

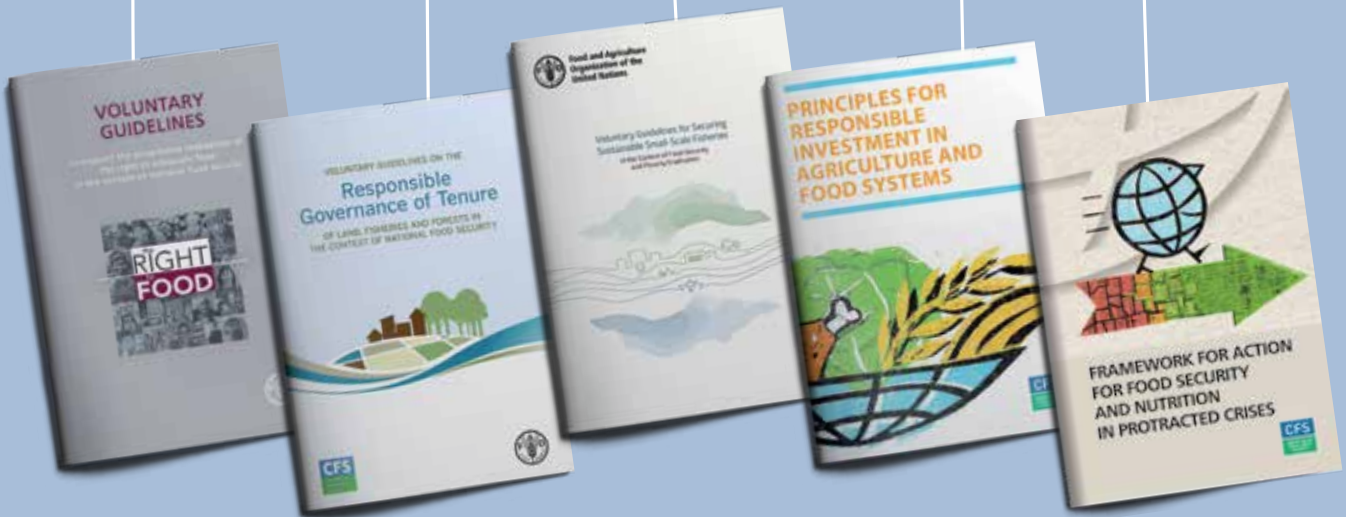
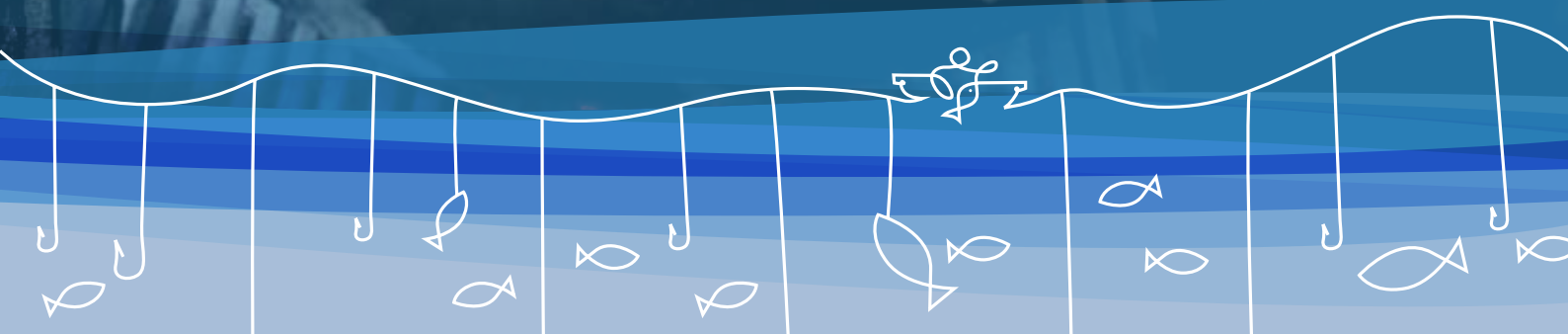


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Making a difference for food security and nutrition: FAO and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) instruments for sustainable small-scale fisheries food systems





Small-scale fisheries key for food security and nutrition

In its report “Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition” the Committee on World Food Security¹ (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) recognized the important contribution of small-scale fisheries to global food security and nutrition and to the improvement of the livelihoods of marginalized and vulnerable populations in developing countries.²

The small-scale fisheries sector is dynamic and diverse; it engages both men and women along the value chain and provides food and livelihoods for millions around the world. Small-scale fisheries represent 90 percent of the world’s capture fishers and fish-workers, of whom half are women. The sector contributes to half the fish catches in developing countries, and around 90 percent of these landings are destined for human consumption.³



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include a dedicated target for small-scale fisheries:
14.b – Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Despite their important contribution, small-scale fisheries often remain marginalized. Fishers and fish-workers are often excluded from decision-making processes, and their contribution to food security and

nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization is not fully realized.⁴

Global instruments reinforcing one another

The purpose of these briefs is to build on the HLPE report recommendations by drawing attention to the mutually reinforcing nature of four global normative instruments developed through CFS and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

Their synergistic implementation can make a difference in enabling small-scale fisheries to contribute to sustainable food systems by providing highly nutritious food for local communities, and it can make a difference for consumers in national, regional and international markets.

The four CFS instruments with direct links to the SSF Guidelines are:

- CFS Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Right to Food Guidelines)
- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)
- CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI Principles)
- CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (CFS-FFA).

¹ The Committee on World Food Security is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The Committee reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to FAO Conference.

² HLPE. 2014. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. FAO. Rome. www.fao.org/3/a-i3844e.pdf

³ World Bank. 2012. Hidden Harvest: the global contribution of capture fisheries. Washington, D.C: World Bank. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/515701468152718292/pdf/664690ESWOP1210120HiddenHarvest0web.pdf>

⁴ FAO. 2015. Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. Preface. FAO. Rome. www.fao.org/3/a-i4356n.pdf



The SSF Guidelines are the first international instrument entirely dedicated to the small-scale fisheries sector. They were endorsed at the Thirty-First Session of the FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014. They constitute a fundamental tool to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and enable the sector to contribute to food and nutrition security and to the eradication of poverty.

www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/

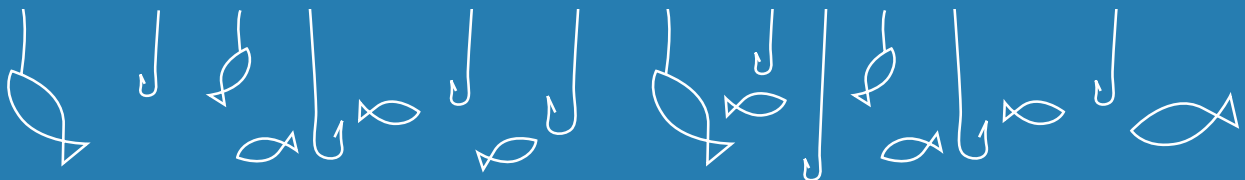
How to use the synergies – and take action

These briefs aim at highlighting key commonalities among these CFS instruments and the SSF Guidelines, and provide some illustrative examples to inspire

- action by all, including, in particular, by governments,
- small-scale fisheries organizations or other civil society organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and research and development partners.

Key commonalities between the CFS instruments and the SSF Guidelines:

- They are all built on **existing human rights and obligations under international law** and provide guidance on the implementation of already existing obligations of states. They **recall international normative instruments** such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- They are all **soft law instruments**, i.e., they are non-binding documents, which means that they do not establish any legal obligations for states. However, they are addressed to states and provide important guidance that should be taken into consideration during law and/or policy-making processes.
- They are **global in scope**. The SSF Guidelines focus on the needs of developing countries and all instruments have a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- They stress the **need for multi-stakeholder consultation processes** prior to the implementation of programmes, projects and policies to address underlying problems and provide lasting and long-term solutions – with special emphasis on the participation and empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalized and on small-scale producers.
- Their **principles for implementation are grounded in the human rights-based approach**, calling for human dignity, non-discrimination, consultation and participation, gender equality, transparency, accountability and the rule of law, among others.

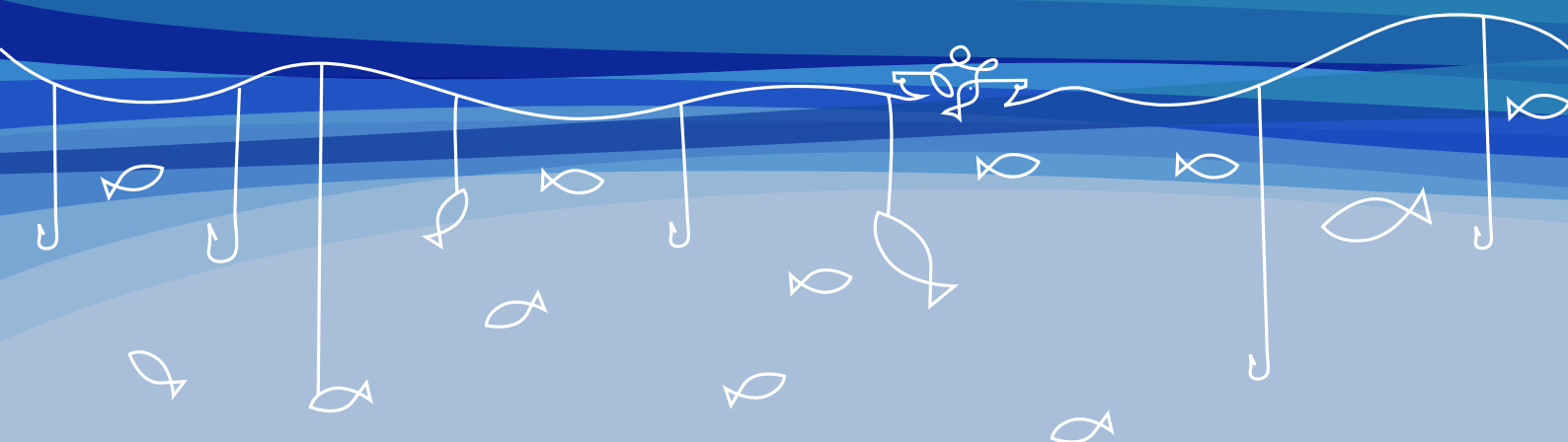


HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The human-rights-based approach (HRBA) is an United Nations-wide approach generally defined as a conceptual framework of human development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed at promoting and protecting human rights. It is analysed and implemented through three main ideas:

1. the achievement of human rights as the overall objective or guiding framework of development and/or emergency-related initiatives;
2. respecting the human rights principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and the rule of law in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes or projects in order to improve targeting, efficiency, effectiveness and quality of outcomes; and
3. the promotion of rights, duties, responsibilities and accountability mechanisms by developing the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligations and of right holders to claim their rights.

Source: adapted from FAO. 2016. Exploring the human-rights-based approach in the context of the implementation and monitoring of the SSF Guidelines.



Learn more

The CFS: www.fao.org/cfs

The SSF Guidelines: www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries

The Tenure Guidelines: www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines

The Right to Food Guidelines: www.fao.org/3/a-y7937e.pdf

The CFS-RAI Principles: www.fao.org/3/a-au866e.pdf

The CFS-FFA: www.fao.org/3/a-bc852e.pdf

HLPE Report on Fisheries and Nutrition: www.fao.org/3/a-i3844e.pdf

Get in touch

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