

**ASIA WORKSHOP:
IYAFA 2022-Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries**

Session 2: Social development for sustainable fisheries, food security and poverty eradication

In the context of small-scale fisheries, social development signifies the collective wellbeing of fishing communities and securing social development can lead to sustainable and responsible fisheries management. Social protection is a key component of social development and plays a significant role in providing crucial assistance during natural disasters, fisheries crises, or during pandemics such as COVID-19. A social development approach, whilst minimizing social exclusion, is expected to create a conducive environment for adopting an ecosystem approach to small-scale fisheries management, which can contribute to sustainable fisheries and food security and to eradicate poverty in fishing communities, if backed by right policies and programmes.

Several key elements of social development in the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) include: (i) investing, creating and providing affordable access to health, education, literacy and digital inclusion; housing, sanitation, drinking water and energy; and saving, credit and insurance; (ii) ensuring access to justice; (iii) improving safety at sea and in inland water bodies and paying attention to disaster management; and (iv) promoting decent work for all workers in the sub-sector, and guaranteeing reasonable returns to their labour in fisheries, and ensuring fair returns to fishing communities' investment in capital and fisheries management.

The elements of decent work as embedded in social development are: productive employment (formal and informal), protecting the rights at work, and providing social protection such as social assistance and social security, which ought to include: child and family benefits, maternity benefits, health benefits, sickness benefits, employment injury benefits, unemployment benefits, old age benefits and survivor benefits as recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The SSF Guidelines seeks social security protection also for workers in small-scale fisheries (paragraph 6.3).

It is worth noting that in addition to Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, several elements of social development are within the scope of most Sustainable Development Goals. These include: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere (which, incidentally, also includes target 1.3 to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all); Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 5: Achieve gender equality

and empower all women and girls; Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Questions for Group Discussion

1. In your national or local context, do small-scale fishing communities, including women, men and children, have affordable (and adequate) access to health, education, housing, sanitation, drinking water and energy facilities and services, commensurate with that of other citizens? How can access to these facilities and services be improved? What role can be seen for fishing community organizations and fisheries administrations?
2. Do all members of small-scale fishing communities and all workers enjoy social security protection in the form of social assistance or social insurance schemes, both at the sectoral and universal (national) levels? Is there any discrimination against any segment, including women and migrant workers, during the implementation of these schemes?
3. Is there an increasing number of accidents at sea/freshwater bodies related to fishing? Are there safety issues, in the marine and inland fisheries context, arising from extreme weather events and climate change? How do you improve the overall safety of fishing operations in face of these threats?