



EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

**FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**FAR BAN BO – PROTECTING FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS**

Reporting period:

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31st December 2020



**ANNEX VI  
FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

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**List of acronyms used in the report**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
BV	Baseline Value
CMGs	Community Monitoring Groups
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBB	Far Ban Bo
FC	Fisheries Commission
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association
GLSS 7	Ghana Living Standard Survey 7 report
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
GoG	Government of Ghana
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IE&C	Information, Education and Communication
IEZ	Inshore Exclusive Zone
IUU	Illegal Unreported and Unregulated
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MoV	Means of Verification
MMDA	Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies
NAFAG	National Fishers Association of Ghana
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
POCA	
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
TV	Target Value
VGGT	Voluntary Guideline for Governance of Tenure
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

**1.0 DESCRIPTION**

- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: CARE Denmark
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact Person:
- 1.3. Name of beneficiary (ies) and affiliated entity (ies) in the Action: CARE Denmark, Oxfam GB Ghana, and Friends of the Nation (FoN) Ghana.
- 1.4. Title of the Action: Far Ban Bo – Protecting Fisheries Livelihoods
- 1.5. Contract number: FOOD/2016/379-240
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the Action: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017-31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s): Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions of Ghana
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups<sup>1</sup> (if different) (including numbers of women and men):  
 CIVIL SOCIETY TARGET GROUPS: Artisanal fishers' associations: Women National Fish Processors/Traders Association NAFPTA), Chief fishermen, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, Ghana Inland Fisheries Associations, Canoe owner associations. (Representing 1.5 million people, approx. 10.000 active representatives). Fisheries Alliances (25 CSO members)  
  
 PRIVATE SECTOR: National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) including the Industrial Trawlers Association, In-shore Fishery Association) (approx. 20 companies, representing 2,500 people).  
  
 GOVERNMENT TARGET GROUPS: Parliamentary Select Committee in charge of fisheries (20), Ministry of Fisheries & Aquaculture (15), Fisheries Commission, Fisheries Enforcement Unit (50), Environmental Protection Agency (10), Attorney General's Department (4), Ghana Navy and Marine Police (700).
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):

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<sup>1</sup> ““Target groups”” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and ““final beneficiaries”” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

## 2.0 Assessment of Implementation of Action Activities

### 2.1 Executive summary of the Action

The Far Ban Bo (FBB) is a four (4) year project with funding support from the European Union (EU). The project is implemented in thirty (30) districts in four coastal regions of Ghana (**Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta Regions**) and one inland region. Specific project pilots are implemented in four (4) coastal communities (**Dixcove, Anomabo, James Town, and Keta**) and one inland community (**Kpando-Torkor**).

The overall objective of the Far Ban Bo Project is to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve food security and nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. The specific objective is that smallholder fishers and processors benefit from equitable and sustainable rights-based fisheries resources management. The project is expected to deliver three results to achieve its objectives. The expected results (ERs) of the project are:

1. Empowered Smallholder Fishery Associations take Active Part in Fisheries Governance;
2. Effective illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) Monitoring and Grievance Mechanisms Piloted; and
3. Social and Economic Safeguards Contribute to Improving Livelihoods and Nutritional Status of Smallholder Fishers and other Users of Fishery Resources.

The Far Ban Bo Project (FBB) (meaning ‘protecting fishing livelihoods in Fante) was implemented jointly by a consortium consisting of CARE International as the Lead partner, Friends of the Nation (FON) and Oxfam from January 2017 to December 2020. The activities implemented solely by the FBB project and in collaboration with other fishery projects has led to the achievement of a number of results contributing to the overall objective of improved sustainability of the fishery resource management as well as food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers. Over the lifetime of the project, the fisher-folks have been empowered and given the opportunity to engage meaningfully in decision-making processes aimed at replenishing fish stocks, reducing IUU fishing, improving fishers’ livelihoods, and improving basic service delivery in fishing communities

Generally, the activities implemented in result area 1 was geared towards strengthening the capacity of smallholder fishery associations and other civil society organisations to participate actively in multi-stakeholder dialogues and other forums to influence policies in favour of vulnerable fishery communities. Among the major achievements of the project is the facilitation of a series of **skills development initiatives** to support the fisheries associations to play an active part in fisheries governance as well as increase their capacity to advocate for sustainable fisheries governance. To contribute in strengthening the internal systems so that the fisheries associations will be effective, efficient, and accountable to their constituents, the project facilitated a leadership training programs for GNCFC, NAFPTA and the Fisheries Alliance. The project has promoted more representative, inclusive, transparent and accountable fisheries associations that have the capacity to effectively respond to the demands and interest of their members. The major challenge with the fisheries association is their limited capacity to generate funds from their members to support association programs. The project’s efforts influenced the Government’s budgeting and implementation of the closed season in 2019. In addition, the sustained the advocacy efforts of FBB in collaboration with other initiatives on the need to address the issue of overfishing culminated in the Government budgeting in the 2020 National Budget Statement to implement an additional closed season for all fleets for two months and also curb SAIKO in 2020.

Illegal transshipment and use of unapproved fishing methods remains a major challenge to the development of the fisheries industry in Ghana. FBB promoted fishing practices aligned to approved laws and regulations while ensuring equity, inclusion and rights of tenure for smallholder fishers. To curb illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing FBB established Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) in five (5) communities, building their capacity through trainings on IUU monitoring, reporting and documentation; evidence gathering; and the use of the DASE online reporting application. The DASE online reporting application provided a platform for the fisheries association and community monitoring groups to raise issues of IUU. The project facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues functioning

as institutionalized spaces for interactions between all fishery stakeholders. This resulted in an increase in the number of reported cases from zero (0) at baseline to six hundred and ninety-nine (699) in the year 2020. All the five (5) IUU CMGs formed by the project are functional. They are actively monitoring and reporting IUU cases including fishing in the IEZ by trawlers and other local IUU practices such as light fishing. The project has developed 5 modules on vision building, basic fishery laws, IUU fishing monitoring and evidence gathering. The establishment and training of IUU CMGs on IUU monitoring, reporting and documentation contributed to the achievement of ER2 which focuses on effective illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) monitoring and grievance mechanisms.

Over the past four years, FBB employed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) principles to deliver a number of co-management schemes within the project communities. These Voluntary Guidelines seek to improve governance of tenure of land\*, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people, with the goals among others of food security and progressive realization of the right to adequate food, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, rural development, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development.

The co-management schemes applied by the FBB project include the IUU CMGs, the community scorecard processes and the VSLAs. Cumulatively, the total number of people who have benefited from FBB co-management schemes from 2017 to 2020 is 7,078. The gains made so far in the implementation of the above co-management schemes will serve as a sound and solid foundation for the implementation of the approved co- management policy.

A GEM survey conducted by FBB informed the delivery of business development training for a total of **744** fishers with 90% women representation. The training afforded the fishers opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills on alternative livelihood options with great potential for additional streams of income. This training in 2020 was especially relevant to address the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods in Ghana. The introduction of VSLA in targeted project communities and its impact on fishers demonstrates its great potential to address the lack of adequate financial services for fishers to enable them successfully engage in additional livelihood activities to support diversification of business activities and create additional streams of income which in turn reduces the pressure on marine and resources. Over the life of FBB 46 VSLA groups have been established in all the four coastal regions of Ghana. These groups have mobilized in total Four hundred and Forty-One Thousand, four hundred and thirteen Ghana cedis (GH 441,413) equivalent (USD 77,440) from their own internally generated sources with no external injection of funds.

Climate change and its attendant impact on the fishery is well known and documented. FBB sought to provide social and economic safeguards which would in turn contribute to improving the livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. The roll out of the Village Savings and Loans Scheme was viewed by 95% of respondents in the final evaluation as very helpful in improving their livelihoods. The operation VSLA has contributed to improvement of livelihoods and this had also indirectly contributed to improved nutritional status in member households. Members of VSLAs, have acquired the culture of personal savings, improved resilience against financial disruption, have access to funds or capital to establish alternative livelihood activities and also attend to other socio-economic needs of their households.

Over the past four years, there has been a consistent increase in the number of media reports on fisheries governance from 225 in 2017 to 695 in 2019 and 854 in 2020 representing a 380%.increase in media reports. The project contributed to the increase in media reporting on fisheries governance through the training of media personnel and supporting some of them to develop stories

The project has established good partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as the government, the media organizations and the smallholder fishery associations and communities. The efforts of FBB and other fisheries sector initiatives has made significant strides to amplify the issue of the depleting fisheries resources in Ghana and institute systems that will support the replenishment of fisheries resources. However these efforts will need to be complemented by political commitment of Government to

implement resolutions and plans that have been put in place to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the country.

The FBB project identified key lessons which can be applied in subsequent fisheries initiatives. Key among these lessons are:

- FC and fishers can work together harmoniously. The two need to figure out the strategic areas for cooperation
- Communities could take-up the responsibility for ensuring sustainable fisheries governance within the co-management policy framework. The Anti-IUU groups set-up in communities through FBB are good examples of how communities could take-up the responsibility for ensuring sustainable fisheries governance.
- In curbing IUU, continuous advocacy and strong political will to sanction offenders is very crucial.
- Media engagements in fisheries governance, with the local FM stations is critical in propagating policies and laws against illegal activities within fishing communities.
- The introduction of VSLA in targeted project communities and its positive impact on fishers demonstrates its great potential to address the lack of adequate financial services for fishers to enable them successfully engage in additional livelihood activities to support diversification of business activities and create additional streams of income which in turn reduces the pressure on marine and resources.

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Notably the FBB project faced challenges which impeded the realization of all set goals including delays partly originating earlier in the project implementation and due to diligence processes, which affected the timely disbursement of funds to partners. As a result of the delays in year 3, the project developed an acceleration plan and revised budget based on the recommendation of the European Union (EU) which was approved in late 2019 to fast-track project implementation. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the final year also slowed down some activities and limited the achievement of all outcomes.

## 2.2 Results and Activities



## A. Results

The activities implemented solely by the FBB project and in collaboration with other fishery projects has led to the achievement of a number of results contributing to the overall objective of improved sustainability of the fishery resource management as well as food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers. With the support of the EU, the fisher-folks have been empowered to **meaningfully participate in decision-making spaces** towards replenishing the fish stock levels, **curbing the overarching IUU menace**, improve their **livelihoods**, and also **improving basic service delivery** in fishing communities.

The **IUU/CMG members** have become empowered and they have gained a persuasive voice to advocate against the IUU practices in the 5 fishing communities (Kpando Torkor, Kedzikope, Dixcove, Anomabo and James Town), and the CMG members are increasingly known in the communities as “people who stand against IUU practices”. The **VSLA approach** is demonstrating its social mobilization role and impact in fishing communities. Group members have acquired the culture of savings, have access to funds from their savings to reinvest in their business and the opportunity to consider additional business options. Another key achievement of the project, in collaboration with other initiatives in the sector, is building community support among fisher-folks for the implementation of **a closed season** to stock up the dwindling small pelagic fish stocks. In 2019, as part of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and the Fisheries Commission’s (FC) efforts to address this decline in stocks, Government implemented a closed season for all artisanal and inshore fisheries from May 15<sup>th</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 and August 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 for industrial fishing trawlers.

The term “closed season”, or “biological rest period”, refers to the stopping of fishing during the spawning period of the fish. It is a way of reducing fishing pressure on stocks when they are most productive in terms of allowing the fish a chance to lay their eggs to replace the lost population due to fishing and other natural causes. Provided that a sufficient number of fish remain to breed, the “closed season” can, by “protecting the pregnant fish”, increase the stock available for fishing in just a few years. A “closed season” will be most successful when other types of fishing pressure are also controlled such as use of illegal small mesh size nets, light fishing, use of poisons and toxic chemicals, and dynamite or other explosives.

The 2019 closed seasons were largely honoured by the fisher-folks and this is partly attributed to the platforms created by FBB to discuss the closed season before, during and after the season. Additionally, the successful advocacy on the closed season resulted in the inclusion of a planned closed season in the National Budget Statement for 2020 which was however aborted, based on government’s decision to suspend the planned closed season and allow fishing as a means to minimize the impact of covid-19 in the early part of the year and subsequent negative impact of livelihoods in Ghana.

In addition to the closed season, illegal transshipment (SAIKO) and the benefits of co-management schemes have been an integral part of **the advocacy agenda** of FBB, partners and stakeholders. The advocacy efforts of FBB and partners has resulted in Government taking up most of the recommendations in the 2020 National Budget Statement including a decision to address transshipment (SAIKO); establish functional co-management units in 10 selected fishing communities by collaborating with fishers and the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDA); and to ensure the effective premix distribution in fishing communities. Also, through the coordinated advocacy efforts of the fisheries projects, Ghana Industrial Trawlers’ Associations (GITA) voluntarily stated a code of conduct to ensure that its members will not be involved in Saiko. In the statement, they referred to the pressure from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other international organizations as one of the reasons for the issuance of the statement.

To reach out to wider audience, the project successfully **supported the media** through radio and television discussions, print media and social media platforms, to expose the disturbing issues and trends in the fishing industry and build community support towards the effective implementation of the required fishery management measures. The engagement of the media contributed in mounting pressure on the Government to make commitments in the 2020 national budget statement to address the

challenges in the fisheries sector. The mass media campaigns also contributed to creating visibility for the FBB project and increased the general public awareness of the challenges of the fisheries sector.

### **Overall objective indicator 1.1: Total landings of Small Pelagic Fish Stock Level within the IEZ**

The stock assessment report delivered by the Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) and the Fisheries Scientific Survey Division (FSSD), indicates that in 2018 and 2019 artisanal fisheries landings were at the lowest level since 1990 and that the small pelagic stocks continue to decline due to overfishing and the inability to sufficiently curb the IUU menace. The small pelagic fish stocks used for the assessment consisted of round sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*), flat sardinella (*Sardinella maderensis*), anchovies (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and mackerel (*Scomber colias*). The four species represent more than 80% of the total small pelagic fish landings and about 60% of the total landings in Ghana (all species combined). They have common biological and ecological traits and constitute the main source of protein for a large portion of the coastal communities in Ghana. According to the results, the current state of the small pelagic stocks is severely overfished. The stock of *Sardinella aurita* is considered collapsed due to its low landings recorded in 2019. The total landings recorded in 2019 represents about 41% of the highest recorded landings in 1993. Annual landings of *Sardinella aurita* have declined from 119,515 tons in 1992 to 11,834<sup>2</sup> tons in 2019. This drastic decline in landings is caused largely by the artisanal fishing fleet, which operates without proper management controls in an open access. The annual landings of the industrial trawl fisheries increased from 15,000 MT during the period from 1990-2013 to 33,000 MT during 2014-2018 contributing to the *overfishing* situation of marine fish stocks. If the current trend is maintained the STWG estimates that the fish stock will likely collapse by 2022- 2023. To address the disturbing trend, Government needs to implement the required management measures in 2021 to prevent the total collapse of the fish stock and the industry. The FBB project through mass media campaigns has amplified awareness on the disturbing trends of overfishing to the entire Ghanaian populace and specifically to the fishing population, and garnered national support towards the effective implementation of closed seasons.

The project's efforts influenced the Government's budgeting and implementation of the closed season in 2019. In addition, the sustained the advocacy efforts of FBB in collaboration with other initiatives on the need to address the issue of overfishing culminated in the Government budgeting in the 2020 National Budget Statement to implement an additional closed season for all fleets for two months and also curb SAIKO in 2020. The assumption was that if the Government implements the required management measures as defined in the Fisheries Management Plan and the 2020 Budget Statement (including measures defined in the Fisheries Management Plan, it will take a bold step and set a good agenda to replenishing the fish stock to some extent. During the first quarter of 2020, the Fisheries Commission collaborated with the Fisheries Associations to build community support towards the implementation of the closed season for all fleets during the year. The unanimous decision among the fisher-folks was the submission to implement the closed season in July/August 2020 and also curb the IUU menace dubbed SAIKO. Regrettably, the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture announced in a media dialogue (facilitated by the FBB project when the time was almost due for implementation of the 2020 closed season) that government had suspended the implementation of the 2020 closed season to minimize the negative impact of Covid-19 on livelihoods in Ghana( including the fisheries sector). Government placed restrictions on movement and gathering in the first and second quarter of 2020 as a means to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. These restrictions ultimately had negative impacts on the general economy of Ghana. Economic activity began to somewhat resume in the second half of the year in July when government lifted some restrictions. It is still debatable the motive of government to suspend the planned 2020 closed season. The trends of the depleting fish stock is dire and government will need to demonstrate the political will to implement measures to replenish fish stock and prevent the total collapse of the sector. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 19,608 tonnes; CV: 11,834 No figure reported yet by government; TV: 10% increase = 21,569 tonnes.*

<sup>2</sup> Scientific and Technical Working Group report on Status of the small pelagic stocks in Ghana in 2019: Small pelagic stocks have drastically reduced from 119,515 tonnes. in 1992 to 11,834 tonnes in 2019

## Overall objective indicator 1.2: Mean Annual Household income within Rural Coastal Communities (revised)<sup>3</sup>

The primary source for this measure is the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) report produced by the Ghana Statistical Service. This report is not produced annually, and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth rounds were conducted in 1991/92, 1998/1999, 2005/2006, and 2012/2013 respectively. The seventh round of GLSS was delivered in 2016/2017 and the related report was shared in June 2019. When comparing the mean annual household income of the rural coastal communities the result indicates an increase from GHC11,351 in 2012/2013 to GHC 27,875 in 2016/2017. (These numbers are not disaggregated by the business or sectors within the rural coastal region). Therefore, to have a better understanding of these results and also the actual socio-economic status of the fishers, the project measured the mean annual income of the smallholder fishers in 2017 as part of the baseline survey, and the outcome was GH 9,547 which was below the GLSS 6. According to the fishers, their quality of life was worse off compared to previous years and causal factors was the declining fish landings, the activities of the industrial trawlers and the IUU menace. To address this, FBB facilitated the formation and training of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups. VSLAs are self-selected groups of 10-30 members (predominantly women) that voluntarily save money and make loans through regular contributions to a central group fund from which members can borrow and repay with interest. FBB trained groups to form associations, define a purpose, elect officials, design their system of savings and insurance, and practice running savings meetings. Once this process is completed, associations saved and lend over a 9-12 month supervised period. By the end of the project, 46 VSLAs with a membership of 1325 fishers (74%) women had been formed. The Final Evaluation of the project reveals that the impact of the VSLA on the livelihoods of 1325 fishers is significant. The evaluation results indicate an increase in the mean annual household income from GH 9,547 in 2017 to GHC 14,109 in 2020. In addition, the results also indicate an increase in the percentage of fishers engaged in alternative/additional livelihood activities from 16% in 2017 to 73% in 2020. Further analysis of the evaluation results indicate that this cohort of fishers earn an average annual income of GHC9,245.00 from their primary sources<sup>4</sup> which are mainly fishing and fishing-related activities and GHC4,864.00 annually from their secondary sources of income. The major factor contributing to the change in income was proceeds from alternative or additional livelihood activities established by the members of the VSLA. The introduction of VSLA in targeted project communities and its impact on fishers demonstrates its potential to provide informal financial services to enable fishers successfully engage in additional livelihood activities to support diversification of business activities and create additional streams of income to fisherfolk which in turn reduces the pressure on marine and resources. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: GHC 11,351; CV: GHC 27,875 TV: GHC 28,500 (revised) / 11,919 (original).*

## SO Indicator 1.1: # of women and men smallholder fishers, processors and traders benefitting from co-management schemes.

Over the past four years, FBB employed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) principles to deliver a number of co-management schemes within the project communities. These Voluntary Guidelines seek to improve governance of tenure of land\*, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people, with the goals among others of food security and progressive realization of the right to adequate food, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, rural development, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development. The co-management schemes applied by the FBB project include the IUU CMGs, the community scorecard processes and the VSLAs. Cumulatively, the total number of people who have benefited from FBB co-management schemes from

<sup>3</sup> Throughout the report it is indicated in red if the original indicators have been revised – as has also been indicated in previous reports.

<sup>4</sup> Include remittances

2017 to 2020 is 7078. Current- direct benefit is 3436 (1758 M/1678 F), and indirectly is 3642 (1857M/1785 F). The total number of beneficiaries (7078) is above the project target of 7000. A fisher-folk is considered to have directly benefited from FBB co-management scheme, when he/she is trained and participates in community engagement events, and is sufficiently empowered to be active in fishery governance; participates in decision-making spaces or dialogues concerning the welfare of the fishers and communities; and has access to economic benefits and livelihood opportunities.

FBB facilitated platforms for fishers to dialogue with the Local Authorities on ways to improve basic service delivery in fishing communities. In addition, fisher-folks who are members of VSLAs and CMGs have become potential agents for change in the effective and efficient management of the fisheries resources in their communities. The project contributed to the drafting of The National Co-Management Policy which was approved by the cabinet in November 2020. The project continued to advocate for the adoption and implementation of its piloted co-management models and engaged government representatives in the implementation of the pilot co-management schemes at the zonal level and national level, leading Government to commit to establishing functional co-management structures in 10 fishing coastal communities as indicated in the National Budget Statement in 2020<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the project continued to train the IUU CMGs to build community support to curb IUU practices. Project communities were sensitized on the benefits of the co-management models through community durbars, traditional festivals, and media engagement and this has resulted in other communities requesting FBB to establish IUU committees in their communities.

The gains made so far in the implementation of the above co-management schemes will serve as a sound and solid foundation for the implementation of the approved co- management policy. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 7078(3436 directly; 3642 indirectly); TV: 7000 (revised).*

## **SO Indicator 1.2: # of IUU reported cases prosecuted by authorities.**

There has been an increase in the number of IUU reported cases prosecuted by authorities from 42 in 2018 to 52 in 2019. According to the marine Police, the IUU cases prosecuted by authorities in 2020 was 25 bringing the total to 119 over the life of the FBB project. These cases were identified the fisheries Enforcement Unit through observer missions and intensified sea and land patrols. To contribute to the successful prosecution of cases, the project collaborated with the marine police who equipped the IUU monitoring groups on reporting and gathering evidence of infractions committed by offenders at sea during fishing expeditions

In addition, the project facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues to share and discuss the IUU menace, which has contributed to strengthening the relationship between the marine police and the IUU CMG groups. During a multi-stakeholder meeting held in November 2020, the Fisheries Enforcement Unit presented an update on set of 43 IUU cases. The results showed that 11 of these cases were successfully settled and culprits fined, 10 were settled through arbitration and 21 are still pending at court. The remaining 2 cases were struck out at court. To contribute to strengthening accountability, transparency and participation in the management of IUU in Ghana, the project established an annual multi-stakeholder event bringing all key stakeholders within the Fisheries sector such as Fisheries Commission, Marine Police, Fisheries Associations, IUU CMG units, Traditional Rulers, the Media including other fisheries initiatives in the sector to discuss evidence-based results related with the management of IUU reported cases. These activities culminated in exposing the impact of the IUU menace to a wider Ghanaian populace.

To reach-out to a wider audience the during the lockdown and COVID restrictions, the project used spaces on key media networks in the coastal regions to share and discuss evidenced-based results on the IUU menace. The Minister, Deputy and the Director of Fisheries Commission took their turn to feature in these discussions to provide key updates on reported IUU cases especially SAIKO. These media programs amplified the public's knowledge on the disturbing trends of IUU and fisheries

<sup>5</sup> 2020 National Budget Statement bullet 715, Page 134.

governance to the homes of many Ghanaians. *The values against the indicator are as follows: BV: 28; CV: 112(cumulative); TV: 65 (revised) / 50 (original).*

### **SO Indicator 1.3: % change of fish processors and traders engaging in alternative livelihood activities.**

There has been an increase in the percentage of fisher-folks engaged in alternative livelihood activities from 16% in 2017 to 58% in 2019 and 73% in 2020. The major contributory factor to the 57%-point increase in fisherfolk's improved access to financial services is through their participation in the VSLA and business development training provided by the Business Advisory Centres (BACs) in the project targeted district. The business development training was informed by the GEM study conducted by FBB. The training has equipped 744 fishers to acquire skills to engage in alternative livelihood or income generating activities to generate extra income to cater for their socio-economic needs. The economic resilience of the VSLA members has been strengthened against economic shocks resulting from the negative economic impact of covid-19 on livelihoods of vulnerable and poor populations in Ghana. *The values against the indicator are as follows: BV: 16%; CV: 73%; TV: 65% (revised) / 10% (original).*

### **Output 1: Smallholder Fishery Association and Civil society Alliance are empowered and take an active part in Fisheries governance.**

Among the major achievements of the project is the facilitation of a series of **skills development initiatives** to support the fisheries associations to play an active part in fisheries governance as well as increase their capacity to advocate for sustainable fisheries governance. To contribute in strengthening the internal systems so that the fisheries associations will be effective, efficient, and accountable to their constituents, the project facilitated a leadership training programs for GNCFC, NAFPTA and the Fisheries Alliance. The training modules covered communication, conflict resolution, networking, coalition building, budget tracking and monitoring. In addition, the project continued to empower the fisheries association to elevate issues on fisheries governance at all levels including engaging local authorities to improve basic services delivery in fishing communities and using the media space to reach-out to a wider audience to get government to implement key components of the 2020 Budget Statement, and also disseminate information on the need to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols.

In addition to the empowering fisher-folks to engage their respective Local Authorities, the project facilitated skills development training to support to the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) to lead the advocacy against Saiko (Illegal transshipment) and contribute to securing sustainable fisheries and the livelihoods of fishers, as well as contributing to the attainment of SDG 14. The project also supported the associations to organize their members from the grassroots to participate in national-level fisheries dialogue, facilitated the organisation of elections for GNCFC; as well as community engagements using the community scorecards processes.

To have a better understanding of the current status of IUU reported cases, the project empowered the fisher-folks to engage key stakeholders in the fisheries sector namely the Fisheries Commission, Marine Police, and Traditional Rulers. In response to advocacy at different levels, the co-management policy was approved by cabinet in November 2020. This is expected to create more opportunities for the fisher-folks to meaningfully participate in decision-making spaces in their respective communities and districts. The established VSLA and IUU/Community Monitoring Groups within partner fishing communities under the project will be agents of change with persuasive voices to support the implementation of the co-management policy in the fisheries communities.

### **Indicator 1.1: % increase in the organizational capacity of fisheries associations**

The mean performance index of the fisheries associations improved from 59% in 2018 to 64% in 2019 and 71.5% in 2020 indicating a 12.5%-point increase over the life of the project. The project carried out POCA (Participatory Organisational Capacity Assessment) on 3 fisheries associations and implemented capacity building activities which has empowered the associations to be more active in fisheries



governance at all levels. During the life of the project, FBB supported the various associations to implement recommendations from the (POCA) conducted in the first year of the project as well as support the associations to implement portions of their strategic plans and activities from their various strategic plans. These activities included advocacy training, providing the platform such as creating access to the media, fisheries dialogue meetings etc, and supported the GNCFC elections of regional executives to improve their internal governance system. This process has contributed to making the organisation more efficient, effective and improved their participation in national-level fisheries governance decision making. The project has promoted more representative, inclusive, transparent and accountable fisheries association that have the capacity to effectively respond to the demands and interest of their members. The major challenge with the fisheries association that might have accounted for not being able to achieve the set target of 85% is their limited capacity to generate funds from their members to support association programs. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 59%; CV: 64%; TV: 85%.*

#### **Indicator 1.2 # of media reports on fisheries governance (revised)**

Over the past four years, there has been a consistent increase in the number of media reports on fisheries governance from 225 in 2017 to 695 in 2019 and 854 in 2020 representing a 380%. Increase in media reports. The project contributed to the increase in media reporting on fisheries governance through the training of media personnel and supporting some of them to develop stories by providing them with information and key contacts – journalists trained in 2018 produced in-depth reportage on various thematic areas of the fisheries sector in 2019. The project also ensured the participation of media in all major project activities. The coverage included 28 special features of FBB in 2019 in the leading newspapers (Daily Graphic, Graphic Online, and Graphic Business) The were radio and Television discussions on Citi FM/ Television, GH One Television, United Television, Radio 360 among others. The dialogue (TV and Radio) promoted and generated sustained fisheries discussions in the media landscape. The series of discussions were used to educate the public on issues of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, Saiko and premix diversion. The dialogues also promoted visibility of the FBB project, the EU and consortium partners. Over the life of the project, 16 Television and Radio fisheries dialogues have been held on topics such as Closed Season and Dangers of Saiko; The Premix Fuel Debate; Women Economic Empowerment within the Fisheries Value Chain; Fisheries Co-management; Highlights on Fisheries Sector in the 2020 Budget Statement, etc. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 225; CV: 864; TV: 800 (revised)/ 248 (original).*

#### **Indicator 1.3: # of gender-based issues raised in the Citizen Report Card in line with VGGT principles on gender equality (revised)**

The project conducted a special study to define the current state of fisheries governance in Ghana. The results include at least 5 gender-based issues cutting across key levels the fish value chain namely the art of fishing, fish processing, trading and marketing. The report reinforces the significant representation of women within the fish processing and trading stage of the chain, and the gender biases among the largest fisheries associations. Decades of overexploitation of the fishery resources has the potential to affect the livelihoods of all within the fish value chain. The result of the gender-based issues reveals the potential of the women representation to a positive impact on curbing the IUU menace. Some of the women in the industry are canoe owners but they are not part of Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council. Due to the delays encountered during the life of the project, the final citizen report was not produced. This accounts for the project's inability to meet the target. The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 5; TV: 10.

#### **Indicator 1.4: # of policy brief, position papers and fact sheets (all to include gender perspective) developed and published**

Over the life of the project, 4 policy briefs were developed out of a target of 7. These briefs were based on the results of special studies such as the Gender Market Enterprise, Community Score Card, State of Fisheries Governance report, and the Adverse Impact of Capacity Reduction Strategies. The briefs are being used by fishers in their engagement with government and key stakeholders to raise

awareness on the major concerns of the fisheries sector. The engagement of the Government on the Saiko policy brief has contributed to influencing the Government to make a statement to end IUU (Saiko) in the 2020 National Budget Statement. *The values against the indicator are as follows: BV: 0; CV: 4; TV: 7.*

#### **Indicator 1.5: Status of draft Co-Management Policy adoption and implementation in line with VGGT principles**

To have a better understanding of the current state of fisheries governance in Ghana, the project conducted an independent study on citizens' perception and views on fisheries governance in Ghana. The results suggest the general acknowledgement of the expectation of the benefits of the co-management policy among key stakeholders within the sector. Co-management in the sector is generally acknowledged as a good model for participatory governance in the fisheries sector. To contribute to the adoption and implementation of the co-management policy the project participated in multiple advocacy initiatives to make government approve and implement the co-management policy. The advocacy activities resulted in cabinet approving the co-management policy in the last year of project implementation in November 2020.

*Over the past four years, the project employed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) principles to deliver a number of co-management schemes including the VSLAs, the IUU CMGs and the community score card processors. The implementation of the co-management schemes has laid a good foundation for the implementation of the recently approved National co-management policy within the partner districts and communities. The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 1; TV: 0.*

#### **Output 2: Effective Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) monitoring and grievance mechanisms piloted**

The project promoted fishing practices aligned to approved laws and regulations while ensuring equity, inclusion and rights of tenure for smallholder fishers. In **strengthening the IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms** the project supported 5 IUU CMGs through trainings on IUU monitoring, reporting and documentation; evidence gathering; and the use of the Dasa application developed by the Far Dwoma Nkodo (FDN) <sup>6</sup>, which provided a platform for the associations and community monitoring groups to report cases of IUU. Through the IUU monitoring mechanisms, SAIKO practices were identified to be the key issue that required national advocacy. The project and other partners initiated an advocacy campaign against SAIKO that resulted in Government committing to stop IUU in 2020 by enforcing the laws on illegal transshipment. FBB facilitated two bi-annual multi-stakeholder dialogues between all fishery stakeholders to discuss, monitor and implement fishery laws and development strategies and policies to improve fishery governance and ensure the sustainability of the sector. To some extent, the advocacy on IUU yielded some positive results and government authorities ensured timely action to some grievances reported. Through the influence of FBB and other partners, the Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA) developed a code of conduct against Illegal Transshipment (Saiko)).

#### **Indicator 2.1: # of Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) functional in target communities**

The FBB project formed five (5) IUU Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) in Five (5) communities (4 coastal communities namely Dixcove, Anomabo, James-Town, Kudzikope and one (1) inland zone at Kpando-Torkor and trained them on IUU monitoring, grievance reporting and handling to enable fishing communities play an active role in combating IUU. These CMGs have worked in close collaboration with Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, NAFPTA, Fisheries Enforcement Unit and other government actors in general. The important role of the CMGs has been fully acknowledged especially in Kudzikope where the District Authority requested the formation of additional CMGs in

<sup>6</sup> Dasa is an online platform evidence of IUU is uploaded. The app compile information reported by the CMGs and other fisheries supported by this Action

other fishing communities which are not originally targeted by the project. *The values against the indicator are as follows: BV: 0; CV: 5; TV: 5.*

**Indicator 2.2 # of IUU cases reported by CMGs.**

Over the life of the project, the total number of IUU cases reported is 63. The nature of the infractions cuts across light fishing, capture of mammals, trawler malpractices, etc. The CMG members are increasingly being recognized and accepted as the people in the communities who stand against IUU practices. In collaboration with FDN, The number of IUU cases captured online through the DASE app was 699. In spite of the efforts by the projects, IUU remains a key challenge in the fisheries sector in Ghana. -The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 63; TV: 100 (revised)/ 350 (original)

**Indicator 2.3: # of IUU cases reported through online knowledge management platform by CMGs.**

As at December 2020, 699 IUU cases were reported through the online platform – the Dase IUU monitoring mobile app being jointly used by FBB and FDN projects. The tool ensures collection of accurate and real-time information on IUU fishing. However, some of the reported cases were not well captured by the CMGs. The two projects jointly conducted a series of trainings on the Dase tool for a total of 816 (116 by FBB / 700 FDN) beneficiaries. The project has registered 145 fishers and stakeholders who currently use the Dase ICT tool. The regional directors of the Fisheries Commission have recommended that all zonal fisheries officers and fisheries observers who have been posted on fishing trawlers as part of government measure to address IUU should be trained on the Dase IUU mobile app to improve reporting of IUU cases. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 699; TV: 520 (revised)/ 20 (original).*

**Indicator 2.4: # of complaints processes through IUU Grievance Committees.**

During the lifetime of the project Fifteen (15) IUU reported cases were addressed by the IUU grievance committee. The IUU committee were able to resolve 5 cases that were related to the capture of sea mammals by convincing the culprits to release the sea turtles to go back to the sea to sustain their life. The membership of the IUU grievance committees includes district assembly members, chief fishermen and representatives of the women fish mongers. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 15; TV: 50 (revised)/ 125 (original).*

**Indicator 2.5 # of people who participate in the bi-annual IUU multi-stakeholder dialogue.**

Over the lifetime of the project, 216 (176 M/40 F) people participated in the bi-annual IUU multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings held for both the Western and the Eastern Fisheries Enforcement Commands. The IUU multi-stakeholder platforms have contributed in ensuring participation of fishers in implementation of IUU regulation. The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 216; TV: 150 (revised) 120 (original).

**Indicator 2.6: # of National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) members who learned and are applying the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in line with the VGGT principles in IUU prevention.**

By the end of the end of the project, twenty-five (25) members of the NAFAG made up of representatives of Ghana Trawlers Association (GITA) and Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association (GIFA) were trained to apply FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries in line with the VGGT principles in IUU prevention. One (1) NAFAG member, the Ghana Trawlers Association (GITA), adopted a Code of Conduct on illegal transshipment, SAIKO, which is in line with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) code of conduct for Responsible Fisheries. GITA is applying the code of conduct in line with VGGT principles in IUU prevention. The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 2; TV: 3(revised) 5 original.

**Indicator 2.7: Status of NAFAG adoption of IUU Code of Conduct.**

GITA a member of NAFAG has adopted a Code of Conduct to stop SAIKO. The project activities contributed to GITA's decision to adopt the IUU code of conduct. Specifically,



GITA executives and participated in the Joint Advocacy on SAIKO by CSOs and Fisheries projects in Ghana. The joint advocacy on SAIKO also pressed the Government to publicly commit to addressing SAIKO in the 2020 Budget Statement. The implementation of this commitment is expected to achieve better results and strengthen the enforcement of laws against IUU and (SAIKO). *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 1; TV: 3 (revised), 5 (original).*

### **Output 3: Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources**

#### **Indicator 3.1: # of economically sustainable, alternative livelihood models identified and analysed.**

The GEM survey and the space created to engage fishers to discuss their business needs resulted in the identification of five (5) economically sustainable alternative livelihood models ranging from poultry; piggery; food vending; catering; vegetable farming; soap and detergent making; beekeeping; snail and mushroom farming. The range of businesses selected points to preference of livelihood options with short-term incoming generating returns to augment from fisheries income. These alternative livelihood models could also serve as adaptation options for climate change impacts on the fisheries sector, the dwindling fish stocks and closed season activities. In addition to generate more income, the fishers need to access the needed funds to satisfy the Class one certification standard towards accessing the formal markets. The introduction of VSLAs in FBB is relevant in this regard. In the final year of FBB, fishers received business development training based on the above models *delivered in Dixcove, Shama, Anomabo, Abandze, Adina, Ketzikope, Abutiakope, Whuti, Kpando and Ajameasu*. The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 5; TV: 5.

#### **Indicator 3.2: # of gendered market analyses conducted in target communities.**

The project conducted one (1) Gendered Enterprise Market (GEM) analysis in year 3. A 2-page policy brief and recommendations was developed out of the findings of the study.

In addition, the policy brief provided recommendations on how fisheries initiatives and projects can partner government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to support women fishmongers migrate from the use of Chokor barrel oven to the Ahoror oven to qualify for the Class 1 certification. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 1; TV: 1.*

#### **Indicator 3.3 # of people benefitting from business development training (min. 70% women)**

The GEM survey conducted by FBB informed the delivery of business development training for a total of **744** fishers with 90% women representation. The training afforded the fishers opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills on alternative livelihood options with great potential for additional streams of income. This training in 2020 was especially relevant to address the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana. The training models include soaps and detergents (liquid soap, shower gel, washing powder, bar soap, carbolic soap, herbal soap, fabric rinser or after wash, Batik, Tie and Dye, Flour Confectionaries (rich cake, rock cake, meat pie, dough nuts, chips, pizza and bread), coconut oil production, production of charcoal with coconut husk and pomade, use beads for various designs on slippers, key holder, pen holder, bag and necklace. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 744; TV: 450 (revised),*

#### **Indicator 3.3:1 # of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) established under the Action which is functioning**

The introduction of VSLA in targeted project communities and its impact on fishers demonstrates its great potential to address the lack of adequate financial services for fishers to enable them successfully engage in additional livelihood activities to support diversification of business activities and create additional streams of income, which in turn reduces the pressure on marine and resources. Over the life

of the project 46 VSLA groups have been established in all the four coastal regions of Ghana. These groups have mobilized in total Four hundred and Forty-One Thousand, four hundred and thirteen Ghana cedis (GH 441,413) equivalent USD 77,440 from their own internally generated sources with no external injection of funds. To sustain scaling of VSLAs beyond the life of the project, community volunteers referred as 'Village Agents' have been trained by the project to facilitate formation of additional VSLA on a fee for service basis to meet the increasing demands of fishing communities for support to form VSLAs. The VSLAs meet regularly on weekly basis to save and disburse loans to members. These groups also serve as a reliable platform for community engagements for fishery related updates and information, sensitization on nutrition, health related issues, and covid-19 prevention, Hygiene and sanitation etc. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV:0; CV: 46; TV: 30.*

#### **Indicator 3.4: # of Fishers benefiting from social protection schemes**

The VSLA members are the key beneficiaries benefitting from the social protection schemes in the form of the VSLA structure, which is the only such scheme being delivered by the project with the support of the EU. The results in terms of improved social protection and resilience is reported under several of the above indicators. The original target has been reviewed to 800 because the initial target has been achieved. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 1325; TV: 800 (revised) 15% (original).*

#### **Indicator 3.5: Number of MMDAs providing basic service to fishery communities**

To contribute to improving basic service delivery within fishing communities in Ghana, FBB facilitated Community Score Card interface meetings in 29 districts. The Community score card interface meetings process provided spaces for fisher communities and their respective Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to discuss issues related to basic service delivery and to define action plans to address any gaps. Subsequently, a number of these actions have been captured in the Community Action Plans (CAPs) and are being implemented. Notably, Sea defense wall to address sea erosion are being built in Gomoa-Fetteh, Dixcove, Axim, Anomabo and James Town. Fish landing sites at different levels of construction are currently being developed. Generally, the working relationship between the fishers and the MMDAs has improved.

Current result indicates 89% of the MMDAs working to provide the required basic services their respective fishing communities. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 89%; TV: 50% (revised), 20% original*

#### **Indicator 3.6: Number of landing sites mapped for fishers.**

Five (5) landing sites have been mapped by the project namely Kedzikope, Anomabo Abutsiakope, and Whuti and Abuesi The involvement of MMDAs in the mapping process has resulted in creating the interest of the District in securing fish landing sites contributing to social and economic safeguards to improve livelihoods as well as inspired consensus building at the community level among community leaders, landowners and fisher folks contributing to the securing of the fish landing sites. The physical demarcation of the fishing land site in Abutiakope has rekindled the interest among community leaders and fisher folks to fight the encroachment of the fish landing site. *The values against the indicator is as follows: BV: 0; CV: 5; TV: 5.*

### **B. Activities**

#### **Activities to Deliver Result 1: Empowered Smallholder Fishery Associations take Active Part in Fisheries Governance**

Generally, the activities implemented in above result area was geared towards strengthening the capacity of smallholder fishery associations and other civil society organisations to participate actively in multi-stakeholder dialogues and other forums to influence policies in favour of vulnerable fishery communities.

### **Activity 1.1: Develop Information, Education and Communication Materials, and Trainers Manual on VGGT<sup>7</sup> Guidelines, Co-management, IUUs, and other Fisheries Policies & laws:**

Overall, the Project developed five (5) out of the Seven (7) sets of IEC materials planned. The capacity building needs for the various five major Fisheries Associations (GNCFC, Fisheries Alliance, NAFPTA, GITA and NICFA) informed the development of IE&C materials and related capacity improvement interventions; 5 sets out of the expected 7 sets of IE & C materials have been produced and distributed; 6,500 out of the expected 10,500 IE&C materials on VGGT principles have been produced and distributed; 500 FBB Newsletters have been developed and distributed; and 2 training manuals have been adapted from FAO and CARE, covering VGGT and VSLA as guide for field officers, 200 20- page picture book that illustrates different forms of illegal fishing activities.

The IE&C materials, so far, has contributed to the strengthening of capacities of the five major smallholder fishery associations to engage with the Fisheries Commission and other stakeholders in the implementation of fisheries policies.

FBB experienced significant delays in project activity implementation in year 3 due to delays partly originating from due diligence processes which affected timely disbursement of funds to partners. To address the delays in project implementation, EU requested an acceleration plan to address the delays and work towards catching up with the lost time. The acceleration plan was approved in November 2019, however project implementation suffered another phase of delay in the first and second quarter of 2020 due to the global covid-19 pandemic. Government restrictions and lockdown slowed down the pace of implementation affecting a variety of FBB activities. To address the safety and health of fishing communities and mitigate the spread of covid-19 in fisheries community, FBB developed 500 IEC materials on covid 19 to help educate communities on covid. The covid -19 IEC materials were based on WHO and the Ghana Health Service guidelines.

### **Activity 1.2 Develop the organizational capacity of smallholder fisheries associations and the CSO Fishery Alliances**

Under the activity, the project has conducted an assessment of an organizational and institutional capacity of smallholder fisheries associations (NAFPTA, GNCFC, NICFA, NAFAG and GITA) and Fisheries Alliance. The project supported the various associations to implement various recommendations from the assessment (Participatory Organisational Capacity Assessment (POCA) conducted in the first year of the project as well as activities from their various strategic plans. Through the support of the project, the organizational capacity of smallholder fisheries associations and Fisheries Alliance has been developed through training, mentoring, coaching, provision of networking opportunities, internal system strengthening to ensure they are more effective and efficient; and the organizational capacity of smallholder fisheries associations and fisheries alliance has been developed in advocacy, media engagement, and stakeholder engagement, budget tracking and monitoring, communication, networking and coalition-building. In addition to this, the project also empowered the fishers to meaningfully participate in decision-making spaces towards improving basic service delivery.

The project has also supported the GNCFC elections of regional executives to improve their internal governance system. This process has contributed to making the organisation more efficient, effective and improve their participation in national-level fisheries governance decision making. The project has supported the Fisheries Alliance with information to participate in the multi-stakeholder dialogue initiated under the project as well as the national CSO NRE sector review. With support of FBB and other stakeholders, the Fisheries Alliance was able to issue a number of press statements on the diversion

of premix fuel which resulted in a lot of public debate and response from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

Through the implementation of the activity, smallholder fisheries associations and Fisheries Alliance have been empowered to play active role in fisheries governance and to advocate for sustainable fisheries governance in Ghana. Smallholder fishers have been given a greater voice in advocacy and policy dialogue and thereby strengthened a movement of organized smallholder fishers with a strong voice at the local and the national level.

### **Activity 1.3. Train selected media organizations/journalists on fisheries governance**

Another important activity under ER1 is the selection and training of forty-five (45) media organizations/journalist on fisheries governance. The role of media in shaping policies, changing public attitudes and influencing policymakers in Ghana is growing steadily. In total Forty-one (41) journalist (20 news editors on fisheries governance in addition to the 21 journalists have been trained. FBB engagement and training of media has resulted in an increase in the number of media reports on fishery governance from 225 in 2017 to 695 in 2019 and 854 in 2020 representing 350% increase in media report over the life of the project.

In addition to the training, the project has ensured the participation of media in all major project activities leading to 28 special features on the project in the leading newspapers (Daily Graphic, Graphic Online, and Graphic Business). Radio and Television discussions on Citi FM/ Television, GH One Television, United Television, Radio 360 among others. The dialogue (TV and Radio) has promoted and generated sustained fisheries discussions in the media landscape. It has also promoted visibility of the FBB project, the EU and consortium partners.

### **Activity 1.4 Advocate for equitable co-management models**

Three (3) sub-activities fall under this activity.

Sub-activity 1: Develop two citizen report cards on “the state of fisheries governance in Ghana” with fisheries stakeholders:

*Activity 1.4.1. Develop two citizen report cards on “the state of fisheries governance in Ghana” with fisheries stakeholders.*

The project produced the State of Fisheries Governance Report during the first quarter of 2020. The citizen report card on “the state of fisheries governance in Ghana was developed with the support of Fisher-folks, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD), the Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG), and the Fisheries Scientific Survey Division (FSSD). The report card reflects the true state of fishery governance in Ghana. The implementation of this activity which was expected to have been completed in 2019 was delayed until the March 2020 due to the due diligence processes which affected pace of project activity implementation. As a result of these delays, the project developed one instead of the two citizen report card planned. The implementation of the activity resulted in five (5) gender-based issues raised in the citizen report card in line with VGGT principles on gender equality and 8,8038 people benefitting indirectly from co-management schemes of the project

*Activity 1.4.2. Develop policy briefs, position papers, and fact sheets*

Four (4) policy briefs have been developed. The policy briefs are being used by fishers to engage government and other stakeholders to implement policy recommendations to address major concerns raised by fishers. The development of the policy briefs has increased the participation of fishers in co-management discussions and piloting. For instance, the engagement of the Government through the Saiko policy brief has contributed to influencing the Government to make a statement to end IUU (Saiko) in the presentation of the 2020 National Budget Statement. As expected, fisheries projects running concurrently at the time of FBB implementation also produced fact sheets and policy briefs

which were used collectively by all prospects to engage Government. FBB sought not to duplicate the work of other projects and determined to develop policy issues on subjects that were not already addressed by other initiatives in fisheries sector. Subsequently FBB produced only 4 instead of the 7 briefs originally targeted.

#### *Activity 1.4.3. Co-organize annual sector review.*

Three out of four Annual sector reviews planned by FBB was organized in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The 2020 annual sector review was aborted due to the high political atmosphere existing pre presidential and parliamentary election and the risk of COVID-19 pandemic. The 2017 Annual sector review was organized in collaboration with the Fisheries Alliance and Kasa Initiative Ghana. 2018, in collaboration with MOFAD and SFMP, FBB project organized a 3-day national Fisheries Legislation Review workshop. The project in collaboration with the Far Dwoma Nkodo, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, Livestock and Fisheries Chamber, Power to the Fishers Project, and the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council conducted a two-day National Fisheries Dialogue on the theme “Restoring Ghana’s Depleted Fish Stocks using the Right Gears: The Role of Fisheries Associations” in 2019. These annual review events brought together participants (development partners, CSOs, government institutions and private actors) within the sector to discuss current and emerging issues (diversion of premix to the various landing sites, declining fish stock, development of co-management policy, and review of the fisheries legal framework). Also, it resulted in the development of a communique, press release and media engagement, and increasing Government commitment in dealing with some of the key issues raised.

It is important to note that out of the implementation of this activity (Advocate for equitable co-management models), the Government accepted the need for co-management policy to guide the implementation of equitable co-management models. In November 2020, (preceding the December 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections, Cabinet approved the Fisheries Co-management policy

### **ER2: Effective IUU Monitoring and Grievance Mechanisms Piloted**

This section focuses on activities under the ER2.

#### **Activity 2.1 Form and train Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) on IUU monitoring, reporting and documentation**

FBB project has established five (5) IUU Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) in 5 communities (4 coastal communities namely, Dixcove, Anomabo, James-Town, Kedzikope, and 1 in the inland zone at Kpando-Torkor) to support the fight against IUU fishing. The IUU CMGs served as fisheries co-management groups to promote community and fisher's participation in monitoring and reporting of IUU cases. Membership of the CMGs ranges between 10 and 30 in a group. IUU CMGs have been trained on evidence gathering, documentation, and reporting in formats that are compatible with the Marine Police systems and other fisheries enforcement agencies. The groups have also been trained on mainstreaming VGGT principles in fisheries governance at the zonal and national levels. FBB supported the CMGs to monitor and document IUU activities and grievances regarding tenure access and infringements on Inshore Exclusion Zones (IEZ), illegal transshipment, dumping of fish and other local IUU practices.

All the five (5) IUU CMGs that have been formed by the project are functional. They are actively monitoring and reporting IUU cases including fishing in the IEZ by trawlers and other local IUU practices such as light fishing. The project has developed 5 modules on vision building, basic fishery laws, IUU fishing monitoring and evidence gathering as planned.

The establishment and training of IUU CMGs on IUU monitoring, reporting and documentation contributed to the achievement of ER2 which focuses on effective illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) monitoring and grievance mechanisms.

In spite of this achievement of this activity, there are no regular feedback mechanisms to CMGs on IUU cases. CMG members complained of not receiving any feedback on IUU cases they report to authorities. This may therefore be a disincentive to the IUU CMGs.

### **Activity 2.2 Develop and operationalize an ICT tool for monitoring and reporting on IUU fishing.**

The project adopted the Dase ICT tool which was developed by the FDN project to avoid duplication and streamline the reporting database. 'Dase' which means “evidence” in the local language has gained wide acceptance by the smallholder fishers, fisher associations, and government. The relevant authorities (Marine Police, fisheries enforcement officers and prosecutors) were also introduced to the tool and they acknowledged that the tool could lead to better evidence collection for prosecution.

Twenty-five (25) smart phones have been procured by the project and distributed to CMGs. The smart phones are used to take both still and motion pictures and has a provision for description of IUU cases. Evidence gathered is sent directly to the head office in Accra. CMGs consider the existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms effective.

The adoption and operationalization of an ICT tool for monitoring and reporting on IUU fishing has improved IUU monitoring and reporting of the project. The CMGs have indicated that additional support to acquire more smart phones will enable increased monitoring and reporting of IUU fishing.

### **Activity 2.3 Develop an online open platform for collecting and analysing IUU reports**

The project has adopted an online open platform from FDN project for collecting and analysing IUU reports. The project jointly hosted the online platform with the FDN project and facilitated uploading of evidence of IUU captured via the ICT mobile app (Dase) onto the platform. The platform provides data based on IUU information e.g. the number of cases of illegal trans-shipment recorded, location of reported IUU activity and other relevant information needed for successful prosecution. Active members of the online platform are the representatives of Fisheries Commission, Marine Police, Far Dwoma Nkodo and Far Ban Bo project. Cases submitted by fishers are sent to the platform and viewed by members for discussion and action. This activity has contributed to a large extent in achieving effective IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms and created evidence base to support Government monitoring mechanism.

### **Activity 2.4 Form local IUU grievance committees for immediate follow up to cases reported**

In order to secure immediate response and follow up to IUU cases reported by the CMGs, FBB formed and trained five IUU Grievance Committees on IUU evidence gathering and documentation in line with structured reporting formats. The project created platforms for the committees to interact with the Marine Police in order to secure immediate response and follow up on the cases reported. The committees were supported to keep a local register of IUU cases identified in their zones

### **Activity 2.5 Institute platforms for bi-annual multi-stakeholder on IUUs**

Bi-annual multi-stakeholder platform on IUUs and fishery governance has been instituted by the project. The project has held 2 multi-stakeholder zonal platform meetings. The meetings provided the space for fishery associations and the community monitoring groups to raise issues and dialogue on IUU deterrence, success, challenges, and recommendations. The bi-annual dialogue forums brought together stakeholders from each of the enforcement commands (i.e. Eastern Command-Tema and Western Command-Takoradi). The bi-annual multi-stakeholder platforms on IUU and fisheries governance offer opportunity for the CMGs and other groups to present and discuss the evidence submitted and request a

status of the follow-up actions from the enforcement agencies including the nature of the penalty (fines, etc.) imposed on the convicted vessels.

Generally, fisheries actors proposed the inclusion of judges and prosecutors in the dialogue platforms as a step to support the prosecution process.

### **Activity 2.6 Train the Private Sector Fishers on IUU compliance in the context of the VGGT**

Training workshops were organized for NAFAG members: Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA) and Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association (GIFA) executives and members on IUU compliance in the context of the VGGT. The content of the Training sessions included the National Plan of Action against IUU to ensure effective compliance. The training outlined key areas for improvement among the Private sector fishers. These included internal arrangement to promote compliance of Fisheries laws and other laws against IUU. These trainings were delayed and conducted in the last year of project implementation. The delay in the implementation of the activity is due to inadequate cooperation from the private sector fishers. The original plan of the project was to organize one-day workshops twice each year, to coincide with the already planned meetings of the private sector fishers' associations (e.g. general assemblies), to train the private sector fishers on IUU compliance in the context of the VGGT. It is expected that the information received by the private sector fishers and the pressure generated by media and public attention on IUU will lead to these fishers enforcing compliance on IUU.

### **Activity 2.7 Support the Private Sector fishers' association in developing a "Code of Conduct for IUU" for self-compliance, in line with VGGT principles.**

FBB has not been very successful in working with National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) to officially develop the code of conduct for IUU due to their perception that they have not been involved as expected by projects in the fisheries sector including FBB. One key reason for this stance by NAFAG members is the concern that Far Dwuma Nkodo project (being implemented by Hen Mpoano and the Environmental Justice Foundation) failed to incorporate their views in the documentary titled "Stolen at Sea". They expressed disappointment in the failure of the project to give them the benefit of responding to the findings and review of the results although they were featured. However, through media campaigns against "SAIKO", the project has informally caused Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA) to issue a communique to its members to stop illegal transshipment ("SAIKO") in line with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) code of conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Overall, FBB activities in ER 2 has ensured that an effective IUU monitoring and grievance mechanisms piloted contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources.

The establishment of 5 functional IUU community monitoring groups to serve as co-management groups to promote community and fishers' participation in monitoring and reporting of IUU cases resulting in an increase in the number of IUU cases prosecuted. The bi-annual meetings promoted dialogues at the local levels with key stakeholders to share and discuss updates of IUU cases and further contributed to government's decision to deepen its collaboration with appropriate stakeholders to enhance effective fisheries law enforcement, and establish the two specialized fisheries prosecution courts at Tema and Cape-Coast to reduce adjudication time of fisheries infractions. The government also decided to sensitize 100 fishing communities on fisheries laws and regulations as well as the negative effects of illegal fishing.

### **ER3: Social and Economic Safeguards Contribute to Improving Livelihoods and Nutritional Status of Smallholder Fishers and other Users of Fishery Resources**

FBB activities implemented under ER3 contributed towards ensuring that smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources, among them women and vulnerable groups, are safeguarded in the context of capacity reductions and have access to sustainable fishery and alternative livelihood strategies to ensure food and nutrition security for themselves and their families.

### **Activity 3.1: Conduct analysis of adverse impacts of capacity reduction strategies on the livelihoods of smallholder fishers, especially women**

This activity was delayed because of the Government's announcement in October 2017 of a one-month (February 2018) closed season for industrial vessels. Since closed season was one of the key capacity reduction strategies, there was the need to delay the activity till the end of the closed season to analyse the adverse impact of the closed season on the livelihood of smallholder fishers. The study analysed and generated evidence on the likely impact of capacity reduction on the livelihoods and nutrition security of fishing communities using participatory assessment tools. The study generated gender-disaggregated data, and reflected views and impacts of capacity reduction, as experienced by women and other vulnerable groups directly and indirectly engaged in the fisheries value chain.

The report from the study formed the basis for formulating recommendations and policy proposals to mitigate the impacts of capacity reductions on the poor, vulnerable groups and communities. The findings and recommendations were presented at the national sector review and fed into the citizen report card process and policy briefs.

### **Activity 3.2. Support to livelihood diversification for affected fishers in target communities**

Sub-activities include:

#### *3.2.1 Conduct Gendered Enterprise and Market Analysis:*

The project conducted one (1) gendered enterprise market (**GEM**) analysis in year three (3) instead of year one (1) of its implementation due to the delays stated in the report. The GEM analysis was conducted in 6 fisheries project communities. The study generated gender-disaggregated data and analysis of market trends, production services, financial services, business development services and logistics that will support women to upgrade their position in the market. The study identified five (5) alternative livelihood opportunities in the fishing communities that fisher folks could be supported to engage in. A two (2)-page policy brief was developed out of the findings and recommendations from the study.

#### *Activity 3.2.2. Roll-out community-managed saving and loan schemes*

Limited access to financial services is prevalent among smallholder fishers and processors in Ghana. The 2013 canoe fishers' survey indicates that as much as 76% of women smallholder fishers lack access to credit (compared to 46% of men). This prevents them from investing in e.g. equipment that can add value in the fish value chain (e.g. smokers) or from starting alternative income generating activities.

Forty-Six (46) functional Village Savings and Loans Association (**VSLA**) groups have been established and trained in VSLA methodology by the project. The project has provided Savings boxes and record books for each group at a cost to the groups. The VSLA method is based solely on members own savings. The VSLA groups are self-selected. The self-selected groups have been trained by the project using the VSLA training manuals and modules. Through the activities of FBB over 1325 fisher households now have the culture of savings, access to funds through their own savings to reinvest into their business, consider additional business options and improve resilience levels. In addition, these groups have acquired the culture of meeting regularly on their own and are now potentially exposed to livelihood enhancement models, food and nutrition information, and fishery related updates among others.

The formation of VSLAs generated significant interest and support of fisher folk in FBB because it addressed a critical issue of limited access to financial services. To address the high interest, and sustain VSLA scaling after the project, FBB trained community volunteers referred to as village agents to support self-replication of groups. The village agents will charge a fee for training new groups and hence have an incentive to train more groups.



### 3.2.3. Business development training for VSLA / interest groups

As a follow up to the Gendered Enterprise and Market Analysis and the formation of VSLA groups, FBB provided business development and management (e.g. how to start a small enterprise, how to market products) to enable VSLA groups to start their value chain or alternative livelihood activities. The training focused on a range of small enterprise activities i.e. soaps and detergents making (liquid soap, shower gel, washing powder, bar soap, carbolic soap, herbal soap, fabric rinser or after wash), Batik, Tie and Dye, Flour Confectionaries, coconut oil production, production of charcoal from coconut husk, pomade and use beads for various designs on slippers, key holder, pen holder, bag and necklace. In addition VSLA members received training in financial literacy to enhance their financial management skills

### **Activity 3.3 Apply community scorecard methodology to improve government services to fishery communities**

The project completed one community score cards in twenty-nine (29) districts across all the coastal regions for the fisher-folks and the districts to dialogue on issues related to basic service delivery and to define action plans To track the implementation of the Community Action Plan, the project completed a second CSC in 9 of the partner fishing communities namely Kpone-Katamanso, TEMA, Anomabo, Dixcove, Apewueseka, Gomoa-Fetteh, James Town, Keta and Abuesi. This was a follow-up interface meeting to discuss progress made in basic service delivery. Generally there is significant improvement in service delivery of coastal districts in favour of smallholder fishers as against the situation at the beginning of the project implementation. Governance responsiveness was highest in the last year of project in 2020 expectedly as this was an election year. The application of the community score card methodology in the 29 coastal regions has made the government more aware of the needs and concerns of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. This has resulted in an improvement of the Government's service delivery to fishing communities, and has contributed to the empowerment of fisher-folks to be active in fishery governance at the local level.

### **Activity 3.4: Ensure access to nutrition information in collaboration with Ghana Health Services**

The project collaborated with the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to sensitize 12 VSLAs on nutrition and food security measures, including improved hygiene, in the Volta region (**Kedzikope, Abutiakope, and Whuti**). (Fisher folks) were educated on good nutrition practices such as eating more fish, green leafy vegetables, fruits; as well as on preventing anaemia. They were also encouraged to consume more fish rather than selling them. Additionally, they were educated on proper sanitation practices (handwashing) and clean environments. The nutrition sensitization could not be extended the other VSLAs in the final year in 2020 due to limitations placed on community engagements to mitigate the spread of covid- 19.

### **Activity 3.5. Support mapping, demarcation, and documentation of Fish Landing sites.**

The objective of the mapping is to secure fish landing sites to ensure sustainable fishery resources management, improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources. The project supported the securing of Five (5) fish landing sites in Abuesi, Anomabo, Abutiakope, Kedzikope and Whuti to improve rights tenure and sustainable use of fisheries resources, in line with the VGGT. This effort by the project has reduced their vulnerability and improved the preparedness and resilience to coastal erosion, tidal waves, reduced catch from rising sea temperatures, and other direct and indirect consequences of climate change and variability.

Specifically, the project addressed the key issues of lack of boundary demarcation and lack of documentation of communal lands dedicated for fishing land sites. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported the process of sharing of lessons and best practice to support advocacy for secured land tenure in fishing communities in Ghana.

**2.3 Logframe matrix updated**

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
Overall objective: Impact	OO. 1: To contribute to sustainable fisheries resources management to improve food security and nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources	OO indicator 1.1: Percentage change in Inland Exclusion Zone (IEZ) fish stock levels/ <b>Total Landings of Small Pelagic Stock</b>	19608 tonnes (2016)	According to the STWG and FSSD report, the total landings of small pelagic stocks is 19023 <sup>8</sup> tonnes (2017) 11,834 tonnes (2019)					21,568.8 tonnes	2020 Annual Stock Assessment Data by Fisheries Commission (FC) Research Division	Government enforces the planned closed seasons and also the fishery laws related to IUU successfully by equipping the Fishery Enforcement Units.
		OO indicator 1.2: Mean Annual Household income within Rural Coastal Communities	GH11351.13 (GLSS 2014)  <b>GH9547.00 (Dec. 2017) – During the baseline survey, the mean household income for fishers was measured</b>	GH¢27,875 (2017)-the GLSS 7 report was released in JUNE 2019.  <b>GH¢14,109.00 (2019)-this measured during the final evaluation of the project</b>					GH¢28500(G LSS)  <b>GH¢10,024</b>	Ghana Living Standards Survey(GLSS)by Ghana Statistical Service(GSS)	

<sup>8 8</sup> Sustainable fisheries Management Project (SFMP) report on Status of the Small Pelagic Fish Stock in Ghana in 2018. Available at Ghanalinks.org <https://ghanalinks.org/elibrary> search term: SFMP

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
Specific objective(s): <b>Outcome(s)</b>	SO1: Smallholder fishers and processors benefit from equitable and sustainable rights based fisheries resources management	Number of women and men smallholder fishers, processors and traders benefiting from co-management schemes (original) <b># of Fish folks benefiting from co-management schemes (revised)</b>	0 and indirectly is		5,696 Direct reach: 2,740 (1,570M /1,170F) and indirect reach: 2,956 (1,507M /1,449F)	7,078 Direct Beneficiaries: Indirect Beneficiaries: 3,436 (1,758 M/1,678 F), 3,642 (1,857M /1,785 F)			12000 <b>reviewed to 7,000 with 4,800 being women</b>	Annual project report, mid-term review, final evaluation (MoV: Analysis of impact in 5 target communities)	Co-management models are successfully implemented, benefitting also women
	SO1: Smallholder fishers and processors benefit from equitable and sustainable rights based fisheries resources management	Percentage change in prosecution by authorities of reported IUU cases (original). / <b># of reported IUU cases prosecuted by authorities (revised)</b>	28	42	52	25 (119 cumulative)		50	<b>50. This has been reviewed to 65.</b>	Annual Project Report (MoV: Comparing enforcement unit registry with # of arrests and prosecutions)	FC, Marine Police, IUU Committee and CSO reps are willing to cooperate and committed to principles of transparency

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
		Percentage change of fish processors and traders engaging in alternative livelihood activities. (original) <b>Percentage of fisher folks engaged in alternative livelihood activities (revised)</b>	16%		58%	73%		18%	10% (original). <b>Revision: 65%</b>	Annual project report (MoV :) Ex-ante randomised survey (focus group interviews) of participants from gendered market trainings)	Targeted women have sufficient financial capital and are willing to invest
Outputs	Op 1.1. Op 1: Smallholder Fishery Associations and Civil Society Alliances are empowered and take active part in fisheries governance	Percentage increase in organisational capacity of NAFPTA, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), National Inland Canoe Fishermen's Association (NICFA), and Ghana Inland Fisheries Association (GIFA) (original) <b>Average performance index of the fishery association - capacity of NAFPTA, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), National Inland Canoe Fishermen's</b>	59%		64%	71.5%			85%	Annual organisational assessment report, Annual Project Report	The fishery associations and alliances engage and take ownership of their own development process

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
		Association (NICFA), and Ghana Inland Fisheries Association (GIFA) (revised)									
	Op 1.1. Op 1: Smallholder Fishery Associations and Civil Society Alliances are empowered and take active part in fisheries governance	Percentage increase in media reports on fisheries governance (original)/ # of media reports on fisheries governance (revised)	225		695	854			Original: 248 Revised: 800	Annual Project Report (MoV: Media tracking by Centre for Media Analysis)	Journalists and editors are willing to run stories from fisheries governance sector
		Percentage of women's meaningful contributions to citizen report card questionnaires and focus group discussion in line with VGGT principle on gender equality (original) Number of gender-based issues raised in the Citizen Report Card in line with VGGT principles on gender equality (revised)	0			5			5	Annual Project Report (MoV: Documented by citizen report card consultant)	Women are willing, and have time, to contribute meaningfully

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
	Op 1.1. Op 1: Smallholder Fishery Associations and Civil Society Alliances are empowered and take active part in fisheries governance	# of policy brief, position papers and fact sheets (all to include gender perspective) developed and published	0			4			7	Annual Project Report, copies	Members of smallholder associations and civil society alliances willing to participate in process
		Status of draft Co-Management policy adoption and implementation in line with VGGT principles (original) Status of draft Co-Management policy adoption and implementation in line with VGGT principles (revised)	0	Cabinet has approved the co-management policy in Nov. 2020.					Co-Management policy adopted and implemented in line with VGGT principles	Annual Project Report (MoV: FC Annual Report)	Members of smallholder associations and civil society alliances willing to participate in process
	Op. 2: Effective Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) monitoring and grievance mechanisms piloted	Number of community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) functional in target communities	0	5	5	5			5	Annual project report (MoV: “functional” =when IUU cases are Uniformly documented and reported).	Target communities continue to appreciate collective benefit from participation in the Action

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
		# of IUU cases reported by CMGs	0		63	63			350 cases reviewed to 100 cases	Annual Project Report (MoV: Grievances registries)	CMGs uniformly record and document IUU cases. Community monitoring, media follow up and multi-stakeholder platforms will provide sufficient incentives for Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) to follow up on cases
		# of IUU cases reported through online knowledge management platform, including IUU tracking	No online knowledge management platform		491	699			20 reviewed to 520	Annual Project Report (MoV: # of data/19x entries)	IUU Committees gain the knowledge and interest necessary to contribute to the online platform

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
		# of complaints processes through IUU Committees	0			15			125 this has been reviewed to 50	Annual Project Report (MoV: Grievance registries)	IUU Committees uniformly record and document cases
		Percentage of female CSO representatives in biannual multi-stakeholder platform dialogues (original) Number of people who participated in biannual multi stakeholder platform dialogues (revised)	0		139 (112M/27F)- Cumulative However in 2019, 113 (106M/7 F) people participate	216 (176 M/40 F) This is the cumulative figure over the life of the project.			Original: 120 Proposed revision: 150	Annual project report. (MoV: Training reports, gender disaggregated lists of participants)	FC, Marine Police, IUU Committee and CSO reps are willing to cooperate and committed to principles of transparency
		Percentage of National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) members who learnt and are applying the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in line with the VGGT principles in IUU prevention	No NAFAG executive members			1 member			Original 5% Revised: 2 out of 5 members = 40%	Annual Project Report (MoV: Training reports, list of participants)	Willingness of NAFAG executive members, especially GITA and GIFA, to participating



Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
		(original) Number of National Fisheries Association of Ghana (NAFAG) members who learnt and are applying the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in line with the VGGT principles in IUU prevention (revise									
		Status of NAFAG adoption of IUU Code of Conduct (original) Number of NAFAG members who have adopted the Code of Conduct (revised)	0			1			Original: 5 associations  Revised: 3 associations	Annual Project Report (MoV: GITA and GIFA endorsement of IUU Code of Conduct)	Willingness of NAFAG executive members, especially GITA and GIFA, to participate in self-monitoring and compliance
	Op. 3: Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources	Op 3.1: Number of economically sustainable, alternative livelihood models identified, analysed	No models identified and analysed		5	5			5		Stakeholders are motivated to invest their time in participating in informing and developing the analysis

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
	Op. 3: Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources	# of gendered market analyses conducted in target communities	0		1	1			1	Annual Project Report	Stakeholders are motivated to invest their time in participating
		# of Village Savings and Loans Associations established under the project (VSLAs) functioning	0		25	46			30	Annual Project Report (MoV: Ex-ante survey (focused group interviews) of VSLA members from 10 randomly selected VSLAs during Year 1 and Year 4)	The Community Based Trainers (CBTs) give sufficient training and follow up and members are committed to save regularly in the Group and trust each other.
		Number of people benefiting from business development trainings	0		351 (273 F, 78 M)-	744 with 90% women representation			350	Annual Project report	Motivation of participants
		OP 3.2 % of improvement in scores of district assembly basic service delivery/ # of District Assemblies delivering basic service delivery	No MMDA was found delivering based on the community performance score		41%	89%			20% reviewed to 50%	Annual Project Report (MoV: Mean community score card matrix results. Aggregated annually across target communities)	District assemblies are willing to seek to improve upon them perceived levels of accountability

Intervention logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current value			Targets (incl. reference year)			Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
			reference year	2018	2019	2020	Y2	Y3	Y4		
	Op. 3: Social and economic safeguards contribute to improving livelihoods and nutritional status of smallholder fishers and other users of fishery resources	# of poor and marginalised smallholder fishers, processors benefiting from social protection schemes/ # of fisher-folks benefiting from social protection schemes	0		738 (563 F, 175 M)	1325 (344 M, 981 F)			800 (This is the reviewed target)	Annual Project Report, copy of analysis (MoV: Quantitative analysis of government policies, including simple set criteria for selection)	Civil society recommendations are adopted by the government
		Status of mapping of Landing site/ No of Landing site mapped	0		4	5			5	5 Landing sites maps. Annual Project Report	Government authorities are responsive and willing to address land tenure across government sectors
Activities	A 1.1.1. A 1.1.2 A 2.1.1. ...										



## **2.4 Cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights,<sup>9</sup> gender equality,<sup>10</sup> democracy, good governance, children's rights.**

Gender has been mainstreamed in all the interventions of the project. Research conducted under the project have captured the views of both men and women fishers. Media platforms have also been created for fishers and traditional authorities in the project areas to share their views and contribute to fisheries governance.

Specifically FBB took a holistic approach in empowering women, and influencing more equal gender relations in the fishery sector by applying the CARE Women's Empowerment Framework which recognises that transformation is needed at three levels: women's agency (a woman's knowledge, self-confidence and ability to take action), relations (a woman's network and relation with peers and decision-makers) and structure (enabling environment which supports implementation of relevant norms and policies). The project applied this framework by improving agency through training and awareness raising of women members of fishery associations; strengthening relations through group formation and linkages with other associations; and structure through working with government on improving policy implementation and service delivery to women working along the fishery value chain.

The project specifically targeted women in capacity building activities to enable them to participate in all levels of governance, from the community, district, and national level, and for them to gain equitable control over livelihood resources to support their economic aspirations. The project ensured that all activities were attended by women and men, was sensitive to the time constraints of women and men.

A human rights-based approach to implementation was also employed, which in practice means that the consortium empowered rights holders, in this case smallholder fishery associations to articulate their issues and report grievances related to tenure rights, while also strengthening the ability of duty bearers to respond to grievances. Multi-stakeholder platforms and local face-to-face interaction meetings and provided spaces of negotiation.

## **2.5 Sustainability of project Efforts**

The project has established good partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as the government, the media organizations and the smallholder fishery associations and communities. The efforts of FBB and other fisheries sector initiatives has made significant strides to amplify the issue of the depleting fisheries resources in Ghana and institute systems that will support the replenishment of fisheries resources. However, these efforts will need to be complemented by political commitment of Government to implement resolutions and plans that have been put in place to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the country.

The smallholder fisheries associations have been empowered to be active in fisheries governance at all levels. The strengthening of organizational and institutional capacity of the fishery associations and the Fishery Alliance, has led to a more representative, inclusive, relatively accountable CSOs with the capacity to effectively respond to the demands and interests of their constituents. A stronger and more diversified civil society will ensure that policy implementation is monitored, and that sustainable and equitable fishery governance remain on the agenda.

By working closely with government authorities in the fisheries sector including the enforcement units, the project has enabled mandated government agencies in the fisheries sector to access to new knowledge, and innovative practices which they are expected to apply beyond the life of the project.

The co-management schemes implemented by the project also lays a good foundation for the implementation of the co-management policy which was approved by cabinet in November 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Including those of people with disabilities. For more information, see 'Guidance note on disability and development' at [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-guidance-note-eu-staff\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-guidance-note-eu-staff_en)

<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/toolkit-mainstreaming-gender-equality-ec-development-cooperation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/toolkit-mainstreaming-gender-equality-ec-development-cooperation_en)

The mass media campaigns and fisheries dialogue series, active participation of the fishers in governance, and the evidence-based advocacy activities have exposed the adverse impact of the IUU menace to a wider audience. The above coalition force is placing growing pressure on government to curb the IUU menace and also implement fully the required management measures. The households that are participating in the VSLA program have the potential to have good nutritional diet due to the increase in their annual income.

## 2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation activities

To track progress towards the achievement of the expected results and the overall objective, an M&E system was designed and implemented. A learning strategy was applied, and regular reflection exercises was imbedded through project implementation. At quarterly meetings, and annual reflective learning and planning meetings provided opportunity for the project team to reflect on progress, identify gaps and develop plans to address challenges. The monitoring framework used by the project was based on key indicators set out in the logical framework, and these provided a basis for reporting change and progress. An independent financial verification audits of financial transactions was conducted annually.

**A baseline survey** was carried out at the beginning of implementation to refine and validate monitoring indicators and help develop a comprehensive monitoring framework for implementation. Baseline information was compared with mid-term and end-term evaluations.

An external mid-term evaluation of the project was carried out to assess progress and adjust implementation strategies. The key recommendations of the mid-term evaluation include the need to expedite the implementation of delayed activities in the accelerated road map to ensure they are completed by the end of the project in 2020, Government should enforce the laws governing illegal fishing practices to motivate IUU Community Monitoring Groups in the execution of their responsibilities. Project meetings with beneficiaries such as the fishers should be organized in the communities to include all opinion leaders to ensure that all and sundry receive and understand information first hand.

An external final Evaluation was carried out is to assess the overall progress and the achievements made with respect to the set objectives and expected results of the FBB project, document lessons from the project and make recommendations for future programming. The final evaluation noted that the FBB project collaborated well with other sector projects such as the Fa Dwuma Nkodo project (FDN) implemented by EJP and Hen Mpoano to maximize results and avoid duplication of efforts. That the project actively engaged key fisheries sector actors Fisheries Commission, Small Holder fishers associations (including the National Fishermen and Canoe Council, NAFPTA, GNCFC, NICFA, NAFAG, GITA etc.) and the various media organizations. Over the lifetime of the project, the fisher-folks have been empowered and given the opportunity to engage meaningfully in decision-making processes aimed at replenishing fish stocks, reducing IUU fishing, improving their livelihoods, and improving basic service delivery in fishing communities.

The final evaluation noted that Illegal transshipment and use of unapproved fishing methods remains a major challenge to the development of the fisheries industry in Ghana noting FBB's established Community-based Monitoring Groups (CMGs) reporting and documentation; evidence gathering; provided a platform for the fisheries association and community monitoring groups to raise issues of IUU resulting in an increase in the number of reported cases from zero (0) in the year 2016 to six hundred and ninety nine (699) in the year 2020. The final evaluation also noted that the Village Savings and Loans Scheme was viewed by 95% of the respondents as very helpful in improving their livelihoods.

FBB experienced challenges and this was captured in the final evaluation FBB project relayed to delays partly originated earlier in the project implementation and due to diligence processes which affected the timely disbursement of funds to partners. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 the last year of project implementation generally slowed down some activities and limited some outcomes.

## 2.7 Lessons learned

The FBB identified key lessons which can be applied in subsequent fisheries initiatives. Generally, the success of FBB is due to partnerships and collaboration with key fisheries stakeholders. Specifically key lessons from the project include the following

- FC and fishers can work together harmoniously. The two need to figure out the strategic areas for cooperation
- Traditional authorities could play strategically important roles in the governance of fisheries. The roles may differ by communities and should be strategically identified on case by case basis. Successful role of the traditional authorities in fisheries should not conflict or interfere that of Chief Fishermen and fishers.
- MoFAD/FC's regulations and policies can receive wider acceptance from the populace if the process of development is participatory and bottom-up. Notably the high endorsement of the co-management policy by fishers is due to high participatory involvement of fishers in the development of the policy.
- Communities could take-up the responsibility for ensuring sustainable fisheries governance within the co-management policy framework. The Anti-IUU groups set-up in communities through FBB are good examples of how communities could take-up the responsibility for ensuring sustainable fisheries governance.
- In curbing IUU, continuous advocacy and strong political will to sanction offenders is very crucial.
- Media engagements in fisheries governance, with the local FM stations is critical in propagating policies and laws against illegal activities within fishing communities.
- The introduction of VSLA in targeted project communities and its positive impact on fishers demonstrates its great potential to address the lack of adequate financial services for fishers to enable them successfully engage in additional livelihood activities to support diversification of business activities and create additional streams of income which in turn reduces the pressure on marine and resources.

## 2.8 Materials (and number of copies) produced.

The material below was produced and distributed to key stakeholders in the fisheries sector in Ghana (Fisheries associations, Targeted district and municipal authorities, Government agencies, Fisheries Commission, Fisheries enforcement units

Communication Material	Year of Publication	Quantity
FBB Project Launch Brochure	2017	2000
FBB Calendars	2018: 2019	1000
FBB Newsletters	2017: 2019	1000
IUU/VGGT brochures	2018	8000
Signage / Billboards	2018-2020	20 signage and 5 billboards
FBB Picture Book	2019	200

In addition, lessons learnt have been disseminated widely, through the national sector reviews and national and global media networks. CARE, OXFAM and FoN are well positioned to replicate lessons learnt and models piloted in food security interventions across Ghana. Also, CARE and Oxfam offer access to programmes in 94 and 90 countries, respectively, and to transnational advocacy networks and food security communities of practice.

## **2.9 Assessment of the relationship between the affiliated entities/beneficiaries of this grant contract**

The relationship between partners Care, FoN and Oxfam has been good and very satisfactory. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Management Committee (PMC) provided the platform for partners to share information regularly and provide strategic direction for project implementation.

CARE led the consortium based on its experience in supporting civil society, advocacy through networks; existing relationships with policy-makers, expertise in gender/women's empowerment, VSLA, scorecards, climate change adaptation and having the systems in place to lead results monitoring; experience with EU project implementation, reporting and visibility.

Oxfam provided leadership, technical support and coordination in evidence-building; expertise in the area of enterprise-based development; facilitate and dissemination of the project's documentation in advocacy.

FON experience in supporting the Fisheries Alliance and Smallholders Fishers through a number of similar Fisheries-related projects; led implementation at community, facilitated capacity building for communities and IUU Community Monitoring Groups (CMG), linking reports from community to the

## **3.0. Relationship with State authorities and beneficiaries**

The relationship between the project and State Authorities has been very good. The Fisheries Commission, Fisheries Enforcement Unit, (Marine police, Navy) the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) have actively participated in project implementation. However, the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development was occasionally unhappy with the advocacy raised by the project especially government's ineffectiveness in combating IUU fishing. A cordial, fruitful and effective working relationship exist between the consortium and final beneficiaries and target groups and the project collaborated effectively with other fisheries sector initiatives to avoid duplication of effort and engage in joint advocacy to gain attention of government on fisheries issues

## **3.1 Links and synergies with other actions.**

The Project built synergies and strong linkage with other actions, partners and other fisheries project to undertake a joint advocacy against IUU (SAIKO). These partners included EU funded Far Dwuma Nkodo project, USAID-Ghana Funded SFMP and EU Funded CERATH Power to the Fishers project. The EU was very supportive during project implementation and provided the necessary to ensure successful implementation of the project.

## **3.2 Ensuring Visibility of EU Contribution.**

The project continued to operationalize the approved communication and visibility plan to increase the visibility of the EU and showcase the role of the project in contributing to sustainable fisheries resource management. The project employed a variety of communication tools including the publication of articles in newspapers; radio / TV discussions; installation of billboards; signposts; desktop calendars; T-shirts; banners; mini flyers; factsheets; position papers and policy briefs; community dramas; as well as use social media (Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp) to reach out to a wider audience. Policy briefs developed by FBB and all print materials were fully branded with the EU logos. Project activities on media (radio and TV) fully acknowledged the support of the EU for the implementation of FBB. The project enjoyed significant radio, TV and print media features in all the major media outlets in Ghana and the EU contribution was always highlighted to ensure visibility. Specifically, FBB promoted the visibility of the project and awareness of the EU funding support through installation of 5 project billboards and 20 signage in Accra, Takoradi, Keta, Shama, Ahanta west, Kpando, Anomabo and Sekondi.

The project used social media such as Facebook and Twitter to reach online audiences and also produced 600 desk-top and wall calendars fully branded with EU logos.



To support the prevention and mitigation of the spread of Covid-19 in fisheries communities, FBB project mounted EU branded bill boards in Accra, Keta, and Axim to educate fishers on the virus. The project also developed 500 Information Education and Communication materials on COVID-19 branded with EU logos to support Covid-19 sensitization in Fisheries communities.

**The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.**

NO objection

#### 4.0 Location of records, accounting and supporting documents

Location of records, accounting and supporting documents for each Beneficiary and affiliated entity entitled to incur costs

Organisation	Project Documents	Financial and Accounting Records
CARE International in Ghana	All project Narrative reports, studies, surveys and researches  Records of all assets purchased by project. -Photos and videos. -Steering committee minutes - EU verification visit reports - Examples of all IEC material produced.	-All annual financial reports and supporting documents and budget -Annual Project Expenditure verification reports. -External Audit reports
Oxfam	All project narrative reports, media and communication information, photos and videos Examples of all IEC materials produced.	Annual financial reports for funds received over the four year period.
Friends of the Nation	All Narrative reports, land demarcation maps, EU verification visit reports Examples of all IEC materials produced.	Financial reports representing project funds received over the four years.

## Photo Gallery



25<sup>th</sup> July 2017- Accra: Key stakeholders in the fisheries sector in Ghana with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ambassador William Hanna-Head of EU delegation in Ghana at the launch of the Far Ban Bo project.



October 2020: Bofo VSLA group in Anomabo with Nana Mbroabo Dabo, the Paramount Queen mother of Anomabo and Roberto Schiliro during the EU verification visit.



VSLA group (Norvinyewo) at Kedzikope going through weekly savings activities, 2019



FBB Billboard at Keta – Community Sensitization on COVID-19 protocols



July 2017-Accra-The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture (Elizabeth Afoley Quaye) delivering the keynote address during the Project Launch launching of the Project.

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020:  
National Multi-Stakeholder  
Policy Dialogue on securing  
fish landing sites



20<sup>th</sup> November  
2020: National IUU  
Multi-Stakeholder  
Platform Meeting



Map of Anomabo Community Fishing  
Landing Site



Name of the contact person for the Action: .....

Signature: .....Location: .....

Date report due: .....Date report sent: .....