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Report of the First Policy Advisory Group Meeting of the Regional Programme “*Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions*”.

**Hosted by the Government of Malawi, Department of Nutrition,
HIV and AIDS, Office of the President and Cabinet.**

24-26 March 2009

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



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List of acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
DoF	Department of Fisheries
ESA	East and Southern Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGA	Income Generating Activity
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PAF	Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade
PAG	Policy Advisory Group
PPSAC	Programme Prévention VIH-SIDA en Afrique Centrale
PS	Principal Secretary / Permanent Secretary
REC	Regional Economic Community
RHVP	Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme
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 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 has taken 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 Meeting reviewed findings from country studies that analyzed vulnerability factors in three categories:

- i. Factors arising from the economic conditions, mobility and demography of fishing and fish marketing;
- ii. Factors derived from social and cultural conditions in fishing communities and wider society;
- iii. Factors arising from the institutional context of fisheries management, health service delivery and wider public sector and civil society policies.

A regional synthesis of these findings identified six *Regional Challenges* or areas where policy support is required to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector. The Meeting agreed on specific Policy Recommendations and Action Steps in 2009/2010 within these priority areas. The AU-NEPAD International Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade (PAF) agreed to integrate these recommendations into their Africa-wide policy working groups. At national level, action points were agreed to strengthen the collaboration between fisheries and HIV/AIDS institutions. The main Regional Policy Recommendations are:

Priority areas for policy support

1. *Integrating planning across fisheries and health sectors at all levels of government.*

2. *Innovative modalities for service delivery to fishing communities and fish traders.*

Policy recommendations

- i. Define specific national targets and strategies to address HIV and AIDS and related illnesses in the fisheries sector.
 - ii. Provide incentives and facilitation for integrated planning and budgeting between fisheries and health sectors at all levels of Government.
 - iii. Provide incentives and facilitation for reinvestment of fisheries revenues in HIV and AIDS response in the sector.
- i. Support and monitor innovative service delivery schemes to mobile fishers and fish traders and to remote fishing camps.
 - ii. Develop innovative financial and human resource mobilization strategies.

- iii. Facilitate learning and adaptation of successful approach among similar target populations in other sectors.

- 3. *Assessing the impacts of interventions.*
 - i. Support and facilitate timely, standardized and independent impact assessment of programmes;
 - ii. Facilitate feedback into on-going programmes and into planning in Government and civil society;
 - iii. Promote adoption of cost-effective and high-impact options across agencies.

- 4. *Strengthen community-level capacity for security and social cohesion and support.*
 - i. Facilitate development and implementation of by-laws, local 'business codes of conduct' and other community-based initiatives aimed at strengthening social accountability;
 - ii. Support community based organizations in fishing areas to provide social support for a wide range of socio-economic needs;
 - iii. Improve security, law enforcement and capacity for legal recourse in fishing camps;
 - iv. Improve infrastructure and social amenities in fisheries sector.

- 5. *Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators.*
 - i. Facilitate the supply of business support services to small-scale fish traders and fisher associations;
 - ii. Improve market access for small-scale operators to help them improve their profit margins;
 - iii. Improve infrastructure and facilitate development of standards along regional fish market chains.

- 6. *Coordination between Government and civil society programmes across all levels.*
 - i. Harmonize national and sub-regional policy frameworks for fisheries and HIV/AIDS;
 - ii. Provide incentives and facilitation for coordination of civil society initiatives and government programmes.

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 for the poor throughout society, including those living with HIV/AIDS. In turn, good health among fisherfolk 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 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. 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 has taken 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". This report presents initial findings by the Regional Programme, a regional synthesis and policy implications of these programme findings, and policy recommendations to address HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector in Africa, as defined by the PAG members during its first meeting in Lilongwe.

1. Findings from country studies

At the First Policy Advisory Group Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 24 – 26 March 2009, the status of all programme components of the Regional Programme, encompassing eight country components, was brought to the attention of the PAG. A compilation document¹ was prepared and distributed at the First PAG Meeting, including description of the status of components in the three technical focus areas:

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;

As the thematic focus of the First PAG Meeting was on “Regional trends and perspectives on vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector”, discussions during the PAG Meeting focused on vulnerability. Six technical partners, three from each sub-region, were selected to present their findings from their respective country/region with the focus on vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector², and an additional presentation was given by the PS Nutrition, HIV and AIDS from Malawi, Dr. Shawa, on the Malawi experience.

Initial findings from the selected sites of the programme studies are described in table 1 below.

Table 1: Findings from programme studies

Geographic location:	Technical focus area*:	Findings:
Kasenga region, DRC	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 97% of fish traded in Lubumbashi markets are from Kasenga – Luapula – Mweru region. - People recognize that fish traders (female) and fishers are among the groups as highest risk to HIV infection. - 95% of fish traders in Lubumbashi markets and Kasenga region are female. - 96% of fishers in Kashobwe, Puiti and Nkole fishing camps are single. - There are no structures or institutions in Kasenga region working on HIV/AIDS sensitization in fishing communities and female fish traders. <p>Final report is currently being finalized.</p>
Lubumbashi fish markets, DRC	2	<p>At Lubumbashi fish markets there are 14 types of fish available, ranging from low value/low price, to high value/high price.</p> <p>Final report is currently being finalized.</p>
Kasenga region, DRC	1	<p>Planned for April 2009: pilot intervention with business-based innovations to reduce vulnerability of female fish traders, based on above studies.</p>
Mukono District, Lake Victoria, Uganda	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigrants (77%) from Kenya, Tanzania and other parts of Uganda, 90% live away from their spouses. - When infected with HIV, immigrants travel home. - Most mobile population is boat owners, followed by fish traders and fishers. - Men constitute the biggest proportion of registered people migrating into (90%) and moving out (88%) of the community. - Kiyindi is characterized by a high level of (unregistered) daily and bi-weekly flows of people, of largely fish traders: fish mongers, fish processors, auctioneers and agents for the private export-oriented firms. These mobile populations secure their livelihoods

¹ Hüsken, S.M.C. (March 2009). Profiles of project activities by technical partners under the regional programme “*Fisheries and HIV/AIDS: Investing in Sustainable Solutions*”, compilation document prepared for the First Policy Advisory Group meeting Lilongwe, Malawi, 24th- 26th March 2009. WorldFish Center Zambia.

² All presentations are made available online at: <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/SF0959SID>

		<p>from the lake but do not reside in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While some (43%) women migrate to take up business opportunities within the island, others are “forced” (57%) into accompanying their mostly female relatives to the fishing community. Many live in very difficult circumstances and end up being sexually exploited. - Dynamics associated with mobility and migration are perceived to be key drivers of risk and vulnerability i.e. i) women trading sex for food, shelter, transportation or fish (35%) in the fishing communities; ii) many commercial sex workers (10%) attracted by the daily disposable income of fishers (25%); iii) long periods away from spouses (12%) promote temporary relationships usually with several partners (transactional sex), and iv) lack of HIV services and information (5%).
Mukono District, Lake Victoria, Uganda	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All female and 95% of male respondents believe that fishing communities are more at risk of HIV/AIDS than other communities; 81% of female respondents say that women are the most likely to be affected by HIV in their community, while men think that both sexes are almost equally at risk. - The majority (54%) of women interviewed associate HIV infection in their fishing community to (women engaging in) transactional sex. Most (40%) of the men interviewed believe that the major cause of HIV infection in Kiyindi landing site is the daily disposable income of the fishermen. - Both women and men agree that female fish traders are the category that is most at risk of HIV infection.
Mukono District, Lake Victoria, Uganda	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key low-value fish products consumed in the Lake Victoria region are dagaa, juveniles of tilapia and Nile perch, spoiled fish (second grade), and by-products from filleting factories (frames, skins, eggs, heads, fillet trimming, and oil from perch). - Smoking and sun-drying were the two major methods for preserving fish sold to regional markets. Deep frying was the most common method for processing products consumed locally. The common practices in handling and processing low-value products are associated with both physical and quality losses which translate to loss of nutrients essential to human health. - The regional demand for by-products (especially dagaa, frames, heads, trimmings, and juveniles) is already causing gaps in fish products demanded at local level. - Many of the low-value products are being diverted to processing fish meal for animal feed and export – further threatening food security of local populations.
Kafue Flats fishery, Zambia	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility and migrant labour from DRC, Zimbabwe, Botswana and different provinces in Zambia. Seasonal cane cutters at sugar plantation. High levels of prostitution and multiple sexual partners among migrants. - Gender imbalances; men have access to and control over resources such as boats, nets and fishing gear. - Unequal power relations lead to transactional sex e.g. “Fish-for-sex” phenomenon. - Lack of health services, sanitation and clean water and lack of HIV information lead to vulnerability to disease and limited access to ART. - Alcohol abuse because of lack of recreational facilities leads to increased vulnerability to HIV infection.
Lusaka, Zambia	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HIV/AIDS in combination with malnutrition aggravates loss of weight through the opportunistic infections such as diarrhea, fever, flue and loss of appetite, exerting a heavy toll on an already weak and immune reduced body. - The efficacy of drugs is lowered if a person is malnourished and supplementing the diet of PLHIV with nutrient dense foods such as RUTF and fish shows positive response to ART, leading to improved health. - Although nutrition is acknowledged as important in preventive care and management of HIV/AIDS, most health practitioners and care givers do not use nutritional guidelines for the management of HIV/AIDS. PLHIV need early and effective nutrition education to decrease their potential for malnutrition. - Increased research is needed on the role of fresh and processed fish in food consumption and its effects on the response to ART.
South Eastern	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malawi: transactional sex between female fish traders and fishermen can predispose

<p>Arm of Lake Malawi (Malawi) and Cahora Bassa (Mozambique)</p>		<p>women fish traders to HIV infection. Reasons for these relationships are to secure and income when catches are low, and to save operating capital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital to start a business is low. Loans have too high interest rates; inaccessible to female fish traders. - Infection by migrating husbands is high. <p>Planned for April 2009: pilot interventions in both sites, with business-based innovations to reduce vulnerability of female fish traders, based on this study.</p>
<p>Benin</p>	<p>1&2</p>	<p><u>Crab value chain:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70% of the production is exported; the export links the fishing communities (rural, difficult access) through collectors and exporters to markets in Togo, Ghana, Nigeria and sometimes interior markets (20% from Lake Ahémé). - An important number of actors in the crab value chain are poor and are excluded from other more remunerating fishing activities. - Relationships between men and women with different capabilities and power positions in the chain are complex and influence risk behaviour. - The highest value addition is generated at the governance level of the chain (exporters and wholesales traders in markets abroad) and at the collector's level. - Women make more investments in crab fisheries but realize less income than men, female and male actors at different levels in the chain generate different incomes and overall rent factor inequities disadvantage women more (except women in governance level of the chain). - Risk behaviour of actors in the chain is linked to out migration of fishermen (two peak periods) and mobility of collectors importers and exporters. - Practices of transactional sex make poor chain actors highly vulnerable to HIV infection. <p><u>Livelihoods diversification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The profiles of highly vulnerable households in the 4 targeted communities are: female headed households, average age of head of household is 47 years, number of children in the household varies between 5 to 15. - The impact of support to livelihood diversification: increased productive assets for 33% of the beneficiaries (n= 246), 45,8% of beneficiaries didn't achieve change in productive assets; 80% has increased their income, 4% stabilized their income, 16% couldn't appreciate the change in income. - 21% of the beneficiaries added new IGA to their HH activities, 79% didn't but increased their existing IGA activities.
<p>Cameroon</p>	<p>1</p>	<p><u>Coastal fishing communities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine artisanal fisheries employs over 125.000 people of which 87% are non nationals but coming from Nigeria, Ghana, and Benin. - There is a lot of internal (within Cameroon) migration and mobility as well as trans-border mobility. - Fishing communities have very limited exposure to HIV/AIDS interventions and services and don't appear as a vulnerable group in the national response. Incomplete knowledge on HIV/AIDS and misconceptions (f.i. witchcraft, transmission by mosquito bites) persist and is more important in landing sites that are difficult to access (about 50% of the fishing landing sites included in the study). There are important indications of stigmatization. - There is limited access to testing, care and treatment facilities. - The fishing communities attract large numbers of sex workers (professional and clandestine) and there is a lot of transactional sex going on, with some of the youths working in fisheries, who are highly vulnerable due to their high risk behaviour. - Sex workers link fishing communities with urban centers. Sex workers are originating also from other countries (Nigeria, Ghana), and move between fishing communities and lucrative sex-tourism areas. - Women and adolescents girls have higher prevalence rates. - Low use of condom (67%) with lowest use in communities difficult to access (38%) and within the age group of <29 (33%). Condom use during last sexual intercourse within the group with no formal education is lowest: 21,4%. - There is a high rate of extra marital sex amongst married /cohabiting couples.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High number of cases of intergenerational sex and high number of teenage pregnancies. - Drivers of susceptibility identified during the dynamics study are : poor organization of marketing and high post harvest losses, harassments (tax, resident permits, etc.), limited social cohesion, poor access to health care and basic services, lack of leisure for youths, dependency linked to livelihoods, easy access to cash, shocks occurring due to accidents at sea or as results of conflicts loss of equipment, migration and mobility. <p><u>Mobile traders (working in fishing communities):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the traders (96%) are younger than 45 and 59% is 15 – 30 years old. - There is a lot of transactional sex: 40,5 % confirms transactional sex practices. - 29% declared to have often sexual intercourse with PSW.
Nigeria	1	<p><u>Lake Chad Basin fishing communities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 69% of the households are permanently residing in the community, 31% consider themselves mobile of which 91 % stay away for less than 3 months and 8 % are migrating. - Very high levels of mobility, linking the communities with markets in the area and in other parts of the country, with urban and rural areas in the country and with neighboring countries. - A high level of awareness on HIV/AIDS being a deadly disease but the knowledge is incomplete and high levels of stigmatization occur. - Low risk perception. High rates of extramarital sex: 56 % admit to have multiple sexual partners and 58 % admit that there is transactional sex. Male condom use is low: 22 %. Condom use with casual partners during last sexual intercourse is 16,4 %. - Testing is low: only 7,2 % of the respondents have tested for HIV. - 88 % of the households are facing food insecurity and during the lean season in fishing there is higher frequency of malaria, typhoid, cholera and diarrhea. - Insufficient access to the villages, leading to lack of access to basic services. - Sex workers are present in the communities attracted by the migrants and by the fisheries economy. Sex workers have low condom use because of the disparity of price in sex with and without condom.
Lagos-Abidjan corridor fishing communities	1	<p><u>Documented findings from Benin</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 67% of the fisheries actors along the corridor are migrants/mobile, linking urban and rural areas and zones and regions of higher prevalence rates and lower rates. They are not specifically targeted by cross border initiatives and health and national HIV/AIDS programs. - An important number of migrants and mobile people are younger than 29 or in the age group of 30-39. They are highly exposed because of their high risk behaviour. - The different actors in the fisheries sector do not share a uniform perception of who is at risk in the fisheries sector. - Statistical analysis of those most at risk shows differences in perception between rural and urban areas and zones of high migration and low migration. - The majority of respondents are married or living in free union. Interventions should therefore be based on approaching couples, as risk behaviour is high in this group and consistent condom use is low (29,6% with commercial partners). - Risk perception is low (29,3 %), and the density of the sexual network and probability of transmission are high. - Testing is low and a high percentage of those not tested are also not interested in volunteering for testing. - Interactions with occasional commercial partners are high with significant differences and higher risks with single males, people younger than 29, and migrants. - Information and communication in fishing communities is low due to limited use of radio, television and newspapers. Information through peer educators to reduce peer pressure to engage in sexual relations and to increase condom use appears to be a suitable approach.

*Technical focus areas of the regional programme are: 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.

2. Regional synthesis of country findings

The Programme has identified a range of factors contributing to the vulnerability of fishing populations and of specific groups within these populations. In some cases, field-based research is still under way that will further specify local variations and combinations of these factors. Together, these studies contribute to an emerging regional picture of HIV/AIDS vulnerability in the fisheries sector. The main vulnerability factors identified in the case studies can be grouped into three categories:

1. Factors arising from the economic conditions, mobility and demography of fishing and fish marketing;
2. Factors derived from social and cultural conditions in fishing communities and wider society;
3. Factors arising from the institutional context of fisheries management, health service delivery and wider public sector and civil society policies;

Table 2 summarizes key findings of the case studies so far in each of these categories.

Table 2: Selected vulnerability factors identified in country case studies

Factors Case Studies	Fisheries economic conditions, mobility and demography	Wider social and cultural conditions	Institutional and service delivery context
DRC	Demography of fishing camps (96% single males) and fish traders (95% females); High and diverse in-migration of fishers and traders into Kasenga corridor; Lack of capital by female fish traders – 90% of fish obtained on credit;	Commercial sex work common in fishing areas; Weak position of women in economic relationships; Weak family cohesion, poor household resources;	No institutions or infrastructure for HIV/AIDS support along main fish supply route to Lubumbashi (provides 97% of fish to urban markets); Low awareness of HIV/AIDS; Poor supply of condoms;
Benin	High and diverse in-migration of fishermen; Increasing competition over fish catches among traders and processors; Enduring poverty of fishers and traders; Female assistants of fish mongers, processors, and poor groups in other services are young and often without sustainable incomes;	Transactional sex practices for access to fish are frequent; Young assistants of post-harvest fish workers (mongers, processors, etc.) are female and move between high risk groups and are highly vulnerable and at risk; Gender inequalities make it difficult for women to negotiate safe sex;	Multi-sectoral response not well established; Need to support fisheries sector to formulate appropriate HIV&AIDS approaches; Administrative barriers to effective service delivery by Fisheries Department; No targeting of fish sector actors along the corridor and fisheries communities for HIV/AIDS services; Dense sexual networks, low condom use and very limited interventions towards migrants and fishing communities, specifically the youth;
Malawi	Increasing competition among female fish traders over fish supply at landing sites; Migrant fishermen frequent many landing sites;	Transactional sex in fishing camps and in markets; Temporary marriages with migrant fishermen;	Poor business support services for women; Limited HIV and AIDS awareness; Poor supply of condoms;
Zambia	Increased competition over fish stocks and catches; Increased and diversified migration;	High alcohol consumption; Transactional sex;	Lack of health services; Limited awareness of HIV/AIDS; Limited or no access to ART;

Factors Case Studies	Fisheries economic conditions, mobility and demography	Wider social and cultural conditions	Institutional and service delivery context
	New investors entering fisheries; Higher capitalization; Marginalization of small-scale operators;	Female fish traders vs. local women; High levels of violence and abuse of women and children; Widespread insecurity;	Community by-laws emerging but not fully understood or supported;
Cameroon	High and diverse in-migration of fishermen; Increasing competition over fish catches among traders and processors; Enduring poverty of fishers and traders; Poor groups attracted by the fisheries economy provide services to other professional groups: they are young and often without sustainable incomes; High number of sex workers move in and out of fishing communities;	Lack of leisure activities for youth in fishing communities; High levels of competition between traders, leading to fish for sex arrangements; High alcohol abuse; Transactional sex; High levels of violence and abuse of women and children; High levels of teenage pregnancies; Widespread insecurity;	Weak information base on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities; Local initiatives and their possible impact undocumented; Lack of health services; High awareness on HIV/AIDS but low knowledge and low risk perception; Limited or no access to HIV/AIDS services (prevention, testing, treatment); Migration of sex workers linking rural/urban and sex tourism without interventions to this high risk group;
Uganda	90% of residents in fishing camps live away from their spouses; but most return home at least once a month; High volume of daily or weekly movement of female fish traders from long distances; Many female fish traders on islands trade sex for food, shelter and transportation of fish;	When aware of HIV+ status, they move to other fishing camps or return home; Many women (57%) are compelled by female relatives to participate in fish trade migrations; Gender relations: Women in very weak negotiating position to ask for condom use;	New community institutions (BMUs) restrict movements with unknown implications; HIV/AIDS strategy for fisheries sector exists since 2005 but is not being implemented; Roles of key institutions to be reviewed;
Nigeria	High volumes of fish products transported from remote areas to markets, with high numbers of mobile groups involved; Diverse in-migration of fishermen, transporters, hawkers; Increasing competition over fish catches among traders and processors; Enduring poverty in fishing communities and important influence on household livelihoods during lean season; Poor groups in other services are young and often without sustainable incomes;	High alcohol abuse; Transactional sex; Sex workers move between urban/rural and markets attracted by migrants and fisheries economy; Widespread insecurity; Lean season coincides with higher prevalence of other diseases;	Weak information base on HIV/AIDS in fishing communities; Local initiatives and their possible impact undocumented; Lack of health services; High awareness on HIV/AIDS but low knowledge and low risk perception; Limited or no access to HIV/AIDS services (prevention, testing, treatment); Migration of sex workers linking rural/urban without interventions to this high risk group; Women are highly vulnerable and not receiving HIV/AIDS services; Need to empower women and adopt response to their specific needs;

Factors Case Studies	Fisheries economic conditions, mobility and demography	Wider social and cultural conditions	Institutional and service delivery context
Additional literature reviews	Unpredictability of future returns from fishing leads to high-risk behavior; 'poverty traps' in fishing and fish trade – small-scale operators unable to raise their profits and break out indebtedness; Women's economic opportunities often precarious – resulting in dependency and exploitation;	Risk-taking culture among young men extends into sexual behavior; High level of violence and insecurity for women, youth;	Continued neglect of fishing camps by health services; Lack of integration of fisheries and health sectors (policy, service delivery, monitoring);

Looking across the Regional Programme case studies, a few broad regional patterns of vulnerability and impact are emerging. These are linked to broad differences in the types of fisheries, socio-economic conditions and institutional environments found across the region. At this stage of the Regional Programme, these patterns are still tentative and would need to be validated through further research to arrive at a more conclusive *regional typology* of vulnerability in African fisheries. Nevertheless, Regional Programme findings do highlight some main regional factors of vulnerability, including:

- Mobility and demography
- Gender relations
- Increasing competition over fish catches
- 'Poverty traps' for fishers and fish traders
- Insecurity and lack of social and legal protection
- Lack of health services
- Fisheries sector administration

These observations bring into focus the main challenges for building a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector in Africa. Approaches developed in other economic sectors need to be adjusted to the requirements of the fishing communities and fish traders. Much can be learned from experiences with other mobile populations and high-risk groups. Yet other aspects are perhaps unique to the economic and business context in the fisheries sector with its seasonality, division of labor and high but short-term cash revenue.

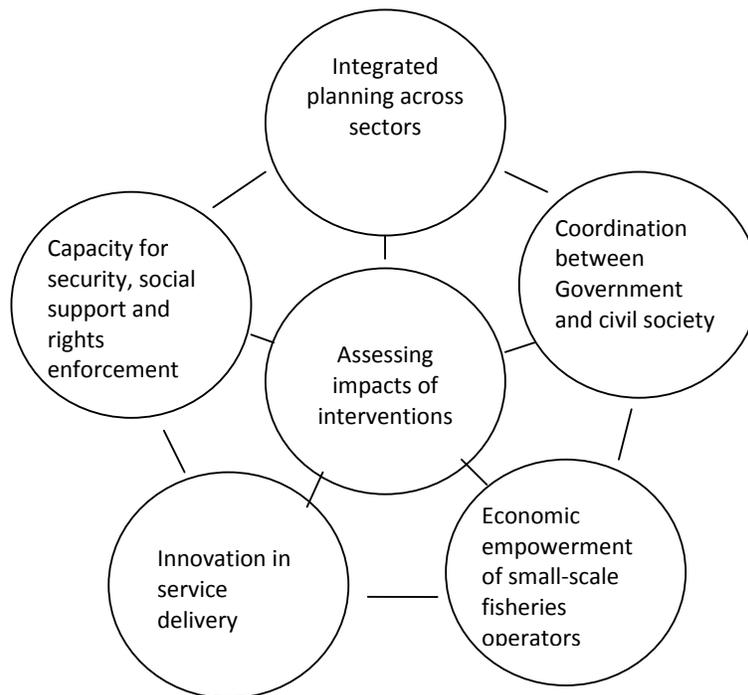
Importantly, the fisheries sector itself needs to understand its role in taking care of its human resources. Several of these vulnerability factors arise from 'fisheries' in the narrow sense, e.g. from fish-based business relations, competition, domestic and regional trade, or movement of fishers. Fisheries administrations, therefore, need to identify what they can do to safeguard economic opportunities for fisheries stakeholders in a way that is compatible with wider national and regional HIV/AIDS strategies.

3. Regional policy implications

Building on the above regional synthesis, a few key regional-level issues can be identified that require policy support across most or all of the case studies. These issues can be formulated as generic *Regional Challenges* that need to be addressed in order to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector.

The specific interventions required to address these challenges may have to take different forms in different countries and locations, reflecting the diversity of conditions laid out in the case studies. But focus on the key issues is important for the wide range of responses to add up to a targeted, transparent and cost-effective approach that will reduce vulnerability among the largest numbers of people and with the best chances of sustainable impact.

Six inter-related Regional Challenges are emerging that need to be addressed in order to build a more effective regional response:



Specifically, these Regional Challenges have the following characteristics and policy implications:

1. Integrating planning and service delivery across fisheries and health sectors:

Planning and delivery of services to fishing population suffers from lack of integration between fisheries and health sectors. This results in economic inefficiencies within Government as well as in lack of services received by target populations. Examples for this problem include poor rate of reinvestment of fisheries

revenue in human services; underutilized logistical capacity; and fishing communities without any access to health services.

2. Coordinating service delivery between government and civil society:

A range of initiatives by civil society organizations is under way to address HIV/AIDS vulnerability and other health and livelihoods issues in fishing communities. Yet, these are typically not coordinated amongst themselves or with government programmes that aim at similar objectives. A coordinated response can reduce vulnerability by improving the geographical coverage of services, avoiding interruptions when specific projects come to an end, fostering learning from successes as well as failures, and increasing cost-effectiveness. Policies are required that enable coordination and provide incentives for collaboration.

3. Structuring the informal fisheries sector:

In the context of increasing competition within the 'informal' sector and growing pressure for higher capitalization across the fish value chain, vulnerable groups require targeted support to enable them to continue their participation in this sector. Small-scale operators, including female fish traders, require an economic and business environment that allows them to increase their profit margins and break out of 'poverty traps'. Policies promoting higher-value market access, associations, standards, contracts and business services are needed. This would reduce exploitation and direct vulnerability of women and youth and would result in potentially higher incomes for these groups.

4. Strengthening social capacity in fishing communities and along market chains:

Alongside economic empowerment, vulnerable populations require stronger social support that will reduce insecurity, abuse and violence. Policies need to support community efforts to build social support capacity, develop and implement local by-laws or 'codes of conduct' in fishing camps, improve the security environment and strengthen legal protection and recourse for vulnerable groups.

5. Innovation for providing services to mobile populations:

Many fishing populations and fish traders will continue to be mobile, since this is an essential aspect of their economic lives. Policies need to safeguard their ability to pursue their livelihood while having access to essential services. Policy needs to encourage innovation in targeting migrant fishers and mobile fish traders through schemes such as 'smart cards', 'fish trader +' and others. These potential options, however, need to be carefully monitored and assessed before they are promoted widely. This is particularly important when services such as ART are being provided that require very strict follow-up regimes.

6. Monitoring the impact of the wide range of initiatives under way:

While multiple initiatives at local, national and regional levels are a positive sign of growing commitment, it is essential that the impact and effectiveness of these initiatives are being assessed. Only then can progress be made and sustained on a broad, regional scale. This may require specific impact assessment programmes that can provide consistent and objective data for identifying best-bet options. Policies are required that enable an independent and unified impact assessment approach to be developed and implemented. As a result, initiatives at all levels will be able to

implement cost-effective and high-impact interventions, and these efforts will add up to a more comprehensive regional response.

These six Regional Challenges were discussed by the PAG members at the meeting. PAG members agreed that these six challenges are indeed the key challenges present in their respective sub-regions.

Four PAG members³ shared their opinions about the following two questions:

1. 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?
2. 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 pursue regional policy support?

In summary, the main observations from PAG members include:

Dr. Chimatiro - NEPAD:

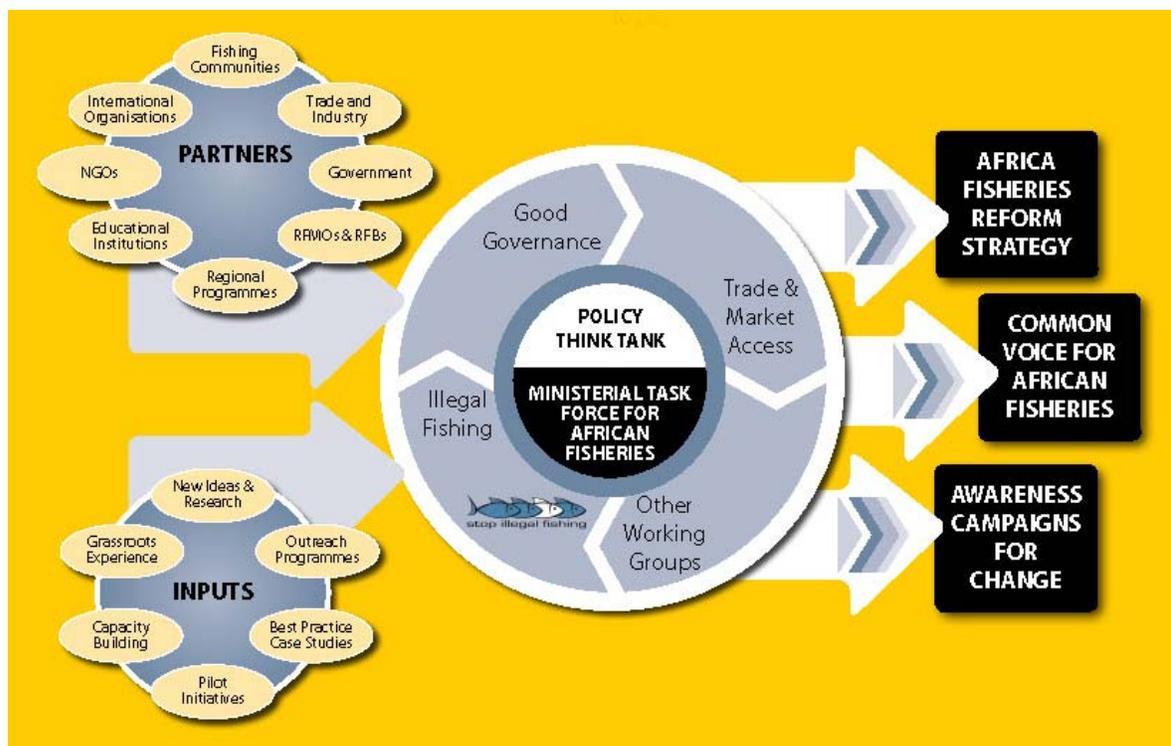
In order to fully integrate HIV/AIDS into the planning for Africa's agricultural development, broad and specifically the fisheries sub-sector, it is important to understand the context in which the pandemic fits into the overall African development agenda defined by the NEPAD framework. There are 5 major NEPAD development frameworks that the Regional Programme could contribute to:

- (i) the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
- (ii) the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (iii) the NEPAD Food Security Summit Decisions;
- (iv) the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF); and
- (v) 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 some of these avenues to provide evidence for policy and governance reform necessary to incorporate the impact of HIV/AIDS in fisheries development planning and implementation.

Of the five NEPAD initiatives mentioned above, the PAF (International Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade), NEPAD's special initiative on fisheries, would offer a special opportunity for the Regional Programme to become one of the working groups; a think-tank that will inform policy reform, as depicted in the below figure:

³ The four selected PAG members to share their feedback on the Regional Challenges were Dr. Sloans Chimatiro (NEPAD), Prof. John Rwomushana (Uganda AIDS Commission), Dr. Kiki Médégan Valentine (National AIDS Council Benin), and Dr. Justin Koffi (Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization).



The main thrust of the PAF is to strengthen Africa’s ability to devise and implement policies for growth in the fisheries sector. The think-tank approach is central to this and will enable transparent and home-grown advice to be generated and championed by a wide range of actors based on continent-wide multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The PAF will facilitate a coherent approach between fisheries initiatives at Regional Economic Community (REC) level and strengthen fisheries within the regional economic integration agendas. Success on African soil will promote an “African Voice” globally to influence international policy and compel the uptake of pro-developing country policy for the governance of the global fishery resources.

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

Prof. Rwomushana – Uganda AIDS Commission:

Innovation is the key for this Regional Programme, as the issues found in African fishing communities request for innovative responses. Cross-regional and cross-country learning about good practices and multi-stakeholder approaches (including NGOs and religious organizations).

The Regional Programme is focusing on in-country studies and interventions, but should increasingly support greater inter-country collaboration, especially through collaboration with regional frameworks such as the Great Lakes Initiative, Corridor Project in West Africa, NEPAD initiatives, etc.

The Programme needs to take the lead to move beyond the old notion of a multi-sectoral approach, towards proper mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS within the mandates of area sectors and community populations, so that it is clear which roles should be played by

which stakeholder. To achieve this, increased exchange among countries should occur, to learn how to integrate the wishes and responses at community level.

To sustain the impact of programmes such as this Regional Programme, links with National AIDS Councils / Commissions (NAC) needs to be better utilized. Although these are at different levels of evolution, the common characteristic of each NAC is overall coordination, including policy definition, joint planning, partnership development, innovation and translation of research results into policy. This is where the question of harmonization comes in; the Programme needs to enhance harmonization where possible, in order to advance the insights and outcomes of this Regional Programme.

Dr. Kiki Médégan Valentine – National AIDS Council Benin:

The Programme needs to take a multi-sectoral approach, in order to integrate all the issues found in fishing communities. In global and national AIDS responses, the transport sector and security sector have already been included, but it is important for the fisheries sector to be included.

The challenge for the Programme remains how to ensure sustainability and avoid the risk to lose all efforts. There is need for durable financing of programmes such as this Regional Programme.

Each country has adopted the Three Ones and aims to respond to HIV/AIDS in each sector. But in Benin for example, there are no specific objectives in the national HIV/AIDS response on the fisheries sector. This Programme can assist in that matter. We do however need a baseline to measure impact of the Programme. With assistance from the World Bank, there are interventions in the agricultural sector and other main ministries in Benin. While fisheries is a very vulnerable sector, especially coastal fishing communities; how can this sector be integrated into the HIV/AIDS plans of the 'big ministries'? These are issues that need to be discussed and agreed at national level in Benin, but we can learn from other countries.

Dr. Justin Koffi – Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization:

The challenges identified by the Regional Programme are valid, but we now need to take them from national to regional level. The added value of this Regional Programme is experience sharing, best practice dissemination, and learning. One major challenge is to have a regional framework based on country specificities; there is need for such a framework with clear indicators in order to be able to monitor outcomes and progress of the Programme.

Regional integration is a key factor, but also a challenge. Migration patterns involve several countries, and enhance cross-border issues. This means that vertical HIV/AIDS programmes will not be applicable. In Benin for example, there is a fisheries sector action plan and there are some points in the national development framework on HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector, but it is still a marginal issue in the country. Advocacy at the highest level is needed, to first of all declare HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector as a national and regional priority. Based on that, we should design a framework for all sectors (public, private, NGO) to take action. We have national plans, regional initiatives such as the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FWCW). This allows having multi-sectoral, multi-partner approach. We need to bring new partners on board, such as NEPAD and relevant UN agencies, who need to recognize the issues and embed them into their action plans. To do this, we need a regional framework with clear indicators.

The PAG Meeting was furthermore informed by two presentations from regional institutions, in order to gain insights into their approaches to achieve policy up-take of their work in similar environments and the generic lessons for research-policy links in this area of work.

Ms. Josee Koch from the Policy and Knowledge Adviser Regional Hunger & Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) and **Mr. Raphaël Medang** from the Regional Programme on HIV/AIDS control in Central Africa (PPSAC) presented their respective general approach to achieve policy impact at regional level. They presented some examples of successful policy up-take in their programmes, as well as some of the challenges they faced and how to overcome them⁴. These presentations inspired PAG members to further explore policy linkages beyond the Regional Programme.

4. Policy recommendations

In two sub-regional working groups, PAG members formulated Regional Policy Recommendations to address the six Regional Challenges. In addition, they identified Action Points for 2009/10 and national and regional partners that will pursue these actions for policy uptake. The consolidated working group outputs are given in Annex 2. In summary, the PAG members developed the following Policy Recommendations and Action Points:

Policy Area 1: Integrating planning across fisheries and health sectors at all levels of government

- Define specific national targets and strategies to address HIV and AIDS and related illnesses in the fisheries sector.
- Provide incentives and facilitation for integrated planning and budgeting between fisheries and health sectors at all levels of Government.
- Provide incentives and facilitation for reinvestment of fisheries revenues in HIV and AIDS response in the sector.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- Identify concrete action points in selected countries and get commitment for a timetable;
- Identify specific fisheries for development of integrated plans that can provide models and lessons and initiate cross-sectoral dialogue;
- Integrate HIV/AIDS in the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) Working Groups;
- Explore opportunities for integrated planning for HIV/AIDS in CAADP sub-regional and country process;
- Establish links with regional fisheries initiatives and HIV/AIDS programmes;

Policy Area 2: Innovative modalities for service delivery to fishing communities and fish traders

- Support and monitor innovative service delivery schemes to mobile fishers and fish traders and to remote fishing camps.
- Develop innovative financial and human resource mobilization strategies.

⁴ See <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/SF0959SID> for the presentations.

- Facilitate learning and adaptation of successful approach among similar target populations in other sectors.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- Design and implement support projects for emerging innovations in HIV/AIDS service delivery to fisheries target groups (including cross-border initiatives, mobile services);
- Draw lessons from best practices of NEPAD Capacity Development Initiative Process;
- Identify best practice models from other sectors for application in fisheries;

Policy Area 3: Assessing the impacts of interventions

- Support and facilitate timely, standardized and independent impact assessment of programmes.
- Facilitate feedback into on-going programmes and into planning in Government and civil society.
- Promote adoption of cost-effective and high-impact options across agencies.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- In collaboration with NACs, identify indicators and methodologies for data collection, monitoring, evaluation and analysis;
- Establish or re-affirm use of these indicators across on-going and new programmes;
- Identify best practice interventions and prepare plans for up-scaling;
- Collaborate with NACs to undertake strategic prevalence rate studies among fisher folk.

Policy Area 4: Strengthen community-level capacity for security and social cohesion and support

- Facilitate development and implementation of by-laws, local 'business codes of conduct' and other community-based initiatives aimed at strengthening social accountability.
- Support community based organizations in fishing areas to provide social support for a wide range of socio-economic needs.
- Improve security, law enforcement and capacity for legal recourse in fishing camps.
- Improve infrastructure and social amenities in fisheries sector.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- Integrate fishing communities in the wider social service delivery frameworks, particularly those dealing with women and child welfare;
- Engage relevant civil protection agencies (e.g. Community Police) in planning and executing security of fishing villages;
- Capacity strengthening of community-level organizations regarding service delivery and social protection;
- Integrate security issues in fisheries management work plans, community by-laws and other instruments.

Policy Area 5: Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators

- Facilitate the supply of business support services to small-scale fish traders and fisher associations.
- Improve market access for small-scale operators to help them improve their profit margins.
- Improve infrastructure and facilitate development of standards along regional fish market chains.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- Identify potential business service providers and design support programmes for target groups;
- Assess economics and business development options of key vulnerable stakeholders, including female fish traders;

- Design appropriate standards and procedures for 'informal' fish trade in domestic and regional market chains;

Policy Area 6: Coordination between Government and civil society programmes across all levels

- Harmonize national and sub-regional policy frameworks for fisheries and HIV/AIDS.
- Provide incentives and facilitation for coordination of civil society initiatives and government programmes.

Action Points for 2009/10:

- Review existing government and civil society policy frameworks to identify gaps, conflicts and inconsistencies;
- Analyze existing incentives and disincentives for coordination and collaboration between agencies;
- Establish forum for exchange and collaboration for Government and civil society agencies working with fishing communities and/or fish traders on issues related to HIV/AIDS;

5. Next steps

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro (NEPAD) was requested to wrap up the First PAG Meeting by highlighting the agreed policy outcomes and identify the next steps for the Programme. Special appreciation was expressed to the PS for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, for hosting the PAG Meeting and sharing the Malawi experience.

The First PAG Meeting has discussed and highlighted a number of issues that require serious policy reform:

- a) How to reduce vulnerability of fish-dependent communities?
- b) How to improve access to good nutrition and food security in HIV prevention, treatment and care?
- c) How to empower communities, especially women to be able to undertake sustainable livelihoods which do not make them vulnerable to unscrupulous fishers?
- d) How to improve bureaucratic capacity for service delivery?

Many practices and learning has been shared from the different research-for-development activities under the Programme, and the region. However, there was inadequate presence at this Meeting of people involved in the fisheries sector directly; most of us are from the health / HIV/AIDS sector and research institutions. The Programme needs the Departments of Fisheries themselves to be involved, as the recommendations made here can only be implemented with their leadership. We should therefore call upon all departments responsible for the HIV/AIDS response, to keep on lobbying the Departments of Fisheries to get (more) involved.

The Programme requires focusing its attention on the following:

- To use Programme experiences to guide regional and national strategies on HIV/AIDS;

- To allow for regional and national peer reviewing and bring together the best practices;
- To explore the potential for greater harmonization for HIV/AIDS development efforts;
- To use partnerships and alliances with CSOs, NGOs and fisheries organizations to enhance and further complement the efforts by the Programme;
- To establish shared responsibility and commitment among regional, national and local institutions.

Concretely, there are three next steps for the Regional Programme:

1. International Partnership for Africa's Fisheries Governance and Trade (PAF):

The PAG should feed Regional Programme findings and recommendations from the into the PAF policy group on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS, currently being established under NEPAD.

2. African Ministers of Fisheries Meeting:

The PAG should present its policy recommendations to the African Ministers of Fisheries meeting in August 2009.

3. Next PAG meeting:

The next PAG meeting under the Regional Programme is planned for February / March 2010 (venue to be confirmed) with the thematic focus: "Food and Nutrition Security and other long-term benefits to the wider community of the fisheries sector in HIV/AIDS response".

Closing remarks – Dr. Mary Shawa

The First PAG Meeting was officially closed by Dr. Mary Shawa, PS for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS. She expressed thanks to the WorldFish Center for their trust in the Department to host this meeting in short period of time, and thanked all participants for their participation. The concerns expressed in the Meeting were noted, especially the absence of the Ministry of Fisheries, as their role is crucial in the response to HIV/AIDS. The PS also expressed happiness that NEPAD is aware of the challenges and hopes that other regional institutions will respond in a similar way.

Annex 1: PAG Meeting Programme.



Regional Programme on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa



First Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting:

“Regional trends and perspectives on vulnerability to HIV and AIDS in the fisheries sector”

Lilongwe, Malawi, 24-26 March 2009.

Wednesday 25th March:

Time:	Agenda item:	Presenter / facilitator:
8:00 – 10:00 Opening Ceremony		
8:00	Participants arrival	
8:30	Registration	Secretariat
8:45	Welcome	Master of Ceremonies
8:50	Introductions	Master of Ceremonies
9:00	Introductory presentation	WorldFish Center
9:15	Introductory speech	The Principal Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
9:30	Opening Speech	The Chief Secretary, Office of the President and Cabinet
9:50	Group photograph	Secretariat
10:00	Tea break	

10:30	Introduction into the regional programme and technical presentations by programme partners.	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
10:45	Malawi <i>Socio-economic analysis of vulnerability factors along Lake Malawi fish market chain.</i>	Dr. Patrick Kambewa Senior Lecturer Agricultural Economics, Chancellor College, Malawi
11:15	Cameroon / Chad Basin <i>Coastal fisheries communities in Cameroon and in the Chad basin communities: KAP and HIV/AIDS dynamics.</i>	Dr. George Chiambeng Researcher, IRAD, Cameroon
11:45	DRC <i>Vulnerability of female fish traders along Kasenga – Lubumbashi fish market chain.</i>	Prof. Bienvenu Kalunga Mawazo Le Centre Interdisciplinaire Pour Le Développement Et Education Permanente (CIDEP), Université Ouverte, Lubumbashi, DRC.
12:15	Questions from the audience on technical presentations.	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Benin <i>Mapping of migration and mobility, and the risk factors in HIV infection: Abidjan-Lagos Corridor.</i>	Mme. Catherine Hounkpé Director of Fisheries, Benin
14:30	Zambia <i>Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS of female fish traders (Kafue Flats fishery).</i>	Mr. Alphart Lungu Research Analyst, WorldFish Center Zambia
15:00	Benin <i>Productive responses and HIV/AIDS responses in highly vulnerable fishing communities along the fish value chain.</i>	Mme. Kiki Médégan Secrétaire Permanente, National AIDS Council Benin
15 :30	Questions from the audience on technical presentations	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet Food and Agriculture Organization, Benin
16:00	Tea break	
16:30	Feedback on field visit to fishing communities at Lake Malawi	Mr. Joseph Nagoli Senior Research Analyst, WorldFish Center
17:00	Closure of the day	Dr. Mary Shawa PS for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Office of the President and Cabinet, Malawi

Thursday 26th March:

Time:	Agenda item:	Presenter / facilitator:
8:30	Opening of the day	Dr. Mary Shawa
8:40	Presentation: Nutrition, HIV and AIDS in the fisheries sector – Malawi’s experience.	PS for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Office of the President and Cabinet, Malawi
9:00	Presentation regional synthesis	Dr. Simon Heck Senior Policy Advisor, WorldFish Center
9:30	Panel discussion	Panelists: - Dr. Sloans Chimatiro – NEPAD - Prof. John Rwomushana – Uganda AIDS Commission - Dr. Kiki Médégan Valentine – National AIDS Council Benin - Dr. Justin Koffi – Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Organization
10:30	Tea break	
11:00	Presentation by Regional Institutions	1. Ms. Josee Koch Policy and Knowledge Adviser Regional Hunger & Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) 2. Mr. Raphaël Medang Regional Programme on HIV/AIDS control in Central Africa (PPSAC). Trans border interventions, working with youth in AIDS control.
12:00	Questions from audience to Regional Institutions	Mrs. Saskia Hüsken Programme Coordinator, WorldFish Center
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Group work to identify possible regional policy pathways to take forward programme learning and recommendations. Presentation in plenary by groups.	Mrs. Katrien Holvoet , FAO Benin & Mrs. Saskia Hüsken , WorldFish Center
15:30	Wrap up: Policy outcomes and way forward	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro Senior Fisheries Advisor – NEPAD
16:00	Closure of the meeting	Dr. Mary Shawa PS for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Office of the President and Cabinet, Malawi

Annex 2: PAG Policy recommendations – consolidated table from group work
Policy Recommendations

Priority areas for policy support	Policy Recommendations	Specific actions in 2009/2010	National and regional institutions/ partnerships for up-take
Integrating planning across fisheries and health sectors at all levels of government.	1. Define specific national targets and strategies to address HIV and AIDS and related illnesses in the fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify concrete action points in selected countries and get commitment for a timetable; 	Ministries responsible for fisheries and HIV/AIDS; NACs.
	2. Provide incentives and facilitation for integrated planning and budgeting between fisheries and health sectors at all levels of Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific fisheries for development of integrated plans that can provide models and lessons and initiate cross-sectoral dialogue; 	DoFs; NACs; Health departments.
	3. Provide incentives and facilitation for reinvestment of fisheries revenues in HIV and AIDS response in the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate HIV/AIDS in the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) Working Groups; 	NEPAD Secretariat; PAF partners.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for integrated planning for HIV/AIDS in CAADP sub-regional and country process; 	CAADP focal points; NEPAD Secretariat.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish links with regional fisheries initiatives and HIV/AIDS programmes; 	Regional Economic Communities; Regional Fisheries Bodies.
Innovative modalities for service delivery to fishing communities and fish traders.	1. Support and monitor innovative service delivery schemes to mobile fishers and fish traders and to remote fishing camps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and implement support projects for emerging innovations in HIV/AIDS service delivery to fisheries target groups (including cross-border initiatives, mobile services); 	Civil society service providers; NACs; Ministries responsible for health, HIV/AIDS, social development; PPSAC and other regional programmes.
	2. Develop innovative financial and human resource mobilization strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw lessons from best practices of NEPAD Capacity Development Initiative Process; 	NEPAD Secretariat; NEPAD partners;
	3. Facilitate learning and adaptation of successful approach among similar target populations in other sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify best practice models from other sectors for application in fisheries; 	FAO AIDS PAIA; IOM; NACs.

Priority areas for policy support	Policy Recommendations	Specific actions in 2009/2010	National and regional institutions/ partnerships for up-take
Assessing the impacts of interventions.	1. Support and facilitate timely, standardized and independent impact assessment of programmes;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with NACs, identify indicators and methodologies for data collection, monitoring, evaluation and analysis; 	NACs; Research institutions;
	2. Facilitate feedback into on-going programmes and into planning in Government and civil society;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish or re-affirm use of these indicators across on-going and new programmes; 	NACs; On-going HIV/AIDS programmes; Ministries responsible for HIV/AIDS; Civil society agencies;
	3. Promote adoption of cost-effective and high-impact options across agencies;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify best practice interventions and prepare plans for up-scaling; 	NACs; Civil society agencies; On-going HIV/AIDS programmes.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with NACs to undertake strategic prevalence rate studies among fisher folk. 	NACs; Research institutions.
Strengthen community-level capacity for security and social cohesion and support.	1. Facilitate development and implementation of by-laws, local 'business codes of conduct' and other community-based initiatives aimed at strengthening social accountability;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate fishing communities in the wider social service delivery frameworks, particularly those dealing with women and child welfare; 	Ministries responsible for social development; Civil society agencies.
	2. Support community based organizations in fishing areas to provide social support for a wide range of socio-economic needs;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage relevant civil protection agencies (e.g. Community Police) in planning and executing security of fishing villages; 	Local government authorities; Community-level institutions; Traditional leaders.
	3. Improve security, law enforcement and capacity for legal recourse in fishing camps;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity strengthening of community-level organizations regarding service delivery and social protection; 	Civil society organizations.
	4. Improve infrastructure and social amenities in fisheries sector;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate security issues in fisheries management work plans, community by-laws and other instruments. 	Ministries responsible for Fisheries; Local government authorities; Security agencies; Community-level organizations; Traditional leaders.

Priority areas for policy support	Policy Recommendations	Specific actions in 2009/2010	National and regional institutions/partnerships for up-take
Economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries operators.	1. Facilitate the supply of business support services to small-scale fish traders and fisher associations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential business service providers and design support programmes for target groups; 	Fisher and traders associations; Business service providers; DoFs.
	2. Improve market access for small-scale operators to help them improve their profit margins;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess economics and business development options of key vulnerable stakeholders, including female fish traders; 	Research institutions; DoFs; Fisher and traders associations; Ministries responsible for trade and commerce.
	3. Improve infrastructure and facilitate development of standards along regional fish market chains;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design appropriate standards and procedures for 'informal' fish trade in domestic and regional market chains; 	DoFs; Fisher and traders associations; Ministries responsible for trade and commerce.
Coordination between Government and civil society programmes across all levels.	1. Harmonize national and sub-regional policy frameworks for fisheries and HIV/AIDS;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing government and civil society policy frameworks to identify gaps, conflicts and inconsistencies; 	NACs; HIV/AIDS Units within Regional Economic Communities; Civil society agencies; Regional programmes on HIV/AIDS (PPSAC, Great Lakes Initiative etc.).
	2. Provide incentives and facilitation for coordination of civil society initiatives and government programmes;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze existing incentives and disincentives for coordination and collaboration between agencies; 	NACs; HIV/AIDS Units within Regional Economic Communities; Civil society agencies.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish forum for exchange and collaboration for Government and civil society agencies working with fishing communities and/or fish traders on issues related to HIV/AIDS; 	Ministries responsible for fisheries; NACs; Regional programmes on HIV/AIDS (PPSAC, Great Lakes Initiative etc.).