Regional synthesis and policy implications

Discussion points

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1. Synthesis of findings

2. Regional Challenges (requiring policy support)

3. Discussion questions

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Factors causing vulnerability

Arising from …

1. Fisheries

2. Society

3. Institutions

1. Fisheries

Mobility: increasing and more diversified; transient populations; sexual networks;

Demography: high ratio of single young male fishers; female fish traders;

Growing competition for fish: uncertain future; high-risk behaviour; transactional sex;

Poverty traps: low profit margins; enduring indebtedness; dependency and exploitation;

Short-term cash: alcohol; commercial sex;

2. Society

Gender: women in weak economic and social position vis-à-vis men (fishers, transporters, sexual partners);

Social cohesion: can be weak in transient communities; capacity to care for sick and vulnerable very limited;

Insecurity and violence: high levels of violence, abuse and insecurity largely unchecked; weak capacity for legal and social protection;

3. Institutions

HIV/AIDS services: very uneven coverage by Government and NGOs; ineffective approaches; remoteness of fishing camps, high costs, lack of understanding;

Fisheries sector: weak understanding of roles; inadequate plans and interventions; low or no investments from fisheries revenue in HIV/AIDS response;

Lack of integration across sectors;

Lack of monitoring efficiency and impacts of interventions;

What needs to happen?

Focus on Regional Challenges:

Integrated planning across sectors

Coordination between Government and civil society

Capacity for security, social support and rights enforcement

Assessing impacts of interventions

Innovation in service delivery

Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators

Policies that promote ….

Integrated planning across sectors

- Extension of multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS into fisheries;

- Integrated plans and aligned budgets at all levels to improve efficiency within Government;

- Reinvestment of fisheries revenues in HIV/AIDS response in the sector;

Policies that promote ….

Coordination between Government and civil society

- Coordination of civil society initiatives and government programmes;

- Continuities and complementarities between projects and programmes;

- Learning within and across agencies and scaling-up of promising approaches;

Policies that promote ….

- Improved market access for small-scale operators to help them improve their profit margins;

- Business support services and associational capacity among female fish traders;

- Improved infrastructure, standards and transparency along fish market chains;

Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators

Policies that promote ….

Improved security, law enforcement and capacity for legal recourse in fishing camps;

Community capacity for social protection and support for vulnerable groups;

By-laws, local 'business codes of conduct' and other initiatives that increase social and legal accountability in fishing communities;

Capacity for security, social support and rights enforcement

Policies that promote ….

Innovation in service delivery

- Innovative service delivery to mobile fishers and fish traders and to remote fishing camps (e.g. 'fish trader +');

- Learning and adaptation of successful approach in similar target populations (e.g. 'smart card');

- Careful monitoring of the impact and cost-effectiveness of such innovations;

Policies that promote ….

- Timely, standardized and independent impact assessment of programmes;

- Feedback into on-going programmes and into planning in Government and civil society;

- Adoption of best-bet options across agencies;

Assessing impacts of interventions

Regional Challenges:

Integrated planning across sectors

Coordination between Government and civil society

Capacity for security, social support and rights enforcement

Assessing impacts of interventions

Innovation in service delivery

Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators

Questions for discussion:

1. Do the six key Regional Challenges agree with your experiences, or are there **other big challenges** of regional importance that need to be addressed?

2. What **efforts are currently under way at national level**, both in fisheries and health sectors, which directly address - or can be used to address - some of the key issues identified by the Programme so far?

3. At **regional level**, what do you see as the main **policy implications** arising from the key technical issues and what vehicles do we have available to