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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) Spot Checks of Handwashing Stations Conducted in SFMP Selected Landing Sites under the COVID Intervention



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Cover photo: Handwashing station and Site Advocate for Agortsiate landing site

Photo credit: SFMP (M&E)

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ACRONYMS

COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
DAA	Development Action Association
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GoG	Government of Ghana
HM	Hen Mpoano
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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SPOT CHECKS OF HANDWASHING STATIONS CONDUCTED IN SFMP SELECTED LANDING SITES UNDER THE COVID INTERVENTION

Spot checks of handwashing stations were conducted in SFMP selected landing sites under the COVID intervention in the period 16th, 17th, 21st, 22nd of December 2020.

Monitoring Team

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Background

The SFMP Monitoring and Evaluation team carried out a field visit to project target areas to:

1. Conduct spot checks to randomly selected landing sites.
2. Ensure management of handwashing stations and consumables.
3. Identify and discuss modalities on how to better manage handwashing stations and periodic repairs when required.
4. Directly establish linkage with landing site advocates to share experiences on the project.
5. Identify challenges in manning handwashing stations.
6. Make recommendations based on the findings identified.

Methodology

A total of 18 landing sites in the Greater Accra and Volta regions were randomly selected for the survey. The method of data collection was via direct observation. Data was collected using the Kobo Toolbox application installed on tablets.

Nine landing sites were visited in the Anloga district of the Volta region. In the Greater Accra region, the team visited the Awudin, Ashamang, Tsienaa, Kokrobite, Bortianor, Lanteman, Abese, Chorkor Chemunaa and Chorkor Lanteman landing sites were visited in the Ga South, Accra Metro, La Dade Kotopon, Ledzokuku Krowor and Tema A total of 18 sites were visited. This report segregates findings into each landing site and the partner that mainly leads activities under them.

Timeframe

The exercise took a period of 4 working days on the 16th, 17th, 21st and 22nd of December, 2020.

Expected Outcomes

1. Site Advocates equipped with the needed tools for effective data collection and monitoring.
2. Site advocates knowledge of their duties and roles.
3. Increased collaboration and synergy among sites advocates across various landing beaches.

FINDINGS IN THE VOLTA REGION

The fish landing site visits took place during the 16th-17th December.

Akplowotorkor

The M&E team visited this fish landing site at 9:30am and observed that the handwashing station had adequate supply of consumables (soap, tissue) and a bin. However, the site advocate was not present as at the time of visit. The team also observed that the handwashing station was broken at the side. There was minimal activity at the landing site.



Figure 1 Handwashing station at Akplortorkor

Dakordzi

The team visited this fish landing site at 10:00am and observed that there was minimal activity there thus, only few people patronized the handwashing station. The handwashing station had adequate supply of consumables. The site advocate was not at the site as at the time of visit.



Figure 2 Handwashing station with consumables at Dakordzi

Agortsiate

The team visited this fish landing site at 11:00 am and observed that there was minimal activity going on there. In addition, the handwashing station and supplies were available here. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate was available.



Figure 3 Site advocate with Handwashing station at Agortsiate

Whuti

The team visited this fish landing site at 11:30 am and observed that there was minimal activity going on there. The handwashing station and supplies were available here. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.



Figure 4 Handwashing station and stand at Whuti repainted with Anti-rust paint

Akluborordzi

The team visited this fish landing site at 12:30 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going on there. The handwashing station had adequate supply of water and consumables at the time of visit. However, only a few members in the community were observed to be patronizing it. The site advocate was available and updated the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations

Dekufuta

The team visited this fish landing site at 1:00 pm and observed that there was minimal activity. The handwashing station had adequate supply of water and consumables, and supplies were available here. However, only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. Site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations



Figure 5 Dekufuta re-painted handwashing station

Lighthouse

The team visited this site at 1:15 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going at there. The handwashing station and adequate supply of water, soap and tissue. However only a few members in the community were patronizing the handwashing station at the time of visit. The team engaged the site advocate on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.

Dzita

The team visited this site at 3:30 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going there. The handwashing station and adequate supply of water, soap and tissue. However only a few members in the community were patronizing the handwashing station at the time of visit. The team engaged the site advocate on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.

FINDINGS IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

The fish landing site visits took place during the 21st -22nd of December, 2020.

Bortianor

The team visited this fish landing site at 9:30 am and observed there was minimal activity going there. The handwashing station had an adequate supply of water, soap and tissues. However only a few members in the community were patronizing the handwashing station at the time of visit. The team engaged the site advocate on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.



Figure 6 Handwashing station with supplies at Bortianor

Kokrobite

The team visited this fish landing site at 10:30 am and observed that there was minimal activity going there. The handwashing station had adequate supplies. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate updated the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.



Figure 7 Handwashing station with consumables at Kokrobite

Langma

The team visited the fish landing site at Langma at 11:30 am and observed a very busy site with lots of activity. Discussions with the site advocate revealed that although the site is usually busy, fisherfolk seldom use the handwashing station and when they do, those who use it are mostly women. It was observed at the time of visit that some fisherfolk had already used the station that morning.



Figure 8 Handwashing station with soap at Langma landing site

Gbegbeyisee

The team visited this site at 12:30 pm and observed there were few people at the landing site, mainly fisherfolk mending their nets. The handwashing station had adequate supply of consumables but was being patronized by just a few people. The site advocate updated the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations. It was observed that the cover of the station was rusting, making it difficult to open and close.



Figure 9 Top part of rusting Handwashing station at Gbegbeyisee

Chorkor Chemunaa

The team visited this site at 1:15 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going at the landing site. The handwashing station and supplies were available here. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations.



Figure 10 Handwashing station stand at Chorkor Chemunaa

Chorkor Lanteman

The team visited this site at 1:45 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going at the landing site. The handwashing station and supplies were available here. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations/



Figure 11 Handwashing station and consumable at Chorkor Lanteman

Abese

The team visited this site at 2:20 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going there. There was an adequate supply of consumables however, only few people at the landing site patronized the handwashing station. The site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations

Tsienaa

The team visited this site at 2:45 pm and observed that there was minimal activity going at the landing site. Although the handwashing station was observed to be on site, the site advocate explained the station contained no water and soap because it was damaged but expected to be fixed.



Figure 12 Broken down Handwashing station at Tsienaa

Ashamang

The team visited this site at 9:00 am on the 22nd of December and observed an average level of activity by fisherfolk. The handwashing station and supplies were available here. However only a few members in the community patronized the handwashing station. Site advocate was available and spoke to the team on some of the issues concerning manning of the handwashing stations/



Figure 13 Handwashing station at Ashamang

Awudin

The team visited this site at 9:15 am on the 22nd of December and observed that there was average level of activity going at the landing site. The handwashing station was available here. However the site advocate explained that the handwashing station had not been in use for some days because the tap was damaged and required fixing. He explained that he had engaged the services of a plumber to fix it the following day.



Figure 14 Broken down Handwashing station at Awudin

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- A low number of men patronize the handwashing station as compared to women.
- Most landing sites had adequate supply of consumables (soap, water).
- There is a low level of adherence to social distancing protocols and wearing of nose masks in majority of landing sites.
- There is a low level of handwashing practice by community and fishermen before and after fishing.
- Issues regarding defects on handwashing stations were being resolved, as site advocates have liaised with their respective implementing partners to contract local plumbers to resolve issues with taps and foot pedals. Painters have also been contracted to repaint the stations using antirust paint. The site advocate for the Lighthouse landing site explained that the community experienced tidal waves for a period of 4-5 days just prior to the monitoring visit, which is why there was no fishing activity taking place.
- Fishermen compose songs that center on the Corona virus when mending and pulling their nets during catches at the landing sites. This creates awareness on the Corona virus and adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

CHALLENGES

- Low level of adherence to social distancing protocols and wearing of nose masks in majority of landing sites.
- Low level of handwashing practice by community and fishermen before and after fishing.
- Cultural belief by fishermen that sea water protects them from corona virus.
- Issues of theft of handwashing stations and consumables therefore, some site advocates take the station home each day and bring it back the following morning.
- Some site advocates (eg. Lighthouse landing site) lamented that some community members use consumables such as tissue when nature calls.
- Most landing beaches in the Volta region do not have a single entry to regulate how often fisherman utilize the handwashing station.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The team will start the journey for the next visit a day before in order to meet majority of fishers at dawn, when most fishing activities commence.
- Increased sensitization to fisher folk on the fact that sea water does not protect a person from contracting the Corona Virus.
- In order to curtail issues of theft, it was recommended by the team that open brick walls be built and attached to handwashing stations at landing sites.