



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

AT A GLANCE

**BLUE
TRANSFORMATION**

Widening access to social protection

Small-scale fishing activities often involve high levels of informality, irregularity, and seasonality. This often hinders small-scale fishers in accessing social protection systems such as pension plans, unemployment benefits, and health insurance. The seasonality of their work also means they frequently do not earn enough to contribute consistently to social security schemes.

Recognizing the distinctive circumstances of fisherfolk, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aims to promote their economic inclusion and strengthen their resilience and livelihood security through the expansion of social protection to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It has helped enhance national capacities by increasing understanding of the barriers to accessing social protection.

FAO has developed a methodology for a global database of social protection programmes accessible to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The aim is to create a repository of the social protection programmes available for fishers in each country, and to assess the trends and gaps in adequate and comprehensive coverage at the national, regional and international level.

In Colombia, Paraguay and Tunisia, FAO implemented a project called Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SocPro4Fish) to build the institutional capacities of countries to extend adequate and comprehensive coverage of social protection to the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



COLOMBIA

Implemented a law for the social protection of fishers during closed seasons.

PARAGUAY

Evaluated eight social protection programmes.

Developed a study on alternative livelihoods for fishers during closed seasons.

TUNISIA

Produced an economic feasibility study for extending social coverage

Drafted a reform plan for better social security access for fishers.

COLOMBIA

On a national level, FAO and its partners created the Inter-institutional Group on Social Protection for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (GIPRO) to promote dialogue and concrete action to improve fishers' access to social assistance and security and labour market interventions.

The GIPRO provided technical support for the revision of Law 2268 of 2022, which includes measures to protect the integrity, minimum wage and socio-economic sustainability of artisanal, commercial and subsistence fishers. It also addresses payments for environmental services, safety at sea and high-risk issues, the formalization of the activity, and access to, closed season unemployment insurance (SEDEVEVA).

PARAGUAY

FAO developed a socio-economic profile of participants in the Assistance Programme for Fishers in the National Territory (PROAP), focusing on fishers' vulnerabilities and needs. PROAP supports fishers financially during closed seasons. An assessment of alternative livelihoods during the closed season was conducted to identify viable work options.

FAO also developed technical tools, including guidelines for the implementation of the national aquaculture programme, mechanisms to formalize and strengthen existing associations in small-scale fisheries and guidelines for the establishment of new associations in fishery communities.

In addition, FAO has supported the establishment of the Catalyst Working Group. It includes several national ministries and stakeholders and has improved institutional coordination through inter-ministerial workshops.



TUNISIA

FAO collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Centre for Social Research and Studies, the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, to collect social protection and socio-economic data from fishers and conduct feasibility studies to extend social protection. This enabled an assessment of current protection measures and the formulation of recommendations to reform them for greater access.

Through strategic partnerships with the government and representatives from the Tunisian Agriculture and Fisheries Union and the Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fishing, FAO led the establishment of a technical committee that is contributing to streamlining and extending social protection coverage to the fisheries sector, ensuring that fishers are safeguarded against unforeseen shocks.

PROJECT SocPro4Fish

DURATION 2020-2024

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Scan this QR code to learn more about SocPro4Fish

www.fao.org/in-action/social-protection-for-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en/



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