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## Options for reducing vulnerability along the fish marketing chain

The programme is assessing key risk factors among highly vulnerable target groups, including female fish traders, migrant fisherfolk and youth, through surveys and participatory qualitative research. Based on insights from this research, programme partners are piloting business-based interventions that will address some of these risk factors such as lack of services in remote fishing camps and transactional sex in the context of fish marketing. These pilot interventions will generate viable business models and options for wider support to the fisheries sector.

## Enhancing nutrition benefits from small scale aquaculture and fisheries

In partnership with national nutrition research institutions and NGOs engaged in improving nutrition support and food security among People Living with HIV (PLHIV), the programme is identifying ways to enhance access to fish among PLHIV and to assess the specific health impact of fish consumption in the context of HIV/AIDS care and treatment. The objective is to develop recommendations for integrating fish into targeted nutrition support to PLHIV, and to identify options for improving access to fish among small-holder farmers and urban poor vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.



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## Institutional change to increase investment in viable support options

The programme is working with regional, national and local institutions to facilitate and improve the up-take at policy level of technical recommendations that can reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in and through the fisheries sector. This includes policy dialogues, roundtables, and analyses of institutional linkages between the fisheries and health sectors.



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# Technical Focus

In all eight countries the programme works through national and local partners on the three technical focus areas identified through national consultations:

1. Options for reducing vulnerability along the fish marketing chain;
2. Enhancing nutrition benefits from small scale aquaculture and fisheries;
3. Institutional change to increase investment in viable support options;

COUNTRY	TECHNICAL FOCUS AREA		
	Options for reducing vulnerability along fish marketing chain	Enhancing nutrition benefits from small scale aquaculture and fisheries	Institutional change to increase investments in viable support options
Benin	Production support and livelihoods diversification. Chain actors support.	Monitoring food security and food diversity indicators, impact of diversification. Chain action, health action.	Social and institutional capacity to respond to gender issues in value chain; HIV/AIDS sector strategy; NFSP integration information fisheries.
DRC	Assessment of mobility and migration; Fish Trader + model for female fish traders.	Nutritional quality of low-cost fish in urban markets.	Lobby for dialogue between fisheries and health / HIV/AIDS sectors.
Cameroon	Assess mobility and migration and marketing profiles; mobile groups in value chain; HIV AIDS action plans and gender issues	Monitor food security and food diversity; chain action and health action.	Fisheries HIV/AIDS strategy and action plan; capacity building to interact with key agencies; I/C strategy.
Nigeria	Assess mobility and migration and marketing profiles; mobile groups in value chain and gender issues in value chain; Strengthen capacity of cooperative unions.	Monitoring impact on food security (Collaboration with NFSP).	Fisheries department to be able to integrate HIV/AIDS investment plans into regional and national key agencies action plans.
Malawi / Mozambique	Assessment of mobility and migration; Fish Trader + model for female fish traders.	Assessment of contribution of aquaculture to household nutrition security.	Development of indicators and alignment of fish data in national food security monitoring.
Uganda	Assessment of mobility and migration; Business-related innovations for female fish traders.	Nutritional quality of low-cost fish products along value chain + identify post harvest constraints.	Assessment of institutional opportunities and constraints for multi-sectoral response to AIDS.
Zambia	Assessment of mobility and migration and access to health services; Fish Trader + model for female fish traders.	Assessment of the impact of fish consumption on PLHIV and response to ART.	Development of by-laws at fishing community level and uptake at policy level.







## Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions

In the response to poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa there is an important role for fish and fisheries that support the livelihoods of millions of poor people on the continent. Small-scale fisheries provide food and nutrition security, and income for the poor, including those living with HIV/AIDS. In turn, good health among fisherfolk is a basic pillar of productive and sustainable fisheries. However, these potential benefits are severely at risk, as per capita fish supply in sub-Saharan Africa is declining, and fisherfolk are among the populations most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

The WorldFish Center and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are currently implementing a regional programme entitled Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions. The programme aims to strengthen regional capacity to develop sustainable solutions to enhance

the contributions of fish and fisheries to development. In particular, the programme is building a strategic response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector that will benefit vulnerable groups in wider society.

Funded by the Swedish-Norwegian Regional Programme on HIV/AIDS in Africa, the programme is implementing research-for-development activities and pilot interventions in selected fishing communities in eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa; Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.



## Policy

The programme has established a regional Policy Advisory Group (PAG), to provide guidance on policy up-take of technical outcomes from programme activities. The First Meeting of the PAG was held in Lilongwe, Malawi (24-26 March 2009), with a technical focus on Regional trends and perspectives on vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector.

The second meeting of the PAG, planned for early 2010, will focus on food and nutrition security aspects and long-term benefits of the fisheries sector in HIV/AIDS responses.

The current three-year programme is the start of a more sustained programmatic approach, and findings to date indicate the large potential of the programme, building on various aspects of small scale fisheries and responses to HIV/AIDS within different contexts of the fisheries sector in Africa.



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Comparison of research findings and intervention models across the region will inform policy and planning processes in fisheries and HIV/AIDS at local, national and regional level.

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This regional programme "Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions", is being implemented with financial assistance from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.