



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# BLUE FOOD VALUE CHAIN SOLUTIONS

Malawi / Uganda / Zambia

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

## Innovations, business development and gender empowerment along the fish value chain

### ISSUE

Fishers, both men and women, families, and local communities need fish to cover their daily intake of animal protein as part of a healthy diet. Unsustainable production and processing methods, post-harvest losses, the effects of climate change and the untapped potential of women along the fish value chain lead to losses of fish, jobs and incomes in the sector. Innovations should address these challenges and contribute to food and nutrition security, resilience and a better livelihood for fish producers and processors and the local populations.

### ACTIONS TAKEN

GIZ trained women groups in sustainable fish processing technologies such as energy-efficient ovens that reduce the use of firewood and harmful smoke. Communities were trained to manage and maintain the new technologies and to promote dried and smoked fish at local markets for an increased price. They were also trained in the production and use of low-cost fish traps for an intermittent harvest of mixed-sex aquacultures. The local production of traps with mesh wire creates employment, while the intermittent harvest leads to a more stable fish population in the pond, to the regular catch, selling and consumption of fish, and reduces the risk of losing the entire fish production during extreme weather events. Business development training increased the profit of small entrepreneurs and led to further investments, access to loans from saving groups and the growth of businesses along fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

**GIZ** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
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More fish and income from sustainable  
fisheries and aquaculture



LOCATION	Malawi, Uganda, Zambia
PARTNERS	Chitofu 3in1, Katosi Women Development Trust, African Fish Processors & Traders Network
TARGET	Producers, producers and processor organizations, women groups
DURATION	2016–2025
COST (USD)	38 million

“As a family, we now eat fish twice or three times a week. Before these technologies came, it was only once per month.”

Doud Milambe  
Fish farmer



## → RESULTS

The innovative fish trap leads to more regular catch of smaller fish and to more regular fish consumption within local households and communities. In addition, further processing of fish – like drying and smoking – reduces post-harvest losses, extends the shelf-life of fish products and opens up new markets for the local fish producers and processors as well as generates additional income. Technical trainings and business development services (BDS) for women and women groups strengthen their capacities and bargaining power in the value chain and give them a stronger voice in political and negotiation processes.

## → POTENTIAL FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

An increased availability of fish leads to more jobs and income in the value chains – equally for men and women – and contributes to a more diverse and healthy nutrition. Innovations and improved practices lead to a higher resilience of producers to external shocks like the effects of climate change.

## → SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFERABILITY

Innovations, education materials and trainings have been developed and implemented in cooperation with target groups and local training and service providers, who will carry on the trainings and advisory services. Innovations and approaches have already been transferred and adapted to neighbouring countries and projects.

## → OUR GOAL

Increase the availability of fish and income from sustainable and resource-conserving artisanal fisheries and aquaculture for the food insecure population.



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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