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FAO workshop on social protection for the fisheries and aquaculture sector

Brasília, Brazil

28 November to 1 December 2023



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Preparation of this document

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector which was held in Brasília, Brazil, from 28 November to 1 December 2023.

The workshop was part of the activity of the South–South cooperation on unemployment insurance during the fishing closed season. This activity was developed under Component 4 of the Responsible Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources for Sustainable Development Project (GCP/GLO/352/NOR), funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Component 4 is titled Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture, or SocPro4Fish.

Abstract

The goal of the Responsible Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources for Sustainable Development Project, funded by Norad, is to contribute to the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources and sustainable development of those working in the sector.

Component 4 of this project, SocPro4Fish, is assisting and enhancing partner countries' institutional capacity to make available, implement and monitor social protection programmes (sector based and universal), including shock-responsive and gender-sensitive social protection for fishers and fishworkers.

Social protection is a set of interventions to reduce social and economic risk and vulnerability, and to alleviate extreme poverty and deprivation (FAO, 2017). Across regions, evidence shows clear positive impacts of social protection programmes in terms of food security, nutrition and human capital development (FAO, 2015). Social protection initiatives have been regarded as enhancing the economic and productive capacity of even the poorest and most marginalized communities, and therefore have been a crucial part of wider rural development and FAO's Blue Transformation agenda. Evidence shows that social protection helps agricultural smallholders to overcome the market and institutional failures hindering their development. In addition, when these interventions are shock-responsive, they contribute to disaster risk reduction and management as well as to climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives and other covariate shocks. Coherence between natural resource management and social protection programmes can also result in sustainable fisheries management and poverty reduction.

One of the outputs of this project is to promote South–South cooperation and dissemination of results to share lessons learned on scaling-up of social protection programmes to respond to covariate shocks in the fisheries sector. To this end, FAO and the Government of Brazil organized the South–South cooperation exchange Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, which took place on 28 November to 1 December 2023 in Brasília, Brazil. Participants included fishers' representatives and governmental officials from different line ministries in Colombia, Tunisia, Paraguay, Peru, Chile and Cabo Verde. The workshop also involved key representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Stella Maris.

The workshop participants shared lessons and discussed practical steps for the design and implementation of social protection for fishers in their respective countries. A panel of fisher representatives shared perspectives on barriers to access and the co-development of an action plan to strengthen the coverage and adequacy of social protection towards Blue Transformation and the implementation of chapter six of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

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This report was prepared by Daniella Salazar Herrera, Daniela Kalikoski, Virginie Matteredne, Heysel Calderon Gomez, Alcira Quintana and Manahel Akkari.

Abbreviations

AUNAP (acronym in Spanish)	National aquaculture and fisheries authority of Colombia
DANE (acronym in Spanish)	National administrative department of statistics of Colombia
DIMAR (acronym in Spanish)	General maritime directorate of Colombia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIPRO (acronym in Spanish)	Group of social protection for the fisheries and aquaculture sector
IBGE	Institute of Geography and Statistics of Brazil
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IFOP (acronym in Spanish)	Institute of Fishery Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSS (acronym in Portuguese)	National social security institute
INVEMAR (acronym in Spanish)	Institute for marine and coastal research
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
IUF	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association
MADES (acronym in Spanish)	Ministry of environment and sustainable development of Paraguay
MAG (acronym in Spanish)	Ministry of agriculture and livestock of Paraguay
MDS (acronym in Spanish)	Ministry of social development of Paraguay
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PROAP (acronym in Spanish)	Assistance programme for fishers in the national territory of Paraguay
RGP (acronym in Portuguese)	General registry of fishing activity
RPA	Artisanal Fishing Registry (Chile)
SEDEVEDA (acronym in Spanish)	Seasonal unemployment insurance for closed seasons
SENA (acronym in Spanish)	National learning service of Colombia
SNPS (acronym in Portuguese)	National social protection system
SocPro4Fish	Social Protection for Fisheries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Executive summary

This document provides an overview of the Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector which was held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 28 November to 1 December 2023. The workshop was part of the South–South Cooperation activity under the Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture Project (SocPro4Fish) funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). A total of 50 key stakeholders attended the workshop, including policymakers from fisheries and social protection institutions and fisher representatives from Brazil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Tunisia, and key representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Stella Maris.

The main goal of the project is to increase institutional capacity to make available, implement and monitor social protection programmes, including shock-responsive and gender-sensitive social protection for fishers, fishworkers and fish farmers.

The SocPro4Fish project generated evidence and reviewed the adequacy of social protection programmes for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including:

- Benchmarking of social protection programmes targeting the sector;
- Feasibility analyses to extend social protection in the sector;
- Socioeconomic profiles of small-scale fishers in all project countries to identify barriers and opportunities of access; and
- Developing a database of the social protection programmes accessible for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, with over 46 country profiles.

Additionally, in all project countries an inter-institutional working group has been established to discuss and put in place mechanisms to extend social protection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The evidence generated has informed policymaking and programme design that supports the enactment and implementation of the law, establishing an unemployment benefit for fishers during closed seasons, as well as a proposal to revise the current social security system based on the project's findings to overcome fishers' barriers of access to social protection. The project has also provided recommendations to governments to adjust features of the fisheries unemployment benefit to break barriers of access in support of poverty reduction and fisheries management.

Overall, the project contributes to eliminating barriers to access to social protection programmes by generating evidence of the impact of social protection programmes on the social and economic conditions of fishers. It develops and implements tools to bring coherence between social protection and fisheries management, building institutional capacity to overcome barriers of access, adequacy and expansion of social protection programmes, including community-based social protection. Finally, the project promotes peer-to-peer, South–South cooperation learning exchanges.

The workshop attracted participants from United Nations organizations, different line ministries (ministries of fisheries, social development, labour, economy and environment, among others) as well as fisher representatives from the national, regional and international level through a South–South cooperation exchange, the goal of which was to share lessons learned and exchange knowledge on how to break barriers that fishers experience in accessing social

protection programmes, and to learn how to implement effective strategies for scaling up successful social protection interventions. The workshop also allowed participants to expand their networks by promoting a peer-to-peer learning exchange from a wide array of experiences.

Workshop sessions included presentations, panel discussions, breakout groups and interactive exercises to encourage participation and engagement among participants. It began with opening remarks from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture which set the scene and outlined the objectives of the workshop.

Several presentations from countries and representatives of international organizations highlighted strengths and challenges and provided insights into the effectiveness of social protection programmes and areas for their improvement. Each presentation was followed by an interactive discussion, allowing for further clarification and knowledge exchange. The workshop also featured a fishers' panel which provided an opportunity for fishers from the participating countries and fishers' representatives from international organizations to share their vulnerabilities and social protection needs. The meeting concluded with working groups reporting back to the plenary and closing remarks summarizing the key takeaways and next steps.



DAY 1

Day 1: In focus – unemployment benefits during closed seasons

The first day of the workshop started with an official opening session and remarks by the FAO Representative, Mr Rafael Zavala, and representatives from the Government of Brazil. Mr Zavala welcomed participants to the event and presented the links between social protection and fisheries sustainability, acknowledging the key role of unemployment benefits in enhancing the latter. In addition, he emphasized the importance of evaluating existing social protection programmes targeting the fisheries sector. He encouraged the workshop participants to immerse themselves in it and take the learnings for their intrinsic value and as inputs for public policies in their countries. National Aquaculture Secretary, Ms Tereza Nelma, stressed the importance of social protection for the aquaculture sector, access to financial markets and food security.

Mr Cristiano Ramalho, National Secretary of Artisanal Fisheries in Brazil, explained that the country is undergoing a repositioning within the fisheries and aquaculture sector and is now focusing on sustainability, socio-environmental justice and support for traditional communities. As part of this new focus, the government considers Brazil's unemployment benefit during closed seasons, known in Portuguese as Seguro Defeso, to be a paradigm shift that recognizes the role of communities in development by providing employment, income and food sovereignty benefits. He also highlighted the opportunity that aquaculture represents and the need to discuss the sustainability of its practices.



Session 1: Brazil's experience with the Seguro Defeso

Ms Akeme Matsunaga, Fisheries Management Coordinator from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministry of Brazil, explored Brazil's experience with implementing an unemployment benefit for fishers during closed seasons. The session explored the programme's operational design, including the fishers' registry and information systems, eligibility criteria, financial resources and coverage.

Ms Matsunaga explained that the Seguro Defeso programme aims to cover professional commercial artisanal fishers during closed seasons when they experience unemployment. To be eligible for the Seguro Defeso programme the beneficiary needs to be working as a professional fisher, which means they need to be registered with the General Registry of Fishing Activity (RGP, in Portuguese) for at least one year prior to requesting the unemployment benefit. The RGP also grants fishers the right to legally engage in fisheries. The Seguro Defeso is only applicable to fishers on the capture side of the value chain, fishing for species protected by the closed season. Moreover, the fishing needs to be small-scale and fishers must be within a family economy or a self-employed labour regime, using their own means of production and in no partnership contract.

Further to this, fishers must have contributed to the social security regime as a *segurado especial* (special insurance regime) at least once in the year prior to the start of the closed season. Finally, to be eligible for the Seguro Defeso benefit, fishers should not be beneficiaries of another social security or social assistance benefit, except for the Bolsa Familia benefit, or accident, sickness or reclusion aid, or pension by death (FAO and IPC-IG/UNDP, 2023).

To determine the eligibility of fishers for the Seguro Defeso, the government uses the RGP which falls under the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. However, the National Social Security Institute (INSS in Portuguese) receives the applications for the Seguro Defeso and, using the information from the RGP, measures them against the requirements of the Seguro Defeso programme to determine eligibility. As such, the RGP is compatible with federal government data. The INSS conducts data verification, including whether the individual is a public servant or has received disability benefits. This is done online and the INSS performs various cycles of data cross-checks and verifications to minimize inclusion errors.

The Seguro Defeso is funded with resources from the Workers' Protection Fund, which is designated for the welfare of workers, especially during unemployment. The frequency of payments depends on the period of the closed season and payments are not necessarily made monthly, although they could be. Instead, they vary because they are based on the conditions of the closed season.

While the Seguro Defeso covers all artisanal fishers who meet the requirements in areas that are affected by closed fishing seasons, there are barriers of access that prevent its comprehensive coverage. The latter include educational, geographical and technical challenges. To overcome these barriers the government has conducted campaigns to facilitate registration in areas with low education and connectivity. Similarly, technical difficulties are addressed by collaborating with local entities and using physical registration points.

The first session of the workshop discussed the role of the Seguro Defeso in addressing the negative trade-offs of closed seasons on fishers' livelihoods, addressing their economic vulnerabilities and the difficulties they have complying with closed fishing seasons. The session discussed the role of the Seguro Defeso in promoting compliance with closed seasons and enhancing fisheries sustainability. However, to do so, the panelist recognized that several steps need to be taken to evaluate the environmental impacts of the closed fishing seasons on fish stocks, including conducting an environmental evaluation to determine the correct periods for closed seasons and an accurate fisheries statistics system.

From a socioeconomic perspective, Mr Fabio Veras, Director of international studies at the Institute for Applied Economic Research, presented the socioeconomic impact evaluation of the Seguro Defeso on its beneficiaries (FAO and IPC-IG/UNDP, 2023). This study initially attempted to explore whether the amount of the Seguro Defeso benefit, which equates to a minimum wage, was adequate to maintain living standards for fishing families and reduce poverty. However, he indicated that the Single Registry of Brazil does not continuously have information on fishers and their households to allow for this study. As a result, the study used three dimensions as proxies to determine the socioeconomic impact of the Seguro Defeso on its beneficiaries: child education and labour, employment situations of the working-age population and housing characteristics.

The study demonstrated that the income received by fishers through the Seguro Defeso had a positive impact on the livelihoods of fishery-dependent households. It showed that the longer the exposure to the Seguro Defeso benefit “the higher the percentage of children enrolled in school and the lower the percentage of young adults that are simultaneously out of school and out of work” (FAO and IPC-IG/UNDP, 2023). In terms of housing characteristics, the study also showed that the Seguro Defeso enables beneficiaries to improve their quality of housing. Regarding employment situations, the study showed a decrease in labour force participation in the medium to long term (FAO and IPC-IG/UNDP, 2023).

Overall, the presentations on Brazil’s unemployment benefit during closed seasons showed that there is a strong need for accurate data to monitor the impact of the Seguro Defeso on the socioeconomic and environmental conditions of the sector, to inform effective policymaking and to reach the most vulnerable fishers. The new Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Brazil has a fishery statistics department, a positive step towards consolidating statistics in the sector and providing a clearer picture for future planning.



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Session 2: Paraguay’s Assistance Programme for Fishers in the National Territory

The second session of day one of the workshop focused on the unemployment benefit for fishers in Paraguay, also known as the Assistance Programme for Fishers in the National Territory (PROAP, in Spanish). This programme was presented by the Director General of Social Programmes and Projects, Ms Cinthia Paola Arrúa Gómez, and the Director of PROAP, Ms Mirtha Pereira, both from the Ministry of Social Development (MDS, in Spanish) of Paraguay.

PROAP is housed under the MDS. To access it, fishers require a commercial fishing license issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES, in Spanish). The MADES sends the list of registered fishers to the MDS, which uses this as the basis to create a beneficiary list. In parallel, the MADES determines the location and duration of closed seasons.

As reported by the MADES list, the number of fishers increased from 2009 to 2012. To address this increase and ensure that those registered are indeed fishers, a clean-up of the list began in 2014 when new selection criteria were established. The current selection criteria require that the benefit is given to the head of the family unit, that women are prioritized and that the family must be living in poverty to receive the PROAP.

The PROAP also engages with associations and their presidents as a way to register with the MADES fisher registry and verify information. While individual registration is allowed at the programmatic level, fishers are still linked to an association. The associations' role is crucial because the programme has limited personnel handling its implementation at government institutions. In this sense, associations are a key means to enhance fisher registration and verification.

For verification, the strategy of PROAP is to conduct fieldwork, with technicians making household visits and performing censuses. A detailed mechanism is applied to evaluate the legitimacy of being a fisher. This process runs from February to August, respecting cultural considerations, conducting household visits and ensuring informed consent. The MDS receives the list from the MADES in September and cross-checks and reviews it. A period for grievances opens in October, while in November the MDS focuses on data collection and its evaluation. The PROAP payment is disbursed in December.

In 2020, Paraguay launched the Social Registry of Households, an instrument that measures multidimensional poverty. However, PROAP does not use it because of perceived inaccuracies in qualifying the fisheries sector.

Regarding gender considerations, the government reports that including women in PROAP has been challenging and that more effort is needed to address gender dynamics within the fishing sector. For instance, women are prioritized as the beneficiaries of PROAP, meaning that if there are two registered fishers in a household, the woman would be the only one to receive the subsidy. However, rather than this leading to more women registering and receiving the subsidy, it has led to women not registering to allow their male counterparts to register and receive the subsidy, therefore undermining the objective behind prioritizing women as recipients of PROAP. In addition, PROAP currently only considers those in the harvest part of the value chain as fishers. As such, the broader contributions of women who are in the pre- and post-harvest sector are not considered for the subsidy.

In terms of the subsidy amount, the PROAP disbursement varies according to the duration of the closed season (45 or 90 days) and the household size. The latter information comes from the census. The Government of Paraguay designates funds exclusively for this programme from the National Treasury. The fund, amounting to GS 6 012 470 000 or approximately USD 818 000, is dedicated to PROAP payments.

Challenges with implementing the PROAP include the lack of an integrated system, the reliance on manual processes and difficulties in dealing with the association's processes. PROAP aims to improve the roles within the operational cycles and address gender dynamics more effectively, recognizing the need to integrate women into the programme and overcome the resistance of some male counterparts. Regarding Indigenous Communities, the programme interacts with them and respects cultural nuances. Finally, data integration remains a challenge and there is a need for a more streamlined and efficient system.



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Session 3: A view of social protection in Tunisia

Tunisia views the social security system as fundamental, aligning with the ILO Convention 102 on minimum standards for health, unemployment, aging, work, family benefits, disability leave and maternity, among others. Presenting this session, Ms Sondes Elmoncer Semlali and Mr Ben Arfa emphasized that the social security system is a key tool against poverty, insecurity and professional inequalities.

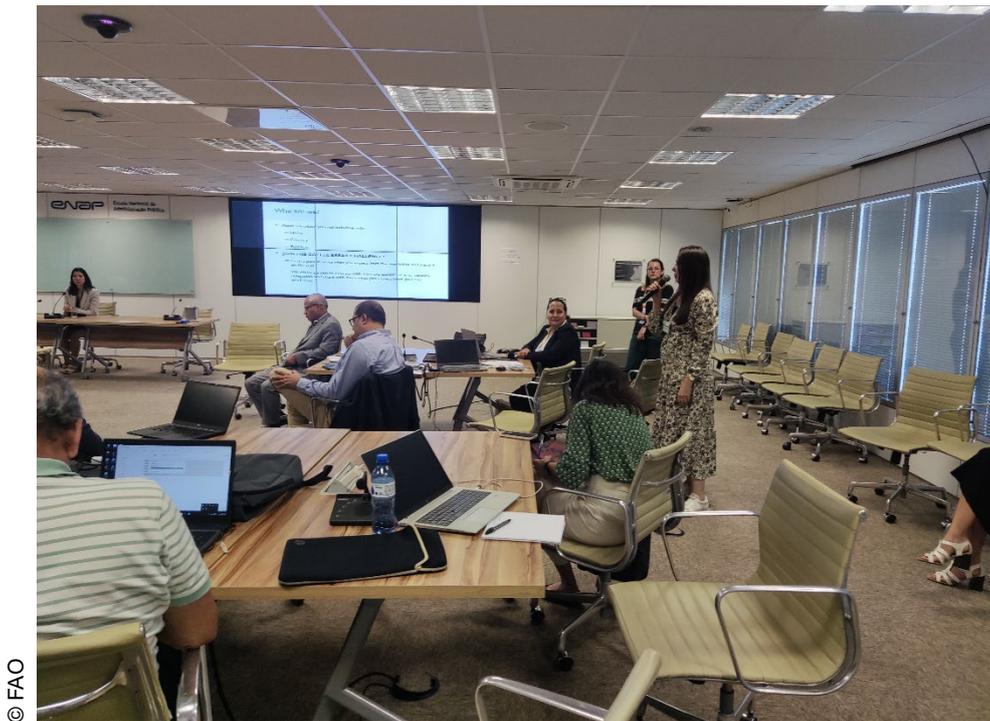
Tunisia's constitutional guarantees were discussed, including the recognition of health as a right and ensuring care for those lacking sufficient protection. Similarly, the social protection programmes have undergone revision since 2019 to include the most vulnerable individuals and address social issues among low-income populations.

Tunisia's social protection system offers comprehensive care and covers medical insurance, family benefits and workplace accidents. The system encompasses both contributory and non-contributory parts, with 65 percent of the population accessing the contributory social security system and 25 percent accessing the non-contributory system. The panelist also mentioned that there has been a rise in the missing 10 percent that does not belong to either the contributory or non-contributory systems. The session explored contributory rates and challenges, including adapting social security to different work forms and integrating informal workers.

The national strategy in Tunisia focuses on increasing social access and care for fishers who have special labour regimes to support their access to social security systems, emphasizing the need to reduce informality. The challenges of achieving formalization in a population dominated by independent, self-employed workers were also discussed. Some of the challenges include an inadequate capacity to contribute, the obligation to pay contributions every three months, adapting social security to diverse forms of work and enhancing access for the informal sector while encouraging formalization.

Tunisia is also working towards universal social security but recognizes the cost implications. A well-implemented registration system is seen as an incentive for contributors. Professional organizations through fishing and agriculture development groups and mutual societies can play a key role in collecting

contributions. It is also acknowledged that the informal nature of artisanal fishing poses challenges for accurate reporting. Efforts in Tunisia aim to enhance the resilience of fishers in the face of shocks and problems in the fishing sector.



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Session 4: The unemployment benefit during closed seasons in Columbia

Ms Lady Roa from Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR, in Spanish) and Mr Diego Reyes from the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP) explained that Law 2268/2022 states that a targeted mechanism of social protection should be implemented for the artisanal commercial and subsistence fishing sector, which is called Seasonal Unemployment Insurance for Closed Seasons (SEDEVEDA, in Spanish). By promoting compliance with closed fishing seasons this law seeks to protect the integrity of fishers and their living wage and social sustainability, while establishing a management measure for the conservation of fisheries.

According to the law, the following institutions are mandated to regulate it within the defined timeframe and according to their competencies: AUNAP, the General Maritime Directorate (DIMAR), the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the National Administrative Department of Statistics, the National Learning Service (SENA, in Spanish), the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity. In particular, the law has called on the Ministry of Labour with technical support from the AUNAP to generate the SEDEVEDA to be granted to registered fishers, which should be at least half a legal minimum wage for each month of closure. In turn, it calls upon the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to design a payment mechanism for environmental services and serve as an alternative mechanism for social or complementary protection during the closed season.

The law recognizes SEDEVEDA as a mechanism to guarantee targeted social benefits for fishers, aimed at mitigating the socioeconomic vulnerability they may face during closed seasons. Additionally, this law also mandates the conducting of a national census of artisanal fishing to understand the actual economic and social conditions of the sector.

The law requires that to access SEDEVEDA, beneficiaries must have artisanal fishing as their main source of income, they must demonstrate that at least 70 percent of their catch corresponds to species affected

by closed seasons, and they must be registered as a fisher with AUNAP. It has been observed that artisanal fishers must formalize themselves through a fisher's card and additionally be registered in the Colombian Fishery Statistical Service's system. However, at the same time the law also states that SEDEVEDA should target subsistence fishers who by nature are not meant to be registered. This presents a dilemma to overcome in the design and implementation of the mechanism.

In addition to the compensation for the SEDEVEDA and ecosystem services, the legislation anticipates certain conditions. These conditions require that fishers engage in activities during the closure months such as cleaning fishing areas, participating in reforestation efforts and attending training sessions on fishing regulations or alternative productive activities that have been identified.

Ms Roa highlighted that in parallel, through the SocPro4Fish project, an inter-institutional working group of Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (GIPRO, in Spanish) has been established. The GIPRO works with institutions across different ministries, civil society and academia at central government as well as at territorial level to coordinate on issues around social protection for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It seeks to support coherence between social protection and fisheries management policies, to influence decision-making, support and promote dialogue and support the design of public policies. The GIPRO's widespread presence has been key in its institutionalization. Given its role and institutionalization, the GIPRO has been nominated as the mechanism to regulate Law 2268/2022 which legislates fishers' unemployment benefit during closed fishing seasons.

The GIPRO has three lines of work:

1. Formalization of the activity through registrations, licenses and permits where AUNAP and DIMAR play important roles in the sector.
2. Comprehensive risk management where fishers, fishworkers and fish farmers can strengthen their capacity to manage the risks they are exposed to and respond to crises, thus advocating for establishing compatible information systems to avoid duplicating procedures for fishers.
3. Livelihood rehabilitation where the adoption of socio-enterprise strengthening strategies is promoted to contribute to the creation of alternative livelihoods, access to social security and interventions in the labour market that dignify the individuals in the fisheries sector.

In addition, through GIPRO's partnership with SENA, the latter is mandated to train and certify fishers in productive, environmental and associative practices and to encourage the adoption of technology and the development of commercial activities associated with artisanal commercial fishing.

Some of the challenges in implementing the law were also discussed during the session. These include distinguishing between different types of fishing, such as commercial and subsistence fishing, and the processes which fishers would have to undertake for identification, enrolment and onboarding into the SEDEVEDA programme. Mr Reyes explained that AUNAP will seek to engage associations as a way of supporting fishers to access the programme and reduce safety concerns, irregularities and non-compliance by individuals.

The first day of the meeting concluded with discussions on the role of associations, challenges in formalization and strategies for improving the inclusion of vulnerable fishers in social protection programmes. The dialogue provided valuable insights into the diverse approaches and challenges faced by Brazil, Paraguay and Tunisia, offering a rich foundation for future collaboration and policy enhancements in the field of social protection for fishers, particularly for Colombia, which is in the process of designing an unemployment benefit programme for closed fishing seasons.



DAY 2

Day 2: Countries' experiences in implementing social protection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

The second day of the workshop included participants from Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Tunisia, as well as Cabo Verde, Peru and Chile, and the ILO, ICSF, IUF, ITF and Stella Maris. Each participant presented a different portfolio of social protection programmes accessible to the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Session 1: Brazil's unemployment benefit for fisheries during closed seasons

Ms Elielma Ribeiro Borcem, Director of Registry and Monitoring of Fisheries and Aquaculture from the Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture presented the Brazilian Seguro Defeso, an unemployment benefit provided during closed fishing seasons. The presentation described the programme's different phases from design to delivery. Ms Ribeiro Borcem explained that the first step to establish the Seguro Defeso is the creation of a fishing closed season in each place for up to five months, preceded by scientific studies and continuous monitoring of fishing activities. Once the closed fishing seasons are established the programme focuses on enabling the target audience to become insured artisanal fishers under the special insurance as rural workers. The third stage involves allocating the benefit by creating a beneficiary list and cross-checking it with the fisheries' registry data in accordance with the requirement of the Seguro Defeso, followed by disbursing the benefit.

Implementing the Seguro Defeso faces challenges because of the informal nature of artisanal fishers – being registered as a fisher is mandatory to access the benefit. Gender presents another challenge because only one fisher per household can receive the benefit, often excluding women despite their involvement in various stages of the value chain and their also being affected by closed seasons.

The Seguro Defeso has been designed in coherence with the closed fishing seasons to respond to a gap in fishers' livelihoods, and as a co-benefit to enable compliance with the management regulation. However, there are currently no mechanisms in place to monitor fishing activity and evaluate the effectiveness of closed seasons. The absence of a monitoring programme capable of collecting, compiling and analysing information on landed production, fishing effort, catch per unit effort, specimen length distribution and other biological fishery aspects, makes it difficult to monitor compliance with closed seasons and assess the impact of the Seguro Defeso on the sustainability of resources.



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Session 2: The International Labour Organization's project on strengthening decent work in the fisheries sector in Ecuador and Peru

This session delved into the ILO's project on strengthening decent work in the fisheries sector in Ecuador and Peru, presented by Mr Fabian Vallejo, National Officer at the ILO in Ecuador, and Mr Carlos Castañeda, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the ILO in Peru. Both ILO officers highlighted the potential to scale up the project's strategy to other countries in Latin America. This project targets the artisanal, industrial and foreign maritime fisheries, as well as processing plants.

As described by Mr Castañeda, the project has three main outputs:

1. To strengthen the system of inspections, coordination mechanisms and regional fisheries management to address labour rights violations.
2. To improve the ability of workers, their organizations and civil society to address labour rights violations.
3. To strengthen tools for workers' and employers' organizations and authorities to address labour rights violations.

The session delved into labour conditions for artisanal and industrial fishers in the fisheries sector in Ecuador and Peru. The labour conditions of artisanal fishers are characterized by high levels of labour and fisheries informality, problems with the registry and monitoring of licenses, high turnover of fishers, and employment arrangements characterized predominantly by verbal contracts instead of formal written contracts. In addition, this subsector is characterized by the fact that fishers perceive themselves as independent workers when many of them might be in employment relationships.

In the industrial fisheries, working conditions are typically more compliant with legislation and this is related to the fact that written contracts predominate in most of the industrial sector. In line with this, the industrial sector faces challenges in complying with labour obligations and accommodation standards for certain vessels, and in terms of inter-institutional coordination to improve the inspection of labour conditions.

The sector faces several barriers to achieving decent working conditions and social security. These include the volatile dynamics of the sector, such as uncertain income and high employment turnover between

vessels, as well as disincentives, including having to pay for asset insurance. Likewise, another barrier the sector faces includes fishers' perception that the services received in exchange for formalizing or accessing social security are of low quality and do not respond to the sector's needs. The widespread informality of fishing activity and labour in the sector represents another challenge, with a high percentage of fishers perceiving themselves as independent workers when they might be in employment relationships, as well as a high percentage of fishers whose fishing licenses have expired.

The presentation ended with the suggestion of four pathways to overcome the abovementioned challenges:

- Interoperability of different registry systems;
- Strategies to foster a culture of affiliation to social security systems;
- A system of incentives to affiliate to social security regimes, including specific and flexible parameters that adequately respond to the reality of the fishing sector; and
- Better inspection systems of labour conditions in the sector.

In terms of interoperability, the presenters suggested integrating information systems, including having electronic departure for boats, certificates of capture with decent work, labour traceability, and an alert system for accidents at sea. Fostering a culture of affiliation to social security systems suggests having awareness campaigns about the benefits and importance of being covered by a social security system.

Regarding incentives, the presentation ended by recommending the importance of providing coverage during closed fishing seasons, enhancing access to training courses and access to credits and improving the portability of contributions, such as being able to change contributions between systems. Finally, the ILO suggested implementing flexible mechanisms for collecting contributions and improving communication between inter-ministerial institutions to enhance inspections of labour conditions and adherence to social security legislation onboard fishing vessels.



Session 3: The FAO–International Collective in Support of Fishworkers project on Small Island Developing States

Mr Sebastian Matthew, Executive Director at ICSF presented the results of a study jointly developed between ICSF and FAO in 2021–2022 on the status of social protection programmes for the fisheries sector in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project developed social protection country profiles through the SocPro4Fish database for six countries from the African region, 16 from the Caribbean and 16 from the Pacific, and explored how to articulate social protection programmes with early warning systems in these regions.

Mr Matthew explained the methodology of the SocPro4Fish database which includes social assistance, social insurance and labour market protection schemes from governments, multilateral bodies, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, World Bank and ILO projects, as well as social protection schemes designed to respond to climate change, shocks and Covid-19.

The session presented the database's key findings for these regions. These included the fact that most African and Pacific SIDS have universal social assistance schemes, such as the Mauritius Universal Pension, and the fact that in the Caribbean countries, nearly 50 percent of the population is covered by at least one social protection scheme. Also in the Caribbean, all countries except for Cuba and the Dominican Republic, which have social assistance schemes, have universal social insurance schemes, although no specific scheme for the fisheries sector.

Furthermore, the database showed that small-scale fishers are usually not covered by social protection schemes and that unemployment insurance for fishers is widely lacking. In addition, the FAO-ICSF project showed that countries such as the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea-Bissau rely heavily on international assistance and donors to fund social protection programmes, rendering them less comprehensive and affected by project cycles and continuity. In addition, countries that rely on international donors for finance lagged in introducing emergency measures to protect people's livelihoods, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study also showed that informal social protection systems are prevalent in SIDS across regions. For example, in Pacific and Indian Ocean nations, such as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Comoros, community-based social protection is prevalent, and in the Comoros specifically, faith-based organizations facilitate access to social protection. Similarly, in Melanesia (from New Guinea in the west to the Fiji Islands in the east) Wantok systems, which are informal socioeconomic and political networks, are more common. In addition, in the Caribbean and the Pacific personal remittances play a key role in providing social protection.

Mr Matthew highlighted that, according to the study, social protection programmes in countries of the Caribbean have a delivery chain that enables the design, targeting, enrolling and delivery of programmes to beneficiaries, which is currently lacking in most African and Pacific SIDS. In line with this, limited implementation of delivery chains, which also entails limited registries for social protection programmes and information systems, hinders the interoperability across different types of registries. Even in the Caribbean countries, with the exception of the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti, interoperable registries are limited and this encourages potential inclusion and exclusion errors because it is difficult to verify eligibility criteria. The Caribbean countries also demonstrate coherence between social protection and fisheries policies, emphasizing conditionalities such as registering with social insurance before obtaining fishing licenses for boats.

This session highlighted the following recommendations:

- Integrate social protection into fisheries and disaster management as a mainstream practice.
- Better target fishers as beneficiaries of social protection programmes by cross checking social registries and fisher registries.

- Formally establish nationally defined social protection floors through both non-contributory and contributory mechanisms in alignment with ILO recommendations.
- Develop integrated beneficiary registries that are linked to fisher and disaster registries to enhance compatibility and minimize inclusion and exclusion errors.
- Recognize the urgency in linking social protection programmes with early warning systems and deploying anticipatory actions such as forecast-based financing, in a timely manner.



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Session 4: Paraguay's social protection portfolio

Ms Rosalyn Irala, the coordinator of the Fisheries Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES, in Spanish) from Paraguay highlighted the coherence between the MADES, the Ministry of Social Development (MDS, in Spanish) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG, in Spanish) to implement PROAP. She explained the importance of having an integrated information system as part of this and a statistics department that can cross-reference information from the MDS with the MADES' registry to support the identification of PROAP beneficiaries. (For more details, see Paraguay's session on Day 1 in this report.)

This session, led by Ms Cinthia Paola Arrúa Gómez, Director General of Social Programmes and Projects, Ms Mirtha Pereira, Director of PROAP, and Mr Hemes Montiel, representative from the Vice-ministry of Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, facilitated a discussion concerning the categorization of beneficiaries living below the poverty line, as well as the integrated information system and the restrictions imposed on beneficiaries on receiving multiple subsidies. For instance, beneficiaries of PROAP may be restricted from accessing other social protection programmes.

Session 5: Colombia's social protection portfolio

Ms Lady Roa from INVEMAR and Mr Diego Reyes from AUNAP in Colombia, gave a detailed presentation on the country's social protection portfolio. They explained that the country's rural sector faces an employment informality rate of 80 percent and that of the total working population, 12 million people contribute to the pension system, while 14 million are affiliated to the labour risk system. In addition, this session highlighted Colombia's concern over its aging population which lacks adequate savings for its retirement years. To address this issue, the Inter-Institutional Group (GIPRO) has included among its members the Colombian Pension Administrator - COLPENSIONES. Through the Periodic Economic

Benefits Programme - BEPS, which is consolidated as a flexible old-age protection system, it aims to provide benefits below the minimum wage to people with limited resources, such as fishermen, fishing workers and aquaculture workers who earn less than the minimum wage.

In addition, Ms Diana Carolina Galindo Poblador, Director of Labour Risks at the Labour Ministry of Colombia, presented the Ministry's perspective on the pension issue, and explained that Colombia is carrying out a labour and pension reform to establish new measures for labour formalization and employment stability. She also explained how the flexibility of labour regimes seeks to re-establish workers' guarantees while maintaining contributions to the social security regime. Colombia is also trying to eliminate competition between the contributory and non-contributory regimes in pensions and to guarantee protection in old age for its population, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable.

This session also mentioned that the Directorate of Labour Risks in the Ministry of Labour recognized the challenges inherent in improving pension mechanisms for the economy, particularly for sectors like fishing, where health and pension security face high barriers of access, especially for women. In addition, it recognized that the limited profitability of fishing, because of high costs and barriers along the value chain to access markets, led to the activity being primarily a family activity. This contributes to employment in fishing not being reported and therefore, to the sector's overall informality.

Mr Reyes from AUNAP, also noted that Colombia has social protection programmes that seek to enhance access to the labour market, such as the Pez Total programme, which aims to facilitate access to markets within the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. These labour market promotion programmes focus on collectives, providing inputs, goods and materials to support fishing activities. This includes reaching remote regions for infrastructure development, provision of equipment and social strengthening. In addition, these programmes aim to transform artisanal and subsistence fishing into viable enterprises through three fundamental pillars:

- Support for the development and implementation of business plans;
- Participation in national and international markets; and
- Training to develop marketing strategies.

Session 5: Tunisia's social protection portfolio

Mr Mongi Hmidi, Director of Research at the Centre for Social Research and Studies of Tunisia recapped the country's portfolio of social protection measures (for more detail, please see the notes under Day 1). This session highlighted that Tunisia has contributory and non-contributory social protection systems, each with different definitions and target audiences. In addition, Tunisia also has private insurance options that citizens can opt into.

In terms of challenges to access social security programmes, Mr Hmidi explained that fisheries' seasonality represents a key barrier for fishers to meet their contributions to social security programmes, and to sustain them throughout time, because seasonality limits fishers' access to fish and other resources, and therefore their ability to accumulate resources and contribute. As a result of limited means, most fishers prioritize saving to support their livelihoods during low fishing seasons so that they can afford their living expenses, rather than to contribute to social security schemes. In line with this, fishers are also more likely to breach management regulations that further restrict their access to fisheries resources, such as closed seasons. Based on this, Mr Hmidi stressed the importance of designing a social protection system for the artisanal sector that supports compliance with fisheries management regulations, and that is also a pre-emptive measure to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

To address the challenges associated with social security coverage, Mr Hmidi recognized the importance of formalizing the informal sector as a pathway to access contributory social security programmes. Similarly, he highlighted the importance of using social organizations as mechanisms to mediate fishers' access to social protection programmes.

In Tunisia, there are two types of social organizations: mutual societies and fisheries and agricultural development groups that have legal and budgetary differences, but which can both be key mechanisms to support fishers in contributing to and accessing social protection. For instance, Article 9 of Decree 77-546 of 15 June 1977, sets forth that fishers' mutual societies can be set up. This article gives the right to mutual societies to collect social security contributions if approved by the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Social Affairs. In this case, the mutual societies receive the management fees and responsibilities from the social security agency (Caisse Nationale de Sécurité) to collect the contributions. Mr Hmidi also stressed the need to establish a clear database by capitalizing on the knowledge of social organizations.

Mr Hmidi explained that the Centre for Social Research and Studies has identified the following next steps:

- Creating a system to identify workers in the sector and encouraging fishers' registration through awareness campaigns and information dissemination;
- Designing programmes that are adapted to the specific needs of fishers, harmonizing contributory and non-contributory social protection programmes; and
- Continuing the battle against unreported and unregulated fishing, capitalizing on social protection as an instrument to do so.

Session 6: Discussion on the prevalent issue of informality within the sector

After the country presentations, the day concluded with a session dedicated to facilitated discussions led by country participants, representatives of fishers and international organizations, allowing for questions and exchanges. The questions shaping this session revolved around the prevalent issue of informality within the sector and the challenge this presents for fishers to access social protection. Informality in the sector is also referred to and discussed in Chapter 6 of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, which highlights the need to recognize, support and integrate informal fishers into fisheries governance.

The session raised the question of whether the formalization of the sector is feasible. Participants called for a distinction to be made between informal workers (those whose employment is not formalized) and illegal activities (those not complying with fisheries management measures). They also addressed the role of fishing subsidies, emphasizing the importance of framing them within social assistance development rather than solely as aid. However, participants argued against categorizing income support for workers as subsidies.

The session also underscored the challenges posed by changes in government that affect subsidy programmes and called for an exploration of new approaches to subsidy regulation, with a focus on addressing issues of overcapacity and overfishing. During the session there was a push for a deeper understanding of informality within different contexts, emphasizing how the term "informal" can carry different cultural meanings in various countries or regions. Similarly, the session stressed the significance of acknowledging and valuing local knowledge and traditional practices within artisanal small-scale fishing communities. There was also an emphasis on ensuring that these communities are adequately represented and considered in decision-making processes related to fisheries management and policy.

The discussion between participants stressed the importance of recognizing that informal workers are diverse. Diversity factors might include the number of working days and the employer–employee relationship. In addition, workshop participants recommended that labelling fishers as “illegal” or “informal” might shape their identity.

In terms of next steps, the following were recommended:

- Conduct a detailed analysis of the challenges and benefits of formalizing the fisheries sector.
- Develop a nuanced understanding of subsidies, keeping in mind the unique characteristics of the fisheries sector.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to address the diversity of informal workers and develop tailored social protection programmes accordingly.

- Explore ways to improve data collection methods for small-scale fishers, ensuring accurate representation.
- Encourage a holistic approach to social protection, recognizing the cultural and regional nuances of the term “informality”.



A circular arrangement of white fish silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, swimming in a clockwise direction. The fish are set against a solid teal background. In the center of the circle, the text "DAY 3" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

DAY 3

Day 3: Countries' experiences in implementing social protection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

The third day of the workshop started with the presentations about Cabo Verde, Chile and Peru's social protection portfolio for the fisheries sector and finished with two panel discussions with fisher representatives who explained the challenges faced by fishers in accessing social protection. Proposed solutions to address the barriers of access to social protection were also discussed.

Session 1: Cabo Verde

Ms Ana Paula Rosa from the Ministry of the Sea in Cabo Verde presented the country's portfolio of social protection programmes and explained how it aligns with sustainable development goals to promote structural transformation in the country and face upcoming challenges. The government is focusing on designing public policies to reduce poverty and support sustainable, inclusive growth. These policies have focused on financial, social, economic and digital inclusion.

In line with this, Cabo Verde has increased and coordinated efforts for social sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture, promoted decent work and facilitated access to social protection programmes for fishers and all other professional categories linked to fisheries and fishing communities, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Regarding social protection policies, Cabo Verde is working on extending the coverage of the social inclusion income, which is a temporary cash benefit based on poverty and/or social and economic vulnerability. In addition, the country is working towards strengthening the housing rehabilitation programme, boosting the social and solidarity economy and productive inclusion for the most vulnerable families, as well as reinforcing policies and actions to include people with disabilities. Furthermore, Cabo Verde has universal access to pre-school education and is mainstreaming a gender quality and equity approach within its social protection policies.

The country's national social protection system (SNPS, in Portuguese) operates under a contributory and a non-contributory regime. The non-contributory system operates through a social registry, which is managed by the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion. This registry is aimed at socially vulnerable households that are eligible for social benefits. Eighty-five percent of fishers are not registered with the SNPS.

The contributory system, managed by the National Social Security Institute offers two modalities: self-registration and registration through established companies. Its benefits include cash benefits awarded to SNPS beneficiaries to compensate for lost incomes, sickness allowances, pensions and family allowances, among others.

With regard to social protection schemes and how they cover fishers, Ms Rosa explained that there is limited integration between the SNPS and the fisheries sector, which poses challenges for the inclusion of fishers. However, the government has launched social protection programmes to support the fisheries sector. These include programmes to:

- Support semi-industrial fishing projects to simplify financing access;
- Create conditions to boost private investment and improve the business environment; and
- Accelerate project activities for community empowerment and sustainable fishing under the concepts of co-management and sustainable fisheries in the blue economy framework.

This session also highlighted challenges in expanding social protection coverage to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. These included the need to increase efforts for social sustainability, formalizing the fishing sector and mainstreaming gender strategies. Potential strategies to overcome the challenges were

discussed. These include creating a social protection programme for closed seasons and transforming artisanal fishing into semi-industrial fishing.

The government is already implementing activities to overcome these challenges, including the re-application of the general fisheries census (2021), an autonomous fishing fund and credit lines. The general fisheries census produces relevant and reliable data for decision-making by a wide range of national and international users, as well as for formulating economic and social policy measures for the fisheries sector. The autonomous fishing fund establishes criteria for fishers to apply, be selected and receive funding, either partial or total. This fund houses microcredit financing programmes, which seek to empower fishers and fishing communities to foster self-employment and enable the sustainability and economic growth of fisheries.

The following next steps were suggested:

- Explore strategies for increasing SNPS enrolment among fishers.
- Enhance collaboration between the SNPS and the fishing sector for better integration.
- Develop specific gender-inclusive strategies for the fishing industry.
- Implement and monitor the progress of government programmes for social protection in the fisheries sector.



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Session 2: Peru

Ms Lourdes Martiza Hermoza Rámirez from the Directorate of Aquaculture Promotion and Development in Peru presented the country's portfolio of social protection programmes for the fisheries and aquaculture sector, focusing on their strengths and challenges.

The Peruvian aquaculture sector operates under the National Aquaculture Policy to 2030, which aims to increase research, development and innovation capacity in aquaculture, thus closing the main barriers to competitiveness in aquaculture value chains. In this sense, the policy has a national extension strategy for the sector, which seeks to increase the percentage of aquaculture producers that apply good practices for sustainable fish farming. This service is financed with an institutional budget assigned to capacity building and technical assistance activities.

Specific actions under this policy include strengthening the capacities of aquaculture producers through capacity building, technical assistance and on-site assistance in the harvesting process to increase

aquaculture production. In particular, the extension provides support in areas such as productive scaling, business management, financing, formalization, commercial development, aquaculture regulations, associativity and climate change.

By 2022, the programme had assisted 2 188 productive units, trained 2 450 people, enabled 49.8 hectares of new aquaculture development, commercialized 2 934 tonnes of aquaculture production and supported formalization requests.

The Peruvian government also has a project that promotes the development of small-scale fishers and aquaculture through an associated strategy for food security and economic empowerment of families. This programme focuses on strengthening traceability, food security and regional economic development with a focus on gender, governance and the prevention of climate emergencies.

Similarly, Peru is active in a marine bottom cleaning campaign called “my sea, my home,” which aims to promote environmental awareness. Other activities include the ongoing implementation of a certification brand for sustainable aquaculture practices and a study on implementing insurance to cover catastrophic events. The latter is fully financed by the state and is primarily targeted at fish farmers who have limited resources. It is designed to support damage caused by climate change and other natural risks.

In terms of the small-scale fisheries subsector, Peru has about 18 000 formal vessels and it is estimated that the artisanal fishing community is made up of 80 000 individuals. In addition, the sector has 1 731 social organizations for artisanal fishers. Artisanal fishers are covered by several social protection programmes, including extension services and health insurance. The Artisanal Fishing Extension Service seeks to promote artisanal fishing activities through raising awareness, counselling and training fishers, vessel owners and artisanal processors. This programme’s components include formalization, good fishing practices, organizational strengthening, integration into the commercial system and creation of a credit culture and social security.

Furthermore, Peru has health insurance for independent artisanal fishers and processors. The Organization and Functions Regulation for Fisheries establishes that the state needs to propose and implement actions to enhance the access of small-scale fishers, operators and processors to health services, social security and others, such as pensions, to improve their quality of life. Peru has contributory and non-contributory health insurance programmes. The contributory scheme is for employees and their families who are formally contracted by a company. It also has a subscheme called +SALUD for independent workers who can contribute, and a scheme called +PROTECCIÓN for workers who undertake risky jobs in which they might face accidents at work. The latter scheme is particularly relevant for fishers and includes them in the list of risk-prone employment. In addition, the contributory pillar has an insurance scheme against accidents (+VIDA), which pays compensation in case of death or disability resulting from an accident at work for those insured in regular, agricultural or casual jobs.

The non-contributory pillar of health insurance is known as integral health insurance and is available to all Peruvians who do not have other valid health insurance. Similarly, artisanal fishers can access the Artisanal Fishers Allowance (Bono del Pescador Artesanal), an economic support programme aimed at the economic recovery of artisanal fishing activities. However, this support programme is temporary.

The session ignited a discussion around the formalization and categorization of informal workers. Ms Martiza Hermoza Ramírez highlighted that extension services and voluntary campaigns and initiatives to inform and mobilize artisanal fishers have been crucial to encouraging the formalization of informal workers. The session discussed the need to define a hierarchy within informal categories of fishers to better address specific challenges in each labour level. The need to differentiate according to production levels and scaling to inform and support formalization was also discussed. Some of the formalization challenges were identified at this session, including limited access to information on how to formalize, its benefits and overall social protection.



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Session 3: Chile

Ms Nancy Barahona Toledo, Head of the Fisheries Evaluation Department at the Institute of Fishery Development (IFOP, in Spanish) in Chile provided an overview of the social protection programmes accessible to the fisheries sector in Chile and analysed their strengths and challenges.

In Chile fishers are required to register with the artisanal fisheries registry (SENAPECSA). The registration includes details about individuals or entities, region, fishing method and targeted resources and requires fishers to show proof of regular fishing activity.

The employment relationship between an operator and crew can be registered under a work contract where the crew provides services to the company, or through a contract or partnership “*a partes*” (at parts) – a mechanism described by the law of Fisheries and Aquaculture Title 1, Article 2, Number 63. This contract or partnership is a type of association aimed at carrying out extractive activities. It involves the contribution by partners of boats, materials, equipment, financing and labour. The subsequent distribution of profits generated in a fishing day is based on the contribution made by each individual.

However, the implementation of this modality faces practical problems. For example, it does not account for the payment of social obligations such as social security contributions, nor does it regulate the work done onshore or in port after the fishing trip. Additionally, the arrangement ends with the landing of fishing products, and the profit-sharing does not have a minimum value in the event of an unsuccessful fishing trip, which can result in losses for some participants. Lastly, since the profit is calculated at landing,

fishers involved in these associations cannot benefit from the higher value that might be achieved from subsequent negotiations in later stages of the value chain.

Additional challenges to the sector's access to social protection and socioeconomic development include prevalent informality and wage gaps between types of activities and gender. Furthermore, lower incomes in the sector are associated with post-harvest activities in which women's participation is higher. The session also highlighted that fisheries are affected by a scarcity of resources and management measures such as closed seasons.

In terms of social protection programmes, fishers can access pension, health, occupational health and safety and unemployment schemes. While these are universal schemes and not specifically for artisanal fishers, the latter are exempt from paying income tax and by accessing the social protection system can be covered by the law on work accidents and occupational diseases.

In line with this, the fisheries and aquaculture law stipulates that artisanal fishers and divers must have life insurance in place to mitigate the risk of accidental death and disability (those over 65 years of age are exempt) and that small-scale vessels may only depart port if the entire crew is covered by this insurance. However, between 14 000 and 24 000 insurance policies were purchased, but 90 percent of them were for men. This demonstrates that although women make up 25 percent of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, they are often marginalized.

The National Institute for Sustainable Development of Artisanal Fishing and Small-Scale Aquaculture provides programmes targeted to fishers, divers, shore gatherers, small-scale fish farmers and their organizations to facilitate access to initiatives that increase productivity and commercial capacity through value-addition and productive diversification.

Overall, the session highlighted that the social protection system in Chile has strengths and weaknesses. On the one hand, Chile has a Ministry of Social Protection, which should facilitate training in this area. Although only a fraction of fishers has a level of income that would allow them to make their own contributions to the existing social security systems, fishers are organized and this could allow them to present their proposal for amended social protection at different political levels. On the other hand, in terms of challenges, Chile should incorporate a social security scheme for the fisheries and aquaculture sector into the new fisheries and aquaculture law, as is done in other countries. Additionally, it is necessary to improve the levels of formality in fisheries and promote decent employment, such as fair income, social security and non-discrimination, among other things. It is key to raise awareness of the importance of the social security system for the artisanal fishing sector and improve pensions and health care services.

During the discussions, concerns were raised about the declining interest of the younger generation in fisheries because many fishers want their children to pursue higher education instead of fishing. Additionally, discussions were held on the limited labour inspections in artisanal fisheries, the possibility of fishers migrating to algae cultivation because of a decline in small-scale fisheries. Additionally, there is a shift in the behaviour of fishers during resource booms and in response to international trends because they gravitate towards specific fisheries based on the demand for certain species. Challenges relating to illegal migration and its impact on access to fishing were also mentioned.

Session 4: Panel discussion with fisher representatives – challenges in accessing social protection

This panel discussion featured small-scale fisher representatives from Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Tunisia, Brazil and Cabo Verde as well as ICSF, ITF, IUF and Stella Maris. It focused on the challenges they face in carrying out their activities and, particularly, in accessing social protection.

Despite being rooted in specific national and local contexts the challenges faced by fishers are remarkably similar across the globe. For instance, fishers from Brazil reported a lack of reliable statistics due to declarative measures and licensing difficulties, especially as they face restrictions on catching fish species deemed to be at risk, or during breeding seasons. These issues were echoed by fishers in other countries, highlighting the global nature of these challenges.

One of the key issues raised by fishers was the significant role of intermediaries in their operations. These intermediaries often take a substantial share of fishers' profits, preventing them from marketing their products directly. This affects their profitability and restricts their access to certain markets, often the more profitable ones. The panel also underscored the global weakness of the trade union movement in the fisheries sector, which further impedes the attainment of decent working conditions.

The session discussed intergenerational challenges within the fisheries sector. While fishers are hesitant to encourage their children to enter the profession because of its hazards and low financial rewards, attracting youth to the sector is difficult. Specifically, young people from traditional fishing families are seeking alternative employment opportunities, resulting in a gap in the workforce. This gap is often filled by migrant workers rather than by the younger generation.

Regarding environmental challenges, the panel of fishers voiced a range of concerns. These included various issues such as the depletion of fish stocks, the impact of foreign and industrial fishing vessels, the adverse effects of oil exploration on marine resources, and wider environmental risks like pollution. The fishers also highlighted a range of individual problems they face, including mismatches between their expectations for the sector and governmental development assistance and fisheries management measures. The holistic perspective provided by the fishers highlights the intricate nature of the coherence and adequacy of social protection, broad environmental challenges and the need for multifaceted solutions.

Focusing on social protection, fishers expressed the view that the sector is often treated as one that needs charity or social services rather than as a profession which can be strengthened and become more productive. Under this premise the panel of fishers recognized the need for social protection that caters to their needs and conditions and recalled that they struggle to be covered by pension and health schemes. They indicated that contributory programmes represent a barrier to accessing social security programmes because the seasonality of fishing affects the ability by fishers to contribute to such schemes. Fishers also said that the complex dynamics in the fisheries sector, including labour relations and migrant fisheries, make it difficult to access social protection programmes that do not accommodate these dynamics, or programmes that are universal. Challenges related to ageing and occupational health and safety were also discussed.

The fishers voiced their concerns about their safety and decent employment. For instance, the Stella Maris representative emphasized the exploitation of migrant fishers in terms of pay, excessive working hours, safety concerns and human trafficking. Other fishers also raised their concerns about the threats they receive and the theft of vessels at sea.

Overall, the panel highlighted the multifaceted challenges confronting fishers globally, emphasizing the necessity for tailored social protection measures, sustainable practices and international collaboration to address the diverse issues affecting the sector. Participants called for a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics within different fisheries contexts and the development of adequate social protection programmes that are better aligned with the characteristics of the sector.



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Session 5: Panel discussion with fisher representatives – proposed solutions

After the initial panel discussion in which fisher representatives shared the challenges they experience in accessing social protection and maintaining their livelihoods, a subsequent panel was convened to propose solutions. These solutions included advocating for more inclusive government policies, adapting social protection programmes to the specific needs of fisheries communities, and integrating labour market interventions into social protection initiatives.

Fisher representatives advocated for more inclusion and less bureaucratic hurdles from governments to access social protection programmes, emphasizing the need to adjust policies to the realities of the fisheries sector. They called for benefits that adjust to the contextual realities of fishing communities and the need to adapt the requirements for accessing these programmes.

Fishers also called for issues beyond social assistance and subsidies to be addressed, suggesting labour market interventions that support the productive growth of fishing activities within the core of social protection programmes, including facilitating and promoting access to alternative livelihoods.

The panel also recognized the significance of organization and legal recognition, advocating for the establishment of inter-institutional working groups at country level that bring together different line ministries encompassing fisheries and aquaculture, environment, labour and social development sectors. Moreover, the fishers proposed opening institutional markets such as public procurement processes, to small-scale fishers as a mechanism to facilitate their direct access to alternative markets, such as institutional markets. The panel also recommended better alignment of fisheries management strategies with social protection initiatives.

Additionally, the panel emphasized the role of fishing cooperatives and associations in raising awareness and building the capacity of fishers to enrol in social protection programmes. They also called for expanded efforts to promote sustainable and responsible fishing practices and to disseminate these practices through national and international workshops.

In conclusion, the panel of fishers underscored the urgent need for their legal recognition and governmental support. They also stressed the urgency of expanding access to social protection programmes but emphasized the importance of tailoring these programmes to the characteristics and needs of the sector. The participants highlighted their ongoing struggles and the collaborative efforts required to achieve meaningful change and sustainable solutions in the fishing sector.

A circular arrangement of white fish silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, swimming in a clockwise direction. The fish are set against a solid blue background. In the center of the circle, the text "DAY 4" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

DAY 4

Day 4: Key messages and next steps

Session 1: Country's perspective on next steps

The last day of the workshop consisted of a group activity in which participants worked with their country counterparts to address the following questions based on the most prominent topics of the workshop's discussions:

1. What actions can you take in your country to:
 - Address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?
 - Enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?
 - Update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them interoperable with other social registry systems?
2. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?
3. How can FAO support you, as related to the previous questions?

Each country submitted a unified response based on its national context. The responses are presented in Annex 1. In general terms, regarding the actions countries can take to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes, the panel emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach that includes data collection, active engagement, legal reform and targeted training to better support women in the fisheries sector.

Most countries suggested the following:

- The need to collect baseline information on the fish value chain to understand the specific needs and challenges faced by women in fishing and assess the coverage or lack of social protection programmes that are inclusive and gender sensitive.
- The need to engage fisherwomen in the design of social protection programmes that are designed to promoting their empowerment.
- The importance of reviewing and reformulating social protection laws and programmes to recognize and address the challenges and needs of fisherwomen.
- Provide capacity building that targets women along the fish value chain and allows them to improve their livelihoods.

Regarding the formalization of small-scale fisheries, country participants suggested the need for improvement in database and fisher registrations and proposed the explicit inclusion of the small-scale fisheries sector within the social security system. In addition, they called for better coordination between government and fishers' associations to promote registration and formalization and further capacity building initiatives for fishers.

It is essential to use socioeconomic indicators as a guide for policy actions. Most countries suggested using the number of fishers covered by social protection programmes, as well as indicators of poverty and vulnerability within fishing households. Additionally, population density versus fishing population, income levels in the fisheries sector, women's participation in the value chain and level of education are all crucial factors that should inform decisions.

Requests for FAO support were mainly:

- To enable inter-institutional and inter-sectoral dialogue to extend social protection coverage and adequacy in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- Support the design and implementation of fishery registries and their interoperability with social information systems;
- Review and adapt national legislation to extend social protection coverage, capacity building in socioeconomic indicators; and
- resources to empower institutions to create coherent social protection policies for the fisheries sector.



Session 2: Key takeaway points by participants from Stella Maris, the International Transport Workers' Federation, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

The participants representing Stella Maris, ITF, IUF and ICSF highlighted that to advance the social protection agenda in the sector it is crucial to deal with migrant fishers and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for their access to social protection. This is because schemes, such as pensions, may not be provided by host countries where the fishers work. For this reason, origin countries need a system for fishers to subscribe to voluntarily for pension benefits.

In addition, participants raised issues about the inclusion of fishers in statistics because in many countries they are categorized under “agriculture”. They highlighted that fisher unions typically consider social protection in conjunction with issues such as pay, health, safety and employment. Regarding unions, they emphasized that proper control of industrial-scale fishing activities is seen as beneficial for small-scale fishers but that challenges persist in organizing the trade union movement for artisanal workers.

Participants also highlighted the potential role of FAO and ILO in standardizing the welfare of fishers worldwide to gain an accurate understanding of their advances. FAO was acknowledged as an entity that complemented the ILO and IMO in addressing interconnected issues, including problems with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and decent working conditions.

Regarding formalization concerns, they stressed the distinction between formal and informal fishers, urging FAO to play an active role in advocating for social protection for informal fishers as well. Moreover, they highlighted that self-employed workers who are often part of the informal sector, typically lack recognition and rights. They stressed the importance of collaboration between various ministries, especially the Ministry of Labour, to address these challenges.

Economic indicators, such as access to microcredit, were suggested as a measure of the well-being of small-scale producers and fishers. Microcredit accessibility was considered a key driver for developing small-scale production and fisheries.

These organizations highlighted the importance of social development as a condition for effective social protection. A call was made for FAO to encourage collaboration at both national and international levels to improve social protection in the fisheries sector. They urged FAO to develop comprehensive guidelines



for accessing social protection, understanding and framing it under questions related to formality, informality, remoteness, rural aspects and various types of fishing.

Session 3: Closing remarks and follow up

The last day of the workshop provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on the shared information and identify the good practices and lessons they could incorporate into their national contexts. The FAO Representative for Brazil, Mr Rafael Zavala, closed the event by emphasizing that the lessons learned through the exchange of countries' experiences in the design and implementation of social protection programmes enabled participants to understand how challenges have been overcome and solutions implemented and how lessons from one country could inspire others to design and/or reform and better extend these programmes in the fisheries sector. He highlighted the link between environmental and social sustainability and the need to address the precarious employment situation. He urged the participants to work together to create awareness schemes for their governments, emphasizing their role in improving decent employment.

Mr Zavala reiterated that sustainable fish consumption is key to improving nutrition and reducing obesity and it needs to be highlighted as a way forward. He emphasized that the enthusiasm witnessed throughout the workshop should not end with the event but should be transformed into concrete public policies in the participants' countries. This call to action reinforced the workshop's objectives and encouraged participants to take the next steps.

Key recommendations from the workshop

Over four days the workshop examined the key challenges that governments are facing in implementing social protection programmes for the fisheries sector and the challenges that fishers face in accessing existing programmes. Based on this, some key recommendations emerged to facilitate the adequate and comprehensive expansion of social protection to the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Workshop participants identified that further research is required to fully understand the characterization and typology of small-scale fishers and how they interact with formalization and social protection systems. More research is needed to understand the impact of social protection programmes on fishers' vulnerability and resilience and how to use the former as a mechanism to support alternative livelihoods for fishers.

Furthermore, participants recognized the necessity of a guidance document to assist countries in designing social protection programmes for the fisheries sector. This document should consider various scenarios, the sector's specific vulnerabilities and needs, and ways in which to incorporate gender dynamics into these programmes.

The workshop identified that better indicators are required to measure poverty and vulnerability in the fisheries sector. These indicators need to account for the sector's multi-employment and diverse livelihoods characteristics and adapt rapidly to its changing context, including fluctuating vulnerability based on seasonality and natural disasters. They should also inform the targeting mechanisms of social protection programmes.

The participants requested FAO's support for countries in designing, implementing and improving fisher registries, ensuring their compatibility with social registries and broader integrated social information systems. This would enhance understanding of the fisheries sector, improve the design of social protection systems and ensure effective targeting and outreach to fishers. Additionally, participants sought FAO's technical assistance at the country level to develop and implement social protection programmes aimed at fishers, such as unemployment benefits during closed seasons.

Finally, workshop participants identified that South–South and triangular cooperation programmes are needed to exchange experiences around designing and implementing social protection in the fisheries sector.



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A circular arrangement of white fish silhouettes of various sizes and orientations, swimming in a clockwise direction. The fish are set against a solid teal background. In the center of the circle, the word "ANNEXES" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

ANNEXES

Annexes

Annex 1. Country responses

Paraguay

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

- Paraguay's social protection system incorporates a gender perspective across three pillars: social integration, productive and labour insertion, and social security. The National Poverty Reduction Plan also integrates gender. The programmatic challenge lies in evaluating social programmes related to the fishing sector through a gender lens, highlighting the roles of men and women. Reform proposals should respond to this social reality and recognize the rights of all individuals.
- Gender considerations should be part of the theory of change, impact assessment and operational cycles involving various state institutions and non-governmental organizations.
- The Assistance for Fishers Programme (PROAP) in Paraguay currently includes a gender-focused diagnosis. The challenge is to reformulate the programme to recognize the productive activities of both genders comprehensively.
- It is essential to highlight the participation of men and women in the entire value chain (extraction, processing, conservation and marketing), whether paid or unpaid.
- Establishing an intersectoral dialogue platform (executive, legislative and civil society) is identified as a viable and necessary measure. This platform would analyse and propose strategic actions for the fishing sector within the framework of the social protection system and sectoral plans.

2. What actions can your country take to enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?

- The challenge is to propose inclusion of this sector within the social security system, building on the existing registration for fishing permits by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

3. What actions can your country take to enable, update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems?

- Paraguay has a Social Information System (SIIS) housing data on goods and services provided by state institutions. The challenge is to incorporate actions related to the fishing sector into the SIIS for more comprehensive information. Another challenge is to ensure compatibility, as agreed with the Ministry of Information Technology and Communication.

4. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

- Coverage of social programmes for the fishing population in poverty.
- Coverage of social programmes for the fishing population in vulnerability.
- Quality indicators should reflect each stage of the value chain and the strengthening of institutions linked to the sector, constructed within the intersectoral platform.

5. How can FAO support you?

- Accompanying and advising the work of the intersectoral dialogue to identify the socioeconomic and environmental reality of the fishing sector and generate strategic proposals.
- Supporting new functionalities of the SIIS and the records of sectoral plans involved, such as the National Poverty Reduction Plan and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.
- Assistance in reformulating the Assistance for Fishers Programme based on rights and existing evidence.
- Support in generating and implementing a strategy for the fishing sector aligned with national and sectoral policies to improve livelihoods.
- Cooperation for the strengthening of institutions and organizations linked to the fishing sector.

- Review and adaptation of national regulations related to the sector.
- Cooperation in developing a formalization proposal for the fishing sector with relevant institutions.
- Design and implementation of an economic inclusion project for the River Corridor in Paraguay, involving various ministries and local governments.
- Awareness campaign to highlight the productive fishing sector in Paraguay.

Peru

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

Addressing gender dynamics in the design and implementation of the social protection programme for artisanal fishers in Peru involves considering and addressing the specific inequalities and needs of women and men in these sectors, such as:

- Collection of gender-disaggregated data: Conduct studies and collect data that analyse the participation of men and women in artisanal fishing. Identify and analyse differences in working conditions, access to resources and the needs of male and female fishers.
- Involvement of fisherwomen: Engage fisherwomen and their communities in the design, implementation and evaluation of the social protection programme, ensuring their participation in decision-making processes related to the programme.
- Equity in access to resources and services: Ensure that both men and women have equal access to resources, credits, health services and training.
- Elimination of barriers: Remove barriers preventing women from accessing job opportunities, such as discrimination in access to credit or ownership of vessels.
- Training and empowerment: Implement training programmes addressing the specific needs of women fishers, providing them with technical and management skills.
- These actions can contribute to creating more inclusive and effective social protection programmes that addresses gender dynamics in artisanal fishing in Peru.

2. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

- Currently, Peru has a universal Health Insurance Programme and an extension programme for artisanal fishers. Socioeconomic indicators that would better illustrate coverage include the number of beneficiaries, such as how many artisanal fishers and their families are covered by the programme. Another indicator would be understanding and knowledge, referring to the level of active participation of fishers in the planning and implementation of the programme, as well as their knowledge about it.

3. How can FAO support you?

- To implement an efficient registry of fishers that includes gender-disaggregated information to understand the differences and specific needs of male and female fishers. This involves collecting relevant demographic data such as age, ethnicity, geographical location, type of fishing, equipment used, socioeconomic data, etc.
- To implement the National Aquaculture Extension Strategy by establishing training centres for extension officers and developing a standardized curriculum for everyone involved in extension services.

Cabo Verde

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

- Cabo Verde has a gender-focused policy implemented by the Cabo Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG) along with several NGOs working on gender and empowerment issues. In the fisheries sector specifically, we suggest increased collaboration between the Ministry of the Sea, ICIEG and fisher associations to develop an approach to facilitate the inclusion of women in this sector. It is crucial to determine whether there is

interest among women in engaging in these activities. Understanding the reasons why women are not involved is important.

2. What actions can your country take to enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?

- Greater and better coordination between the government and fisher associations to ensure access to relevant information for the sector.
- Access to licenses and registration versus associated costs.
- More training initiatives for fishers and fishmongers.
- Conversion of the artisanal fishing sector to semi-industrial/industrial.

3. What actions can your country take to enable, update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems?

Cabo Verde updated data through the fifth General Fisheries Census which was conducted in 2021 by the Fisheries Development Institute in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics. We propose the creation of mechanisms to disseminate this information in fishing communities and throughout civil society. In formulating fisheries sector development policies, the Ministry of the Sea will cross-reference General Fisheries Census data with the Social Registry Database to create assertive policies that improve fishing activities and simultaneously eradicate extreme poverty and reduce absolute poverty.

4. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

- Economic structure and access to the labour market.
- Standard of living and income access.
- Well-being and health conditions.
- Transition from the informal sector to formal contributory regimes.
- Percentage of fishers registered in the National Social Security system.

5. How can FAO support you?

- Act as a bridge between central and local government structures and fishers' associations and other sector stakeholders for better project implementation and coordination.
- Identify financing projects that align with Cabo Verde's reality.
- Provide training sessions and information, education and communication campaigns on fisheries' sustainability.
- Assist the government in implementing subsidies for the closed fishing season.

Colombia

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

- Visibility of women in the value chain and identification of roles.
- Training in complementary courses that highlight women's work, empower them and strengthen their skills and competencies.
- Visibility of ancestral knowledge and certification of instructors.
- Entrepreneurship fund: invitations to, through entrepreneurship, empower women and men in business generation.
- Accompaniment in territories where rural populations are identified and characterised, to better understand working conditions and standards of health.
- Strengthening and recognition of the care economy system which represents a high percentage of GDP.
- Identification of the population, surveys, knowledge exchange, recognition of ancestral knowledge (ancestral medicine), awareness and training. Generation of a mechanism for promoting occupational safety.
- Women's parity law for holding high positions, participation at decision-making levels.

- Eliminate barriers for women to access government programmes (subsidies).
2. **What actions can your country take to enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?**
 - Within existing regulations there are procedures for permits, registrations in terms of fishing typology and artisanal commercial fishing that could support formalization.
 - Mechanism for ensuring social protection for vulnerable populations.
 - Support a reform in the objective of the occupational hazards fund.
 3. **What actions can your country take to enable, update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems?**
 - Generate compatibility between the General Registry for Artisanal Fisheries from AUNAP and the System of Identification of Social Program Beneficiaries.
 4. **What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?**
 - Population density versus number of fishers affiliated with the social security system.
 - Income of the fishing population.
 - Incidence of occupational diseases in the fishing population.
 - Women's participation in the value chain.
 - Situation and composition of the family nucleus.
 - Multidimensional poverty index.
 - Level of education.
 5. **How can FAO support you?**
 - Advocacy within Parliament against hunger for the purpose of promoting bills on social protection.
 - FAO training in the construction of socioeconomic indicators.
 - Resources for the execution of strengthening plans for the fishing population.
 - Resources for empowering institutions in creating public policy.

Brazil

1. **What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?**
 - Brazil's Social Protection Programme needs improvement. All existing programmes cover women but the operationalization of this targeting is challenging.
 - The law states that the insured special category, under which fishers fall, have social security rights that guarantee protection in case of activity cessation. The latter is part of Brazil's wider unemployment policy. The bottleneck to accessing an unemployment benefit for fishers is in registering them as fishers under the General Registry of Fishing (RGP) and thus in proving them as insured in the special category. Individuals without this status have no right to access the unemployment insurance benefit.
 - Brazil's social protection legislation includes women in fisheries. However, proving the status of female workers in fisheries remains challenging because it is legally impossible to include female workers in fisheries in the RGP. Based on this, it is crucial to improve the registration of female fishers in the RGP.
 - Encourage grassroots entities to conduct an educational campaign to include women in the Family Farming Registry, an essential tool for accessing public social protection policies as special insured workers.
 - Brazil's fishing law does not consider gender issues in the definition of artisanal fishers. Adapting the concept of artisanal fishers is necessary from a gender perspective. Legislation also needs adjustment based on updated data and information on the characteristics of fishing in Brazil (e.g. the profile of fisherwomen, processing, capture, etc.) as well as listening to artisanal fisherwomen. An evaluation of self-monitoring as it relates to the family unit's information is also necessary because it currently disregards

women's participation, preventing women from proving fishing activity. The cancellation of artisanal fisherwomen's RGP cards resulted in a significant setback, removing their rights, such as retirement, even if they paid social contributions. It is necessary to include the right to self-recognition of fisherwomen before social security, enabling fisherwomen's access to social protection policies and contributing to combatting gender discrimination.

2. What actions can your country take to enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?

- Database improvement: It is necessary to optimize, improve and adapt existing databases with fishing information (e.g. what we have and what we need). This database should also include information about community composition (e.g. fishers' profiles, representative entities) allowing the representative entity to insert information into the database from work carried out by fisherwomen and fishermen. Insert similar individuals and fishers into the government system. Ensure the general fishers' registry system is continuously open and not just for re-registration campaigns.
- Recognition of fishing territories: Create a policy on the traditional nature of fishing communities and incorporate this information into the RGP registry. Integrate the territories' platform with the general fishers' registry platform for the recognition of fishing territories.
- Recognition of young apprentices: Allow the inclusion of young fishers (fishing apprentices).
- Legislation improvement: Regulate the fishing law considering the regulations proposed by fishers.
- Stimulate and implement self-monitoring in fishing communities.
- Strengthen digital inclusion in fishing territories: Integrate and strengthen management between the federal government, states and municipalities.
- Strengthen social organizations.

3. What actions can your country take to enable, update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems?

- Improve and adapt existing databases with fishing information. Include information about community composition. Allow the representative entity to insert information into the database. Insert similar individuals, fishers, etc. into the government system. Ensure the general fishers' registry system is continuously open, not just for re-registration campaigns. Integrate RGP systems with federal government systems, as well as state and municipal systems.
- Strengthen digital inclusion in fishing territories.

4. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

- Existing socioeconomic indicators from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) need to communicate with the general fishers' registry system, recognize the reality of artisanal fishing and include artisanal fishers, both women and men. For example, there is no occupation of "fisherwomen" listed in the IBGE indicators. IBGE indicators do not align with the reality of fishing and the RGP could fill this gap with information provided by fisher representatives.

5. How can FAO support you?

- Develop projects supporting the strengthening of representative entities in Brazil, considering the local specifics of fishing communities.
- Support studies for the recognition of fishing territories.
- Support Brazil in strengthening self-monitoring of artisanal fishing, encouraging fishers to declare their production.
- Support fishing communities to recognize their knowledge, whether traditional or scientific knowledge generated by the community.

Tunisia

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

- Recognize the need to create a regime designed to address the uniqueness of the fisheries sector, the vulnerability of its workers and the fact that they often engage in multiple activities for different employers.
- Recognize the need to acknowledge that fishers may need to undertake different activities to protect their livelihoods, such as in the construction or agriculture sectors.
- A proposed new regime that would aim to address three main aspects: gender dynamics, social protection and coverage for both male and female workers in the fisheries sector. It would also extend beyond crew members or artisanal fishers, providing an opportunity for formalization and updating of workers' records.

2. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

- Tunisia acknowledged the challenge of focusing on a single question in the socioeconomic context.
- Consider socioeconomic indicators such as age, education, marital status and economic background.

3. How can FAO support you?

- Supporting the conceptualization of tools.
- Promoting gender equity, social protection and best practices.
- Organizing workshops and training for artisanal fishers.
- Facilitating an exchange of experiences.
- Emphasizing the need to understand the sector for effective implementation.
- Reviewing the registry system, including fisheries and social registry.
- Supporting the development of a research proposal to prepare surveys, gather data and understand the interests of fishers.
- Supporting the acceleration of local and regional research to inform decision-making processes.

Chile

1. What action can you take in your country to address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes?

Since August 2021, legal institutions have been modified to promote gender equity in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The law mandates gender participation in the different instances of administration and management of fisheries through management committees, scientific committees and fishing zone councils, a national fishing council and a national aquaculture commission, where no more than two-thirds of the group can be men or women.

In the management committees a requirement for the participation of fishers, both men and women, is to be registered with the Artisanal Fisheries Registry and in the fishery under management. Women who are not necessarily registered limit their participation and this is an issue that should be resolved to reach the levels of parity required by law.

In the Ministry of Social Development and Family founded in 2011, there is a social protection system that incorporates a gender perspective in its various programmes. One of the objectives of the ministry is to achieve equal opportunities for women and men.

2. What actions can your country take to enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers?

To operate in the artisanal fishing sector both the vessel and fishers must be registered with the Artisanal Fishers' Registry. In the case of pelagic and demersal fisheries, the fisher must also be organized to participate in the catch quotas. All fisheries operate on a share basis and there are no other types of contracts. In addition, in Chile there are different levels of informality, i.e. fishers and vessels are not registered, mainly because the registers are closed. This can be addressed.

3. What actions can your country take to enable, update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems?

- There are three types of registers that are the responsibility of the National Fishing and Aquaculture Service:
 - Artisanal Fishing Registry (RPA) that incorporates the categories of shipowners, shore-based anglers and harvesters, divers and fishers by gender. This registry is associated with the fishery category and by region.
 - Small-scale aquaculture registry that incorporates the holders of small-scale aquaculture concessions according to their legal nature and gender.
 - Registry of related activities that includes seven categories along the value chain: *encarnadoras* (baiters), *carapacheras* (shellers), *desconchadora* (peelers), *charqueadoras*, *ahumadoras* (smokers), *tejedoras* (weavers) and *fileteadoras* (filleters), all by gender.
- The RPA identifies that the registry is currently closed and is only opened under special conditions and in certain fisheries. It does not allow the entry of new users (young people). The opening of the RPA could be an action to take.

4. What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?

Cross-cutting indicators are:

- income of head of household;
- household size;
- dependence on fishing or aquaculture activity;
- number of people in the family who are involved in fishing or aquaculture activities;
- number of people in the family engaged in fishing; and
- number of people enrolled in compensation funds (private entities that administer social service benefits: family allowances, disability benefits, medical leave, pre- and post-natal leave, childcare leave, unemployment benefits and loans).

Areas	Coverage	Adequacy	Comprehensiveness
Pensions: Fishers must contribute individually. If the person cannot contribute with an adequate amount, they can opt for the solidarity pension.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of small-scale fishers that contribute • Number of contributions and amount per person • Number of small-scale fishers receiving a pension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relation between the amount of the contribution and the minimum salary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of services that small-scale fishers receive • Number of subsidies and services that small-scale fishers receive
Health: Fishers can pay for a private health system and can also access the public system, both through contributory and non-contributory programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people that pay for a private health system • Number of people enrolled in the public health system and the category 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people in the private system versus the public one 	

Health and safety at work: Fishers must pay a mandatory insurance to develop an activity, and the coverage depends on the amount contributed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people that pay for insurance, by type • Number of accidents covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of claims by category 	
Unemployment benefit	Fishers do not access this insurance		

5. How can FAO support you?

- Facilitate dialogue between the various actors: artisanal fishers, local authorities and policymakers.
- Make technical recommendations regarding the inclusion of artisanal fishers in social protection policies.
- Develop training programmes in the short, medium and long term, in relation to the social protection of artisanal fishers.

Annex 2. Concept note

Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, Brasilia, Brazil, 28 November to 1 December 2023

FAO is working to increase adequate social protection coverage for the fisheries and aquaculture sector with the objective of improving the management of fisheries resources, rehabilitating livelihoods of communities dependent on fisheries and aquaculture and increasing their resilience to covariable shocks.

To achieve this objective FAO is strengthening coordination and dialogue with relevant entities to expand the scope of social protection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This in turn provides support to member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (especially goals 1.3 and 1.5) and implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Both instruments highlight the importance of the socioeconomic development of the sector.

Within this priority area of work and with the support of Norad, through the Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SocPro4Fish) component of the project "Responsible use of fisheries and aquaculture resources for sustainable development" (GCP/GLO/352/NOR), FAO is developing a series of activities to expand the coverage, access and adequacy of social protection in the sector.

These activities include building capacity to effectively implement and expand social protection in the sector; conducting impact assessments of social protection programmes such as unemployment benefits during Brazil's closed seasons; and developing a global database of social protection programmes to provide a detailed analysis of trends, gaps, barriers and opportunities to implement social protection programmes in the sector and promote more coherence between social protection, fisheries management and conservation.

In addition to implementing activities in Colombia, Tunisia and Paraguay, FAO is also implementing actions in partnership with other countries. Through this workshop FAO is promoting a South–South cooperation exchange, mainly aimed at sharing lessons learned and effective strategies for scaling up successful interventions.

Objective of the workshop

The SocPro4Fish workshop aims to provide a forum for an in-depth exchange between countries on their experiences implementing social protection programmes for the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The workshop aims to host an exchange of experiences among several countries that have indicated their interest to FAO in learning about the expansion of adequate social protection for the fisheries sector. This space will promote:

- Presentations from each country and discussions on their social protection programmes aimed at the fisheries sector.
- Presentations by FAO and the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) on the benchmarking of social protection programmes in the fisheries sector, followed by discussion.
- Presentations and in-depth discussions to explore different aspects related to the delivery cycle of social protection programmes, fishers and social registers, revolving funds, community-based social protection programmes and alternative livelihood programmes and productive inclusion of fishers during the closed seasons.
- A panel for fishers to share their challenges, vulnerabilities and social protection needs.

Participants

The workshop will be composed of at least three participants from each country: one from a social protection institution, one from a fisheries institution and one from civil society.

Annex 3. Workshop agenda

28 November: South–South cooperation event on unemployment insurance during the closed season			
Time	Objective	Guidelines	Participants
09.00–09.30	Opening words from Brazil's Ministry of Fisheries and FAO	<p>The focus of this session is to understand the process of designing and implementing the unemployment insurance during Brazil's closed fishing seasons (also known as the <i>Seguro Defeso</i>), as well as its redesign process, and the current status of the programme to inform parallel processes in other countries. Presentations by the Brazilian entities should focus on the inception, redesign and status of the programme.</p> <p>Discussions should be guided by questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the impacts of unemployment programmes during closed seasons? • How to establish the characteristics of beneficiaries? • How to identify and register beneficiaries? • How to use fishery and social registers to reach the target population and minimize errors of inclusion and exclusion? • How to manage the fiscal space to finance this programme? • How to articulate unemployment benefits to alternative livelihoods and poverty graduation programmes? • What are some of the main challenges in the implementation of the programme and how do they 	<p>Key participants from the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment (MMA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) and Ministry of Economy, IPEA, Brazilian National Institute of Social Security (INSS) and key participants from FAO, Paraguay, Colombia and Tunisia</p>
09.30–10.00	Presentation by FAO on the SocPro4Fish project		
10.00–10.20	Presentation by Brazil's Ministry of Fisheries about the Unemployment Insurance during fishing closed seasons: Beginnings, redesign and status		
10.20–10.50	Coffee break		
10.50–11.20	Presentation by Brazil's Ministry of Fisheries on registries: Beginnings, redesign and status		
11.20–11.50	Presentation by IPEA on the socioeconomic impact evaluation of the unemployment benefit: Results and recommendations		
11.50–12.20	Questions & answers		
12.20–13.00	Lunch		
13:00–14:00			

28 November: South–South cooperation event on unemployment insurance during the closed season			
14:00–15:00	Presentation by Paraguay about the Fisheries Assistance Programme (PROAP), including strengths and challenges and Q&A	overcome them?	
15:00–16:00	Presentation by Tunisia on their social protection portfolio and Q&A		
16:00–17:00	Presentation by Colombia about the SEDEVEDA and Q&A		
	Debate and exchange of experiences among the programmes presented		

29 November: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector			
Time	Objective	Guidelines	Participants
09.00–09.15	Opening words from FAO	The objective of this workshop was to share the status of social protection in the fisheries sector in the participating countries, as well as its strengths and challenges. Countries are invited to focus on the different parts of the delivery chain of social protection programmes when presenting their programmes, i.e. beneficiary assessment, enrolment, benefit delivery and programme management. Potential questions to guide the session include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What vulnerabilities or conditions does the social protection programme seek to protect? What is the objective? 	Key participants from FAO, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Tunisia, Chile, Peru, Cabo Verde, ICSF and the ILO
09.15–09.30	Opening remarks from Brazil		
09.30–09.40	Setting the scene and objectives of the meeting		
09.40–10.00	Presentation by FAO about the SocPro4Fish project		
10.00–10.30	Presentation by Brazil about the unemployment benefit for fishers (<i>Seguro Defeso</i>), including its strengths and challenges		
10.30–10.50	Coffee break		
10.50–11.20			

29 November: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector			
11.20–11.50	Presentation by Brazil (IPEA and FADURPE) on the impact evaluation of the <i>Seguro Defeso</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the impact of these programmes on the socioeconomic conditions of fishers known? • Is there coherence between the programmes and fisheries management strategies? • What is the role of fishery and social registries in the design and implementation of social protection programmes? • How are the programmes financed? 	
11.50–12.10	Presentation by the International Labour Organization about the project “Strengthening decent work in the fisheries sector in Ecuador and Peru”		
12.10–13.10	Presentation by ICSF		
13.10–14.10	Lunch		
14.10–15.10	Presentation by Paraguay about the Fisheries Assistance Programme (PROAP), including strengths and challenges		
15.10–16.10	Presentation by Colombia about social protection programmes accessible for the fisheries sector, including strengths and challenges		
16.10–17.00	Presentation by Tunisia on the social protection programme accessible for the fisheries sector, including strengths and challenges		
	Questions and answers		
30 November: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector			
09.00–09.30	Presentation by Peru about the social protection programmes accessible for	The fishers’ panel focuses on the following guiding questions:	Key participants from FAO, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Tunisia, Chile, Peru, Cabo Verde, ICSF and the ILO

29 November: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector			
09.30–10.00	the fisheries sector, including strengths and challenges and Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most common challenges that you face as fishers? • Based on the social protection portfolio that your country presented, and the challenges that you reported, do you access these social protection programmes? If you do, do they meet your needs? If you don't, why not? • How do you deal with the challenges you told us about? • Do you receive support from the government or an organization? • What activities do you suggest would improve your current condition? 	
	Presentation by Chile about the social protection programmes accessible for the fisheries sector, including strengths and challenges and Q&A		
10.00–10.30			
	Presentation by Cabo Verde about the social protection programme accessible for the fisheries sector, including strengths and challenges and Q&A		
10.30–10.45			
10.45–13.00	Coffee break		
	Fishers' panel on their vulnerabilities and social protection needs		
13.00–14.00			
14.00–14.30	Lunch		
	Fishers' panel on their vulnerabilities and social protection needs		
15:30–16:00			
16:00–17:00	Coffee break		
	Fishers' panel on their vulnerabilities and social protection needs		
1 December: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector			

29 November: Workshop on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector			
08.30–08.50	Setting of the agenda and videos		Key participants from FAO, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Tunisia, Chile, Peru, Cabo Verde, ICSF and the ILO
08.50–12.00	<p>Working groups:</p> <p>What actions can you take in your country to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address gender dynamics within the design and implementation of social protection programmes; • Enable the formalization of small-scale fishers given the diversity of small-scale fishers; • Update or create fisher registries that account for all fishers along the value chain and make them compatible with other social systems. <p>What socioeconomic indicators would best measure the impact of social protection programmes in fisheries?</p> <p>How can FAO support you, as related to the previous questions?</p>		
10.30–11.00	Coffee break and lunch		
11.00–13.00	Report back to plenary		
13.00–13.30	Closing remarks by FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Brazil		

Annex 4. Participants list

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