



REPORT

Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa

Cotonou, Benin, 15-18 March 2010

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Report of the Second Policy Advisory Group Meeting: “*Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa*”.

Hotel du Lac, Cotonou, Benin, 15–18 March 2010

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



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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
List of acronyms.....	3
Executive summary.....	4
Introduction	6
1 Findings from country studies	7
2 Sub-regional analysis of food and nutrition security.....	9
3 Regional policy pathways	11
4 Policy recommendations and looking forward	13
Annex 1: PAG meeting programme	16
Annex 2: List of participants	20
Annex 3: Work by FAO and the WorldFish Center – household level	22
Annex 4: Closing remarks – Department of Fisheries Benin	24

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Special thanks to Mr. Galo and colleagues from the Department of Fisheries Benin for being such a pleasant host, and to Mrs. Mweene and Ms. Samundengo from the WorldFish Center Zambia for the logistics behind the scenes. Thanks to all participants who traveled from near and far to share their findings and thoughts to plan for increased action in the field of food and nutrition security in Africa's fisheries sector, which is highly impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the community leaders and community members of Ahomey Honmey and Tchonvi for receiving us and taking the time to explain how they benefited from project activities in Benin.

List of acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
AMREF	Africa Medical Research Emergency Fund
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
DoF	Department of Fisheries
EAC	East African Community
ESA	East and Southern Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GIPA	Greater and meaningful Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS
GLIA	Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAA	Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture
IGA	Income Generating Activity
NAC	National AIDS Council
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PAF	Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade
PAG	Policy Advisory Group
PNLS	Programme National du Lutte contre le Sida
PPSAC	Programme de Prévention du VIH-SIDA en Afrique Centrale
PS	Principal Secretary / Permanent Secretary
REC	Regional Economic Community
WCA	West and Central Africa

Executive Summary

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*, to strengthen the capacity in the region to develop sustainable solutions to enhance the contributions of fish and fisheries to economic and human development. In particular, the programme is building a strategic response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector that will generate benefits for vulnerable groups in wider society.

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

The Programme established a regional Policy Advisory Group (PAG) to provide guidance on policy up-take of technical outcomes from programme activities. The Second Meeting of the PAG took place in Cotonou, Benin, from 15 - 18 March 2010, with the technical focus on “Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa”. The main objective of the second PAG meeting was to identify and highlight links between fisheries, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, and to advise on regional linkages for policy impact. The main roles of the PAG are to advise the Regional Programme on direction for expansion and dissemination of Programme results. The specific objectives of this PAG meeting were:

- To review Programme findings and identify strategic direction and steps for expansion of the Programme at regional level;
- To promote the adoption of Programme outputs and recommendations in policy forums at regional level;
- To identify potential sources of funding for expansion and identify related projects and programmes in the region where the Programme can explore linkages and synergies;

Links between fisheries, nutrition and HIV/AIDS have been documented and analyzed by programme partners, including the nutritive value of fish and its contribution to the nutritional status of selected target groups on the one hand, and the threats to national food security by the devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS among fisher folk and fish traders in the region. The PAG meeting received presentations from seven selected national partners under the Programme, who presented findings from assessments and pilot interventions under the thematic area of food and nutrition security. Discussions focused on identifying key food and nutrition security trends per sub-region, as related to fisheries and HIV/AIDS. The AU/NEPAD Advisor on Food and Nutrition Security guided the meeting on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and how responses to HIV/AIDS and nutrition insecurity in the fisheries sector fit under the CAADP Pillars.

The discussions were enriched by an outline of WorldFish Center’s work on integrated agriculture aquaculture targeting HIV/AIDS affected households, and a presentation on nutrition survey tools by FAO, targeting vulnerable, food insecure

populations. Two other regional programmes contributed by sharing their approaches, notably the EAC / AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC).

PAG members formulated the following areas of policy recommendations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need for support to continued (long term) research and sharing of documented experiences.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harmonization of tools and research methodologies across and between fish corridors to achieve comparable and exchangeable data (including baselines, impact monitoring, targeting).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integration of food and nutrition security interface at planning and implementation stages of regional fisheries organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national development plans, to ensure that increased investment in the fisheries sector (capture and post harvest sub sectors) leads to improved fish production (quantity and quality) and improved access to fish by vulnerable populations.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop mechanisms to ensure that post harvest processing, value addition, access to low value fish products and trade incentives are contributing to food and nutrition security of populations instead of undermining this.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthen communication and information sharing between stakeholders across levels and across sectors.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support to capacity building for policy makers and decision makers at all levels on the importance of food and nutrition security in the response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector and beyond, and make research- and project results available and accessible to non-specialists.</i>

Action points from the Second PAG meeting were formulated to take forward the recommendations at sub-regional and national levels.

Introduction

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 in particular provide food and nutrition security, and generate economic opportunities including for those living with HIV/AIDS. In turn, good health among fisher folk is a basic pillar of productive and sustainable fisheries that will deliver lasting development outcomes. On both sides of this equation, benefits are severely at risk, as per capita fish supply in sub-Saharan Africa is declining, and at the same time fisher folk are among the populations most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

The WorldFish Center and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are implementing the regional programme *Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions*, to strengthen the capacity in the region to develop sustainable solutions to enhance the contributions of fish and fisheries to economic and human development. In particular, the programme is building a strategic response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector that will generate benefits for vulnerable groups in wider society.

With financial support from the Swedish-Norwegian Regional Programme on HIV/AIDS in Africa, this programme is conducting research-for-development activities and implementing pilot interventions in eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia. In all eight countries, three technical focus areas have been 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;

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 took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 24 - 26 March 2009, with the technical focus on “Regional trends and perspectives on vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector”. The Second PAG Meeting took place in Cotonou, Benin, from 15 -18 March 2010 with the technical focus on “Food and Nutrition Security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa” (see Annex 1 for the Programme of the Second PAG Meeting). This report presents the discussions and policy recommendations of this Second PAG Meeting.

1. Findings from country studies

At the Second PAG Meeting in Cotonou, Benin, progress of the regional programme regarding the technical focus “Enhancing nutrition benefits from small scale aquaculture and fisheries” was presented by seven selected programme sites from both the East and Southern Africa (EAS) and West and Central Africa (WCA) sub regions:

Malawi	<i>Nutrition security impact of aquaculture among small-holder farmers affected by HIV/AIDS.</i>
Benin	<i>Results from the study: Food security and nutritional status in 4 districts in Benin.</i>
Mozambique	<i>Fisheries in Mozambique and links to food and nutrition security.</i>
Zambia	<i>Effects of a fish diet on the nutritional status of People Living with HIV and their response to ART, preliminary findings.</i>
Lake Chad Basin	<i>Fisheries economy of the Lake Chad Basin and Integrating fishing communities of Lake Chad Basin in the national response to HIV&AIDS.</i>
Uganda	<i>Analysis of nutritive quality and post-harvest activities in ‘low value’ fish marketing chains in Mukono District, Lake Victoria region.</i>
DRC	<i>Analysis of the nutritional value of fish products traded at fish markets in Lubumbashi.</i>

PAG members (see Annex 2 for the complete list of participants) were able to comment on and seek clarification on each of the country studies presented. Feedback and recommendations by PAG members are grouped and summarized below, in random order.

Nutrition and food security related issues

- Fish has a high nutritive value, particularly as a source of high value protein. Maize is recorded as most consumed source of protein in Africa and it remains dominant in most African diets, but the protein has low nutritive value. Governments, donors and other stakeholders should put more emphasis on promoting high nutritive value food such as fish rather than low (nutritive) value food such as maize.
- Consumption of fish appears to be low in some fishing communities, as economic value of fish is favored over nutritional value. Seasonality also plays a role in accessibility of fish for fishing communities (consumption and sale).
- Low value fish products are more accessible to the poor, but strategies and technologies need to be applied to improve the quality (impacting on nutritional status and income).
- Analysis of fish and the fisheries sector, attention should be given to the complete chain, where marketing plays a crucial role when working to improve food and income security.
- The variety of tools and methodologies used in research make it difficult to compare results. Evaluating impacts of interventions on food and nutrition security need long term monitoring.

Social issues

- Stigma is a challenge in nutrition research, as directly targeting People Living with HIV is not an option in some contexts. Targeting most vulnerable households is a possible strategy.
- Mobility and migration remain key risk factors for vulnerability in fishing communities, also for nutrition security.
- People Living with HIV, through their support groups, need to be included in activities (GIPA: Greater and meaningful Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS).
- Sanitation needs to be addressed in HIV/AIDS and nutrition responses in fishing communities.

Policy and management related issues

- Partners should link with national food and nutrition commissions and councils where possible, as these are the correct institutions for policy impact in this technical field.
- There is need for donor support to conduct baseline studies on HIV and nutrition as related to fish and fishing communities, as this information is often lacking, yet crucial for development.
- There is need for strategic, multi-sectoral responses to the link between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security.
- Links between NACs and Departments of Fisheries should actively be created and put to use for policy change and project implementation.
- Project activities under the regional programme should be incorporated in national responses on HIV/AIDS where this has not happened yet. NACs play a key role in facilitating policy uptake and coordination of implementation.
- The role of this PAG meeting is to provide guidance on policy uptake of programme findings in the area of food and nutrition security and HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector.
- Nutrition interventions need to go hand in hand with HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Links with the private sector should actively be sought and utilized by programme partners to advance their cause.
- Human capacity in the fisheries sector and beyond should not be forgotten, there is a lot to be achieved through meaningful community involvement.

The learning from the presented country studies and the above recommendations was further supported by the comparison with two other regional initiatives, namely the EAC / AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC). Important lessons around networking, partnership and policy uptake under these programmes can be replicated within and beyond the regional programme.

Overall, the PAG recognized that the regional programme made some important steps in highlighting the nutritional value of fish and showing the important role of fish for human nutrition. This learning now needs to be capitalized on and utilized for policy change within and beyond the scope of the current programme, in order to facilitate change and development for target populations across Africa.

2. Sub-regional analysis of food and nutrition security

The next step in the PAG meeting focused on identifying key food and nutrition security trends per sub-region. PAG members grouped into two sub-regions, namely West and Central Africa (WCA) and East and Southern Africa (ESA) and undertook a mapping exercise of key food and nutrition security trends in their respective sub-regions, as related to fisheries and HIV/AIDS, including an outline of most important stakeholders, main findings from research undertaken, ongoing practical interventions and regional and cross-border initiatives with whom the programme should explore further linkages. The outcomes of these discussions are reflected in the table below:

	West and Central Africa sub-region	East and Southern Africa sub-region
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries of fisheries, health, agriculture, environment, research, women affairs, finance and planning, information and communication. • NACs • Agencies: national, international, private sector and civil society. • UN agencies • Technical and financial partners • Regional partners (regional fisheries and economic commissions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National AIDS Commissions /Councils • National Nutrition Commissions • Fisheries Research Institutes • Relevant Government Departments and ministries • Fisheries. Agriculture, finance, trade & industry • International & Local NGOs • UNICEF • Fisher folks • Private Sector: Transporters, Processors, Exporters (Traders). • INFOSA
Research results till now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity is higher in lagoon fisheries systems than in coastal fisheries. - Severe chronic malnutrition in children in fishing communities (Benin). - Low food diversity (fruits and vegetables). - Seasonality in vulnerability. - Decreased fish production and high post harvest losses. - Conflict between need for fish for national food security and fish for trade for earnings. - Fish and medicinal mushrooms play important role in management of HIV patients. - Little added value to processed fish products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fawzi et al – beneficial effects multivitamin supplementation in pregnant women with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania: • Zimbabwe: Vitambo Trials - Nutrition better for recovery, HIV • Paton et al – presence of malnutrition as a cause of poor response to ART in Thailand • Zambia - KKF: Treating patients with advanced micronutrient disorders and HIV and AIDS • Cooradia et al – effects of zinc & vitamine A in children with HIV and AIDS – South Africa. <p>Trends observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Declining per capita fish consumption, a trend towards nutritional insecurity; ▶ High prevalence of malnutrition and HIV & AIDS; ▶ High energy requirements for infected people; ▶ High demand for fish; ▶ Increasing commercialization of the fish industry; ▶ Therefore need to safe guard availability and accessibility of fish to HIV and AIDS affected populations and the entire society: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance understanding in nutrition and HIV and AIDS. - Differences in loss of nutrients due to preservation methods.

Regional cross border initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corridor project. - Lake Chad basin initiative. - Regional fisheries organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS – focus on HIV and AIDS and nutrition. • EAC/AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership. • SADC – Initiatives on AIDS, Malaria, TB. • Integrated Regional AIDS Programme Response – along east coast including horn of Africa. • Corridors of Hope – focus cross border initiatives on AIDS e.g. truck drivers. • USAID EAST AFRICA- Focus truck drivers. • IRAP- Integrated Regional AIDS Programme.
Ongoing practical interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Micro credits for alternative income generation. - Pilot studies to reduce vulnerability of women involved in fish trade. - Installation of fish production systems to reduce migration of fishers during the low catch season. - Ongoing dialogue with policy makers to improve fishing communities' access to services and improve food security and nutrition security. 	<p><u>Research:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Research on determining nutrient content of fish; Malawi, Uganda, Zambia & DRC. ▶ Studies on migration and mobility of fishers – Uganda. ▶ Study on improving the value chain: Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. ▶ Improving stakeholders' linkage in Uganda. <p><u>Practical interventions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ KKF study is giving evidence that in treatment of PLHIV, giving fish works better than provision of micronutrients alone. ▶ Aquaculture Programs in many African Countries.

The discussions at the meeting were further enriched by two presentations by FAO and the WorldFish Center respectively, on some of their work related to food and nutrition security at household level (see Annex 3 for details), which enriched the discussions and added to the knowledge generated under the regional programme.

Besides technical insights, the Programme has been able to identify and link up with a broad range of stakeholders, while other potentials, such as links with the private sector, are yet to be explored and utilized. Collaboration with other (regional) initiatives are in some cases better established than in others, particularly the links with the Corridor project, Lake Chad Basin initiative and regional fisheries organizations in West Africa serve as inspiring developments for other partners under the programme.

While further clinical and field-based research is still being finalized in some cases, it became evident that the knowledge base on utilization and composition of fish, and the role of fish in human nutrition and food security has deepened under the programme. Together, these findings contribute to an emerging regional picture of the role of fish in the response to HIV/AIDS and nutrition and food insecurity in Africa.

3. Regional policy pathways

Despite broad differences in the types of fisheries, socio-economic conditions and institutional environments found across the region, it became apparent that the fisheries sector itself needs to better understand its role in taking care of its human resources. Collaboration with the respective NACs in each country is unbearable, to ensure that strategies to safeguard the livelihoods of fisheries stakeholders is in line with and supported by national HIV/AIDS responses.

The PAG members identified the following regional policy pathways that can be utilized for uptake of learning and insights from the regional programme:

- AU / NEPAD
- Council of Ministers
- Regional fisheries organizations, regional HIV/AIDS programmes
- RECs (ECOWAS/WAHO, SADC, EAC)
- Regional conferences
- PPSAC technical and policy meetings
- National line ministries for fisheries, agriculture, health.
- NACs
- Interagency coordination committees
- Civil Society networks (f.i. CISSANET)

Technical approaches to take forward programme learning and recommendations that were discussed include capacity building (through exchange, training, sensitization, transfer of technologies) and the harmonization of methodologies and indicators for monitoring in the field of HIV/AIDS and nutrition.

AU / NEPAD approach

Building on the above sub-regional analyses and recommendations, Dr. Bibi Giyose from NEPAD pointed out that worldwide, but especially in sub-Saharan Africa, under-nutrition is at the basis of diseases and child mortality. Fish provides an opportunity to realize optimal nutrition, which prevents protein energy malnutrition, micro-nutrient malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, and at the same time improves disease management and enhances productivity and economic development.

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) is the common framework for the restoration of African agriculture and provides mechanisms to address and reduce nutrition and HIV/AIDS challenges in the fisheries sector in Africa through four main pillars:

- Framework for Sustainable Land and Water Management (FSLWM): extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems;
- Framework for Improving Market Access (FIMA): improve rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
- Framework for African Food Security (FAFS): improve risk management, increase food supply, improve incomes for the poor and reduce hunger and malnutrition;

- Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP): improve agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption of profitable and sustained agricultural growth.

Especially pillar 3 links with the work done under the regional programme on fisheries and HIV/AIDS, as its vision is “to increase resilience at all levels by decreasing food insecurity and linking vulnerable people into opportunities for agricultural growth”. National partners under the programme and PAG members were encouraged to follow up with their national governments on the CAADP processes and lobby for inclusion of the role that fish and the fisheries sector can play in implementing these frameworks / pillars.

Dr. Giyose summarized the food and nutrition security related programmes across Africa, including the Home Grown School Feeding approach, and outlined the ingredients for a successful response to the challenges of HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition insecurity in the fisheries sector, including strong partnerships and coordinated strategies, Commitment and implementation at REC and national level, availability of resources, utilizing best practices, capacity strengthening, and most importantly, to move from research to policy to action.

Finally, PAG members were urged to link up with the NEPAD led fisheries programme supported by DFID; the International Partnership for Africa’s Fisheries Governance and Trade (PAF). It is expected that the outcomes of the regional programme on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa will utilize this and other AU/NEPAD avenues to provide evidence for policy and governance reform necessary to incorporate the impact of HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition insecurity in fisheries development planning and implementation.

The PAG should take up an active role in putting in place the necessary policies and structures to improve fisheries, food and nutrition security, and the general situation of fisher folk in Africa. The various frameworks set up by the AU/NEPAD offer potential to make the regional programme more relevant to developments at continental and sub-regional level.

4. Policy recommendations & looking forward

PAG members came up with individual and collective action points to take back to their respective countries to take forward the momentum created by the regional programme. The following is a summary of these action points and potentials:

Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for harmonized and systematic research on and integration of food and nutrition security into HIV/AIDS response, particularly on contribution of fish in prevention and management of HIV and AIDS. ▪ More studies need to be undertaken, documented and synthesized on the links between fisheries, nutrition and HIV/AIDS in order to generate more evidence for decision making and policy influence. ▪ Inform and sensitize policy makers about the fisheries sector contribution to food security and HIV/AIDS. ▪ Increased investment in fisheries sector is needed to increase production (quality and quantity) and ensure easy access to fish by vulnerable groups. ▪ Increased investments in the post harvest sector to reduce losses. ▪ Put in place a network for different actors in the field of HIV/AIDS, fisheries and nutrition to share best practices and advocate for strategic issues (through an identified lead agency). ▪ Promote the production of nutrient rich foods (for example fruits, vegetables, mushrooms) in fishing communities and ensure community involvement and ownership for sustainability. ▪ Lobby for funding for nutrition research and programme implementation of at least 5 years, to allow time to generate impact. ▪ Mainstream HIV/AIDS into regional (fisheries) programs and interventions. ▪ Develop joint monitoring systems for food and nutrition security and HIV/AIDS response in fisheries corridors (for example FAO Nutrition division and corridor Lagos Abidjan programme).
Potential partner-ships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN system (FAO, UNICEF, WFP) • Private sector (communication, industries, banks, transporters, processors, exporters) • Relevant Government Departments and ministries • Regional fisheries organizations • Regional Economic Commissions (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, COMESA) • Regional HIV/AIDS projects, incl. intergovernmental bodies (IGAD, GLIA) • Civil society organizations and NGOs (international and local) • National AIDS Commissions/Councils • National Nutrition Commissions • Fisheries Research Institutes (WorldFish Center, UVRI) • Fisher folk • AU-NEPAD (Fisheries unit, Nutrition unit)
Country / sub-regional proposal ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional and Pan-African campaigns on fisheries and nutrition; ➤ Development of aquaculture for food security for vulnerable communities; ➤ Improved documentation and dissemination of research findings on nutritional quality of local foods; ➤ Sub regional fisheries bodies incorporate HIV/AIDS nutrition aspects in planning; ➤ National and regional HIV/AIDS responses to incorporate nutrition and fisheries aspects in planning; ➤ Identification and Scaling up best practices/studies;

From the sub-regional working groups, the following policy recommendations were formulated and agreed upon by PAG members:

- Need for support to continued (long term) research and sharing of documented experiences.
- Harmonization of tools and research methodologies across and between fish corridors to achieve comparable and exchangeable data (including baselines, impact monitoring, targeting).
- Integration of food and nutrition security interface at planning and implementation stages of regional fisheries organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national development plans, to ensure that increased investment in the fisheries sector leads to improved fish production (quantity and quality) and improved access to fish by vulnerable populations.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that post harvest processing, value addition, access to low value fish products and trade incentives are contributing to food and nutrition security of populations instead of undermining this.
- Strengthen communication and information sharing between stakeholders across levels and across sectors.
- Support to capacity building for policy makers and decision makers at all levels on the importance of food and nutrition security in the response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector and beyond, and make research- and project results available and accessible to non-specialists.

Wrap up

Dr. Bibi Giyose (AU/NEPAD) wrapped up the Second PAG Meeting by highlighting the agreed policy outcomes and identifying the next steps for the Programme. She also expressed special appreciation to the Department of Fisheries in Benin for hosting the PAG Meeting.

Programme partners and PAG members were encouraged to brief the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the discussions and outcomes of this meeting and to put forward ideas and proposals to them for funding. National partners were encouraged to link up with the relevant line ministries and national institutions to brief them on the Second PAG meeting and to ensure better coordination and implementation of HIV/AIDS and nutrition related strategies in the fisheries sector and beyond. Fish is an important food, especially for the poor and vulnerable in our countries, but this message needs to be taken beyond academia and be translated into sustainable interventions to improve the health and nutritional status of the most vulnerable, especially People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Within and beyond the regional programme, partnerships and alliances with CSOs, NGOs, fisheries organizations and private sector should be used to enhance and further complement the efforts by the Programme. Mobilizing resources remains crucial to advance and implement the learning under the programme. A strong lobby

on donors, national governments and the private sector is needed to convince them what needs to be delivered.

Collaborations at technical level need to intensify, and programme partners were encouraged to utilize the existing tools for assessments, monitoring and evaluation. National Food and Nutrition Commissions should be supported to take a leading role in putting food and nutrition on the agenda's of national development efforts, including national responses to HIV/AIDS. Departments of Fisheries should be encouraged to take the lead and ensure the fisheries sector fulfils their role for food security and economic development of the nations, while taking care of its human resources. NEPAD is fully behind this programme and is ready to provide technical and advocacy support.

The African Ministers of Fisheries Meeting, planned for end April 2010 in The Gambia would be an important platform for the programme to deliver the message on the importance of fish and the fisheries sector in Africa, for food security and in the response to HIV/AIDS.

Closing remarks

The Second PAG Meeting was officially closed by Mr. Pierre Galo, on behalf of the Director of Fisheries. He expressed words of thanks to the WorldFish Center and FAO for their coordination and encouraged all delegates to continue working in the collaborative spirit to ensure a healthy fisheries sector (see Annex 4 for closing remarks).

Annex 1: PAG Meeting Programme.

Regional Programme on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa

Second Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting:

“Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa”

Cotonou, Benin, 15-18 March 2010.

Monday 15th March

Field visit to Ounmé and Tchonvi / Goho

Tuesday 16th March

Time:	Agenda item:	Presenter / facilitator:
8:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony	
8:00	Participants arrival & Registration	Secretariat
8:30	Welcome & Introductions	Master of Ceremonies
9:00	Introductory speech	Mr. Jean Prosper Koyo Représentant de la FAO au Benin
9:30	Opening Speech	Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock
10:00	Tea break	
10:30	Introduction into the regional programme on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS.	Mrs. Saskia Hüskén Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
10:45	Selection of chairperson and rapporteurs; Housekeeping;	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet WCA component coordinator, UN Food and Agriculture Organization.
11:00	Malawi <i>Nutrition security impact of aquaculture among small-holder farmers</i>	Dr. Beatrice Mtimuni Lecturer Bunda College, Malawi

	<i>affected by HIV/AIDS</i>	
11:30	Bénin <i>Résultats de l'étude : Sécurité alimentaire et état nutritionnel dans 4 communes à dominante pêche au Bénin</i>	Dr. Evariste Mitchikpé (l'Université du Bénin, Division Nutrition) and Mrs. Maylis Razes (FAO Rome, Nutrition Division)
12:15	Mozambique Overview of Mozambique Fisheries	Mr. Amós Ribeiro Chamussa Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento de Pesca de Pequena Escala – IDPPE, Ministry of Fisheries, Mozambique
12:30	Questions from the audience on technical presentations.	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet WCA component coordinator, FAO
13:00	Lunch	
14 :00	Zambia <i>Effects of a fish diet on the nutritional status of People Living with HIV and their response to ART, preliminary findings.</i>	Dr. Waza Kaunda Director, Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation, Zambia
14:30	Lake Chad Basin <i>Fisheries and Integrating fishing communities of Lake Chad Basin in the national response to HIV&AIDS</i>	Dr. Solomon Ovie National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR), Nigeria
15:00	Uganda <i>Analysis of nutritive quality and post-harvest activities in 'low value' fish marketing chains in Mukono District, Lake Victoria region</i>	Dr. Margaret Kabahenda Lecturer, Department of Food Science and Technology, Makerere University
15:30	Tea break	
16 :00	Questions from the audience on technical presentations	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
17:00	Closure of the day	Chairperson of the day

Wednesday 17th March:

Time:	Agenda item:	Presenter / facilitator:
8:30	Opening of the day	Chairperson of the day
8:40	Presentation AMREF / EAC regional programme	Mr. Opiyo Makoude Project Manager – EAC/AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership Programme
9:10	Presentation Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC).	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet WCA component coordinator, FAO

9:40	Plenary discussion on learning points from regional programmes	Chairperson of the day
10:30	Tea break	
11:00	RDC <i>Analyse de la valeur nutritionnelle des produits de pêche commercialisés aux marchés des poissons à Lubumbashi</i>	Dr. Winnie Mujinga Nutritionniste l'Université de Lubumbashi, Clinique Universitaire
11:30	Feedback on field visit	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet WCA component coordinator, FAO
12:00	Mapping of key food and nutrition security trends per sub-region, as related to fisheries and HIV/AIDS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stakeholders - findings from research - ongoing practical interventions - regional / cross border initiatives 	Group work
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Presentation Group 1 + discussion	Chairperson of the day
14:45	Presentation Group 2 + discussion	Chairperson of the day
15:30	Tea break	
16:00	Feedback on sub-regional mapping	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
17:00	Closure of the day	Chairperson of the day

Thursday 18th March:

Time:	Agenda item:	Presenter / facilitator:
8:30	Opening of the day	Chairperson of the day
8:40	Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture (IAA) – WorldFish Center experience	Mr. Joseph Nagoli WorldFish Center Malawi
9:10	FAO work on food and nutrition security	Mrs. Maylis Razes FAO Rome, Nutrition Division
9:40	Plenary discussion: Potential roles of Aquaculture in FNS for HIV/AIDS affected households.	Mr. Joseph Nagoli WorldFish Center Malawi
10:30	Tea break	
11:00	NEPAD Nutrition Unit: thematic focus and approaches across Africa.	Dr. Boitshepo Giyose Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, AU/NEPAD

11:30	Looking forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action points to take back home (national level) - Potential partnerships - Possible regional policy pathways and technical approaches to take forward programme learning and recommendations - Country / sub-regional proposal ideas 	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center Group work
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Presentation in plenary by groups	Chairperson of the day
14:30	Preparation of PAG statement re. Food and Nutrition Security	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet WCA component coordinator, FAO
15:30	Tea break	
16:00	Way forward & wrap up	Dr. Bibi Giyose Food and Nutrition Security Advisor – NEPAD
16:30	Closure of the meeting	Department of Fisheries, Benin

Annex 2: List of participants

Second Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting – 15-18 March 2010

COUNTRY	NAME	SURNAME	FUNCTION	INSTITUTION
AFRIQUE DU SUD	GIYOSE	Boitshepo Bibi	Advisor Food and Nutrition Security	AU/NEPAD
BENIN	HOLVOET	Katrien	Coordinatrice Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre Pêche et VIH/SIDA	FAO
	DE HARDT-KAFFILS	Harvey	Communication Spécialiste	Abidjan-Lagos CORRIDOR Organisation
	CODJIA	Victorin	Responsable du sous Projet Santé Animale Membre de l'unité focale VIH/SIDA	MAEP
	ALIOU	Gomez	Présidente	ANM (Association Nationale des Mareyeuses Mareyeurs et Assimilés du Bénin)
	BONI	Sonia	Secrétaire Permanente Adjointe (CNLS)	Comité National de Lutte contre le SIDA (CNLS)
	METOHOUÉ	Zannou Robert	Responsable UBETA	Direction de l'Alimentation Nutrition Appliquée (DANA)
	MEDEGAN-KIKI	Valentine	Coordonnatrice du Projet d'Appui à la lutte contre le SIDA	PALS-BAD
	CHRISTOFFERSEN	Sarah	Chargée de Programme	ONU-SIDA / UNAIDS
	HOUNDEKON	Bonaventure	Assistant au Chargé de la Production	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche (MAEP) Programme d'Urgence d'Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire
	GNITASSOUN	Dénagnon	Directeur Adjoint des Pêches	Direction des Pêches
	DESSOUASSI	Eugène	Collaborateur Chargé Pêche Continentale	Direction des Pêches
	GALLO	Coffi Pierre	Chargé des Opérations de UCN	Direction des Pêches
	HOUNGUE	G. David	Pêcheur	FÉNAPECHE
CAMEROUN	SALLA	Michele	Chef de Division VIH/ACMS	PPSAC Programme
	CHIAMBENG	George Yongbi	Research Officer	IRAD, Cameroon
GHANA	DEDI	Nadjé Séraphin	Secrétaire Général	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
ITALY	RAZÈS	Maylis	Nutritionniste	FAO, Rome
KENYA	MAKOUDE	Opiyo	Project Manager	AMREF (EAC-AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership)

COUNTRY	NAME	SURNAME	FUNCTION	INSTITUTION
MALAWI	YUSUFU	Hansford	Planning, Research and Evaluation Officer	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
	NAGOLI	Joseph	Senior Research Analyst	WorldFish Center
	MTIMUNI	Beatrice	Nutritionist	University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture
	MWENDO-PHIRI	Essau	Food Security Manager	World Vision Malawi
MOZAMBIQUE	CHAMUSSA	Amos Ribeiro Patreque	Planning officer – Department of Planning & Cooperation	The National Institute for the Development of Small Scale Fisheries-Ministry of Fisheries
NIGERIA	YAKUBU MOHAMMED	Maimuna	Director partnership, Coordination and support	National Agency for the Countries of AIDS (NACA) Nigeria
	OVIE	Solomon Iboko	National Co-ordinator (Nigeria) for Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Project	National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR) Nigeria
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO	MONONI	Flory	HIV/AIDS and Public Health Coordinator	World Vision DRC
	MUJINGA	Winnie Ilunga	Lecturer, nutritionist	Clinique Universitaire – Université de Lubumbashi
	BOLEMBO LIHOMBY	Aimé	Chef de Division charge de la Communication et Formation	PNLS RDC
RWANDA	RURANGWA	Eugène	Director of Planning	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA)
UGANDA	KABAHENDA	Margaret	Nutritionist / Lecturer	Department of Food Science and Technology, Makerere University, Uganda.
ZAMBIA	NGALANDE	Patrick	Deputy Director of Fisheries	Department of Fisheries Zambia
	KAUNDA	Waza	Director	Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation
	MELELE	Crispine	Provincial & District Multisectoral Response Specialist	National AIDS Council (Zambia)
	JANSSON	Maria	Seconded from the Swedish Board of Fisheries	WorldFish Center Zambia
	HUSKEN	Saskia	Programme Coordinator Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa	WorldFish Center Zambia

Annex 3: Work by FAO and the WorldFish Center – household level

For most nutrition related research and interventions across the region, the household is the unit for targeting. PAG members were informed of some of the work related to food and nutrition security at household level by FAO and WorldFish Center, additional to the work under the regional programme.

FAO has developed a set of tools that provide timely food security and nutrition information related to diet, with the advantage that they provide direct and timely information on household members' consumption and their dietary changes in response to shocks and reduced access to food:

- Using standard food groups, the *dietary diversity questionnaire* captures all foods eaten as per 24-hour recall.
- The *household food insecurity access scale* measures household food access through 9 questions, covering three main themes: 1) experiencing anxiety and uncertainty about the household food supply, 2) altering quality of the diet, and 3) reducing quantity of food consumed.
- *Causal analysis* is a participatory tool used to understand the underlying causes of malnutrition in a community.

These tools can be used for situation and vulnerability assessments, to target communities for nutrition and food security interventions, and for monitoring and evaluating impacts of strategies and programmes. Simple and cost efficient tools to target, to assess the severity and to evaluate the intervention impact on food and nutrition security such as presented by the FAO nutrition division could be promoted more widely. PAG members recognised and encouraged the use of these tools for programmes with an objective to improve the diet of the beneficiary population.

The WorldFish Center in Malawi worked on aquaculture since several years, farming mainly tilapias and catfish. In order to supply proteins to rural households, a system called Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture (IAA) has been developed, which is resulting in several benefits:

- food and nutrition security benefits at household and community level;
- environmental benefits through optimized use of resources (land, water, farm waste);
- economic benefits (enhanced market opportunities, employment opportunities, added diversification);
- social benefits through inclusion of vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

In collaboration with World Vision Malawi a World Bank funded project aimed to adapt Integrated Aquaculture Agriculture (IAA) for use of HIV/AIDS affected households was implemented. Using a multi-sectoral approach, with researchers and extensionists from different sectors, local leaders were sensitized on HIV/AIDS, research and extension teams were formed and community based monitoring systems were developed. Initial outcomes of the project indicate a strong potential for IAA, including increased incomes among affected households, increased fresh fish consumption, and decreases in malnutrition trends among under-five children. Recommendations for further work, as confirmed by the PAG members, include the need to develop customized technologies to allow economic growth among HIV/AIDS affected families and the need to develop a common understanding of the importance of integrating aquaculture in farming

systems. More time and resources need to be dedicated to understanding what makes small-scale aquaculture successful among affected households in some locations, and how it can be scaled up.

PAG members appreciated the work by both agencies and their collaborators, and highlighted the importance of sharing of knowledge and technologies among and between nutrition experts, non-experts and implementers. More importantly, outcomes and models should be brought to the attention of policy makers and decision makers to enhance wider and sustainable changes in the lives of the affected populations.

Annex 4: Closing remarks – Department of Fisheries Benin

DISCOUR DE CLOTURE DE LA DEUXIEME REUNION DU GROUPE CONSULTATIF DE POLITIQUE DU PROGRAMME PECHE ET VIH EN AFRIQUE

COTONOU DU 15 AU 18 MARS 2010

Madame la Coordinatrice du Programme Régional de World Fish Center basé en Zambie,
Madame la Coordinatrice du component Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre basé au Bénin,
Messieurs et Mesdames les représentants des comités de lutte contre le VIH /SIDA,
Messieurs et Mesdames les représentants des institutions nationales et internationales et des ONGs en charge de lutte contre le VIH Sida,
Messieurs et Mesdames les représentants des institutions de recherche et autres,
Chers participants,

Nous voici au terme de la deuxième réunion du groupe consultatif de politique du Programme Pêche et VIH en Afrique
Pendant ces trois jours, vous avez eu à échanger sur :

- les résultats de vos recherches en matière de sécurité alimentaire, de nutrition et du VIH Sida
- l'importance des aliments pour minimiser l'impact du virus du Sida sur l'état de santé des PVV

Au cours de vos riches débats et d'échanges, vous vous êtes rendus compte du déficit à relever par nos gouvernements respectifs, les ONGs et les organisations nationales et internationales en charge de lutte contre le Sida pour, non seulement réduire la propagation du virus du Sida mais surtout pour maintenir dans un bon état de santé pour la production nos frères, sœurs et amis infectés.

Les débats nous ont permis de nous rendre compte que nos illustres chercheurs ne croisent pas les bras face à cette pandémie mais malheureusement dans leur élan, ils sont limités par l'insuffisance de ressources.
Je vous invite à continuer le plaidoyer en direction des décideurs nationaux et internationaux pour mobiliser davantage de ressources nécessaires à la lutte

Je suis persuadé que les ressources que vous auriez mobilisées seront utilisées à bon escient au profit des acteurs à la base pour garantir la durabilité des actions au retrait des programmes et projets.

Je suis encore plus persuadé qu'à votre retour dans vos unités de production, vous ne ménageriez aucun effort pour la prise en compte des recommandations dans les programmes de vos gouvernements respectifs.

Deux idées de réflexion comme cadeau à mettre dans vos cartables et valises au départ de la salle de réunion :

1- Aucun développement n'est possible sans l'homme et l'homme ne peut contribuer au développement sans la bonne santé

2- Une aide qui n'aide pas à se passer des aides est suicidaire et aussi dangereuse que le Sida

Au nom de la Direction des Pêches, des participants ici présents et des acteurs des Pêches, j'invite Madame Saskia HUSKEN et Madame Katrien HOLVOET à transmettre nos vifs remerciements aux autorités de WORLD FISH CENTER pour avoir accepté d'intervenir dans ce secteur très complexe qui est la pêche et de financer cet atelier. Transmettez leur que le programme nous a octroyé un pantalon ample et il nous faut des ceintures assez solides pour les maintenir correctement à notre hanche car trois ans c'est beaucoup mais très peu pour un travail durable.

Tout en vous souhaitant bon retour dans vos pays et ménages respectifs, au nom du Directeur des Pêches, je déclare close la deuxième réunion du groupe consultatif de politique du programme pêche et VIH en Afrique.

Merci pour votre participation



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 in particular provide food and nutrition security, and generate economic opportunities for the poor throughout society, including those living with HIV/AIDS. In turn, good health among fisher folk is a basic pillar of productive and sustainable fisheries that will deliver lasting development outcomes. On both sides of this equation, 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, in partnership with FAO, is implementing the regional programme “Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions”. This programme aims at strengthening the capacity in the region to develop sustainable solutions to enhance the contributions of fish and fisheries to economic and human development. In particular, the programme is building a strategic response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector that will generate benefits for vulnerable groups in wider society. This project report is one of the technical outputs under the regional programme.

Programme website: www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/SF0959SID

2010

For further information on this publication please contact:



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