



In collaboration with:



## CONNECTING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Small-scale fishing communities face increasingly high levels of social-ecological risk, particularly in the global South.

Living and working on the front lines of climate change and reliant on often declining resources, they are highly exposed to ecological hazards and vulnerable to a range of shocks and stresses arising from both natural and socioeconomic systems.



Social protection can help people manage risk but provision is limited.

### Coverage of informal workers is low

- Small-scale enterprises are typically informal, controlled by individuals or household units who tend not to register as formal businesses
- Informal workers are rarely included in formal social protection systems.



### Programs rarely address specific needs

- Benefits are seldom linked to the short- to medium-term costs imposed by measures taken to enhance fisheries' sustainability
- Benefit delivery and contribution mechanisms are not suited to socioeconomic conditions.

Aligning social protection and labour programmes with fisheries management can enable and incentivise actions that enhance sustainability, while building resilience.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOUR INSTRUMENTS

### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Non-contributory, typically for low-income households

- Transfers (cash, in-kind, vouchers, conditional vs non-conditional)
- Public works (cash/food for work)
- Fee waivers (basic health, education)
- Subsidies (food, fuel, housing)

### SOCIAL INSURANCE

Contributory, typically for formal workers

- Health
- Unemployment
- Disability
- Workplace accident
- Pension
- Livelihood and parametric insurance

### ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET

- Training, skills, coaching
- Job intermediation, counselling
- Subsidies for wage, transportation, social-insurance contribution
- Access to finance
- Support for micro- and small enterprises

### ACTION 1: REGISTRATION

Registration of fishers and fish workers provides essential data for fisheries management. This registration can also link them to various social services, including social protection and labour programmes, leading to a mutually reinforcing cycle of benefits for fisheries and communities.

### ACTION 2: BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Measures taken to enhance sustainability often require a specific change in behaviour within a fishery or related activity (eg comply with new fishing regulations).

Conditional transfers, public works and unemployment insurance can mitigate socioeconomic losses, enhancing impacts of management.

### ACTION 3: FISHERY EXIT

When fish catch is too high, longer term strategies can be designed to reduce numbers of workers in a specific fishery or area.

Active labour market programmes or economic-inclusion programmes that incorporate conditional transfers can facilitate and incentivise the transition to other fisheries or sectors.

## Recommendations for connected systems



### Institutional cooperation and coordination

- Enhance intra- and inter-ministerial coordination for policy coherence
- Enhance cooperation with NGOs, private companies (eg insurance), fishery sector organisations (eg cooperatives, collectives), and community-based organisations



### Fisheries assessment, regulation, monitoring and enforcement

- Collect and analyse data on environmental, economic and social aspects of fisheries
- Use data to develop equitable and enforceable regulations, leveraging social protection to mitigate negative impacts
- Promote equitable governance and community-level monitoring and enforcement



### Adequate and sustainable financing

- Use and adapt existing infrastructure
- Mobilise domestic resources through fiscal reform, including reallocation of harmful fisheries subsidies
- Develop innovative mechanisms with potential to attract more significant and longer-term financing



### Programme design and implementation

- Include fishers and fish workers in social registries and adjust eligibility criteria
- Design adequate and appropriate benefits and contributions that are attractive to the target population
- Use conditionality to achieve sustainability
- Deliver benefits in convenient and practical ways