

# Improving Social Responsibility in Small-scale Fisheries: How can the SSF Guidelines Help?

Sebastian Mathew

Executive Director, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Vigo Dialogue on Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, 02 October 2018

Vigo, Spain

# Fishers

- \* “...(fishers) are all very poor people who follow as a trade what other people pursue as a pastime.”
  - \* Adam Smith, *An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776

# Small-scale Fisheries

- \* Small-scale fisheries are a source of livelihoods (e.g. income, food and employment), sites of expression of cultural values and a buffer against shocks for poor communities (SOFIA 2018)

# Social Responsibility and Small-scale Fisheries

- \* **Social responsibility** is one of the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines along with **human rights and dignity; respect for cultures; non-discrimination; gender equality and equity; equity and equality; consultation and participation; rule of law; transparency and accountability; economic, social and environmental sustainability**

# Factors Impeding SSF from being Socially Responsible (SSF Guidelines)

- \* Contribution to food security and nutrition, and poverty eradication is not recognized
- \* Customary institutions are not recognized or marginalized
- \* Poor access to resources and markets
- \* Lack of fishing community participation in resource management
- \* Unequal power relations along the value chain and competition faced from other sectors
- \* rapid technology developments and demographic changes
- \* Pollution, environmental degradation climate change impacts and natural and human-induced disasters
- \* Insecure tenure rights to the land and to the fishing areas

# Factors Impeding SSF from being Socially Responsible (SSF Guidelines) 2

- \* Poor access to education, health and other social services
- \* Low levels of formal education
- \* Poor recognition of the role of women along the fisheries value chain
- \* Existence of ill-health (above average incidences of HIV/AIDS)
- \* Inadequate organizational structures
- \* Poor consultation and participation in decision making along the value chain
- \* Lack of alternative livelihoods
- \* Youth unemployment
- \* Unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, forced labour and child labour
- \* Lack of social protection measures along the entire value chain
- \* Poor enjoyment of human rights

# Small-scale Fisheries and SDGs

- \* How can small-scale fisheries contribute to ending poverty in fishing communities? (SDG 1)
- \* How can small-scale fisheries contribute to the eradication of hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition? (SDG 2)
- \* How can small-scale fisheries ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all in fishing communities? (SDG 3)

# Small-scale Fisheries and SDGs 2

- \* How can small-scale fisheries achieve gender equality and empower all women in fishing communities? (SDG 5)
- \* How can small-scale fisheries promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth? (SDG 8)
- \* How can small-scale fisheries contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries? (SDG 10)

# Small-scale Fisheries and SDGs 3

- \* How can small-scale fisheries contribute to sustainable consumption and production patterns? (SDG 12)
- \* How can small-scale fisheries contribute to conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development? (SDG 14)

# Enabling SDGs for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries

- \* How can sustainable management of rivers and freshwater sources help small-scale fisheries? (SDG 6)
- \* How can protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems help small-scale fisheries? (SDG 15)
- \* How can inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities help small-scale fishing communities (SDG 4)

# Enabling SDGs for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries 2

- \* How can building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation help small-scale fishing communities? (SDG 9)
- \* How can making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable help small-scale fishing communities? (SDG 11)
- \* How can combating climate change and its impacts help small-scale fishing communities? (SDG 13)

# Enabling SDGs for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries 3

- \* How can promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels help small-scale fisheries and fishing communities? (SDG 16)
- \* How can strengthening the means of implementation of SDGs and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development help small-scale fisheries and fishing communities? (SDG 17)

# Integrated, Indivisible SDGs and SSF

- \* All the SDGs are integrated and indivisible to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development
- \* Indivisibility of SDGs is particularly relevant from the perspective of small-scale fisheries and SSF fishing communities
- \* Achieving enabling SDGs are also relevant from the point of view of improving small-scale fisheries governance

# SOFIA 2018

- \* Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) serve as policy frameworks for making small-scale fisheries more sustainable

# Enhancing Social Responsibility of SSF and the SSF Actors

- \* Implementing the SSF Guidelines
- \* Implementing the VGGT
- \* Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (the Right to Food Guidelines)
- \* Implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)
- \* Implementing the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)
- \* **Implementing all the above can also achieve the SDGs!**

# Examples of SSF Guidelines Implementation

- \* Several countries and regional organizations have incorporated reference to the SSF Guidelines in relevant policies and strategies (e.g. Costa Rica and India; model law on small-scale fisheries through the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino))
- \* Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF)
- \* CSOs/NGOs/research community continue to create awareness of the SSF Guidelines
- \* FAO project, supported by Norad, to implement the Guidelines in several countries



\* Thank you