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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Final Minutes of SFMP Economic  
Safety Net Scheme Ad hoc  
Technical Committee Virtual and In-  
Person Meetings



**MARCH, 2021**

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
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FoN	<a href="http://www.fonghana.org">http://www.fonghana.org</a>
Hen Mpoano	<a href="http://www.henmpoano.org">http://www.henmpoano.org</a>
Resonance Global	<a href="https://resonanceglobal.com/">https://resonanceglobal.com/</a>

## **ACRONYMS**

CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
DAA	Development Action Association
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GoG	Government of Ghana
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
LEAP	Evaluation of Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
PMT	Proxy Means Test
PPI	Poverty Probability Index
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
TOR	Terms of reference
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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# **FINAL MINUTES OF MAIDEN MEETING OF AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Venue: AH Hotel, East Legon

Time 11am- 1.30pm

## **SESSION 1**

### **Opening remarks by SFMP Chief of Party.**

The Chief of Party of the SFMP, Dr. Ray Babanawo welcomed all members present and acknowledged the presence of the two fisheries associations –GNCFC and NAFPTA. He added that he looked forward to update the committee on the activities implemented so far.

### **Brief remarks by SFMP Program Manager**

The Program manager of the SFMP Dr. Brian Crawford, thanked all the members of the committee for their support with the implementation of activities and was grateful for the opportunity to share the lessons learned so far and also make recommendations for future programming.

### **Brief remarks by Chairperson of the Committee**

The Chairperson of the Technical Committee thanked the members present for coming and for their support. He indicated that today's meeting was important as all we hear the key activities implemented by the project managers, the challenges that need to be addressed and the lessons learned to improve other social protection schemes to better the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

## **SESSION 2**

### **Update on implementation of activities**

Dr. Babanawo gave an update on the activities implemented by the SFMP in the last five months since the Committee gave conditional approval for the 2000 household selected to receive the cash transfer.

He reiterated that the objective of setting up the ad hoc Technical Committee was to provide strategic oversight for the development of appropriate methodologies which could be adopted by Government and Development Partners in providing assistance to poor and vulnerable fisheries dependent households to mitigate economic shocks and stresses particular to the sector, including during the implementation of future fisheries closed seasons, a strategic management measure required to rebuild Ghana's small pelagic stocks.

According to him, if the government of Ghana does not institute any fisheries management interventions, the fish stocks will collapse with dire consequences for the nation and so it is necessary to document the actions taken in this cash transfer program in the context of the fisheries sector, share the lessons learned, as well as make recommendations for future programming.

He outlined some challenges encountered in the implementation of these activities:

- Setting up of a messaging platform for representatives of the fisheries associations to improve information flow among the project's managers and the target beneficiaries.
- Setting up of the ad hoc technical committee.
- Definition of criteria for selection of poor and vulnerable households by leaders of the fisherfolk.
- Review and approval of the selection criteria by the technical committee.
- Socialization of the selection criteria among fisher folk.
- Selection /identification of beneficiaries by the community representatives of the fisheries associations.
- Validation and vetting of potential beneficiaries selected.
- Collation of data on final list of potential beneficiaries.
- Verification of potential beneficiaries.
- Conditional approval of final list of beneficiaries by technical committee.
- Setting up a digital payments platform –mobile money.
- Cash transfer to 1,987 beneficiaries.

He outlined the key elements and actions implemented on the pilot cash transfer so far as:

- COVID constraints meant project staff could not travel to communities to select or validate beneficiaries and so had to depend on community representatives of the fisheries associations.
- The exclusion of poor and vulnerable from the digital revolution and so most did not have their own telephone numbers.
- In using the Poverty Probability Index, the beneficiaries who scored above 60 were not classified as poor and vulnerable, but still had to be included in the final list as most of the beneficiaries elected initially could not be reached.

Dr. Babanawo shared the summary of results of the cash transfer so far, the lessons learned and the potential for future application for Ghana.

According to him 177 households selected by the community representatives, were also beneficiaries of LEAP. Despite agreeing at the last meeting of the technical committee that the selected beneficiaries already on LEAP should not be included in the cash transfer program, the database revealed multiple duplications of some beneficiaries. This meant that the overlapping beneficiaries had to be added to enable the SFMP meet its target.

Dr. Babanawo shared scenario simulation on how government can use savings from premiss subsidy and tax waivers on fishing inputs if it decides to support fishing dependent households during closed seasons as part of efforts to rebuild Ghana's marine fishery.

### **Discussions/ Questions and Recommendations**

Mr. Felix Logah led the committee to brainstorm on the lessons learned and make recommendations to inform the planning and implementation of such future interventions.

The committee member from the Ghana National Canoe and Fishermen Council asked how the beneficiary's selection and verification was done. Dr. Babanawo answered that it was based on the criteria defined by the fisheries associations, approved by the technical committee and used by their community representatives to select the potential beneficiaries, most of whom used the contact telephone numbers of a proxy and had no national

identification. Doris Owusu added that there were challenges faced in reaching those who had been selected, as the contact numbers they provided have been off in the five months, could not be identified even by the proxy as their official names differed from their 'traditional' names.

Mr. Ebenezer Nortey the representative of the Ministry of Finance on the committee said on the proposition of the financing of a safety net scheme for fishers during fisheries closed seasons, fisher folk should be educated on the need to save and also engage in alternative livelihoods while lobbying GoG for support during this period.

The chairperson asked the SFMP to identify and document lessons from this intervention that can inform future programming. He expressed his concern on:

- The extent of sensitization of beneficiaries of before roll out of activities.
- The challenge on omission and exclusion due the methodology used due to the constraints brought on my COVID.
- Quality of data is also key – according to him the LEAP works with GSS. LEAP uses an independent data collection agency under the guidance of the GSS.
- Time limitation for the implementation of the scheme which accounted for the high level of exclusion.
- Target populations are extremely poor and so should not be expected to own phones.
- On making a case for safety net scheme for fishers during closed seasons, a strong case backed by evidence should be made and shared with other state institutions. According to him the LEAP program targets 2.4 million people, but can only reach 1.4 million (350 households). Negotiating with the MoF on providing funding has not been easy as GoG is financially constrained.

The representative of the FC said the local offices of the MoFAD /FC should have been involved in the process as part of the extension services they provide to fishers. Ray answered that during initial discussions on the interventions with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Minister said since the number of people targeted were small she didn't want the ministry's structures involved especially being an election year.

Mr. Felix Logah, the moderator in closing the session indicated that:

- The SFMP should work with the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection to enroll the 177 beneficiaries who are also on the LEAP database on the Productive Livelihood Project implemented by LEAP.
- The content of the PMT used by the LEAP as against the PPI used by the SFMP.
- The simulation on funding of future cash transfer program should also include operational and administrative costs as well as factoring in inflation to make a case to MoF. He asked the committee to develop and disseminate a position paper on this intervention.
- He was surprised that the representative of the GNCFC did not know who had benefitted from the scheme and how they were selected.
- He admonished that any replication of the scheme should be determined by the value of grant and target number households.



## Way Forward

Members of the committee shared their thoughts on the way forward following the implementation of this pilot cash transfer program.

The representative of the National Development Planning Commission suggested that the:

- Governance structures of the fisheries associations should be strengthened.
- Cash transfer can be made through local financial institutions, so that a relationship will be established between the beneficiaries and the financial institutions.
- Program implementers should advocate for co-financing of safety net schemes between Government of Ghana and its donor partners.

The representative of the Ghana Statistical Services suggested that:

- The methodology for targeting beneficiaries should be improved to improve on the data quality.  
Cash transfer could have been apportioned – 2 months for consumption next 2 months for financing livelihoods.

The representative of the Ministry of Finance also suggested that:

- The MoFAD/FC should make a strong case on the current state of the fisheries and the needed remediation actions to the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Finance.
- The community focal persons of the GNCFC should be involved in the community targeting. This means their local structures will have to be strengthened.
- Beneficiaries should also form welfare committee to help each other graduate from their poverty levels.

The representative of the Fisheries Commission was also of the view that the looming collapse of the marine fisheries means a strong case should be made for cash transfer support to fisherfolk to enable management measure such as closed seasons to be successfully enforced.

## SESSION 3

### Closing remarks

Dr. Brian Crawford, had to step away into another meeting and so Mrs. Karen Kent gave the closing remarks on behalf of the University of Rhode Island. She thanked all the members of the committee for their continuous support especially the MoGCSP.

The Chairperson of the committee asked how many payments had been made to beneficiaries so far and if there had been any assessment of its impacts/effect on the beneficiary households'. Dr. Babanawo answered that 3 payments had so far been made and the SFMP is currently monitoring its receipt, use and impact.

He then stressed that a convincing document providing evidence of proof of poverty among fisherfolk and the state of the fisheries should be made to Ministry of Finance. He also urged the SFMP to share any impact of the pilot cash transfer program on the target beneficiary households and how it will influence future programs.

He asked the leaders of the NAFPTA and GNCFC present to strengthen their governance structures/ arrangements so that their members in the remotest community will be informed of such interventions.

He also advocated for strengthened collaboration with and between state institutions such as the:

- Ministry of Finance – Financing ministry.
- MoFAD – sector ministry to initiate engagements.
- Information Services Departments – information dissemination to communities.
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Department. – Through the local authorities (MMDAs).

Chairperson thanked all for their participation in the day's proceedings and for being part of the technical committee.

Madam Regina Solomon, moved for the close of the meeting and was seconded by Dr. Bernice Ofosu Baadu.

The meeting came to a close at 1.30pm

## ANNEX 1 ATTENDANCE

Table 1 Attendees at the Sessions

	Name	Organisation	Designation	Role
1.	Mr Mawutor Ablor	MoGCSP	Rep of Chief Director	Member
2.	Felix Logah	MoGCSP	Head, Programs Coordinating Unit	Focal Person
3.	Bernice Serwah Ofoosu-Baadu	Ghana Statistical Service	Head, Agriculture and Environment Statistics, Ghana Statistical Service	Member
4.	Madam Regina Solomon	NAFPTA	President	Member
5.	Nene Tetteh Siaw	GNCFC	Council Member, GNCFC	Member
6.	Richard Tweneboah Kodua	NDPC	Deputy Director, Development Policy Division	Member
7.	Samuel Manu	FC	Director of Post-Harvest	Member
8.	Levina Owusu	MoFAD	Chief Director	Member
9.	Ebenezer Nortey	MoF	Head EU/Europe/America	Member
10.	Dr. Raymond Babanawo Doris Owusu Linda Tetteh	SFMP Team		Coordinating Office
11.	Dr. Brain Crawford Karen Kent	URI team	Project Management	