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Strengthening coherence between social protection and fisheries policies

Diagnostic tool



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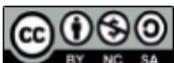
Diagnostic tool

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Preparation of this document

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers 671/1 and 671/2, titled respectively Strengthening coherence between social protection and fisheries policies: Framework for analysis and action and Strengthening coherence between social protection and fisheries policies: Diagnostic Tool, were prepared to support countries in strengthening the design and adoption of coherent social protection and fisheries policies and programmes.

The documents are the product of interdivisional work between the Fisheries Division (NFI) and the Social Protection Team in the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division (ESP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The drafting of the documents was led by Greta Campora (ESP), Omar Benammour (ESP) and Mariaeleonora D'Andrea (NFI), with contributions by Daniela Kalikoski (NFI), Daniella Salazar Herrera (NFI), Marco Knowles (ESP) and Anna Carlson (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean). Technical guidance was provided by Daniela Kalikoski (NFI) and Nicole Franz (NFI). The documents build on earlier versions prepared by independent consultants, Cecile Brugere and Angela Lentisco, and that were piloted in Cambodia and Thailand in 2016 and 2017 and in Senegal in 2019 under the lead of Mariaeleonora D'Andrea (NFI). The inputs of Susana Siar (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) and Florence Poulain (NFI) provided to earlier versions of the documents are also gratefully acknowledged.

The importance of social protection was re-emphasized during the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and endorsed by the 2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, which calls on parties to urgently:

Promote the attainment of safe, healthy and fair working conditions for all in the sector, support efforts to prevent and halt forced labour, facilitate access to social protection programmes for fishers and aquaculture producers and their communities, support measures to improve safety at sea, and work towards enhancing the standards of living for all in the sector, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, including the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization (COFI, 2021, para. 13).

The documents build upon existing international instruments aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture around the world, such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. They also build upon the frameworks described in the FAO publications titled FAO Social Protection Framework: Promoting Rural Development for All (2017) and Strengthening Coherence between Agriculture and Social Protection. Framework for Analysis and Action (2016), and the Diagnostic Tool accompanying the latter developed in the FAO publication Strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection to combat poverty and hunger in Africa: Diagnostic Tool (2016).

Abstract

Transforming blue food systems (oceans, inland waters, and sustainable aquaculture) is needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they provide humankind with a significant proportion of nutritious food and healthy diets, resilient livelihoods, equitable and sustainable management of fisheries resources. Growing empirical evidence shows that a blue food systems transformation can only be achieved through policy coherence (Target 17.14), by reconciling environmental sustainability and socio-economic wellbeing of fisheries-dependent communities. When designed and implemented in coherence with fisheries policies, social protection is a powerful tool to achieve those objectives. However, efforts still need to be made to increase the amount of data and evidence in favour of interconnected interventions associating social protection and fisheries policies. This Diagnostic Tool provides practical instruments for assessing the level of coherence between fisheries policies and social protection within a country. It helps to identify and map the scope and nature of links between the two sectors; and understand people's experiences and perceptions of these synergies and how the synergies (or lack thereof) affect fisheries-dependent communities' livelihoods. The Diagnostic Tool provides the basis for identifying options for strengthening coherence, including the methodology and interview guides to be applied and adapted to country-specific contexts.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

2030 Agenda	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
CCAM	climate change adaptation and mitigation
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CNAAS	National Agricultural Insurance Company of Senegal
CNSS	National Social Security Fund (Morocco)
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
EAF	ecosystem approach to fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFR	General Fisheries Registry (Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay)
HGSF	home-grown school feeding
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
IYAFSA 2022	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
MPA	marine protected area
NGO	non-governmental organization
RPOA-SSF	Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Introduction

Background and objectives

This Diagnostic Tool is an essential part of, and complements, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 671/1 Strengthening coherence between social protection and fisheries policies: Framework for Analysis and Action published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The objective of this Diagnostic Tool is to provide guidance on strengthening coherence between fisheries and social protection policies within a given country, and identifying potential entry points for this purpose. The Tool will enable users to:

- map and assess the level of coherence, at country level, between social protection and fisheries policies, including supportive and constraining factors;
- identify entry points for strengthening coherence to reduce poverty and hunger in fisheries-dependent communities, while enhancing sustainable fisheries management and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM); and
- understand the experience of fisheries-dependent communities and improve knowledge of the impacts of the coherence between fisheries policies and social protection

This will help to identify ways to foster coherence, which will depend on specific country contexts as well as on testing and supporting the assumptions presented in the Framework for Analysis and Action associated with this Diagnostic Tool. The Diagnostic Tool has already been piloted in Cambodia, Senegal and Thailand (FAO, 2019a, forthcoming). It integrates the findings drawn from these pilots, which focused on inland capture fisheries and marine small-scale fisheries. Moreover, this Tool has been designed to support countries in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), which highlight the vulnerability and marginalization of small-scale fishing communities around the world, both formal and informal, and the special attention they need (FAO, 2015). This approach is an integral part of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (FAO, 2021a), that seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable blue food systems.

Audience

This Diagnostic Tool should be used by stakeholders that play an active role in improving the welfare of fisheries-dependent communities and the sustainability of natural resources, through the design of policies, management measures, programmes and advocacy activities. These include:

- (i) government officials and decision-makers engaged in:
 - the design and implementation of fisheries policies and social protection (e.g. national ministries of fisheries, the environment or natural resources management; national ministries in charge of social protection or focused on poverty and hunger reduction and climate change issues);
 - financing (e.g. national ministries of finance, parliamentary committees and other institutions involved in financing governmental interventions); and

- supporting cross-sectoral coordination (e.g. national ministries of planning, climate change, national and decentralized committees and other institutional and governmental entities supporting cross-sectoral coordination);
- (ii) development partners providing technical and financial support to government-led social protection, poverty reduction, sustainable natural resource management, climate change issues and fisheries policies; and
- (iii) civil society organizations, including research bodies, non-state service providers, fishers' cooperatives and community-based fisheries' organizations engaged in advocacy and social protection service delivery to eradicate poverty, sustainable natural resource management and CCAM.

Structure

The document is structured as follows, similar to other diagnostic tools (FAO, 2016b):

Part A - Methodology and process

- **Section 1:** Core areas of enquiry describes the objective and scope of the assessment, including an overview of the three main areas of enquiry, namely policies and programmes; enabling environment; and programme performance and beneficiary experiences.
- **Section 2:** Methodological approach proposes a methodology for conducting the assessment. This section describes a process for collecting and analysing information through:
 - desk-based review;
 - field-based data collection; and
 - national validation workshops.

Part B – Interview guides

Interview guides provide a series of practical instruments that can be used to collect data in the field. The interview guides consist of a series of proposed interview questions tailored to different types of respondents and organized around the three core areas of enquiry.

Part A – Methodology and process

Section 1: Core areas of enquiry

1. What to assess?

This section will review the key concepts of coherence, social protection and fisheries-dependent communities, as well as how links between fisheries policies and social protection interventions can be conceptualized and assessed. It will also introduce the three main areas of enquiry to be addressed by the Diagnostic Tool.

1.1 Key concepts and definitions

This information is presented in a similar format as in the Framework for Analysis and Action. It is repeated here for ease of reference.

a) *Fisheries-dependent communities*

This Diagnostic Tool refers to fisheries-dependent communities as “communities whose livelihoods are dependent on the natural marine, coastal or inland resources, with people actively involved in harvesting, processing and/or selling the resources as a primary means of income; and whose social and cultural identity is integrated into these practices” (Béné, Devereux and Roelen, 2015). This Diagnostic Tool uses some categorizations of the value chain of fisheries-dependent communities, as follows (Béné, Devereux and Roelen, 2015):

- Small-scale, coastal or artisanal fisheries are terms that are often used interchangeably. Small-scale fisheries are characterized by “low capital input” activities, low capital investments and equipment, labour-intensive operations, and, generally, relatively low productivity (Garcia *et al.*, 2008). What differentiates small-scale fisheries from larger ones is not necessarily clear, and the “scale” is contextual. This topic has been regularly debated in various forums at the global level, for example, within the context of specific regional fisheries management organizations. The SSF Guidelines acknowledge the great diversity of small-scale fisheries around the world and identify that there is no single, agreed-upon definition, nor would such a definition be appropriate for such a diverse and dynamic sector (FAO, 2015). This category also includes gleaners, known as shore or beach fishers, who fish on foot, gathering shellfish.
- Boat crew members are persons contracted by boat owners to operate on industrial, semi-industrial and family-owned vessels.
- Fish processors and fish retailers are especially women, often wives, widows or partners of fishers. These activities are often largely informal and unregulated, as in the case of gleaners.
- Processing and storage factory workers – who are predominantly women – operate in factories to transform or preserve fish through different processing methods. Smoking, sun-drying, and salting are typical low-cost processing operations associated with small-scale fisheries value chains.

- Fisher-farmers or farmer-fishers are terms relating to families that undertake fishing as part of a broader portfolio of livelihood activities (often on-farm).
- Fisheries-dependent families are families that are equally affected by the same vulnerabilities, livelihoods shocks and threats arising in the fishing sector.

b) Fisheries policies

Fisheries policies refer to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), which establishes guidelines and international standards of practice for responsible conduct to secure the successful conservation, sustainable management and development of living aquatic resources while respecting the ecosystem and biodiversity (FAO, 1995). The CCRF recognizes the nutritional, economic, social, environmental and cultural importance of fisheries, and the interests of all those involved in the fishery sector (FAO, 1995). According to these, states should ensure that fisheries policies deliver a long-term vision for sustainable small-scale fisheries and the eradication of poverty, using an ecosystem approach (FAO, 2015).

Fisheries policies also refer to human rights, enshrined in the SSF Guidelines. States involved in fisheries are generally supported in applying the CCRF and establishing fisheries policies for the responsible conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management and development. Among fisheries policies, the Framework associated with this Diagnostic Tool focuses primarily on “fisheries management policies” aiming to correct inadequate use of natural resources and preserve sustainability, using an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

In addition to fishing regulations that prevent and prohibit excessive use of environmental resources and polluting means, fisheries policies also include interventions that aim to change fishers’ behaviours with regard to natural resources, as part of a broader EAF. An example of such policies is the widely used Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), which require that users of natural resources are paid to conserve or manage them in a more sustainable way. These payments can both incentivize sustainable use of resources but also in some cases compensate for adherence to fisheries management policies (Mohammed, 2012). The Diagnostic Tool considers these monetary transfers as fisheries policies with an underlying social protection function.

c) Social protection

Social protection refers to the “set of policies and programmes that addresses economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty by protecting and promoting livelihoods” (FAO, 2017a). Social protection is “aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion throughout their lifecycles, particularly the most vulnerable groups” (ISPA, 2014) through three pillars:

- social assistance that alleviates chronic poverty through non-contributory transfers that can be provided in-kind or in cash (this includes interventions such as cash transfers, cash +, school feeding, food transfers, fee waivers, input subsidies and public works programmes);
- social insurance that protects the uninsured against adverse personal circumstances, lifecycle hazards and livelihood risks through contributory insurance to mitigate the effects of shocks (such as allowances for old age,

disability and survivors, sickness, maternity and work injury, as well as families and children); and

- labour market interventions that facilitate employment and promote livelihoods to ensure basic work standards and extend rights through protection for labour, such as skills development.

BOX 1

FAO's social protection approach

FAO adopts a comprehensive approach to social protection, which encompasses four essential functions:

1. protective (to guarantee relief from deprivation);
2. preventive (to avert deprivation);
3. promotive (to enhance capabilities and build resilience); and
4. transformative (to address power imbalances and inequalities in society).

FAO works on expanding social protection coverage (SDG Target 1.3) to effectively reach rural men and women involved in agrifood systems. These efforts are carried out in coherence with agriculture, fisheries, livestock, pastoralism and forestry, in order to eliminate hunger and promote poverty reduction, natural resource management, economic inclusion and resilience including to risks associated to climate change.

Sources: FAO (2017a, 2017b); Charles, Kalikoski and Macnaughton (2019).

d) *Policy coherence*

- Policy coherence is defined as “a systematic promotion of complementary and consistent policies and programmes across sectors, thereby creating synergies to combat poverty more effectively” (FAO, 2016a). Policy coherence (SDG Target 17.14) is not an end in itself, but rather a process to eradicate poverty and hunger, to sustainably manage natural resources and to foster resilience to shocks, including climate change. With specific reference to fisheries, it also aims to transform blue food systems.
- Therefore, coherence is an approach to harnessing and harmonizing complementarities between different sectors while avoiding and minimizing potential conflicts (FAO, 2016a).

1.2 Core areas of enquiry

The Diagnostic Tool is guided by three main areas of enquiry that will be explored at the national, district and village/community level within a given country (FAO, 2016b). The areas are:

- i.) fisheries and social protection policies and programmes;
- ii.) enabling environments for greater coherence; and
- iii.) programme performance and beneficiaries' experience.

The following areas of enquiry are designed to generate a comprehensive understanding of the state of coherence across fisheries policies and social protection in a country. For this reason, the three areas have been integrated into the interview guides (Part B of this publication).

i.) Policies and programmes

Assessing the policy and programme area will make it possible to map existing and potential links between fisheries policies and social protection interventions, including policy instruments, through types of interactions and design approach (Box 2). More specifically, this assessment will:

- map existing fisheries and social protection policies and programmes within a country;
- identify existing efforts to strengthen coherence;
- identify potential links, complementarities and coherence among social protection and fisheries policies (e.g. sharing target groups, objectives, activities, implementation arrangements);
- indicate whether links emerge intentionally or through fortuitous coincidence; and indicate whether links are synergistic or conflicting in any way.

BOX 2

Typology of interactions between fisheries policies and social protection and design modalities for developing coherent interventions

The ways in which links between fisheries policies and social protection play out and can be combined are context-specific; however, the interactions can be generally characterized as reinforcing or conflictual.

- **Reinforcing.** Such interactions occur when fisheries policies and social protection contribute to a common goal together, with each serving its own function. A reinforcing interaction takes place, for example, when households invest part of a social protection transfer in their fisheries activities in a sustainable manner and this leads to improved sustainable natural resource management.
- **Conflictual.** Conflicts may occur between different interventions, undermining positive outcomes. For example, cash transfers might be used to invest in the fishery sector, increasing small-scale fishers' catches and intensifying overfishing or bycatch. "Harmful" or "capacity enhancing" fisheries subsidies, including fuel subsidies, have a perverse effect on fisheries-dependent communities and their environment.

Design approaches

- **Provide single interventions with win-win outcomes.** This is when standalone programmes are designed to maximize synergies. An example is a fisheries management intervention, such as introduction of an exclusive fishing zone (EFZ) that is purposely established to protect the fishing rights of small-scale fishers against the intrusion of semi-industrial and industrial fishing vessels, while also aiming to improve natural resource management in order to reduce small-scale fishers' vulnerability.
- **Combine multiple components.** Fisheries policies and social protection interventions can be combined into a single programme so that targeted households participate in both fisheries and social protection interventions. For instance, fisheries-dependent communities can benefit from a package of interventions such as skills training on sustainable natural resource management, or cash transfers in exchange for employment in clearing alien vegetation, dune rehabilitation, prevention of coastal erosion, fighting fires and cleaning up the coast.
- **Coordinate and align multiple programmes and policies.** Fisheries policies and social protection interventions can be coordinated and aligned to reach different beneficiaries in various locations through different independent interventions. Examples of coordination and alignment between social protection and fisheries policies include monetary compensation to comply with and mitigate the costs imposed by fisheries restrictions (bans, closed seasons, quotas and permits).

For more information on existing empirical evidence, please refer to the Framework for Analysis and Action between fisheries policies and social protection (FAO, 2022).

Source: Adapted from FAO (2016a, 2016b).

ii.) Enabling environment

Coherence depends on well-coordinated and collaborative action by multiple actors (FAO, 2016a). High-level political, policy and institutional factors can facilitate or limit joint action among players in fisheries and social protection. Small-scale fishers are generally not adequately represented in research, policy and planning for both political and technical reasons (FAO, 2019). Often, the regulatory framework targeting fisheries-dependent communities and assessing their vulnerability is rather poor. Where it exists, it fails to translate policy into action. Experts have also identified the general lack of coordination and coherence among line ministries and relevant policies as a challenge (Béné, Devereux and Roelen, 2015). Facilitation of policy dialogue (among ministries of welfare, rural development, fisheries, the environment, etc.) is necessary for stronger coherence, and should be promoted through a stronger political commitment. This area examines five components of the enabling environment that are critical for cross-sectoral coordination (FAO, 2016a; FAO, 2016b). The components are:

- political commitment
- policy architecture
- coordination arrangements
- financing arrangements
- human capacity.

Political commitment

This component explores the extent of political support for coherence and the motivations and incentives that exist to foster poverty and hunger reduction, while pairing it with sustainable fisheries management and CCAM measures. Strong political commitment towards a coherent agenda is about accommodating different and often conflicting views on how to strike a balance and maximize outcomes between environmental and socio-economic considerations.

Policy architecture

This component identifies the roles that overarching policy frameworks play in the coordination of fisheries policies and social protection interventions. It determines whether the political will has been translated into a policy agenda, and considers existing and emerging policies or strategic processes and efforts to foster coherence more systematically (e.g. defining common goals and sectoral priorities, designing a joint plan of action to coordinate interventions).

Institutional coordination arrangements

This component explores whether and what types of coordinating platforms exist to promote coherence across national and subnational government levels, including key stakeholders and civil society (e.g. fishers' cooperatives and community-based fisheries' organizations); and the functions they have and how they work. It also examines how decentralization (in terms of policy and programme prioritization and planning, resource allocation and programme delivery) affects the rationale for fostering coherence.

Financing arrangements

This component investigates the sources, reliability and sustainability of financing fisheries policies and social protection policies and programmes, as well as of financing joint interventions (FAO, 2016a). This component also takes into account funding from donors and international organizations interested in poverty alleviation, sustainable fisheries management and climate action.

Human capacity

In addition to institutional coordination arrangements, this component explores the technical and administrative capacity – existing and required – to support the development, coordination and monitoring of coherent policies and programmes, including the capacity to generate evidence around coherence; to facilitate cross-sectoral coordination and partnerships among different agencies; and to design, implement, monitor, enforce and evaluate coherent policies and programmes. The human capacity component also assesses plans and ambitions for capacity development, and maps gaps in institutional capacity.

iii.) Programme performance and beneficiary experience

This area indicates whether coherence leads to better programme performance and perceived outcomes or whether it has at least the potential to generate these results. In particular, this area examines (FAO, 2016a):

- what single and joint programmes concretely mean for fishers' livelihoods (both government-led and informal programmes);
- the gaps in terms of coverage and adequacy of these programmes;
- the likely impacts generated (or not) and how people experience and view them;
- the factors mediating the nature and scale of the results; and
- how coherence can be strengthened to maximize positive outcomes for rural poverty reduction and sustainable fisheries management.

Section 2: Methodological approach

Different methods will be used to assess coherence. This section contains a proposed methodological approach for collecting and analysing relevant information. This methodological approach is similar to the one previously used by FAO (2016b) and combines:

- a desk-based review comprising mapping of programmes and policies and secondary data analysis;
- field-based data collection and analysis; and
- national and subnational validation workshops, including review and validation of key findings, analyses and key recommendations.

2.1 Desk-based review and analysis

The desk-based review is a preparatory stage aimed at mapping the key characteristics and impacts of existing fisheries policies and social protection interventions at national level including those affecting fisheries-dependent communities and small-scale fisheries. Subnational interventions may also be included if appropriate, depending on a country's administration arrangements. This desk-based exercise supports the collection of preliminary and preparatory data and information, enabling the exploration of the links between poverty and hunger reduction, sustainable natural resource management and climate action in fishing communities. This exercise also supports the review of existing assessments and evaluations.

Identification and mapping of policies and programmes

The following data sources and literature can be considered in the overall review:

- National development plans (e.g. national sustainable and equitable growth plans and strategies, national poverty eradication strategies).
- High-level policies and strategies on fisheries, sustainable environmental management and social protection (e.g. policies and strategies on social protection, sustainable fisheries management, economic inclusion, food security and nutrition, and climate change issues).
- Gender-disaggregated socioeconomic data on fisheries-dependent communities to understand (i) the sector's socioeconomic characteristics; (ii) the contributions made by fisheries-dependent communities to sustainable development; (iii) their risks and vulnerabilities, including data on accidents and fatalities at sea; (iv) barriers to access social protection; and (v) linkages to the conservation and overexploitation of natural resources and degradation of habitats.
- National-level commitments associated with international organizations and high-level committees on fisheries, food security, nutrition, gender equality, education for all, equitable and inclusive economic growth, sustainable environmental management, etc., including social protection.
- Relevant programmes on social protection and fisheries funded or implemented by bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Relevant programme evaluations and impact assessments of projects on fisheries and social protection.

- National fisheries statistics reports (e.g. fish trade, capture production).
- Other relevant studies.
- Basic information on the policies and programmes under review should be organized in a table, containing the following information about each fisheries policy and social protection intervention:
 - name;
 - duration (start and end date);
 - purpose, intended beneficiaries and context of its development;
 - theory of change, explicit and implicit elements (aims and goals, objectives, instruments and activities, expected outcomes, etc.);
 - the lead implementing agency and main collaborating partners (including donors, NGOs, etc.), if any;
 - the implementation plan and associated budget;
 - target groups and locations;
 - potential barriers and challenges associated with fisheries-dependent communities' access to social protection;
 - support from donors, development partners or civil society; and
 - (if applicable) the share of the national budget in the programme.

The preliminary results of this mapping exercise and the review of interventions will inform the subsequent data collection efforts in the field and will be triangulated with this activity. This makes it possible, first, to understand and frame the overall national vision and policy objectives, mapping the key fisheries and social protection policies and programmes in a country. This design will also enable comprehension of how these aspects interact (e.g. reinforcing or conflicting with one another) and highlight any overlaps or gaps (in terms of coverage, barriers to access, provision of benefits, adequacy, seasonal timing etc.) (FAO, 2016b).

Review of existing assessments and evaluations

After collecting and mapping basic information, the next step is to review relevant assessments and evaluations of the identified policies and programmes to collect information about the impacts of interventions on rural poverty, hunger and sustainable fisheries management. Examples are the promotion of fisheries livelihoods (including on-farm, off-farm and non-farm activities), improved economic inclusion and risk management, enhanced natural resource management and climate actions. Any evidence of spillover effects or multipliers, as well as programme implementation strengths and weaknesses, should be gathered. Sources of information for this activity can be performance evaluation reports and surveys (e.g. programme evaluations, population or agricultural census data, national household surveys and labour force surveys), where they exist. Social protection and fisheries policies can have unintended consequences for other groups and/or on the environment through the trade-offs they generate (e.g. harmful or capacity-enhancing fisheries subsidies or cash transfers, which can lead to overfishing and pollution; see FAO, 2022). The desk-based diagnosis section, done primarily through secondary sources of information, must then be complemented with a primary analysis

conducted on the basis of key informant interviews (KIIs; see Box 3) or focus group discussions (FGDs, see Box 4)

2.2 Field-based data collection and analysis

This section sets out the general steps for collecting information in the field, including sampling considerations and methodology. Based on the results of the desk-based review and preliminary interviews with stakeholders, the steps proposed here should be adapted to suit the country context (FAO, 2016b). The field-based data collection and analysis phase can be done using a cascading method: collecting information initially at the government and donor level; then at regional district and community levels; and finally, the information is analysed. This enables users to first comprehend and frame the overall national vision and policy objectives, and then to gather the range of views and experiences of a diverse group of stakeholders. Users can also see how policies and programmes are carried out at different levels (FAO, 2016b).

Sampling considerations

Depending on the resources and time allocated to qualitative data collection and analysis, different regions, districts and communities should be selected – in addition to collecting data from national-level stakeholders – through a defined purposive sampling approach for qualitative-based fieldwork, in agreement with the government, fishing community leaders and relevant partners. The main selection criteria should be the existence of operational fisheries policies and social protection interventions, to better understand whether and how the different programmes are linked and to understand their impacts (FAO, 2016b).

Team composition

It is recommended that the diagnostic process be overseen, and possibly conducted, by a team of specialists with experience in qualitative methods and policy analysis. The team should ideally consist of a combination of national and international experts, and led by an experienced team leader with wider regional and global experience. The team should undertake data collection and analysis under the overall guidance and responsibility of the team leader (FAO, 2016b).

The composition and size of the team will depend on the financial resources and time available, as well as on the specific scope of data collection (e.g. number of assessment modules, nature of the programmes, number of KIIs and FGDs). To ensure the quality of the information and robustness of the analysis, it is advisable to prioritize selection of experts with qualitative research backgrounds and with expertise in fisheries, natural resources management, gender and social protection. A mix of experts in policy and/or programme design and delivery will also benefit the quality of analysis, as would an adequate gender balance.

Training and piloting fieldwork

Field training will enable team members to become familiar with all facets of the diagnostic process. This process should include two to five days, including one day for a pilot (trial) and debriefing session. The subjects discussed in the training could include: the background and justification for conducting the analysis; ethical guidelines; understanding of key concepts and definitions (e.g. social protection, fisheries policies, climate change, blue food systems and coherence); an overview of multiple programmes; description of a roadmap, methods and tools; and other fieldwork activities, including debriefing, analysis and report-writing. During the training, it is recommended to hold a pilot of the methodology (field guide questions and tools), to ensure appropriateness, understanding and competency in field methods (FAO, 2016b).

Proposed tools for data collection and analysis

A range of qualitative and participatory data collection instruments or tools are proposed for conducting the data collection and analysis. These include:

- key informant interviews;
- focus group discussions; and
- in-depth household case studies (if time and resources permit).

BOX 3

Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews (KIIs) are semi-structured debates with people who have knowledge of or expertise on subjects relevant to the research study. For this particular study, identification of these individuals requires some prior knowledge of the operation and context of the fisheries, natural resource management and social protection sectors in each country. Also necessary are broad checklists of questions that can draw out specific insights from each individual. Although the topics covered by the KIIs will be similar to those in the FGDs, the information comes from different actors and will be triangulated for a better understanding of the topic. In addition, key informants should be able to provide information at the national and regional level, rather than individual level. Usually, KIIs take place with only one respondent; however, if two or three topic experts are available, it is possible to have a KII with more than one person at a time.

Source: FAO (2016b).

In addition, KIIs should be conducted with key representatives at each level – including national (central) and subnational (district and regional) administrative levels – as well as staff from donor and development agencies, NGOs and leaders of fishers' cooperatives and community-based fisheries' organizations. The overall aims of KIIs are to:

- assess and gain a deeper understanding of the type and nature of existing and potential links between the policies and programmes being implemented;
- assess and gain an understanding of the degree of awareness of and commitment towards coherence, the opportunities for and bottlenecks to effective coordination (with examples), and possible differences in the approach adopted by central and subnational government actors; and
- recommend actions to address these constraints and promote synergies.

Interviews should focus upon three levels.

1. At the national level, the interviews should focus on assessing strategic fishery and social protection policy priorities, determining how coherence is considered across them and identifying relevant coordination platforms.
2. At the district level, interviews should explore how decentralization – including the extent of autonomy in decision-making and the allocation of resources (human, time, financial) – affects opportunities for coherence, as well as how existing mechanisms affect the potential for greater coherence.
3. At the community level, interviews should focus on discussing the programmes in place in the communities; whether there are synergies or conflicts between them; whether there are barriers to access and their coverage regarding fisheries-dependent communities; the presence of informal social protection mechanisms associated with fisheries management practices; and the experiences of beneficiaries participating in these programmes. The number of interviews to be conducted

and the selection of respondents will be informed by the desk-based review, the preparatory discussions with key stakeholders and the time available.

BOX 4

Focus group discussions

A focus group discussion (FGD) usually comprises six to ten people engaging in a facilitated discussion on specific topics. Such instruments are extremely effective for exploring predefined topics in depth with relevant groups of people and to gather broader information, expanding on that provided by informants during KIIs. Participants in FGDs are taken from categories of people or families that are of interest to the study design. The purpose of discussing these issues with stratified groups is not to gather “collective” views or experiences, but rather to encourage debate and explore differences in attitudes and perceptions within and between these groups. In general, about 90 minutes (and a maximum of two hours) should be allowed for an FGD. This should be sufficient time to explore all the relevant issues in depth. If participants are unable to spare much time, it is suggested that the number of themes to be discussed in each FGD be limited to five or six. If possible, the use of participatory tools during FGDs to access information through a triangulation of methods can be highly productive.

Source: FAO (2016b).

An FGD can be conducted with different stakeholders and can have different purposes according to the context.

- For example, FGDs with local planning and implementing committees and leaders of fisheries-dependent communities will provide insight into how objectives (e.g. policy objectives and priorities, programme objectives, design and implementation) at the national and subnational levels translate into practice on the ground. Particular areas of enquiry could be perceptions of the identification and selection of potential beneficiaries, the methods of targeting, the coverage and potential barriers to access for fisheries-dependent communities, as well as implementation arrangements and success in operating the programmes as they were envisaged.
- Also, FGDs with fisheries-dependent beneficiaries will help to generate specific insights and qualitative evidence about the impacts of those interventions in concrete terms, through examining the attitudes, behaviours, livelihood strategies, potential barriers to access, and socioeconomic and natural resource management outcomes of such beneficiaries. This will highlight the relevance of programme design and implementation with respect to coherence and can provide insight into possible recommendations. These discussions will help in comparing the impacts of coherent programming versus social protection or fisheries policies that are implemented separately, and identify recommendations. Such FGDs can also help generate knowledge about informal forms of social protection associated with fisheries management practices, and eventually promote them if their impacts on the ground are positive.

Where considered useful, FGDs can be integrated with in-depth family case studies, in which a small number of families (usually, two to four) are selected for in-depth follow-up interviews about their experiences with specific programmes. The purpose of these case studies is to gain greater knowledge and understanding, through actual examples, of how

families use and combine the benefits of the programme, how these decisions are made, and how (and to what extent) they have changed and affected the socioeconomic conditions and well-being of the families – including their behaviours, perspectives, practices, plans, level of confidence and outlook on the future. Similarly, possible trade-offs and constraints can be addressed (FAO, 2016b).

The final information generated during the KIIs and FGDs will be organized to analyse the level of coherence and to review the impacts of fisheries policies and social protection interventions, based on the different outcomes listed below:

- improving fisheries-dependent communities' sustainable management of natural resources;
- enhancing fisheries-dependent communities' economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation; and
- strengthening fisheries-dependent communities' risk management and resilience to shocks, including climate change mitigation.

Through this analysis, these questions will be answered:

- Did the interventions improve at least one of the outcomes?
- To what extent did such improvement occur?
- Did the interventions lead to unintended effects (e.g. overexploitation of natural resources, increased social exclusion)?
- Are social protection interventions coherent with fisheries policies?
- What can be done to improve their synergy and thus their impacts?
- Are there any positive informal local practices that could be replicated at scale?

Lastly, the analysis will provide recommendations to enhance the coherence between fisheries and social protection, to improve its impacts.

2.3 National and sub-national validation workshops

It is recommended to conduct a national and subnational multistakeholder validation workshop involving interviewees selected through the data collection processes. The aim of this workshop is to bring stakeholders together, to validate the results of key thematic areas, discuss opportunities and obstacles to coherence, and develop an action plan. The workshop should bring together a range of high-level stakeholders (e.g. government officials working on social protection, natural resource management and fisheries), representatives of fishers' associations and civil society, donors, United Nations agencies, NGOs, universities and research institutions. A workshop should last two to three hours and focus on presenting the purpose of the diagnostic exercise, the methodology followed and the emerging findings. The workshop should be used to corroborate and triangulate findings from both desk-based and field-based work (FAO, 2016b).

Based on the overall results of the coherence study, the validation workshop should lead to an agreement among participants on which:

- practical approaches could be used to strengthen coherence between social protection and fisheries policies (these may include reflections on the extension of social protection to fisheries-dependent communities);
- which positive informal local practices that could be replicated at scale (if any);
- design and operational arrangements in the delivery of social protection interventions and implementation of fisheries policies should be prioritized to make this possible;

- knowledge gaps should be filled; and
- arrangements should be considered to monitor and measure progress towards both greater coherence and positive impacts of social protection in fisheries.

Together, these considerations should assist in producing a coherent and shared vertical (across various levels of administration) and horizontal (across various ministries and departments) agenda and plan of action that includes (FAO, 2016b):

- the respective commitments of the participating stakeholders in relation to the harmonization of poverty and hunger alleviation, sustainable natural resources management and climate action objectives; and
- a concrete and time-bound plan of action to enhance the reciprocal benefits and trade-offs to be gained from extending social protection coverage to fisheries-dependent communities, and the implementation of more socially sensitive fisheries management measures.

The shared agenda and plan of action should recognize the importance of:

- leveraging best practices of coherent social protection and fisheries policies to make sure they jointly address multiple challenges to reduce the poverty, vulnerability and marginalization of fisheries-dependent communities, sustainably manage the environment and take action against the acute and chronic effects of climate change; and
- choosing the most appropriate approaches according to the expressed needs of fisheries-dependent communities, and to the impacts on the field, based on rising challenges such as climate change as well as the specific country context.

Part B – INTERVIEW GUIDES

This section presents a proposed set of interview guides for collecting information in the field. The guides consist of a series of questions for KIIs and FGDs, which are tailored to the different types of respondents at national, district, regional or community level, and organized around the core areas of enquiry. The guides explain the purpose of the survey and interview, and the definition of coherence between fisheries and social protection policies and programmes, as well as its benefits.

At national and district level, the series of questions presented below are for:

- N1/D1 – Government officials working on fisheries policies at the national and district level (one to two KIIs per level);
- N2/D2 – Government officials working on social protection policies and programmes at the national level and district level (one to two KIIs per each level);
- N3/D3 – Donors or NGOs working on policies or programmes related to fisheries and social protection at the national level and district level (one to two KIIs and/or FGDs per level).

At community or village level, interviews or FGD questions should be used for:

- C1 – Village-level committees responsible for delivery of fisheries and social protection programme(s) (one to two KIIs);
- C2 – Village leaders (one to two KIIs and/or FGDs); and
- C3 – Programme beneficiaries.

The proposed number of interviews is a minimum set that can be expanded given sufficient time and resources. The proposed interview questions are to serve as guidance only. The final field interviews should be prepared by the research team and adapted to the country context.

N1/D1– Government officials working on fisheries policies at the national and district level

a) Policies and programmes

Discussing the context:

1. In your view, what is the level of small-scale fisheries development and the importance of small-scale fisheries in the overall socioeconomic and environmental context of the country (gross domestic product, provision of blue jobs, provision of nutritious and healthy food, safety net function, etc.)?
2. How have fish stock and environmental biodiversity changed over the last five to ten years, also due to climate change in [name of country/district]? Please specify
3. What are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of country/district]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, please specify. Only for the district level: Are they similar to other parts of the country? Are they particularly different?
4. How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition – in the sector, and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of country/district]? Please specify.

Validating and complementing secondary information (fisheries programmes):

Note: Based on the fisheries policies listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and information collected are correct, and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all of its contents.

5. Can you provide an overview of the two or three main national policies that support fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries and fishworkers, in reducing poverty and vulnerability, including food insecurity and malnutrition and improving natural resource management and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) in [name of country/district]
6. For each policy, please tell us the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end dates)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - benefits
 - timing of the benefits, including any seasonality issues
 - implementing department or agency
 - budget
 - coverage of fisheries-dependent communities.

Discussing coherence:

7. Has social protection been incorporated into, or had any effect on, the policies you have described? If so, how (explicitly, informally, programmatically, etc.)?
8. Can you identify any ways in which key fisheries policies and social protection are linked to one another? For example, there may be:
 - standalone interventions with win-win outcomes;
 - combinations of multiple interventions into one programme; or
 - coordination and alignment of multiple programmes and policies.

If so, please explain the following:

- How are they concretely linked to one another (for example, do policies share objectives, goals, activities, actors, procedures, target groups or geographic overlaps)?
 - Are there potential or existing conflicts between policies? If so, please explain. How can these be addressed?
9. Are there any barriers for fisheries-dependent communities to access social protection, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers (barriers of legal, financial, institutional, geographic, political and cultural nature, including ethnic, linguistic and gender barriers)? What would you suggest to overcome these barriers to access? Are there ongoing efforts and commitments to overcome them?
 10. Have these policies been implemented through a participatory process that includes relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Social Protection in [name of country/district]? Has civil society (fishers' cooperatives, fisheries-dependent communities' leaders, etc.) been involved within decision-making processes in [name of country/district]? If yes, please explain how.
 11. Is there an opportunity to further strengthen links between policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? For what purpose and objectives would this be done, and between which policies and programmes? How can this be achieved in practice? What are the constraints on and challenges to pursuing this opportunity?

b) Enabling environment

Discussing the political commitment:

12. Have government authorities recognized the specific needs and vulnerabilities of fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fisheries, and have they been included in the design of fisheries policies in [name of country/district]?
13. Are there any policy champions driving the “coherence agenda” (i.e. stronger synergies between fisheries policies and social protection)? Please identify and describe them.
14. How well are fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers, covered by social protection schemes in [name of country/district]? If yes, please describe them. If no, please explain why.
15. What kind of analysis or evidence would be useful to build commitment to and momentum for coherence (impact evaluations of the added value of integrating fisheries and social protection instruments, practical knowledge about “what works” and how to pursue complementarities in practice) in [name of country/district]? What would be useful for policy formulation and design?

Discussing the policy architecture:

16. Is the political commitment embedded into an overarching policy framework promoting coherence between fisheries policies and social protection in [name of country/district]? If yes, please describe it. If no, please explain why.

Discussing institutional coordination arrangements:

17. Is there a platform that brings stakeholders together to plan and formulate joint policies (i.e. ensuring they are aligned, synergistic and not contradictory)? Are development partners and donors part of this process (or are there attempts to establish an integrated policy planning process)? Are civil society, fishers' cooperatives and community-based fisheries' organizations part of this decision-making process?
18. Are there operational tools (e.g. single registry, coordinated registries, management information systems) in place to foster collaboration and coordination between programmes and build synergies?

19. Are there practical and clear working procedures and coordination mechanisms across different levels of administration (vertically) for the design, delivery and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as enforcement of fisheries policies in [name of country/district]?

Discussing financing arrangements:

20. What are the main sources of financing for fisheries sector policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? Are there any divergences between funding for small-scale versus large-scale fleets in [name of country/district]? Has the share of budget allocated to the small-scale fisheries sector increased, remained the same, or decreased over time? How do you explain this trend? What are the impacts?
21. Do financing arrangements affect coordination? For instance, if the main source of financing for social protection is provided by donors, yet financial support for fisheries policies is provided by the government, what are the implications for coordination in [name of country/district]?

Discussing human capacity:

22. Do you think you have enough staff to cope with the demands to implement the fisheries policies in [name of country/district]? Please explain why, or why not. If you feel you do not have enough capacity, explain what is needed. What do you think is the level of understanding and general view of staff towards coherence between fisheries policies and social protection in [name of country/district]?

c) Programme performance and beneficiary experiences

23. In your opinion, how well is [name of policy] performing in [name of country/district], especially in terms of:
 - improving fisheries-dependent communities' sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhancing fisheries-dependent communities' economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation; and
 - strengthening fisheries-dependent communities' risk management and resilience to shocks, including climate change mitigation.

Please explain in detail. (Repeat this question for the two or three main policies identified.)

24. In your view, how can outcomes be improved (e.g. stronger links and coordination with social protection) in [name of country/district]?
25. Do you have any evaluations or other documents that summarize the performance of policies and that you can share?

N2/D2 – Government officials working on social protection policies and programmes at the national and district level

a) Policies and programmes

Discussing the context:

1. In your view, what are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political, and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of country/district]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, please specify. Only for the district level: Are they similar to other parts of the country? Are they particularly different?
2. How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition – in the sector, and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of country/district]?

Validating and complementing secondary information:

Note: Based on the social protection policies and programmes listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and collected information are correct, and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all of its contents.

3. What is the overarching strategy for social protection in [name of country]?
4. What are the main government policies to reduce poverty, vulnerability and marginalization of fisheries-dependent communities, including food insecurity and malnutrition? Where does natural resource management fit into these broader policies?
5. What are the main objectives and activities or schemes for social protection?
6. Can you provide an overview of the two or three main national social protection programmes that support fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries and fishworkers, and rural development for reducing poverty and vulnerability, including food insecurity and malnutrition in [name of country/district]?
7. For each policy, please tell us the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end date)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - benefits
 - timing of the benefits, including any seasonality issues
 - implementing department or agency
 - budget
 - coverage of fisheries-dependent communities.
8. For each programme listed, are there any barriers to access social protection for fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers (barriers of legal, financial, institutional, geographic, political and cultural nature, including ethnic, linguistic and gender barriers)? What would you suggest to overcome these barriers to access? Are there ongoing efforts and commitments to overcome them?
9. What types of groups are targeted by these schemes (extremely or moderately poor, labour-constrained or able-bodied, having social, lifecycle, spatial or environmental vulnerabilities, etc.)? What types of groups are targeted by these schemes (extremely or moderately poor, labour-constrained or able-bodied, having social, lifecycle, spatial or environmental vulnerabilities, etc.)?
10. How is social protection supported? Which agency delivers it?
11. At district level, to what extent can those implementing social protection on the ground adapt policy? Is the policy implemented uniformly across the whole country or is it adapted to different contexts?

Discussing coherence:

12. Do the abovementioned social protection policies and programmes adequately cover fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers? If yes, please describe how these schemes are adapted to their specific needs. If no, please explain why.
13. Do the social protection policies and programmes mentioned above recognize the heterogeneity of fisheries-dependent communities, and are they able to address different groups (migrant fishers, elderly fishers, women fishers, fish processors, etc.)?
14. Have aspects concerning the sustainable management of fisheries been incorporated into, or had any effect on, the policies and programmes you have described? If so, how (explicitly, informally, programmatically, etc.)?
15. Can you identify any ways in which key fisheries policies and social protection are linked to one another? For example, there may be:
 - standalone intervention with win-win outcomes;
 - combinations of multiple interventions into one programme; or
 - coordination and alignment of multiple programmes and policies.

If so, please explain the following

- How are they concretely linked to one another (for example, do policies share objectives, goals, activities, actors, procedures, target groups or geographic overlaps)?
 - Are there potential or existing conflicts between policies and programmes? If so, please explain. How can these be addressed?
16. Have these policies and programmes been implemented through a participatory process that includes relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Fisheries in [name of country/district]? Has civil society (fishers' cooperatives, fisheries-dependent communities' leaders, etc.) been involved within decision-making processes in [name of country/district]? If yes, please explain how.
 17. Is there an opportunity to further strengthen links between policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? For what purpose and objectives would this be done, and between which policies and programmes? How can this be achieved in practice? What are the constraints on and challenges to pursuing this opportunity?

b) Enabling environment

Discussing political commitment:

18. Have government authorities recognized the specific needs and vulnerabilities of fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fisheries, and have they been included in the design of social protection policies and programmes in [name of country/district]?
19. Are there any policy champions driving the “coherence agenda” (i.e. stronger synergies between fisheries policies and social protection)? Please identify and describe them.
20. Are there any attempts to formalize the sector and extend social protection, especially social insurance, to fisheries-dependent communities (e.g. encouraging registration, simplifying contributions, providing incentives)? If yes, please describe how. If no, please explain why.
21. What kind of analysis or evidence would be useful to build commitment to and momentum for coherence (impact evaluations of the added value of integrating fisheries and social protection instruments, practical knowledge about “what works” and how to pursue complementarities in practice) in [name of country/district]? What would be useful for policy formulation and design?

Discussing policy architecture:

22. Is the political commitment embedded into an overarching policy framework promoting coherence between fisheries policies and social protection in [name of country/district]? If yes, please describe it. If no, please explain why.

Discussing institutional coordination arrangements:

23. Is there a platform that brings stakeholders together to plan and formulate joint policies (i.e. ensuring they are aligned, synergistic and not contradictory)? Are development partners and donors part of this process (or are there attempts to establish an integrated policy planning process)? Are civil society, fishers' cooperatives and community-based fisheries' organizations part of this decision-making process?
24. Are there operational tools (e.g. single registry, coordinated registries, management information systems) in place to foster collaboration and coordination between programmes and build synergies?
25. Are there practical and clear working procedures and coordination mechanisms across different levels of administration (vertically) for the design, delivery and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as enforcement of fisheries policies in [name of country/district]?

Discussing financing arrangements:

26. What are the main sources of financing for fisheries sector policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? Are there any divergences between funding for small-scale versus large-scale fleets in [name of country/district]?
27. Do financing arrangements affect coordination? For instance, if the main source of financing for social protection is provided by donors, yet financial support for fisheries policies is provided by the government, what are the implications for coordination?

Discussing human capacity:

28. Do you think you have enough staff to cope with the demands to implement the fisheries policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? Please explain why, or why not. If you feel you do not have enough capacity, explain what is needed. What do you think is the level of understanding and general view of staff towards coherence between fisheries policies and social protection?

c) Programme performance and beneficiary experiences

29. In your opinion, how well is [name of policy/programme] performing in [name of country/district], especially in terms of:
- improving fisheries-dependent communities' sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhancing fisheries-dependent communities' economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation; and
 - strengthening fisheries-dependent communities' risk management and resilience to shocks, including climate change mitigation.

Please explain in detail. (Repeat this question for the two or three main policies and programmes identified.)

30. In your view, how can outcomes be improved (e.g. stronger links and coordination with social protection)?
31. Do you have any evaluations or other documents that summarize the performance of policies and that you can share?

N3/D3 – Donors or NGOs working on policies or programmes related to fisheries or social protection at the national and district level

a) Policies and programmes

Validating and complementing secondary information:

1. What are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political, and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of country/district]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, please specify. Only for the district level: Are they similar to other parts of the country?
2. Are they particularly different? How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition – in the sector, and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of country/district]?
3. Can you provide an overview of the main donor-led or NGO programmes that aim to reduce the poverty, vulnerability and marginalization of fisheries-dependent communities, while enhancing natural resources management and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM)?

Note: Based on the fisheries and social protection policies and programmes listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and collected information are correct, and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all of its contents.

4. Can you tell us about two or three main programmes that you are managing or supporting? Please specify the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end date)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - benefits
 - timing of the benefits, including any seasonality issues
 - budget
 - coverage of fisheries-dependent communities.

Discussing coherence:

5. Are these main donor-led/NGO programmes connected with other concurrent social protection interventions in any way? Which ones?
6. Are the programmes combining environmental considerations coherent with the well-being and livelihoods of fisheries-dependent communities (probe to ask the main programmes identified)? If yes, which approach to coherence is used? For example, there may be:
 - standalone interventions with win-win outcomes;
 - combinations of different interventions; or
 - coordination and alignment of multiple programmes.

If so, please explain the following:

- How are they concretely linked to one another (for example, do policies share objectives, goals, activities, actors, procedures, target groups or geographic overlaps)?
- Are there potential or existing conflicts between policies and programmes? If so, please explain. How can these be addressed?

7. Have these policies and programmes been implemented through a participatory process that includes relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Fisheries or Social Protection in [name of country/district]? Has civil society (fishers' cooperatives, fisheries-dependent communities' leaders etc.) been involved within decision-making processes in [name of country/district]?
8. Is there an opportunity to further strengthen links between policies and programmes in [name of country/district]? For what purpose and objectives would this be done, and between which policies and programmes? How can this be achieved in practice? What are the constraints on and challenges to pursuing this opportunity?

b) Enabling environment

9. During the programme design stage of [name of programme], what scope or incentives were there (if any) for the relevant stakeholders to explicitly consider the issue of coherence with other potentially overlapping programmes from different sectors? (If there were none for this stage, probe regarding their views in general.)
10. What is your personal view in terms of how important it is to achieve coherence between activities across different sectors?
11. How do you feel greater coherence and coordination could be achieved in practice?
12. Is there a platform that brings stakeholders together to plan a more synergistic approach to programming, including civil society and development partners or donors as part of this process (i.e. ensuring they are aligned, synergistic and not contradictory)? If such a platform does not exist, are there attempts to establish an integrated planning process?
13. What institutional arrangements exist at the district level to foster collaboration and coordination across development partners in relation to fisheries and social protection programmes? Do you think these are effective? How could they be made more effective to encourage coherence across sectors?
14. What do you perceive to be the main human capital capacity constraints facing the fisheries and social protection sector? How do you think these problems can be addressed? What do you think is the level of understanding and general view of staff in development partner agencies towards coherence between fisheries policies and those on social protection?

C1 – Village-level responsible for delivery of fisheries and social protection programmes

a) Policies and programmes

Discussing the context:

1. In your view, what are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of village]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, please specify.
2. How have fish stock and environmental biodiversity changed over the last five to ten years, also due to climate change in [name of village]? Please specify.
3. How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition – in the sector, and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of village]?
4. What is the level of participation of fisheries-dependent communities, including women, in national decision-making concerning social protection or the fisheries

sector in [name of village]? Are there fisheries co-management mechanisms in your village?

Validating and complementing secondary information:

Note: Based on the fisheries and social protection policies and programmes listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and collected information are correct, and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all of its contents.

5. Can you provide an overview of the two or three main social protection programmes being implemented in [name of village] for which you are responsible in terms of programme delivery and targeting? For each, please tell us the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end date)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - type and size of benefits
 - regularity and timing of the benefits, including any seasonality issues
 - potential barriers to access
 - implementing department or agency
 - budget
 - coverage of fisheries-dependent communities.
6. For each programme listed, are there any barriers to access social protection for fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers (barriers of legal, financial, institutional, geographic, political and cultural nature, including ethnic, linguistic and gender barriers)? What would you suggest to overcome these barriers to access? Are there ongoing efforts and commitments to overcome them?
7. Please describe any informal forms of social protection used by local communities to manage risks and mitigate the impacts of any types of shocks (level of contribution, targeting, level and type of benefits, etc.). Are those informal forms of social protection also used by fisheries-dependent communities?

Discussing coherence:

8. Describe your main roles and tasks. Does this work include any issues or activities involving coordination or harmonization among programmes? If so, please explain how and to what extent.
9. Who is in charge of the programmes at district level? How do they support you in fulfilling your roles and implementing your main tasks?
10. To what degree are the programmes you are involved in decided by national- or district-level leaders, and how much can you adapt or change them to work more effectively in your village?
11. Are the programmes contested or not supported? Explain.
12. How would you describe the implementation of your programme? Please explain in terms of:
 - timely delivery;
 - predictability and regularity;
 - access barriers;

- coordination with other programmes;
 - Implementing actors across government tiers;
 - budget mechanisms, planning and delivery (e.g. existing mechanisms and scope for alignment); and
 - grievance mechanisms.
13. Have aspects concerning sustainable management of fisheries and poverty alleviation been incorporated into, or had any effect on, the policies and programmes you have described? If so, how (explicitly, informally, programmatically, etc.)?
14. Can you identify any ways in which key fisheries policies and social protection are linked to one another? For example, there may be:
- standalone interventions with win-win outcomes;
 - combinations of multiple interventions into one programme; or
 - coordination and alignment of multiple programmes and policies.
- If so, please explain the following:
- How are they concretely linked to one another (for example, do policies share objectives, goals, activities, actors, procedures, target groups or geographic overlaps)?
 - Are there potential or existing conflicts between policies and programmes? If so, please explain. How can these be addressed?
15. Have these policies and programmes been implemented through a participatory process that includes your village/civil society (fishers' cooperatives, fisheries-dependent communities' leaders etc.)?

c) Programme performance and beneficiary experiences

16. In your opinion, how well is [name of policy/programme] performing in [name of village], especially in terms of:
- Improving fisheries-dependent communities' sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhancing fisheries-dependent communities' economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation; and
 - strengthening fisheries-dependent communities' risk management and resilience to shocks including climate change mitigation?
 - Please explain in detail. (Repeat this question for the two or three main policies and programmes identified.)
17. Are the programmes delivering the appropriate benefits to achieve the policy and programme goals? Please explain. Do or can these benefits have a synergistic effect on one another to improve overall livelihoods? If so, please provide examples (e.g. cash transfer enables purchase of harmful subsidy).
18. In your view, how can outcomes be improved (e.g. stronger links and coordination with social protection)?
19. Do the outcomes of one programme affect another, either positively in creating synergies, or negatively by diminishing the results of another programme (as needed, give examples to help the respondent)? Or are the outcomes largely independent of one another?
20. Would fisheries programmes achieve more or less if coordinated with other policies or programmes? Please explain and give examples. Would social protection programmes achieve more or less if they were coordinated with other policies or programmes? Please explain and give examples.

C2 – Village leaders and/or fishing community leaders

a) Policies and programmes

Discussing the context:

1. In your view, what are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of community]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, specify.
2. How have fisheries stock and environmental biodiversity changed over the last five to ten years, also due to climate change in [name of community]? Please specify.
3. How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition in the sector – and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of community]?
4. What is the level of participation of fisheries-dependent communities, including women, in national decision-making concerning social protection or the fisheries sector in [name of community]? Are there fisheries co-management mechanisms in [name of community]?

Validating and complementing secondary information:

Note: Based on the fisheries and social protection policies and programmes listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and collected information are correct, and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all of its contents.

5. Can you provide an overview of the two or three main social protection programmes being implemented in [name of community]? For each, please tell us the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end date)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - type and size of benefits
 - regularity and timing of the benefits, including any seasonality issues
 - implementing department or agency
 - budget
 - coverage of fisheries-dependent communities.
6. For each programme listed, are there any barriers to access social protection for fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers (barriers of legal, financial, institutional, geographic, political and cultural nature, including ethnic, linguistic and gender barriers)? What would you suggest to overcome these barriers to access? Are there ongoing efforts and commitments to overcome them?
7. Please describe any informal forms of social protection used by your community to manage risks and mitigate the impacts of any types of shocks (level of contribution, targeting, level and type of benefits, etc.).

Discussing coherence:

8. Describe your main roles and tasks. Does this work include any issues or activities involving coordination or harmonization among programmes? If so, please explain how and to what extent.
9. Who is in charge of the programmes at district level? How do they support you in fulfilling your roles and implementing your main tasks?

10. To what degree are the programmes you are involved in decided by national- or district-level leaders, and how much can you adapt or change them to work more effectively in your village?
11. Are the programmes contested or not supported? Please explain.
12. How would you describe the implementation of your programme? Please explain in terms of:
 - timely delivery;
 - predictability and regularity;
 - barriers to access;
 - coordination with other programmes;
 - implementing actors across government tiers;
 - budget mechanisms, planning and delivery (e.g. existing mechanisms and scope for alignment); and
 - grievance mechanisms.
13. Have aspects relating to sustainable management of fisheries and poverty alleviation been incorporated into, or had any effect on, the policies and programmes you have described? If so, how (explicitly, informally, programmatically, etc.)?
14. Can you identify any ways in which key fisheries policies and social protection are linked to one another? For example, there may be:
 - standalone intervention with win-win outcomes;
 - combinations of multiple interventions into one programme; or
 - coordination and alignment of multiple programmes and policies.

If so, please explain the following:

- How are they concretely linked to one another (for example, do policies share objectives, goals, activities, actors, procedures, target groups or geographic overlaps)?
 - Are there potential or existing conflicts between policies and programmes? If so, please explain. How can these be addressed?
15. Have these policies and programmes been implemented through a participatory process that included your community (fishers' cooperatives, fisheries-dependent communities' leaders, etc.)?

b) Enabling environment

16. In your opinion, how well is [name of policy/programme] performing in [name of village], especially in terms of:
 - improving fisheries-dependent communities' sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhancing fisheries-dependent communities' economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation; and
 - strengthening fisheries-dependent communities' risk management and resilience to shocks including climate change mitigation.

Please explain in detail. (Repeat this question for the two or three main policies and programmes identified.)

17. Are the programmes delivering the appropriate benefits to achieve the policy and programme goals? Please explain. Do, or can, these benefits have a synergistic effect on one another to improve overall livelihoods? If so, please provide examples (e.g. cash transfer enables purchase of harmful subsidy).
18. In your view, how can outcomes be improved (e.g. stronger links and coordination with social protection)?

19. Do the outcomes of one programme affect another, either positively in creating synergies, or negatively by diminishing the results of another programme (as needed, give examples to help the respondent)? Or are the outcomes largely independent of one another?
20. Would fisheries programmes achieve more or less if coordinated with other policies or programmes? Please explain and give examples. Would social protection programmes achieve more or less if they were coordinated with other policies or programmes? Please explain and give examples.
 - help fishing households engage in professional positions (e.g. moving from informal labour into formal labour);
 - change fishing practices;
 - increase women's participation;
 - increase demand for fish; and
 - enhance social networks and local organizations.

C3 – Programme beneficiaries

Note to the interviewer: This interview guide is intended for programme beneficiaries participating in single or multiple programmes. It is critical that focus groups consist of a good balance of participants: for example, only women, only men, only older or younger people, or a mixed group. The composition of the group will be driven by the context. Separate groups of men and women are recommended whenever possible. The FGD should enable individual informants in the group to share their experiences and viewpoints, also bringing out and leading to the development of patterns and trends, as well as revealing differences. Discussions should provide enough detail and results to support conclusions. This module can be adapted for use during in-depth case studies on families.

a) Policies and programmes

Discussing the context:

1. Describe the general livelihood strategies in the community. In your view, what are the main challenges (environmental, economic, social, political, and health) faced by fisheries-dependent communities in [name of community]? Are these challenges recurrent? If yes, please specify.
2. How have fisheries stock and environmental biodiversity changed over the last five to ten years, also due to climate change in [name of community]? Please specify.
3. How widespread are poverty, vulnerability and marginalization – including food insecurity and malnutrition – in the sector, and how have they changed (how much, where, for whom) in [name of community]?
4. What is the level of participation of fisheries-dependent communities, including women, in national decision-making concerning social protection or the fisheries sector in [name of community]? Are there fisheries co-management mechanisms in [name of community]?
5. Is the presence of the social protection programmes increasing compliance with constraining fisheries management measures (e.g. closed seasons)? How? Please give examples.

Note: Based on the fisheries and social protection policies and programmes listed from secondary information sources, identify if the list and collected information are correct and complete or modify the missing or incorrect information. This may involve going through the table with the informant and reviewing all the contents.

6. What are the two or three main programmes being implemented in [name of community] that are aimed at improving the livelihoods and the natural resource management of the fisheries-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers and fishworkers? For each, please tell us the:
 - name
 - duration (start and end date)
 - aims and objectives
 - key activities
 - targeting method, groups and location
 - potential access barriers
 - type and size of benefits.
7. In this community, how are people identified (targeted) to participate in different programmes? Among the two or three main programmes, what is the level of participation in each and why is this the case?
8. Is it common for households here to receive multiple types of support? For instance, to receive fisheries support as well as social protection support? Is this positive, or negative? How is this viewed in the community? Please provide examples of cases you know about.
9. Do you think the main programmes that you have identified are fair about targeting the right people and households who need support? If yes, why? If no, why not?
10. Do you think there are households in this community that are unfairly excluded from receiving support? Please explain and give examples.
11. Are programme support and benefits provided on time? Are they predictable? If not, how does that affect your situation?
12. Do you receive everything to which you are entitled? Please provide details.

b) Enabling environment

13. Do you have a say in the way the programme(s) is(are) being implemented (e.g. make complaints or suggestions for improvements)? If not, does that bother you? How do you think this can be improved?
14. To what extent were you consulted before the start of the programme? Did you participate in the formulation of the programme?
15. Is there an official appeals and complaints committee in this community that you know of (formal and informal arrangements)? Does it work? If not, why not? Provide examples.
16. Are the needs of fisheries-dependent communities (local and migrant), including small-scale-fishers and fishworkers, specifically recognized by the programmes? Are some programmes better than others at targeting special needs? How?

c) Programme performance and beneficiary experiences

17. How have the local fisheries activities changed since the programme started (increases or decreases in catches, seasonal variations, natural resource management etc.)? Please, explain.
18. Has the situation of households in the community changed since the introduction of the social protection and fisheries programme? (Discuss each of the two or three main programmes separately.) Please explain how and why these changes have occurred. Are there any new challenges and constraints due to these changes, in terms of:
 - a) sustainable management of natural resources;
 - b) economic inclusion, diversification, transition to alternative sources of income and climate change adaptation;

- c) risk management and resilience to shocks including climate change mitigation?
19. Over the past two years, has the community faced any large shocks that affected most of the households? (Refer to those mentioned in Question 1 under “Policies and programmes” above.) Please explain. Are these shocks common or unusual events? Do you think the programmes have helped the community to cope with those shocks? If yes, how?
 20. Have your attitudes to risk and poverty changed because of participating in this programme(s)? How have they changed?
 21. How could the positive outcomes of programme support be improved? Examples are:
 - design features – type of transfer (e.g. cash or in-kind donations); size of the transfer; access to complementary support; conditionality; accessing multiple programmes at once;
 - implementation – timing (one-off, lump-sum, regular transfer, seasonal payment, reliability/predictability); aligned well to seasonality; payment and delivery modality (bank, mobile, checkpoint); and
 - role of local committees and implementers and their potential to increase impacts of benefits for the programmes (bottom-up decision making processes, co-management, etc.).
 22. Has the programme changed access to fisheries grounds and resources? In a good or bad way? Are there more or less conflicts over resources than before? If yes, how could the programme be designed and implemented differently to avoid these conflicts?
 23. Has the programme increased the participation of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community in local organizations and networks? Has it reduced or increased inequalities in the community? What are the visible signs of this?

Glossary

Agrifood systems cover the journey of food from farm to table – including when it is grown, fished, harvested, processed, packaged, transported, distributed, traded, bought, prepared, eaten and disposed of. They also encompass non-food products that contribute to livelihoods and all of the people, activities, investments and choices that play a part in obtaining these food and agricultural products.

Blue food systems refer to oceans, inland waters and sustainable aquaculture that can provide humankind with a significant proportion of nutritious food and healthy diets, resilient livelihoods, equitable and sustainable management of fisheries resources needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Cash plus refers to monetary transfers plus agricultural inputs, assets and/or training.

Climate-change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM). Climate change adaptation refers to “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects”. Climate change mitigation aims at “stabilizing the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”. (FAO, 2022d).

Community-based social protection refers to a grouping of activities that protect community members from risk through ‘locally arranged social protection measures that are predicated on people’s cultural beliefs, norms and values’ (Mupedziswa and Ntseane, 2013, p. 85).

Fishing is a “unit determined by an authority or other entity that is engaged in raising and/or harvesting fish. Typically, the unit is defined in terms of some or all of the following: people involved, species or type of fish, area of water or seabed, method of fishing, class of boats and purpose of the activities” (FAO, 2020).

Fisheries subsidies are defined as “any direct or indirect financial transfer from public entities to the private fishing sector, which enable the enterprise, here the fishery, to make more profit than it would otherwise”. (Sumalia *et al.*, 2010; Sumaila *et al.*, 2019).

Fisheries co-management refers to “a relationship between a resource-user group [a group of fishers or a fishing community for example] and another organization or entity (usually a government agency) for the purposes of fisheries management in which some degree of responsibility and/or authority is conferred to both parties” (Evans *et al.*, 2011). Fisheries co-management can be a sustainable way to tackle overfishing, overcapitalization, rising conflicts, loss of livelihoods and lower incomes, food and nutrition insecurity in a world challenged by uncertainties linked to population growth, increasing demand for food and climate change (Cohen *et al.*, 2021; Evans, Cherrett and Pemsal, 2011).

“Harmful” or “capacity-enhancing” fisheries subsidies. Fisheries subsidies can often be defined as “harmful” or “capacity enhancing” when increasing the fishing capacity and effort, instead of promoting fisheries sustainable management and conservation. In marine fisheries, about two-third of all subsidies can be considered harmful, therefore increasing overfishing (examples are fuel and other input subsidies). Among these, 22 per cent subsidize the cost of fuel and are mostly provided to large-scale fleets (more than 80 percent), which use them to travel greater distances and fish for longer, using fuel-intensive methods such as bottom trawling, thus increasing the vulnerability and marginalization of small-scale fisheries (Sumalia *et al.*, 2010; Sumaila *et al.*, 2019). Despite the commitment made through the 2030 Agenda and SDG Target 14.6¹ of reaching agreement, by 2020, to ban harmful subsidies that contribute to overfishing, negotiations continue and the deadline has not been met. Indeed, the proportion and the relative amounts of harmful or capacity-enhanc-

¹ “By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation”. <https://indicators.report/targets/14-6/>

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a broad term that captures a wide variety of fishing activities. Such fishing is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries, and occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdictions. It concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilization of fish, and may sometimes be associated with organized crime.

In-farm activities comprise agriculture (production of crops), plantations, animal husbandry (milk, meat, eggs, etc.), forestry, logging, and fishing.

Non-farm activities cover all areas other than in-farm activities, such as agro-processing industries, wholesale and retail trading, storage and communication, transport, tourism and education, health industries and other service-related activities.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) require users of natural resources to be paid for conserving or managing them in a more sustainable way. These payments can both incentivize the sustainable use of resources, but can also, in some cases, compensate for adherence to fisheries management policies (Mohammed, 2012). These monetary transfers are considered by the Framework as fisheries policies with an underlying social protection function.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs have been conceived part of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015) introducing the 2030 Agenda. The 17 SDGs set therein are broad and interconnected, serving, as stated by SDG Target 17.14, to “enhance policy coherence for sustainable development”. The SDGs cover sustainable development objectives such as ending poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women, as well as combating global warming and enhance environment and social justice.

Sustainable financing refers to a “process of addressing environmental, social and governance considerations when making investment decisions, leading to longer-term investments in sustainable economic activities and projects through both public and private investments” (European Commission, 2022).

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) represent the first global instrument dedicated to small-scale fisheries. They set up principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development. The SSF Guidelines were developed in close collaboration with representatives of small-scale fisheries organizations in a participatory process between 2011–2013, involving over 4 000 stakeholders and facilitated by FAO, based on a mandate by the FAO Committee on Fisheries. The SSF Guidelines “are directed at all those involved in the sector and intend to guide and encourage governments, fishing communities and other stakeholders to work together and ensure secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries for the benefit of small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities as well as for society at large”. They are aligned and compound existing international instruments, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security.

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Corrigendum

27/10/2022

The following corrections were made to the PDF of the report after it went to print.

Page	Location	Text in printed PDF	Text in corrected PDF
iv	Abstract	<p>At a global level there is increasing recognition of the role that fisheries policies and social protection can jointly play in combating poverty and hunger, whilst simultaneously promoting sustainable natural resources management. Efforts are being made at the country level to bring together these two domains, but more needs to be done. For fisheries-dependent communities, the full range of benefits derived from greater coherence between fisheries policies and social protection is not yet widely understood; nor are the means through which improved coherence can be promoted. This Framework for analysis and action seeks to fill these knowledge gaps. By drawing from concrete country experiences, the Framework for analysis and action clarifies the benefits of strengthening coherence between fisheries policies and social protection, and identifies options for achieving improved coherence through policy and programming.</p>	<p>Transforming blue food systems (oceans, inland waters, and sustainable aquaculture) is needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they provide humankind with a significant proportion of nutritious food and healthy diets, resilient livelihoods, equitable and sustainable management of fisheries resources. Growing empirical evidence shows that a blue food systems transformation can only be achieved through policy coherence (Target 17.14), by reconciling environmental sustainability and socio-economic wellbeing of fisheries-dependent communities. When designed and implemented in coherence with fisheries policies, social protection is a powerful tool to achieve those objectives. However, efforts still need to be made to increase the amount of data and evidence in favour of interconnected interventions associating social protection and fisheries policies.</p> <p>This <i>Diagnostic Tool</i> provides practical instruments for assessing the level of coherence between fisheries policies and social protection within a country. It helps to identify and map the scope and nature of links between the two sectors; and understand people's experiences and perceptions of these synergies and how the synergies (or</p>

This FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper is aimed primarily at policymakers, development partners, civil society organizations and practitioners managing the design and implementation of fisheries policies and social protection interventions and providing technical and/or financial support to both sectors. The Technical Paper provides a method for mapping and understanding the state of coherence between fisheries policies and social protection within a given context, and aims to assist countries in the development of coherent interventions. It provides an overview of the three main areas of enquiry, namely policies and programmes; enabling environment; and programme performance and beneficiary experiences. It also offers a methodology for conducting the assessment and guidelines for implementing the methodology in the field, including a roadmap for data collection and analysis, a training agenda for the team that will collect data, a fieldwork protocol, and a guide for recording and analysing qualitative information. The Technical Paper provides a set of proposed interview questions tailored to different types of respondents and organized around the three core areas of enquiry that can be used to collect data in the field.

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