner organizations to increase effectiveness. Partners agreed to adopt a more complete holistic approach for the implementation of CLaT activities in Year 4 including joining the coalition meeting of NGOs working on CLaT on December 11, 2017. Also identified was the need to work more effectively through ‘force multipliers such as churches, mosques and other religious and civic organizations not yet engage. To achieve this, team members developed an integrated communication plan for FY 18 and outlined the roles of each partner in its implementation.

Increased Community Sensitization to CLaT

Coastal communities in the Central Region are recognized as a main source area for child trafficking for the fisheries sector in Ghana. The country is listed on the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) worldwide watch-list as not doing enough to combat human trafficking for the past three (3) consecutive years (2014, 2015 and 2016). Helping address deficits at the community level, SFMP intensified its outreach on CLaT using approaches tailored to a largely illiterate coastal fisheries population. Community CLaT sensitization programs in Anomabo during Ghana’s National Farmers’ and Fishers’ Day event engaged over 300 persons in awareness raising on the negative impacts of CLaT and was used to promote awareness of the police CLaT Hotline to increase reporting and deterrence of CLaT practices.



Figure 12 A scene of drama performance on child labor at the National Farmers Day Fisheries Child Labor Policy Socialization Engagement Meetings with District Assemblies Child Protection Panels/Committees

SFMP began activities to assist the national government to socialize its National Fisheries Child Labor Policy document which previously had not been socialized with the social welfare officials or the stakeholders at the district and regional level. SFMP organized five (5) separate meetings for the district child protection panel members and anti-CLaT advocate from the ten (10) coastal districts in the Central Region. In all, 198 participants (124 males and 74 females) were engaged to increase awareness of the policy document. Participants included the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC), Ghana Police Service, National Fish Processors and Traders’ Association (NAFPPTA), the Ghana Immigration Service, Department of Social Welfare, District Planning and Coordinating Unit, Ghana Information Service Division, Fisheries Commission, District Child Protection Committees and Community Anti-CLaT advocates. Discussions at the meetings promoted participants’ appreciation of child labor issues and stakeholder roles to reduce CLaT practices.

The engagement process provided the opportunity to integrate the policy into the district action plans and in the case of Western Region included allocation of funds in FY 18.

Media Engagement on Child Labor and Trafficking

One (1) Radio Campaign on ClaT in Central Region

Inadequate information sharing and low awareness of the roles and responsibilities of regulatory agencies in reducing CLaT were identified as key communication challenges in FY 17. To address this, SFMP implementing partners collaborated with Mfantseman Municipal Assembly and initiated a regular radio discussion program on Coastal FM at Mankessim in the Central Region. The radio program focuses on increasing awareness of what constitutes CLaT practices and shares information about the negative effects and impacts of CLaT with listeners along the Central Region coast. This is a major collaboration between SFMP partners and the assembly members to reduce child labor in the region. Discussions include officers from the Department of Social Welfare, community Anti-CLaT advocates and staff from SFMP implementing partners.

Anti-CLaT Community Video Campaign

Trained Anti-CLaT advocates in Winneba used Anti-CLaT videos to sensitize communities on the effects of child labor and trafficking on children and society. Community members expressed shock at hearing the first-hand accounts from real victims and what they go through, and a dynamic dialogue was facilitated in communities viewing the videos with participants vowing never to allow their children to be trafficked. In total about 100 people watched the video at Mumford's main lorry station on November 30, 2017. Fifty-three (53) participants (27 female) actively participated in the form of comments, personal contributions and questions during the audio-visual educational program.

Focus Group Discussions (PTA, Churches/ Mosque)

SFMP, through its trained Community anti-CLaT advocate teams, began a more intense engagement of on Anti-CLaT efforts specific groups and organization such as schools, churches, mosques, fishermen/fishmongers associations as part of its new 'force multiplier' approach to CLaT sensitization and education. On December 13, 2017 a focus group discussion was held at the Apam Catholic School in Gomoa West (Central region) that directly engaged 50 adults (30 males) including teachers, parents, guardians and over 200 pupils. The engagement represents the 'force multiplier' that will be expanded in the remainder of Year 4 under SFMP's broad anti-CLaT behavior change campaign in the region.

IR 5 GENDER

The SFMP gender team provides ongoing coaching support to MOFAD/FC and other SFMP implementing partners' technical staff on improved implementation of the Fisheries Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries

Training of Trainers for Leaders of Fisheries Association Members

Empowering women is essential for sustainable growth of Ghana's fisheries industry. To support women's empowerment, SFMP provides training in leadership and conflict management dubbed the 'Hownam (a local name for fish processors) Dialogue' that is now recognized as an effective tool in building the capacity of fish processors and strengthening their associations. Training sessions were held from November 27-28, 2017 at Denu and Keta in the Ketu South and Keta Municipalities respectively. Training covered group dynamics, leadership, and conflict management and included 47 participants (5 men and 42 women) who were all members of NAFPTA. The post training assessment indicated participants understanding of the various topics covered during the training period had increased along with an understanding of how to apply the lessons learned to their own businesses. In Quarter 2, one additional fish processors group will be trained using the same modules in the Greater Accra Region.

Annual meeting of Gender Network (2 meetings)

The Gender Network was formed to bring together civil society organizations and government agencies working in the area of gender create synergies and greater understanding of the role gender plays roles in the fisheries sector. The network serves as a focal point for women's empowerment representatives in various roles who are working to create an enabling environment for women in the fisheries sector. The Gender Network had its 3rd annual meeting (20 members including 9 males) on December 5, 2017 at the Ampomaah Hotel in Accra. At the meeting, the network members reviewed the previous year's engagements and set its plan for FY 18. An activity plan was developed to support MOFAD to implement its Fisheries Sector Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and discussed the MOFAD budget allocations under the World Bank funded WARFP project to implement the

1st phase of the strategy. With support from the Network, MOFAD plans to implement the strategy, developed with SFMP support, in 2018.

IR 6 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Fisheries Future Plan (FFP)

In November, BIMA one of the main partners involved in the FFP program for provision of micro-insurance announced its exit from the program. Ghanaians are suspicious of insurance programs and there are concerns that the over 3000 persons already enrolled in the program will have strong reactions to the exit of BIMA. To address these concerns and fill the gap created by BIMA's exit in May 2018, SFMP and the remaining private sector partners are working with BIMA to develop mitigation measures to adapt, sustain, and strengthen the overall FFP initiative. Key among these measures is Vodafone's new commitment to assume BIMA's current roles related to selling and promoting the FFP product in communities.

In addition, FFP micro-insurance partners are reviewing insurance product design and conducting an on-the-ground review of the Fishers Future Plan (FFP) pilots. Focus group discussions with over 130 fisherfolk – men and women – in the FFP pilot sites of James Town, Moree and Shama were held and analysis of focus group outcomes were completed that resulted in a draft lessons learned report for the FFP that will be finalized in Quarter 2 and shared to help better understand FFP customers' perspectives on current FFP products and guide development of improved strategies for successful scale-up of the FFP coast wide.

SFMP continues to actively support private sector partners in marketing and communications for the FFP in pilot communities to deepen awareness and understanding of the FFP program. The Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development officially and publicly endorsed the Fishers Future Plan during the World Fisheries Day at Keta in the Volta Region of Ghana which provided a huge boost to the program.

Tigo Fishers' Network (TFN)

SFMP and Tigo carried out community engagement and sensitization exercises in Elmina and Axim communities for the Tigo Fishers' Network (TFN) mobile phone based communications tool. The field exercises focused on increasing engagement of fisherfolk association leaders, opinion leaders and community members on new operations and happenings at Tigo and the TFN.

Following the merger between Airtel and Tigo, SFMP supported Tigo in rapid community sensitization on how the TFN will be operating in the coming months, including change of the program's name to Airtel-Tigo Fishers Network. SFMP team members liaised with Airtel-Tigo to conclude development of the technology platform that will allow the Fisheries Commission to send fisheries information to fisherfolk through the communications network. Trials of the technology platform with the FC will start early in Quarter 2.

Coordination with the USAID Global Development Lab

In quarter one, SFMP provided extensive comments and suggestions for proposed coordination of research activities between the USAID Global Development Lab and SFMP related to identification of expanded opportunities for mobile money and other mobile phone based services for fisherfolk. Private sector partners under the Fishers Future Plan (UT Life, Millennium Insurance, and Vodafone) were briefed on the upcoming activities and look forward to the final report.

IR 7 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

CSO Capacity Development

Review of GNCFC action plan

In line with the USAID Forward initiative, SFMP supports development and strengthening of key local partner organizations to improve the quality and sustainability of the services they provide to their constituencies and position them to qualify for direct funding from USAID and other donors in the future. Organizational assessments of SFMP local partner organizations conducted in Year 3 focused on the status of the organizations in areas of governance, financial management, programs, human resources, external relations, and partnership sustainability, and led to the development and implementation of a program of actions to address shortfalls.

During this quarter, the SNV team reviewed capacity needs for the GNCFC and finalized a plan to accelerate organizational capacity development for the organization. SFMP, through SNV, is now supporting GNCFC to finalize its action plan to address key capacity deficits in Quarter 2.

SFMP is also supporting GITA in finalizing its projections for financial sustainability of the organization and fund raising efforts that will begin in Quarter 2. This will drive the fund raising initiatives of the association, providing increased funds to support activities planned including in its strategic plan developed with SFMP assistance.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Evaluation Knowledge Management and Learning Plan

Within the reporting period, the SFMP monitoring and evaluation unit completed a review of the project monitoring and evaluation plan for FY 18 to capture FY 18 work plan targets and review other elements of the plan to produce the updated SFMP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The unit participated in Ghana links training for IPs meeting at Bolga to build the capacity of the M&E specialist and Gender Point of Contact for SFMP on USAID M&E and Gender policies. Particularly important, this training resulted in increased ability of the SFMP M&E unit to ensure that all project implementing partners effectively integrate gender and women's empowerment in all aspects of the project cycle including planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

The unit continues to be responsible for collating and tracking implementing partner's deliverables, and training partner M&E officers to conduct field monitoring across all project activities and implementation sites.

Implementation Challenges

Significant challenges are confronting the upscaling of the AHOTOR oven. High initial costs of construction remain an obstacle although the majority of women show great interest in using the new technology. One of the contributors to high costs appears to be added expenses of transporting materials and accommodating artisans from distance locations during construction. During Quarter 1, SFMP teams began training local artisans to construct the stoves as well as introducing the opportunity for women to purchase their own materials and only pay for local artisan labor. To support an increased push for uptake and market adoption of the Ahotor stove, a new market development specialist was hired and will start in January 2018.

Bima Insurance unexpectedly withdrew from the Fishers Future Plan micro-insurance program in Quarter 1 presenting challenges for implementation as well as the reputation of the FFP program as a result of perceptions of the over 3000 people already signed up during the pilot phase. Other FFP partners are working to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities to either new or existing partners in Quarters 2 & 3 that will be seamless and largely unnoticed by FFP subscribers.

M&E Plan and Update

The M&E plan was revised for FY18 on Performance management task and responsibility schedules, USAID revised indicators and targets, and performance indicators tracking tables. This was to ensure that the plan is up to date and reflects the needed changes in the project.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

3.1 Gender Equity and Female Empowerment

Please see Section 2, IR5 for information on activities directly related to this issue.

3.2 Sustainability Mechanisms

SFMP consistently works closely with government representatives to assure sustainability of project interventions. Organizational capacity assessments were conducted near the end of Year 3 of partner organizations to inform the last two years of SFMP capacity development. A key issue with government partners is the relative newness of the MOFAD and FC, and attendant insufficiently developed staff compliments, funding structures and organizational integration and management that are beyond the control of SFMP. As a result, SFMP continues to link its government capacity development efforts to NGO engagements to reinforce planning and implementation at all levels.

In addition, to promote sustainability of local scale actions, one of the SFMP local implementing partners, has created consultation platforms for fisherfolk and other organizational stakeholders to discuss in real time the important issues affecting fishing communities and overall sustainability of key stocks in Ghana.

A partnership was established with the Business Advisory Center to engage fisherfolk in business training and enable them to access ongoing support and resources from the Center to continually improve their business practices.

As SFMP moves toward into the last two years of the project, a more detailed sustainability plan will be developed that outlines specific SFMP preparations for sustained action past the life of the project.

3.3 Environmental Compliance

No activities were implemented during the quarter that required environmental screening.

3.4 Global Climate Change

See Section 2, IR4.1: Planting mangroves, stocks expected to be impacted by rising sea surface temps.

3.5 Policy and Governance support

See Section 2, IR1 which describes SFMP's policy and governance support initiatives.

3.6 Local Capacity Development

See Section 2, IR7 for capacity development activities of government, producer, processor and CSO groups.

3.7 Public Private Partnerships

See Section 2, IR 6 for activities on development of public-private partnerships.

3.8 Science, Technology, and Innovation

See section 2, IR 2 and IR 6 for activities on the scientific and technical innovations achieved during the quarter.

4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

SFMP works through its implementing partners to continuously engage stakeholders at the community, district, regional and national level as indicated below.

Government: Fisheries Commission Regional and National Officials, District Assemblies in Central and Volta regions, Police, Ghana Navy, Air force, Social Welfare, immigration Social welfare, Child Protection Panels (CPCs), media, CSOs, Ghana Health Service, personnel of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit, Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA), and CEDECOM.

Private sector including Fishermen, women fish mongers, media houses, Inshore Fishers, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council (GNCFC), Ghana Police Service, National Fish Processors and Traders' Association (NAFPTA),

Fisherfolk participated in the Fishers Future Plan pilot evaluation focus groups in October. Further, the Airtel-Tigo Fishers' Network is actively engaging the Fisheries Commission (FC), National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) and Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) in developing implementation plans. Airtel-Tigo is engaging NAFPTA and GNFC community leaders as registration agents, planning to provide them with attractive incentives for their work and collaboration.

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

At the end of Year 3 and beginning of Year 4, SFMP lost two-thirds of its communication unit staff. Recruitment of new staff proceeded quickly but this still resulted in capacity gaps within the project. New staff have now been recruited and will start at the beginning of Quarter 2.

Based on the official audit conducted in Year 3, URI decided to move to monthly invoicing and funding of partners instead of the previous quarterly invoicing to reduce risk. This resulted in a significant increase in reporting burden to all partners and a corresponding increase in report review burden on the SFMP core team. Measures for managing this increased burden are being examined and will be implemented in Quarter 2.

Year 3 was a particularly intensive year for activities and corresponding reporting. The combined burden of reporting while carrying implementation resulted in some SFMP implementing partners accruing a high backlog of due documents and reports which also delays uploading to GhanaLinks and CRC websites. An SFMP implementing partners meeting will be conducted in Takoradi in January 2018 and ways to address partner document backlogs will be addressed.

6. LESSONS LEARNED

The following are a few highlights of lessons learned during the course of implementation of project activities this quarter.

- SNV's collaboration with the multidisciplinary stakeholder committee on implementation of a Class 1 hygienic fish production recognition scheme revealed it may be necessary to fund testing costs for the pilot phase. This will be discussed with relevant stakeholders.
- Involving the youth in community SFMP project implementation contributes to achieving the project sustainability objective. For instance, the involvement of youth led to the establishment of mangrove farms and tree planting which is aim at restoring the depleted forest.
- Behavioral change communication among fish mongers, fishermen, fish traders and all who are involved in fishing activities is vital to the success and sustainability of the project initiatives that directly affect these fisher folk.
- Effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration at all levels through one-on-one and focus group discussions at all stages of implementing project activities promotes higher participation and acceptance. For instance, the active involvement of fisherfolk through the F2F initiative promoted their commitment to full implementation of the NFMP.
- Continuous interactions with fisherfolk as part of the project follow-up visits encourages them to continue to practice the skills they received from trainings and workshops. More education and sensitization needs to be done so that the beneficiaries can change their attitudes and continue implementation of good practices after the life of the project.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Selected highlights of upcoming activities in the FY 18 second quarter include:

IR1

National CSOs meetings to review implementation of the NFMP – February, 2018.

Training of trainers for marine police and FEU supervisors on fisheries enforcement curriculum – March, 2018.

Training for government and implementing partners on identification and engagement of vulnerable households – March 2018.

IR2

Closeout of the mobile-phone based application for fisheries data and capture of lessons learned – February 2018.

Master's degree students and PhD candidate Evans Arizi will focus on completing their major papers and theses. One PhD student from UCC will spend a semester at URI as a visiting scholar.

UAV Image acquisition and analysis/processing (Ankobra, Pra and Densu) – March 2018.

Provision of Geospatial data for USAID Ghanalinks Portal - staff time – January to March 2018.

IR 3

F2F training events in Volta, Greater Accra and Central Regions - January to March 2018.

Joint CBFM Pilot on finalization of three (3) co-management plans - January 2018.

Half year radio programs on CLaT, Post-Harvest and other related messages such as over-capacity in the artisanal sector – January to March 2018.

Communications orientation for editors and morning show host – February, 2018

IR4

Regional and district stakeholder meeting to socialize co-management plans plan - January to March 2018

Radio sensitization on closed seasons and areas – January to March 2018

Quarterly meeting with FC and MoFAD – February 2018.

Refresher trainings on VSLA modules for 4 groups participants – January to February 2018.

Launching of the new DAA fish processing and training center – March 2018.

Review on CLaT program to assess the impact from the stoves given to vulnerable households – February 2018.

3rd phase of mangrove replanting at the Densu Estuary at Bortianor/Tsokomey in Greater Accra Region – February 2018.

Consultation meeting on Draft Densu, Pra and Ankobra Estuary Co-Management Plans with Fisherfolks, Traditional Authorities and Communities– February 2018.

Training on hygienic handling of fish Class 1 certification guidelines – January 2018.

Initiation of research on PAHs and microbiological profiles of smoked fish produced with Ahotor ovens – February 2018.

Learning tour to Torkor for SFMP partners and selected stakeholders to understand the Torkor anti-CLaT model for adoption and replication in the Central Region - January to February 2018.

IR5

Leadership and Conflict Management training (Hownam Dialogue) for Greater Accra Region – March 2018.

IR6

Complete pilot of technology platform that will allow the Fisheries Commission to send fisheries information to fisherfolk - March 2018.

Finalize a survey and research plan to sample approximately 200 fisherfolk on mobile money, mobile services, and insurance to support the TFN and FFP - March 2018.

Coordinate with and support the Global Development Lab/IDEO to conduct research on mobile money usage by fisherfolk in Ghana - January 2018.

IR7

Mid Term Review of Action Plans for GITA/NAFPTA – March 2018.

Supporting NAFPTA in developing internal SOPs – January 2018.

Complete Capacity Assessment and Development Plan for NAFAG – March 2018.

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget Item	Total Funds Obligated to Date: Dec 31, 2017 (US\$)	Total Funds Expended to Date, through Dec 31, 2017 (US\$)	Balance of Sub-Obligated Funds Remaining as of Dec 31, 2017	Estimated Expenditures and Encumbrances (US\$) Jan 1 - March 31, 2018
Direct Costs	7,253,729	7,047,076	206,653	491,135
Sub-grantees	7,033,733	6,609,311	424,422	433,526
Construction	259,606	185,000	74,606	0
Training	155,180	155,180	0	24,642
Total Direct	14,702,248	13,996,567	705,681	949,303
Indirect	1,980,796	1,421,991	558,805	127,695
Total	16,683,044	15,418,558	1,264,486	1,076,998

ANNEX A: PROGRESS SUMMARY

The summary table below includes all standard USAID indicators as shown in Section 1.2 as well as SFMP custom indicators. It measures planned versus achieved during the reporting quarter and gives a cumulative performance in each quarter.

Table 1(a): PMP Indicator progress - USAID Standard Indicators and Project Custom Indicators

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Project Goal: Rebuild targeted fish stocks via adoption of sustainable practices and exploitation levels											
Project Goal Indicators											
Number of hectares in areas of biological significance and/or natural resource showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1-1)	Biophysical assessments, landing data, maps	2015	0	Tracked	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This indicator is tracked annually (Quarter 4)
Number of indirect project beneficiaries (number), the percentage of which are female (percent)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Counting 130,000 if the close season or second fishing holidays is adopted	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This will be counted when management measures are implemented (e.g. closed season or second fishing holiday).
1.a Biomass to produce MSY (B_{msy}) (Project Indicator)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Stable /increasing (Assumes major	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Results are tracked Annually (Quarter4)

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				management measures put in place)							
1.b Fishing Mortality at MSY (F_{msy}) (Project Indicator)	Project record and surveys	2015	0	Stable/decreasing (Assumes major mgt. measures put in place)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Results are tracked Annually (Quarter4)
Intermediate Result (IR): POLICY: Strengthened enabling environment for marine resources governance											
Number of agricultural and nutritional enabling environment policies completing the following processes/steps of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: (FTF 4.5.1(24)) 1. Analysis 2. Stakeholder consultation/public debate 3. Drafting or revision 4. Approval (legislative or regulatory) 5. Full and effective implementation	Copies of laws, policies, strategies, plan or regulation	2015	0	Fish Act – Step 3	Fish Act - Step 2-ongoing	Fish Act - Step 2-ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fish Act- Step 2-ongoing	Targets will be achieved by quarter 4. CLaT strategy and Co-management Policy projected to be approved in Q2.
				NMFMP - Step 4	NMFMP - Step 3	NMFMP - Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	NMFMP - Step 3	
				Co-mgt. policy –Step 4	Co-mgt policy Step 4 –ongoing	Co-mgt policy Step 4 –ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-mgt policy- Step 4 – ongoing	
				Ankobra (CBMP) - Step4	Ankobra CBMP- Step 3	Ankobra CBMP - Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ankobra CBMP - Step 3	
				Pra (CBMP) - Step 4	Pra CBMP- Step 3	Pra CBMP- Step 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pra CBMP- Step 3	
				Densu (CBMP) - Step 4	Densu (CBMP) - Step 3	Densu (CBMP) - Step3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Densu (CBMP) - Step 3	

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				CLaT strategy –Step 4	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	CLAT - Step 4- Ongoing	
Intermediate Result (IR): SCIENCE & RESEARCH: Increased use of science and applied research to inform decision-making, law enforcement and the implementation of management plans											
Number of institutions with improved capacity to develop and implement managed access fisheries management plans	Project records, capacity assessment reports	2015	0	19 (16 Ongoing, 3 New added)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator will be tracked at the end of FY 2018
Intermediate Result (IR): CONSTITUENCIES: Constituencies and political will for policy reform & implementation built											
Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in NRM and/or biodiversity provided to counterparts or stakeholders (EG 4.8.1-28)	Trip reports, project records	2015	0	770	76 (10%)	76 (10%)	0	0	0	76 (10%)	Indicator target to be achieved as most external TA planned for Q2 & Q3 now, some Q1 trips postponed to Q2
Number of information products disseminated in local media reports, radio shows, conference papers, and research studies (Project indicator).	Sample of reports	2015	0	63	15 (24%)	15 (24%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	15 (24%)	On target

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Intermediate Result (IR): APPLIED MANAGEMENT: Improved management of marine resources											
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (EG 4.8.1)	GIS Maps, policy documents	2015	0	3205 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Activities ongoing. Indicator target will be fully tracked in quarter 4
Number of DAs supported with USG Assistance (Ghana CDCS, IR 2.3 indicator)	Project records, mgt.t plans	2015	0	5	6 (120%)	6 (120%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	6 (120%)	Target achieved and ongoing assistance to DAs.
Improvement in fisheries enforcement and prosecutorial chain to counter IUU fishing (increase/decrease in prosecutions and percent that lead to conviction) (Project Indicator)	Project, police, district attorney, and FEU records	2015	0	Increasing	Unknown	Unknown as data not received yet	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not able to determine	Will be report when data is acquired from western command.
Number of climate vulnerability assessments conducted as a result of USG Assistance (EG 4.5.1)	Assessment reports	2015	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No target for FY 18 LoP target for LOP met - 2
Number farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (FtF 4.5.2)	Project records	2015	0	100,000 (assumes national closed season or other measure for canoes/small	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	No significant management measure yet implemented by FC. This indicator will

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
				pelagics adopted)							be tracked when management measures are implemented
Number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2)	training participant records, lists of micro-enterprises supported	2015	0	950	37 (4%)	37 (4%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	37 (4%)	Indicator target will be fully accomplished by the end of quarter 4
Value of agricultural and rural loans as a result of USG assistance (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-6	Private sector financial records, program data	2015	0	\$37,723	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	Activities are scheduled for implementation from 2 nd to 4 th quarter.
Number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving agricultural-related credit as a result of USG assistance (RAA) EG.3.2-3	Private sector financial records, program data	2015	0	100	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 (0%)	Activities are scheduled for implementation from 2 nd to 4 th quarter.
Value of new private sector investments in select value chains (FTF 4.5.2-38)	Private sector	2015	0	Tracked, no target	\$ 15046	\$ 15046	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 15046	Indicator Target on track

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	financial records, program data										
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women’s groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations(CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (FTF 4.5.2(11))	Project document	2015	0	6 (2 new-NAFAG & GIFA)	2 (GNCFC & GITA) - (33%)	2 (GNCFC & GITA) - (33%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 (GNCFC & GITA) - (33%)	Target will be achieved as support to the other 6 groups will be given from quarter 2 to 4.
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance (S)(FTF 4.5.2(27))	Project documents	2015	0	2530	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F263 (92%)	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F263 (92%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	285 (11%) M-22(8%) F-263(92%)	Few activities were scheduled due to holiday season. More activities scheduled in Q2 to Q4. Target to be achieved by end of FY 18.
Cross Cutting Indicators											
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance (S) (FTF 4.5.2(12)_	Project documents	2015	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No target for FY18

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
											LoP target already achieved - 2
Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/4.8.2-6)	Project training reports and participant lists	2015	0	3124	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	117 (4%) M-55(47%) F-62(53%)	Indicator target will be achieved. Activities are scheduled to be implemented in quarter 2 to 4.
Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance (FtF 4.8.1-29)	Project training report.	2015	0	42328	1278 (3%) M-554(43%) F-734 (57%)	1278 (3%) M-554(43%) F-734 (57%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1278 (3%) M-554(43%) F-734 (57%)	Indicator target will be achieved. More activities to be implemented in quarter 2 to 4.
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) (WOG) EG.3.2-1	Project training report.	2015	0	4074	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	154 (4%) M-92(60%) F-62(40%)	Indicator target will be achieved. More activities to be implemented

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Data		FY 2017		Quarterly Status – FY 2017				Annual Performance Achieved to Date (in %)	Comment(s)
		Year	Value	Annual Cumulative Planned Target	Annual Cumulative Actual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
											in quarter 2 to 4.
Number of individuals who have received USG-supported degree-granting agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RAA) EG.3.2-2	Project training report.	2015	0	5	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5(100%) M-1(20%) F-4(80%)	Indicator target achieved. All 5 students continuing. 4 projected to graduate in FY18, one in FY19.

ANNEX B: TRAINET REPORT

This report includes trainings that count towards two indicators: including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (FtF 4.5.2-37), and Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, and climate change, disaggregated by gender (EG 4.8.1-27/ 4.8.2-6). For indicator reporting they are included in one or the other of these result areas based on the type of training provided, but not double counted in any cases for both indicators.

Table 4 Trainings reported for the period October 1–December 31, 2017.

Program Name	Start Date	End Date	USAID Budget (USD)	USAID Actual (USD)	Total Male Participants	Total Female Participants	Total Participants	USAID Budget Per Participants (USD)
Training for CCPC and Anti CLaT advocate, Cape Coast- FoN, Y4Q1	12/14/2017	12/14/2017	300	300	36	12	48	6
Training of Local Artisans on Ahotor Stove Construction, Elmina- CEWEFIA, Y4Q1	12/5/2017	12/7/2017	1,190	1,190	10	0	10	119
Training of community level stove building /artisan companies as part of Ahotor oven technology diffusion strategy- SNV Y4Q1	11/29/2017	12/8/2017	3,856	3,856	27	0	27	143
GIS Training for Fisheries Commission Zonal Officers, Accra- HM, Y4Q1	11/28/2017	11/30/2017	4,334	4,334	11	6	17	255
Leadership and Conflict management training in the Volta region- SNV Y4Q1	11/27/2017	11/28/2017	662	662	6	40	46	14
Exchange visit by Deputy Director of Ghana Fisheries Commission to learn about elements of a decentralized fisheries data collection program	10/17/2017	10/22/2017	12,000	12,000	1	1	2	6,000
Degree training 5 participants at URI	10/1/2017	12/22/2017	505,364	505,364	1	4	5	101,073
UCC PHD students to URI	10/1/2017	12/22/2017	54,400	54,400	1	3	4	13,600
Total			582,106	582,106	93	66	159	121,210