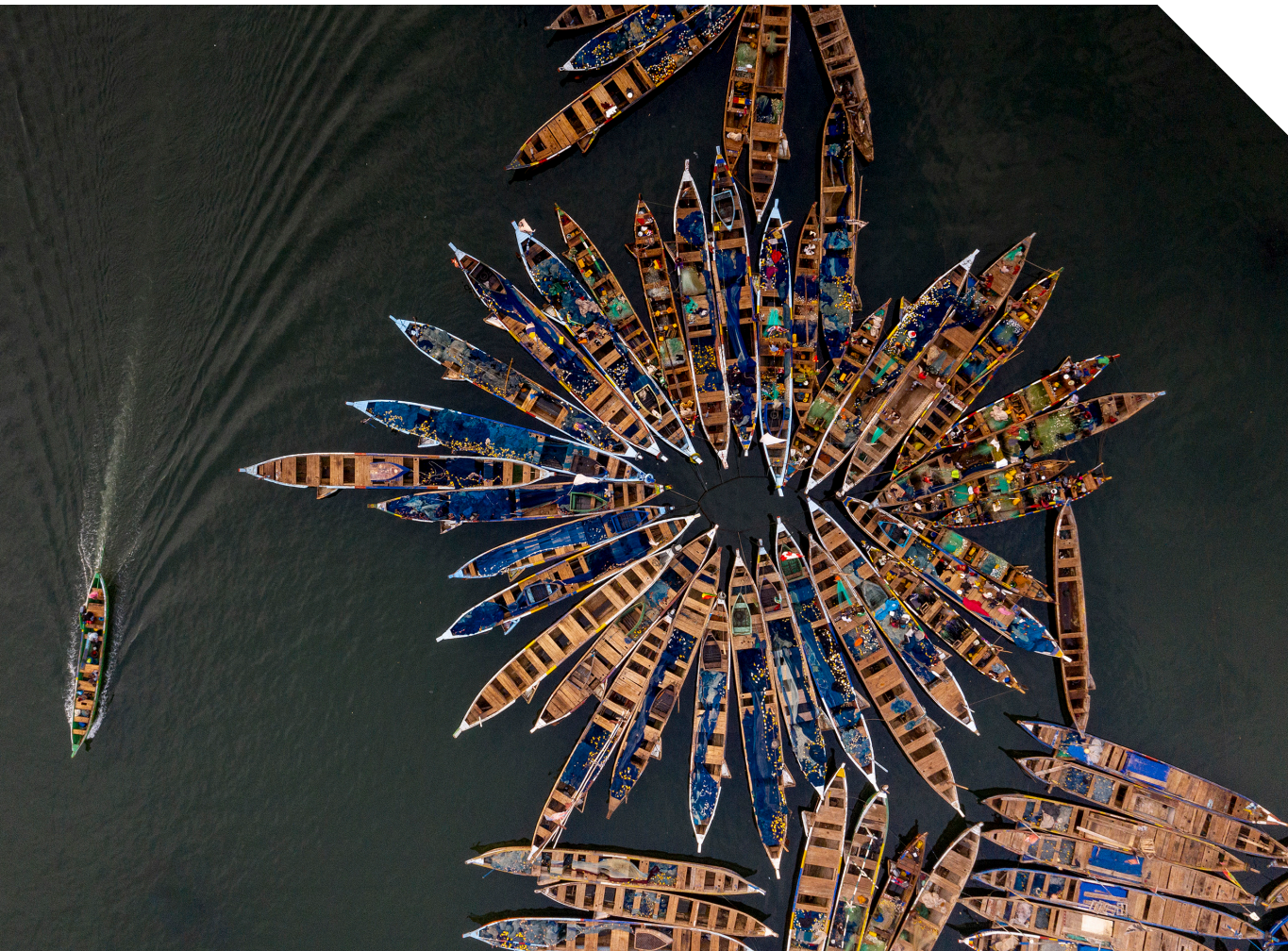




Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Monitoring the challenges of marine and inland small-scale fisherfolks in Ghana

FINDINGS FROM AN ORGANIZATION-LEVEL SURVEY CONDUCTED
AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING



Monitoring the challenges of marine and inland small-scale fisherfolks in Ghana

FINDINGS FROM AN ORGANIZATION-LEVEL SURVEY CONDUCTED
AS PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

Martina Improta

Lorenzo Moncada

Ana Paula de la O Campos

Katia Covarrubias

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, 2023

Required citation:

Improta, M., Moncada, L., de la O Campos, A.P. & Covarrubias, K.A. 2023. *Monitoring the challenges of marine and inland small-scale fisherfolks in Ghana – Findings from an organization-level survey conducted as part of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8885en>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

© FAO, 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: “This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition.”

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Photo cover: © FAO/Kyle LaFerriere

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	v
Abbreviations.....	vi
1 Introduction.....	1
2 Context.....	2
3 Results.....	7
3.1 Organizations profile.....	7
3.2 Organizations governance, administration and funding.....	8
3.3 Members profile.....	10
3.4 Harvesting and sales.....	12
3.5 Inputs for fishing and post-harvest.....	13
3.6 Extension and other support.....	14
3.7 Strengths and weaknesses of the organizations.....	16
3.8 Capacity development and Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.....	18
3.9 COVID-19 pandemic.....	20
3.10 Umbrella organizations.....	22
4 Conclusions.....	26
References.....	27
Annex.....	28

Figures

Figure 1.	Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' structure	4
Figure 2.	Global Positioning System location of the interviews.....	6
Figure 3.	Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' main objectives.....	8
Figure 4.	Limitations imposed by arrangements with other organizations, by inland and coastal communities.....	9
Figure 5.	Collective access to facilities or assets.....	9
Figure 6.	Members engagement in livelihoods activities (other than fishing).....	10
Figure 7.	Respondents' perceived welfare condition of organizations' members.....	11
Figure 8.	Respondents' perceived food insecurity condition of organizations' members.....	11
Figure 9.	Members' reliance on external labour.....	12
Figure 10.	Reasons for not selling collectively.....	13
Figure 11.	Number of organizations that provide collective access to durable and non-durable inputs for fishing.....	14
Figure 12.	Number of organizations that provide extension services to their members by location.....	15
Figure 13.	Number of organizations that provide extension services to their members by way of delivery	15
Figure 14.	External aspects that represent a problem (major or small) for Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations.....	17
Figure 15.	Internal aspects that represent a problem (major or small) for Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations.....	17
Figure 16.	Participation in capacity building activities by inland and coastal communities.....	18
Figure 17.	Share of organizations receiving training by region	18
Figure 18.	Applied knowledge acquired in training	19
Figure 19.	Organizations that are familiar with the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.....	20
Figure 20.	Perceived effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (share of organizations that affirmed the pandemic decreased price and/or availability of the following services)	21
Figure 21.	Coping strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.....	21
Figure 22.	Organizations' main objectives.....	23

Tables

Table 1.	Areas covered by the project and Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations interviewed	5
Table 2.	Umbrella organizations by geographic coverage.....	5
Table 3.	Number of members and years of operation of Small-Scale Fisheries organizations by region	7
Table 4.	Main species of fish harvested, in terms of economic importance.....	12
Table 5.	Small-Scale Fisheries organizations' strengths and weaknesses (self-assessment).....	16
Table 6.	List of umbrella organizations	22
Table 7.	Umbrella organizations' strengths and weaknesses.....	24
Table 8.	Umbrella organizations' main internal and external problems	25
Table A1.	Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' location and number of members	28

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Abigail Kanyi for reviewing the report and for her contribution in the coordination of data collection, together with a team which included Samuel Mensha, Dorothy Appiah and Rebecca Sackey.

We also highly value the inputs from Nicole Franz and Lena Westlund, who provided comments at different stages of development of the study, as well as Stefania Vannuccini, who provided Ghana-specific fisheries data that helped to contextualize the survey instrument.

The authors would like to thank Guilherme Brady and Edoardo Calza for their work as focal points for all United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) survey activities.

We would also like to thank Carlota Vilalva and Daniela Verona (Agrifood Economics and Policy Division [ESA], Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO]) for their editorial, layout support, as well as publishing coordination. Finally, the authors thank the ESA Editorial Board for the revision and general support to this publication.

Abbreviations

CAFGOA	Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
NAFAG	National Fisheries Associations of Ghana
NICFC	National Inland Canoe Fishermen Council
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SSF	small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	<i>Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication</i>
SSFO	Small-Scale Fisheries Organization
UNDF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming

1 Introduction

In the context of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) 2019–2028, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) led a global consultation during 2019–2020 with the objective of studying and identifying challenges faced by family farmers and smallholders, including in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The global consultation led to the development of different survey instruments, with the goal of supporting projects' implementation and monitoring efforts. In this context, a country-specific survey was designed and implemented in Ghana to assess the status of small-scale fishers organizations. This initiative was part of a broader project "Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries – GCP/GLO/965/SWE" funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) which aims at supporting and empowering artisanal fishers through the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* – hereafter SSF Guidelines (FAO, 2015).

This note provides a description of the survey conducted from May to August 2022 and reports the main findings about the features, strategies and challenges faced by small-scale fisheries organisations in Ghana. By collecting information on both small-scale fisheries organizations as well as their umbrella organizations, the study offers important contributions to the knowledge of the small-scale fisheries sector in Ghana and to the Family Farming Knowledge Platform.¹ To begin with, it is the first study under the UNDF framework that collects organization-level data. Second, it compiled information from 72 (45 coastal and 27 inland) Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations (SSFOs) which represent about 4 700 fisherfolks. Finally, it includes information on inland fisheries which constitutes an understudied subsector of Ghanaian fisheries. As a result, this study provides important insights about a broader population of producers, which is particularly valuable as these producers – small-scale fisherfolks – are a hard-to-reach population, and typically missed by sample frames and broader survey efforts.

The report is organized as follows: Section 2 provides contextual information about the fishery sector in Ghana, the FAO project and the survey methodology; Section 3 presents the main results, including a profile of the organizations and their members, the challenges and capacity needs of the organizations, and awareness of the SSF Guidelines, as well as a snapshot of the umbrella organizations that govern the local level fisheries producer organisations. Finally, Section 4 presents the concluding remarks.

¹ The Family Farming Knowledge Platform gathers digitized quality information on family farming from all over the world, including national laws and regulations, public policies, best practices, relevant data and statistics, research, articles and publications. It provides a single access point for international, regional and national information related to family farming issues; integrating and systematizing existing information to better inform and provide knowledge-based assistance to policymakers, family farmers' organizations, development experts, as well as to stakeholders in the field and at the grassroots level (FAO, 2023).

2 Context

2.1 The small-scale fishery sector in Ghana

With a coastline of 758 km and the largest artificial reservoir in the world – the Lake Volta – fishing is a key economic activity in Ghana, contributing to almost 5 percent of the agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) (FAO, 2019) and employing 1.9 million people (Dovlo, Amador and Nkrumah, 2016). Fisheries in Ghana can be classified into three types: marine fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture and into three sub-sectors: small-scale, inshore (semi-industrial) and industrial (Bank of Ghana, 2008; Kassah and Asare, 2022).

Small-scale fisheries (SSF), practiced both in marine and inland water bodies, are very important for Ghana's fisheries sector in terms the scale of production, job creation and food security. Capture fisheries are a major source of nutritious food, contributing to over 80 percent of total fish catch in the country (FAO, 2022), despite a reliance on very basic fishing methods such as the use of canoes (Bank of Ghana, 2008). It is estimated that 11 984 people are employed in pre-harvesting activities such as boat construction, net reparation and bait preparation while 184 795 are employed in harvesting activities. The post-harvest sector employs 64 269 people in processing activities of aquatic products from inland and marine SSF, and 36 395 in trading activities (FAO, 2022).

Marine fish catch produced by artisanal fishery relying particularly on small pelagics, which are the most important marine resource. It is estimated that there are 186 fishing villages and 292 landing beaches along Ghana's coastline that are responsible for the production of about 70 percent of the total marine catch of the country (Dovlo, Amador and Nkrumah, 2016; Lazar *et al.*, 2018). On the other hand, inland fisheries refers to the activities that take place in Lake Volta, and other lakes and lagoons and is particularly affected by overexploitation of resources (Bank of Ghana, 2008).

Gender roles in artisanal fisheries are well defined through traditions and social norms. Young fishermen perform heavier duties such as pushing the canoes, casting, setting, dragging nets and carrying fish, while the elderly undertake management roles such as logistic and net mending. On the other hand, women are generally engaged in processing, distribution of landed fish and marketing (Dovlo, Amador and Nkrumah, 2016; Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and Hen Mpoano, 2019), as also reflected in the groups in which women organize themselves, which are concentrated in the post-harvest processing or trade of fish products segments of the value chain (Smith, 2022).

Small-scale fishers, like all other major stakeholders in the sector, face numerous challenges. Over the last decades, the sector has been affected by sharp declines of major marine fish stocks and consequently in the incomes of small-scale fisherfolk. The drivers of declining catches are multiple: high demand for small pelagic species, poor enforcement of laws, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (such as dynamite fishing, use of chemicals, under-sized meshed nets) that some SSFOs themselves practice. Other important challenges include the impacts of large scale climate variability on water temperatures and currents that have implications for marine life (Kassah and Asare, 2022) and a lack of relevant information and data on fish stocks, particularly on inland operations, that can inform decision-makers and stakeholders. The open-access nature of the fishery resources in Ghana as well as the competition among sectors and the drop in the availability of fish contributed to the creation of an environment of tension and conflict among the main stakeholders (Kassah and Asare, 2022). In this context, the SSF Guidelines play an important role for the education and exposure of stakeholders to responsible fishing to reduce overexploitation and highlight the importance of the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making processes.

2.2 FAO's support to implementing Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines in Ghana

For its strategic importance, FAO is supporting the Government of Ghana to build an environment that allows all – including vulnerable and marginalized groups, women, and youth – to benefit from sustainable small-scale fisheries with different initiatives, based on the recommendations in the SSF Guidelines. This is in line with Priority Area 2 of the Country Programming Framework (CPF), which aims at a sustainable natural resource management for a safe, secure and productive environment. This priority area is concentrated on building capacities of local communities to effectively co-manage natural resources and promote alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on the natural resource base (such as fish stock, forest cover) and to reduce post-harvest losses in fisheries.

The project called “Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries”, which is funded by the SIDA, aims to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines targeting national governments, small-scale fishers, fish workers and their representative organizations. Primary beneficiaries of this project are fishers and fish workers and their communities and organizations, as well as national authorities responsible for fisheries governance, other stakeholders involved in processes relevant to small-scale fisheries, and research partners. Its main goal is to ensure that the small-scale fisheries sector undergoes a social, economic and environmental transformation through improved policy, legal and institutional frameworks (FAO, 2023). The project seeks to empower beneficiaries to end poverty and ensure fishers and fish workers can improve their own situation and manage ecosystems and aquatic resources sustainably. The geographical scope of the project covers ten small-scale fisheries communities in both marine and inland waters along the value chain. The project is also supporting the capacity strengthening of small-scale fisheries organizations to be better organized, have a stronger voice, and participate in decision-making processes.

FAO is also focusing on strengthening women’s roles in SSF value chains as a mean to increase the quantity and quality of small fish for human consumption and trade as part of the FAO-Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) project “Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems”. A third initiative includes the project titled “Implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines for Gender-Equitable and Climate-Resilient Food Systems and Livelihoods”, funded by the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM), under which FAO is collaborating with the Food Research Institute of Ghana to increase the average per capita consumption of aquatic products among children.

2.3 Survey overview

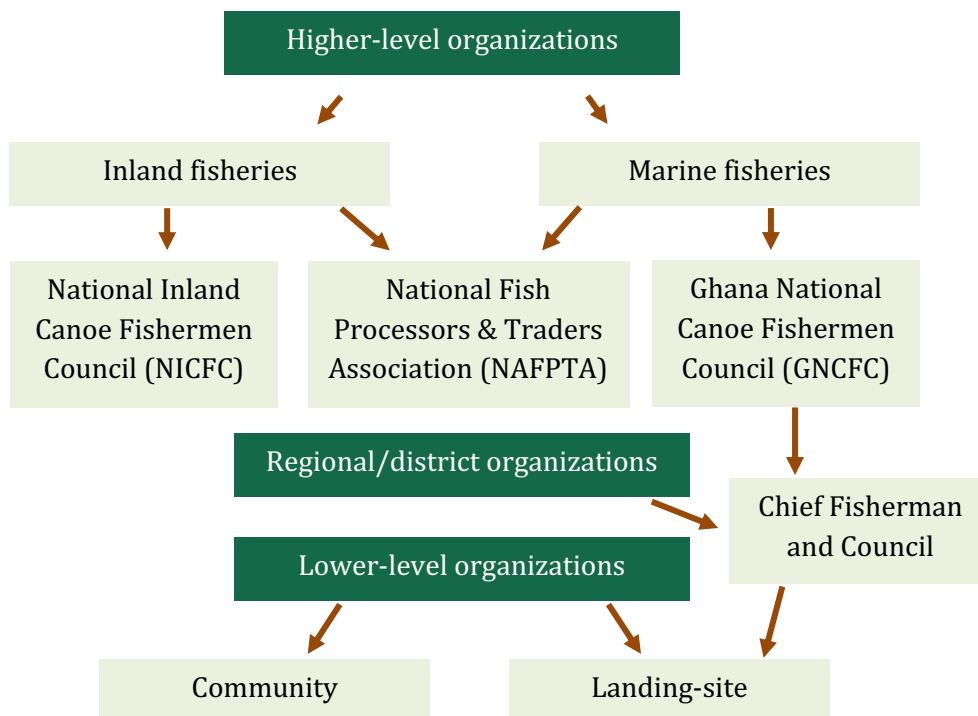
The purpose of this research was to understand the characteristics of SSFOs in Ghana, identifying their capacities and needs, while considering the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey focused on aspects such as the structure of fishers’ organizations, and their assets, services and benefits they provide to their members. The results of this survey will help promote better policies and programmes for small-scale fishers in Ghana. The information collected will also contribute to broader efforts for building better evidence on small-scale producers under the UNDFP.

The survey was designed to reflect the multi-level structure of the organizations representing the fisheries sector in Ghana. At national level there are three main high-level organizations that represent the interest of SSF and engage with the government on their behalf: the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF) representing the marine sector; the National Inland Canoe Fishermen Council (NICFC) representing the inland sector; and the National Fish Processors and Traders Associations (NAFPTA) representing women (Okyere *et al.*, 2023). These organizations serve as the umbrella entities overseeing a network of SSFOs at the regional, district, community and landing site levels. The GNCF is composed by chief fishermen who hold a pseudo-traditional authority position at the landing site. Their position is hereditary and not necessarily held by a fisherman or canoe owner. The chief fisherman receives a share of the catch from the canoes for personal upkeep, but there is no accountability for the fish received. Additionally, membership in the GNCF is restricted to boat owners, while crew members are excluded.

At the lowest level – the landing site – small scale fisherfolk are organized according to the type of vessel their members employ. Landing site SSFOs represent the fisherfolk and other workers involved in the fisheries value chain in the landing area. Since communities may have multiple landing-site organizations, the latter are in turn represented by community-level SSF organizations. Each district then may include one to two district-level SSFOs, representing the multiple community-level organizations falling within the district. Most SSFOs are led by the Chief Fisherman and a council of elders, activities are carried out individually, and they do not collectively offer services or possess assets. Most of the groups along the coast have a limited mandate to be registries for canoes and channels for sharing information at the landing site.

In this survey, we distinguish between the lower-level SSFOs, those at the landing site and community level that are most closely linked to the producers they represent, and the higher-level organizations, which may be district or higher-level organizations (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' structure



Source: Authors' own elaboration based on Kassah, J.E. & Asare, C. 2022. Conflicts in the Artisanal Fishing Industry of Ghana: Reactions of Fishers to Regulatory Measures. In: S. Jentoft, R. Chuenpagdee, A. Bugeja Said & M. Isaacs, eds. *Blue Justice*. MARE Publication Series, vol 26. Cham, Switzerland, Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89624-9_6

The primary target population of the survey is represented by SSFOs operating in 47 different landing sites within the ten communities covered by the SIDA-funded project (Table 1) and the umbrella organizations (national, regional and district-level). The sampling strategy had to deal with the lack of a sampling frame from which to select organizations for conducting interviews. Consequently, the sample frame was constructed in two phases. First, prior to field work, both Local Fisheries Officers and the representative of the main SSF umbrella organizations were requested to provide an exhaustive list of SSFOs operating in their respective areas. As a result, a list of 48 community-level SSFOs was produced, arguably representing most of the organizations in the target area. The accuracy of this list was confirmed for each community with relevant local authorities by the data collection team. As a next step, during the first day of fieldwork in each community, the survey field supervisor met with the zonal fisheries officer and the chief fisher of the community to review the list of pre-identified organizations and, if necessary, contact the organizations not originally included in the list to schedule an interview. As part of this exercise, 27 additional organizations were listed and surveyed. A total of 72 interviews of small-scale fishery organizations (45 pre-identified and 27 identified during the fieldwork) were completed in ten communities, seven coastal and three inlands, across six regions in the area where the SIDA project will be implemented. Out of the organizations interviewed, 45 included organizations operating in marine water bodies and 27 in inland water bodies (see Figure 1). Alongside the SSFOs, 24 higher level organizations were identified and 14 successfully interviewed.

The questionnaire was administered by four enumerators who had been trained to conduct the questionnaire using tablets equipped with the software Kobo Toolbox during in person interviews with at least three (but no more than five) members of the organization at least one of which held a leading role (president, vice-president, secretary). The overall supervision was led by the country-level project coordinator, with support from the FAO Agrifood Economics and Policy Division (ESA) in Rome.

Table 1. Areas covered by the project and Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations interviewed

Region*	District	Community	Organizations interviewed (#)
Western (14)	Nzema East	Axim	8
	Shama	Shama	6
Central (27)	Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abirem	Elmina	9
	Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese	Moree	13
	Ekumfi	Ekumfi Narkwa	5
Greater Accra (4)	Krowor	Nungua	1
	Tema Metropolitan	Tema New Town	3
Eastern (16)	Manya Krobo	Akateng	16
Volta (7)	South Dayi	Dzemeni	7
Oti (4)	Biakoye	Tapa Abotoase	4
Total			72

Note: * Total number of organizations interviewed per region in parentheses.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

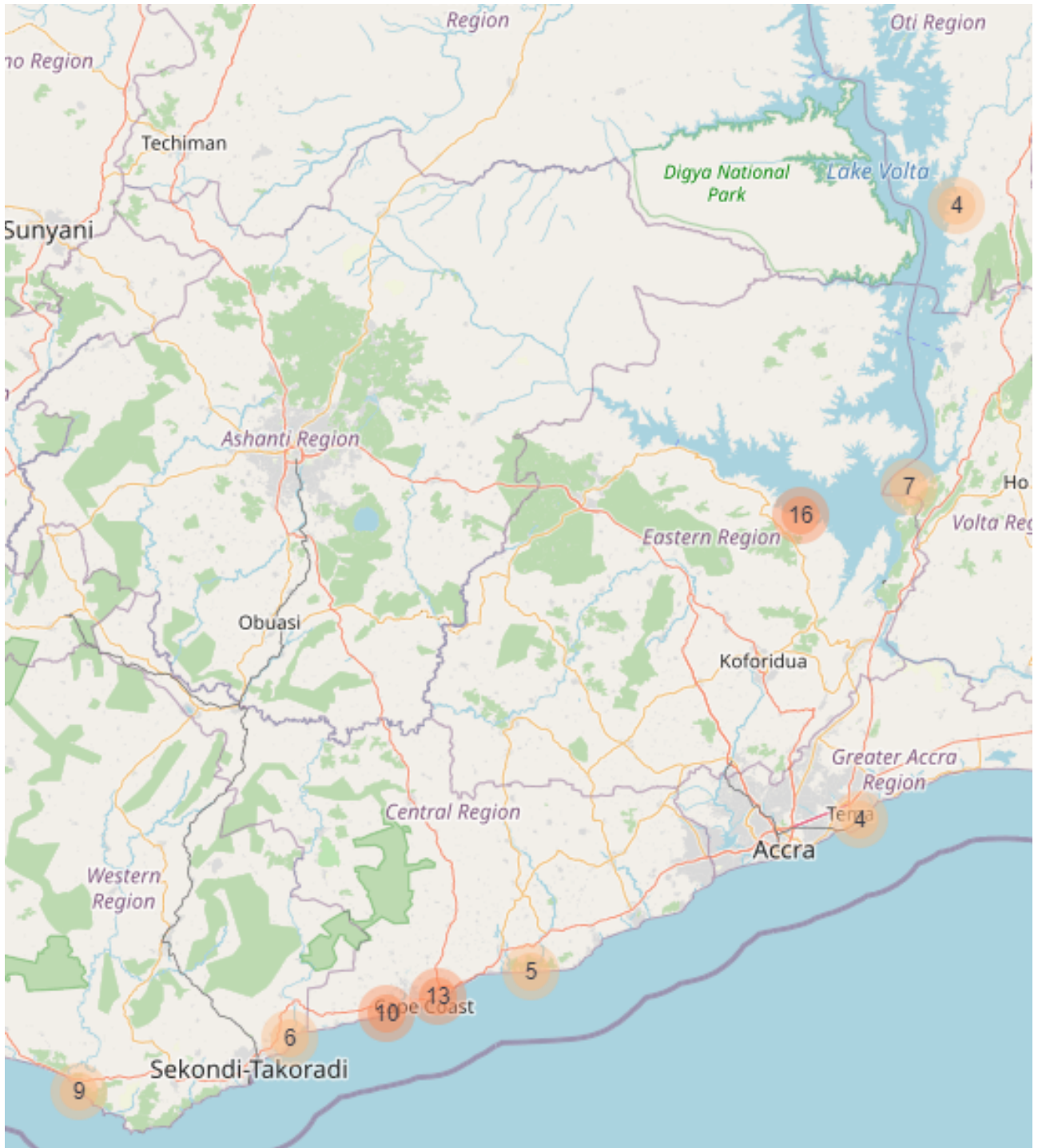
Table 2. Umbrella organizations by geographic coverage

Region	Regional/district	Organizations interviewed (#)
National	N/A	2
Western	District	2
	Regional	2
Central	District	3
	Regional	1
Greater Accra	Regional	2
Eastern	Regional	1
Volta	N/A	0
Oti	Biakoye	1
Total		14

Note: N/A = not applicable.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Figure 2. Global Positioning System location of the interviews



Source: Authors' own elaboration using Kobo. 2023. *KoboToolbox*. Cited 10 June 2023. www.kobotoolbox.org. Map conforms with UN Geospatial. 2005. *Map of Ghana*. New York, USA. [Cited 6 December 2023]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/ghana>

3 Results

3.1 Organizations profile

3.1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The SSF organizations interviewed are composed by on average 72 members (median 52), out of which approximately 15 percent are women and 27 percent are under 35 years of age. On average, organizations are 13 years old with the oldest one founded in the 1980s. Others have been formed in more recent years. The Greater Accra region accounts for the largest and oldest groups (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of members and years of operation of Small-Scale Fisheries organizations by region

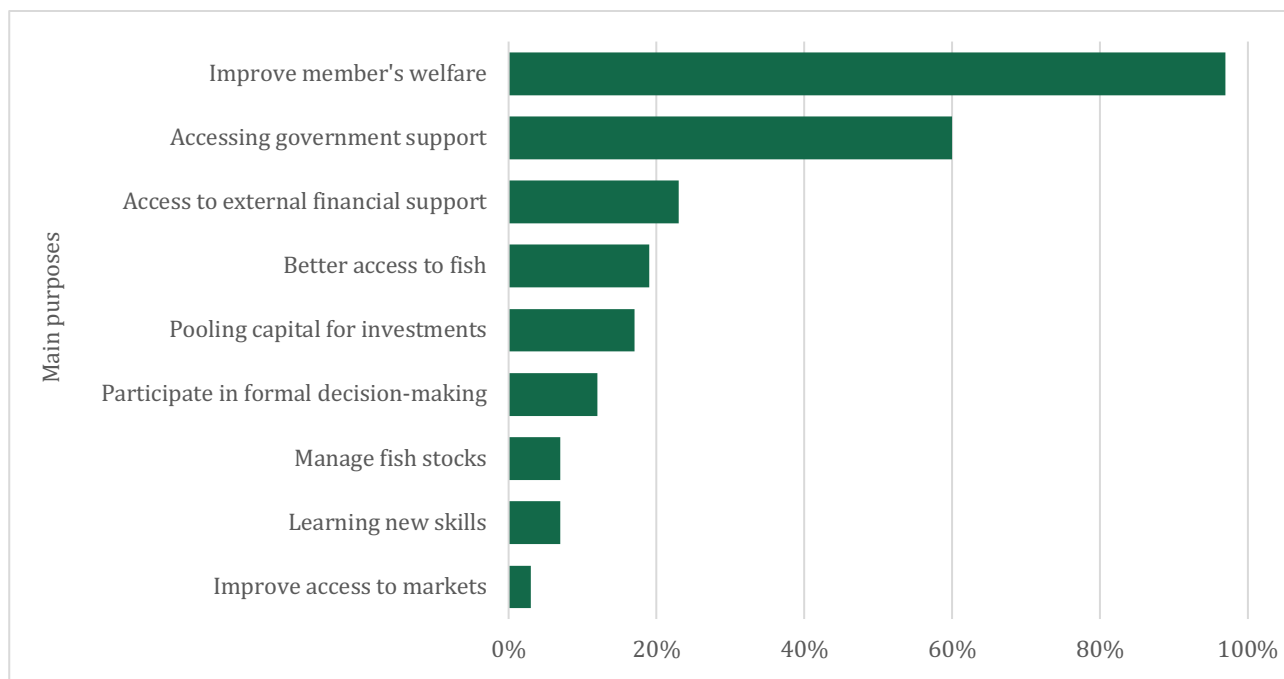
Region	Central	Eastern	Greater Accra	Oti	Volta	Western
Mean	70	61	177	54	60	91
Median	60	47	177	52.2	55	35
SD	44	56	103	37	40	147
Observations	25*	16	2*	4	7	11*
Organization's age						
Mean	19	9	24	4	12	8.5
Median	16	8	28	4	10	5.5
SD	13	6	8	2	6	8
Observations	25**	16	3**	4	7	14

Notes: * Two organizations in Central, two in Accra and three in Western region were not able to report on the number of members. ** Two organizations in Central and one in Accra region were not able to report on the age of the organization.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

In terms of the organizations' objectives and mandate, almost all organizations aim at improving the welfare of their members (97 percent), accessing government support (60 percent), as well as obtaining external financial support (23 percent). Other purposes include enhanced access to fish and other natural resources (19 percent), pooling capital and making investment in assets and resources (17 percent), participate in formal decision-making processes on the management of fisheries and other natural resources (12 percent), manage fish stocks (7 percent), learning new skills and techniques (7 percent) and access to markets (3 percent).

Figure 3. Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' main objectives



Note: N= 72, more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.2 Organizations governance, administration and funding

The survey revealed that only 22 percent of the organizations are legally registered, with organizations in the Western region having the highest rate of registration (43 percent). Among those registered, the most common type of registration is the District Assembly (nine organizations), followed by the Registrar General Departments (six organizations) and the Department of Cooperatives (one organization). In terms of governance, the survey found that most organizations, except two in the Central and two in the Western regions, have an Executive Committee (94 percent), three quarters have a constitution while only a few (28 percent) have a bank account and none of them has a website. To be eligible, interested candidates need to fulfil certain requirements. About 80 percent of the organizations require willing members to own a vessel and 68 percent require the payment of a membership fee.

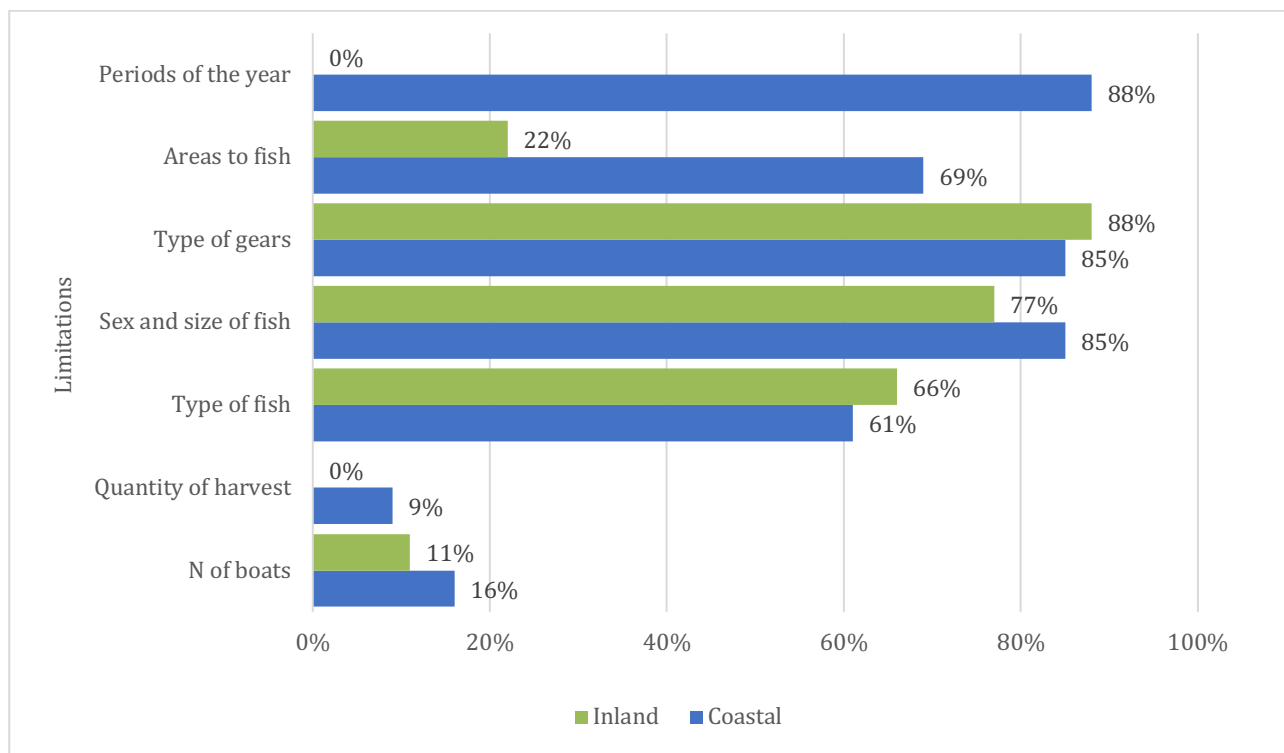
Regarding funding, most organizations require members to make a mandatory contribution as needed (83 percent), voluntary contributions (80 percent) and regular mandatory contribution (50 percent). Only a limited number of them receive external grants (3 percent) or loans (1 percent). Most associations (83 percent) organize regular meetings at least once per month and most of them (65 percent) make decisions by members' vote.

Half of the organizations are associated to other fishing-related organizations, the most popular ones being the GNCFC, the NICFC and other regional associations.

3.2.1 RIGHTS TO FISH RESOURCES

In terms of rights, five organizations have collective rights for accessing fish resources, meaning that fishers need to be part of the organization/group to have access to a fish stock or to harvest from it. On the other hand, half of them participate in arrangements (both formal and informal) related to the management of fish stocks with other organizations and institutions. The type of entities includes other local organizations of small-scale fishers (74 percent), organizations of small-scale fishers at higher level (69 percent), governmental institutions (89 percent), private businesses (21 percent), NGOs (51 percent) and research institutes (23 percent). These arrangements imply some limitations in terms of the type of gears that can be used, the sex or size of the fish that can be harvested, the periods of the years when it is possible to fish and other, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Limitations imposed by arrangements with other organizations, by inland and coastal communities



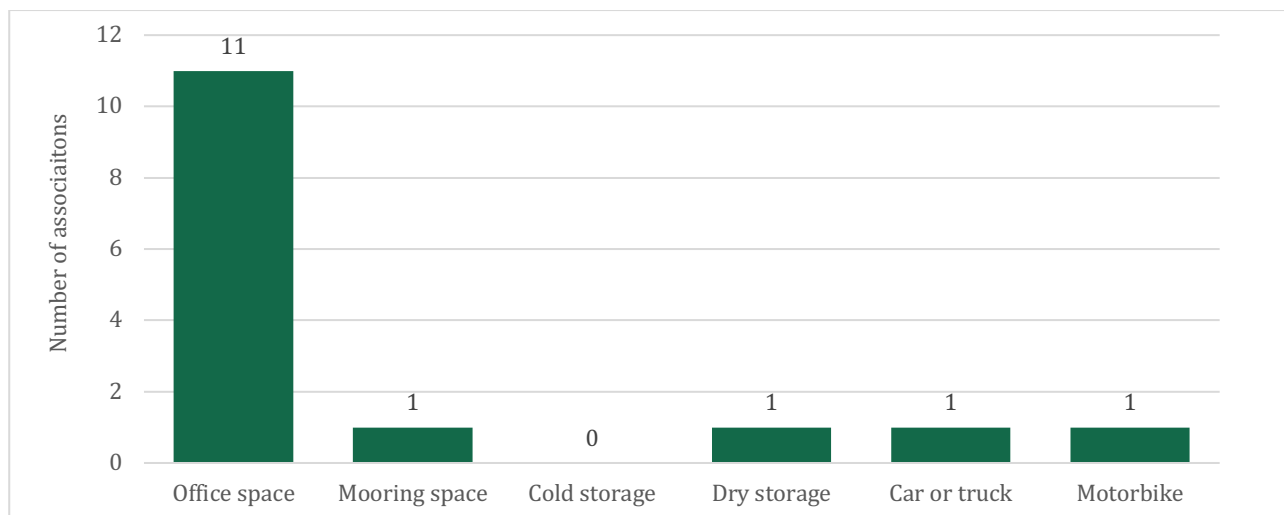
Note: N= 34 (25 coastal, 9 inland), more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.2.2 FACILITIES AND MULTIPURPOSE ASSETS

Facilities and ownership of multipurpose assets are limited across the surveyed organizations: only 15 percent of them own an office space for business activities and equipment. The GNCFC in Tema is the association that owns the highest number of assets, including office space, a mooring place and car/truck. One association in Moree offers collective access to dry storage space for processed products and one SSFO in Akateng provides collective access to a motorbike (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Collective access to facilities or assets



Note: N=72.

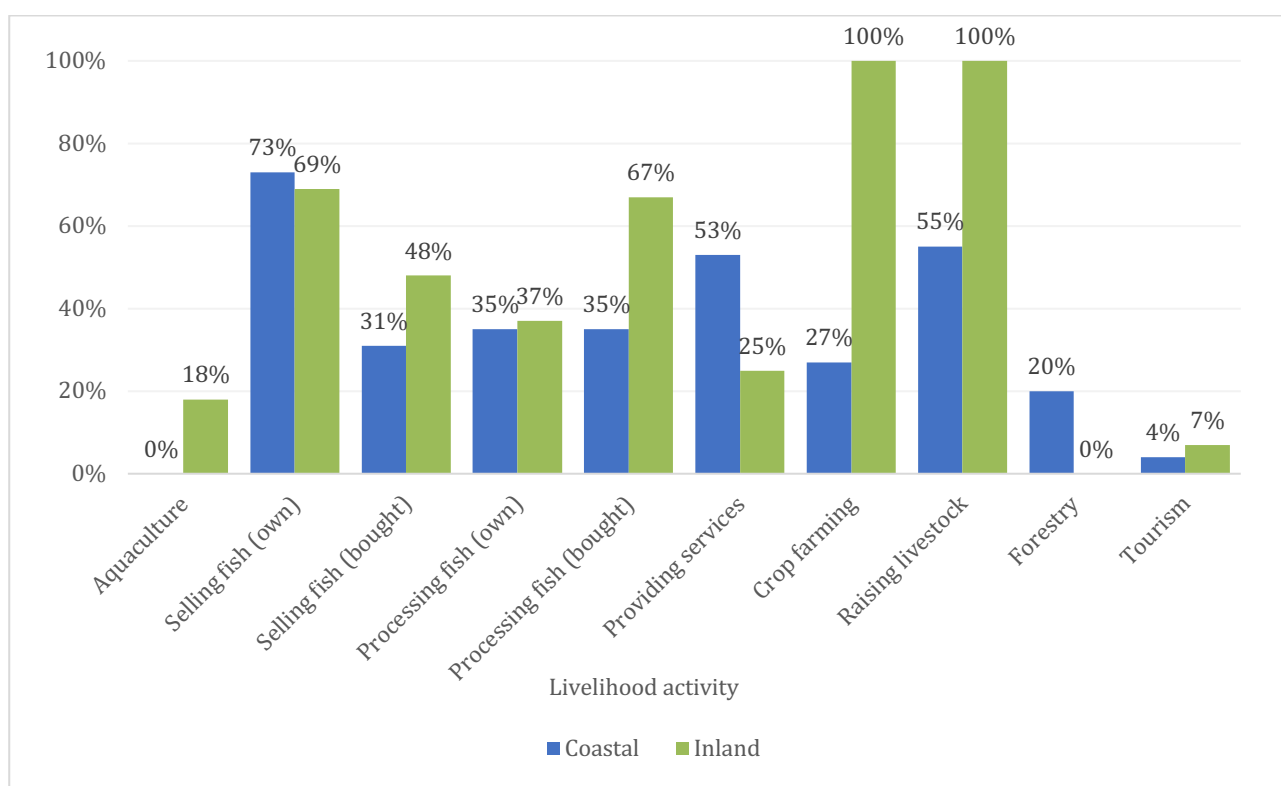
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.3 Members profile

3.3.1 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS

Organizations' members are engaged in a variety of activities, speaking to the highly diversified profiles of fishing households. In addition to fishing, practiced by all SSFOs' members, 72 percent of the organizations state that their members are engaged in raising livestock, 69 percent in selling fresh or processed fish caught by themselves and 55 percent engages in crop farming. However, there are some notable differences between coastal and inland communities (see Figure 6). All associations in inland communities stated that members engage in farming and livestock activities. Only inland organizations seem to engage in aquaculture (18 percent), while only coastal organizations' members engage in forestry activities (20 percent). Harvesting (fishing, gleaning and aquaculture) is considered the most important fisheries-related activity for most organizations (94 percent).

Figure 6. Members engagement in livelihoods activities (other than fishing)



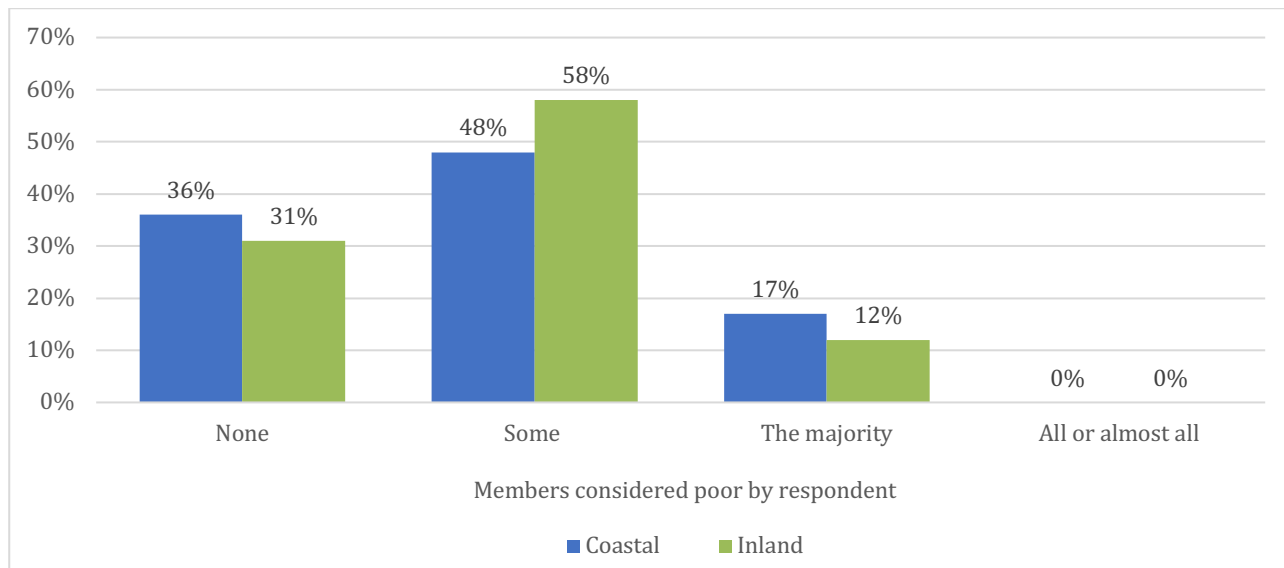
Note: N= 72 (45 coastal, 27 inland), more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.3.2 PERCEIVED WELFARE CONDITIONS OF MEMBERS

The questionnaire included questions on the perceived living conditions of members and characteristics of the communities where they live. The respondents had to indicate the share of members' households that are considered poor and that ran out of food during the year. About one third of organizations indicated that their members are neither poor nor food insecure, half of them responded that they perceived some of the members being poor (48 percent among coastal organizations and 58 percent in inland ones) and for 15 percent of them, most of their members were poor (17 percent among coastal organizations and 12 percent among inland ones). With respect to food insecurity perceptions, 47 percent of respondents (47 percent in coastal organizations and 45 percent in inland ones) identify only some of their members to become food insecure during the year, and 8 percent perceive most of the members to be food insecure (11 percent for coastal organizations and 5 percent for inland organizations). Only one respondent (belonging to the Akateng community), indicated that all or most of the members and their households ran out of food during the year. In both dimensions, answers were quite consistent among inland and coastal organizations.

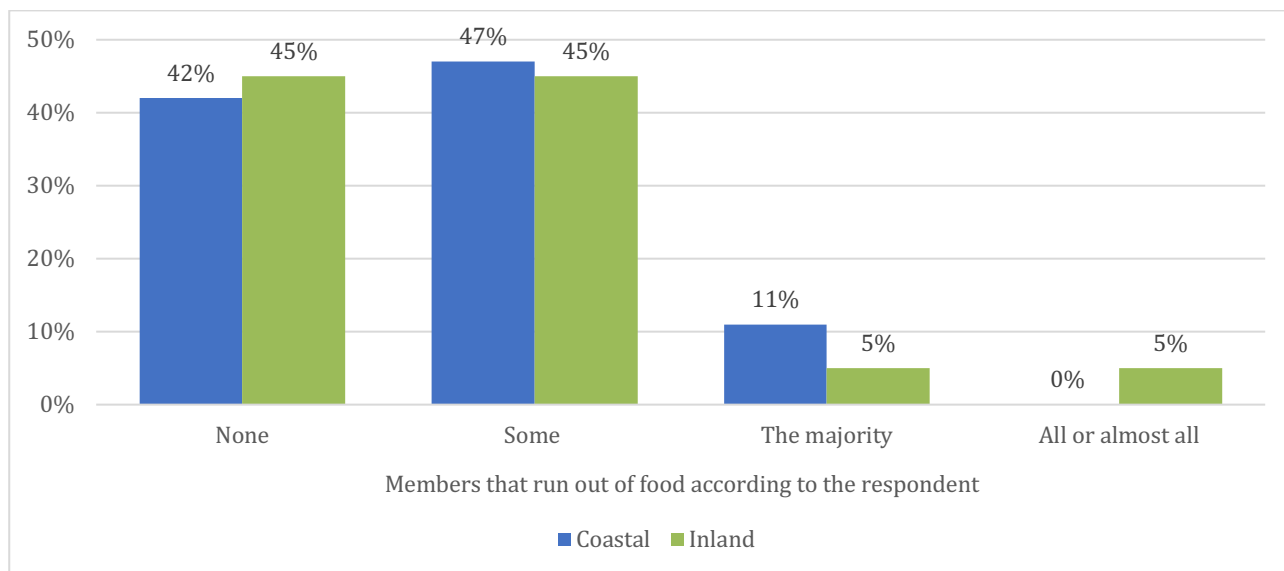
Figure 7. Respondents' perceived welfare condition of organizations' members



Note: N= 68 (42 coastal, 26 inland)

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Figure 8. Respondents' perceived food insecurity condition of organizations' members



Note: N= 60 (38 coastal, 22 inland).

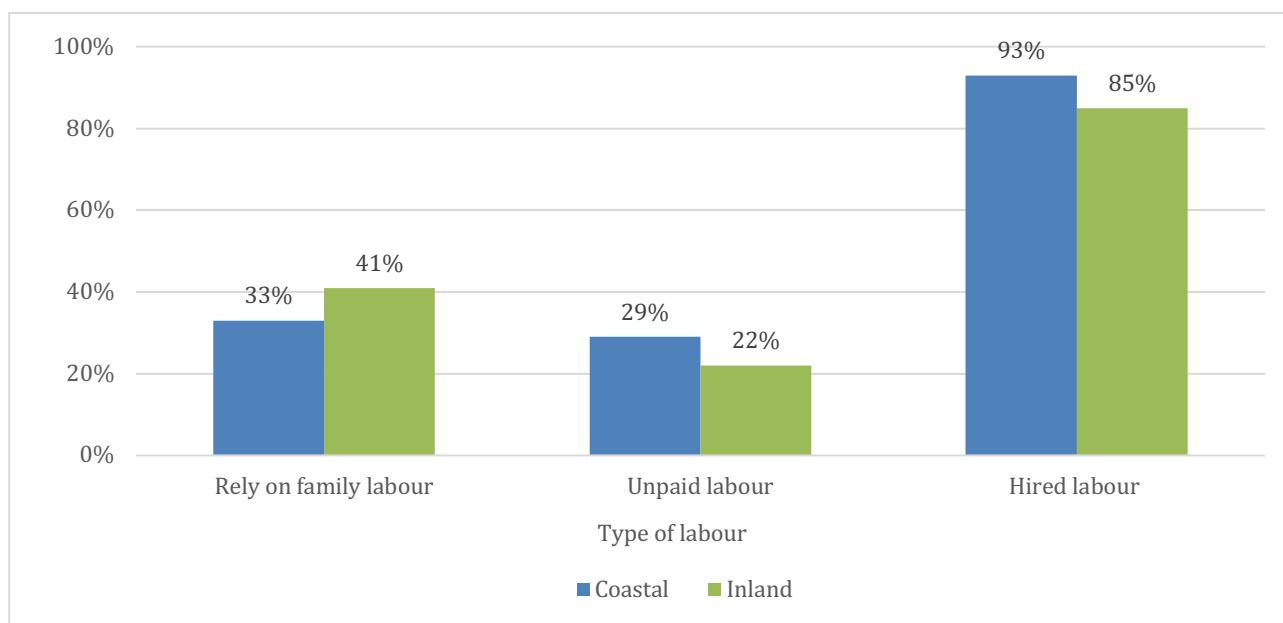
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.3.3 LABOUR

Regarding the sources of labour that members of the organizations use for their activities, about 26 percent of organizations responded that members typically rely on family labour² for their fisheries-related activities, 26 percent confirmed that members rely on unpaid labour from neighbours and friends, and 90 percent stated that members hire paid laborers for their fisheries-related activities.

² Where family labour is considered labour carried out by members of the family who cannot be considered employees or partners of the activity and who normally commit less time and resources to the activities compared to its head.

Figure 9. Members' reliance on external labour



Note: N= 72 (45 coastal, 27 inland), more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.4 Harvesting and sales

3.4.1 HARVESTING

Coastal organizations, that constitute 62 percent of the sample, practice fishing in marine waters while non-coastal communities (38 percent) rely on inland water bodies. Table 4 illustrates the main species of fish harvested by type of marine water: the most important fish harvested in terms of economic importance in marine water is the round sardinella while lates is the most important one for associations harvesting in inland waters.

Table 4. Main species of fish harvested, in terms of economic importance

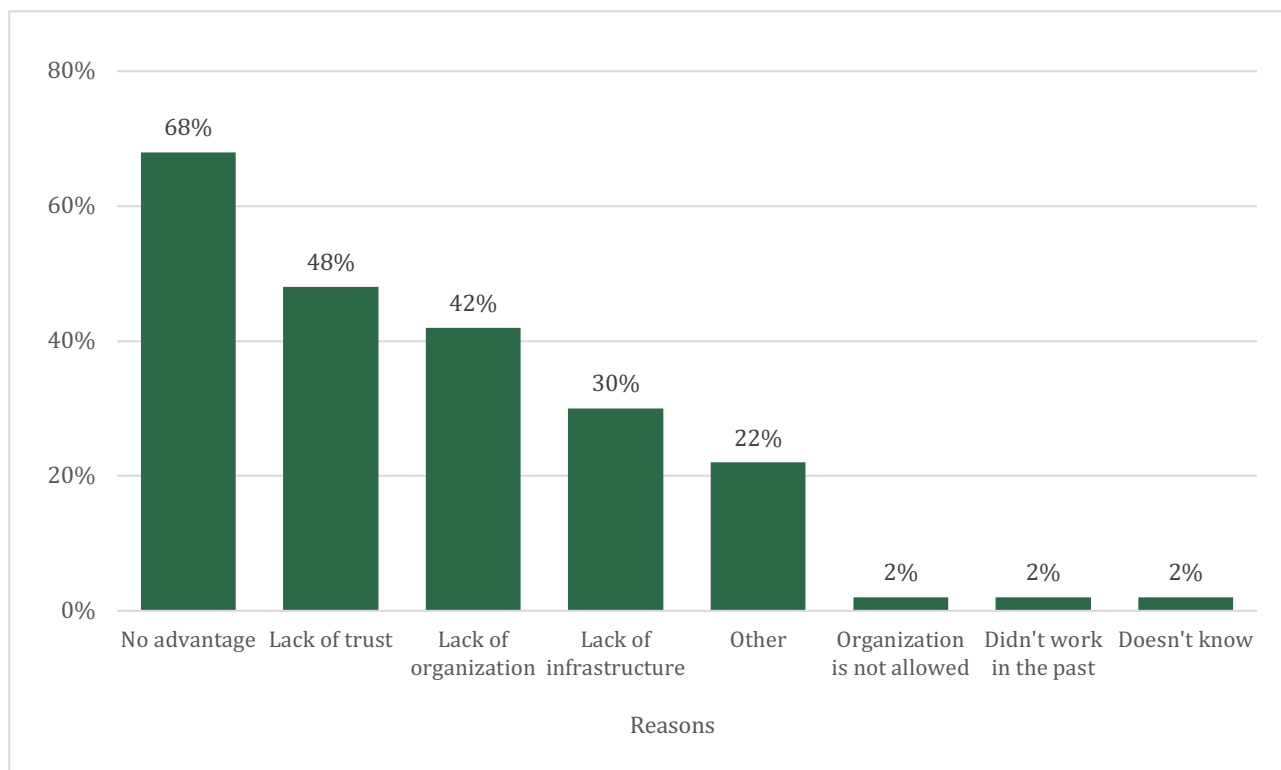
Marine waters species	N	Inland water species	N
Round sardinella	14	Lates	11
Flat sardinella	5	Oreochromis	7
Blue marlin	5	Tilapia	4
Skipjack tuna	5	Chrysichthyes auratus	3
Grouper	3	Chrysichthyes nigrodigitatus	1
Anchovy	2	Heterotis	1
Cassava croaker	2		
Red Pandora	2		
Big eye tuna	1		
Cuttle fish	1		
Long finned herring	1		
Red mullet	1		
Scad mackerel	1		
Shad bonga	1		

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.4.2 COLLECTIVE SALES

One important finding of this study is that none of the organizations was found to engage in collective sales or any other activity except for two organizations that were found to collectively "provide services". The reasons for not engaging in collective activities, especially sales, that were identified by the organizations are linked to lack of advantage in selling collectively (68 percent), lack of trust (48 percent) and lack of organization (42 percent). Other reasons mentioned by respondents during the interview include the following: "We have not thought of selling collectively", "We all have our own ways we sell so we can't sell together", "We incur different cost in harvesting so we can't sell together", "People have different prices for their products and can't sell on their behalf", "Everyone has his unique way of selling", "We have different customers so we can't sell together".

Figure 10. Reasons for not selling collectively



Note: N= 50 (33 coastal, 17 inland), more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.5 Inputs for fishing and post-harvest

3.5.1 LAND

Six organizations located in coastal communities (four in the Central region and one in the Greater Accra) provide collective access to land to use for fishery-related activities. Among these organizations, two own the land they provide to members, one of them rents and other four are granted for free the land that they provide to members. Among those who do not provide access to land, 24 percent stated to have plans to provide collective access to land in the future, resources permitting.

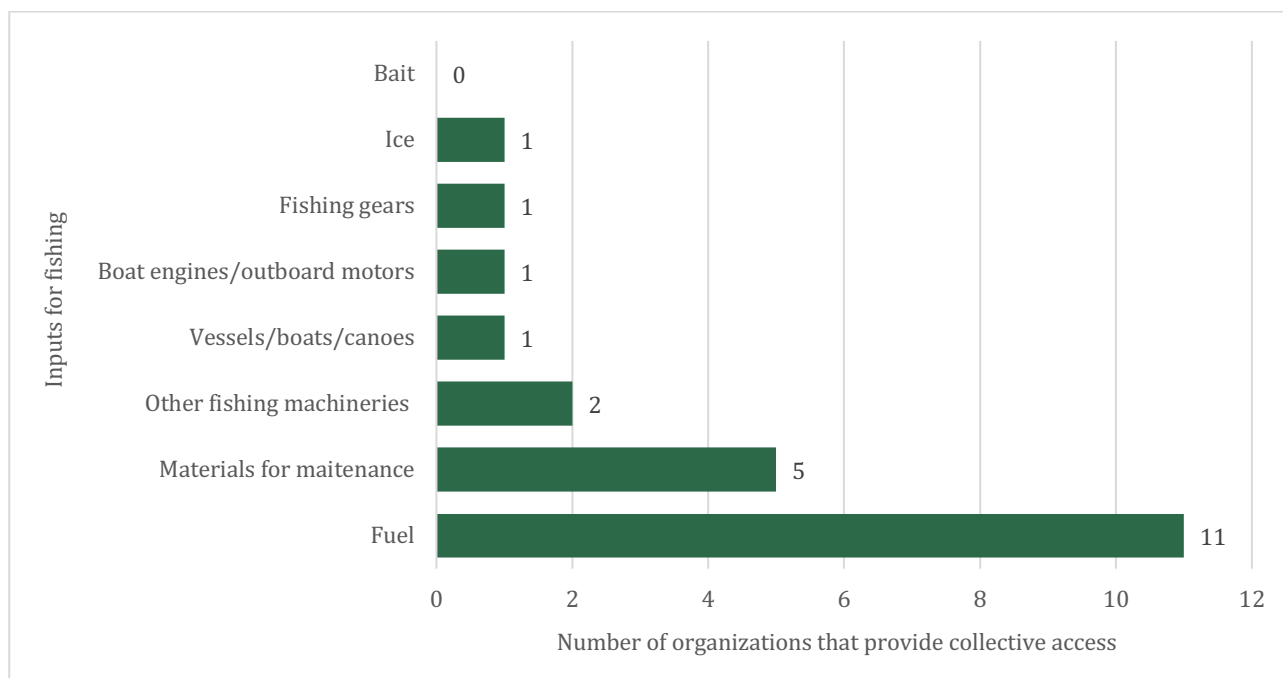
3.5.2 INPUTS FOR FISHING (DURABLES AND NON-DURABLES)

The survey revealed that the provision of collective access to durable assets for fishing is very limited among surveyed organizations. Only one SSFO in Shama offers collective access to boats or canoes, and still in Shama, another SSFO offers fishing machineries such as forklifts winches, hydraulic pumps. One association in Akateng offers boat engines and outboard motors as well as fishing gears. However, even though most organizations do not provide collective access to assets, some of them collectively negotiate the price for their members, particularly

for vessels (10 percent), for boat engines (11 percent), for machineries (6 percent) and for fishing gears (10 percent).

Non-durable assets are slightly more common (See Figure 11): 11 associations provide collective access to fuel, five offer material and services for repair and maintenance of equipment and one provides ice. However, none of the organizations offer bait to their members.

Figure 11. Number of organizations that provide collective access to durable and non-durable inputs for fishing



Note: N=71.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.5.3 INPUTS FOR POST-HARVEST ACTIVITIES (DURABLES AND NON-DURABLES)

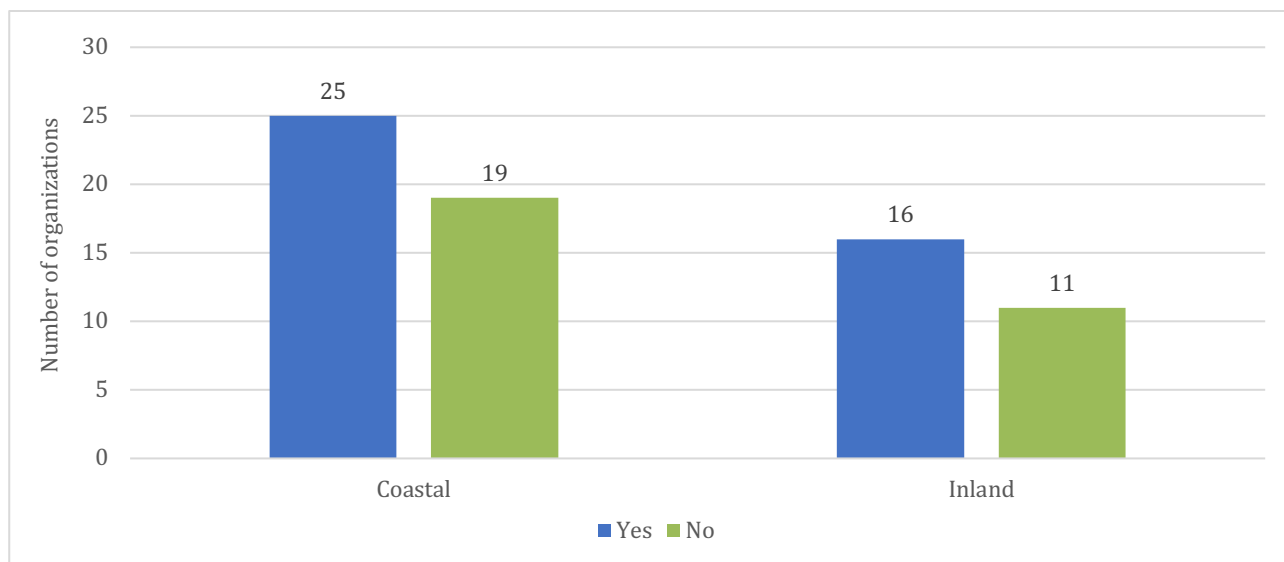
Similarly, the provision of collective access to assets for post-harvest activities is very limited: the survey found that only one asset, a freezer, is offered by one organization in Shama, while no organization has salting/brining equipment, drying racks, smoking equipment, canning equipment, or ice and packing material.

3.6 Extension and other support

3.6.1 EXTENSION

In terms of benefits that the organizations provide to their members, 41 associations (57 percent of the total, 59 percent of the inland associations and 61 percent of the coastal ones) confirmed providing extension and advisory services to their members.

Figure 12. Number of organizations that provide extension services to their members by location

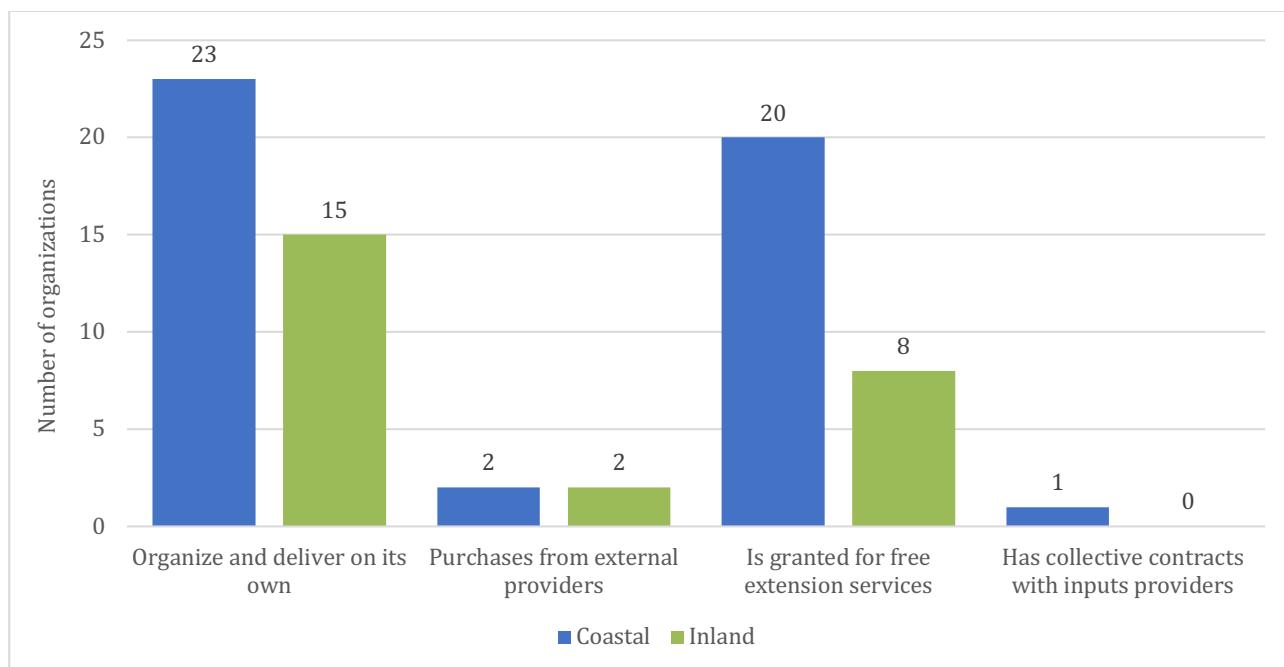


Note: N=71.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Most of them organize and deliver the extension services on their own (93 percent) and/or are granted support for free by governments and NGOs (68 percent) while a more limited number purchases services from external providers (10 percent) and establishes collective contracts with input providers (2 percent). However, only 20 percent of the 41 organizations that provide extension services to their members consider that the service is fully adequate to the production needs of the members, while the rest consider it partially or not adequate. Of those that are not currently delivering extension services, 43 percent confirmed to be interested in providing them in the future, resources permitting.

Figure 13. Number of organizations that provide extension services to their members by way of delivery



Note: N=41

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.6.2 OTHER SUPPORT

In terms of other support that the organizations provide to their members, 12 organizations (seven coastal and five inland) affirmed to provide loans and 11 (six coastal and five inland) to facilitate access to loans from other institutions. Almost all (93 percent) indicated to provide financial or in-kind support to members and their families in case of adverse events (such as illness, loss of income or employment, damage to property or fishing assets, lack of fish harvest) that they fund from a dedicated fund or other contributions from other members.

3.7 Strengths and weaknesses of the organizations

According to the self-assessments of the respondents, associations perform their best in supporting their members in case of need, in increasing the member's respect in society and increasing respect in members' rights. While they identify their main weaknesses in their ability to increase their members' income, providing better access to public support programmes and providing better access to credit and financial services. A large share (78 percent) thinks that providing better access to fish and other natural resources, helping members selling their production at better conditions and helping members to increase the quantities they produce is not part of their mandate, which reflects the informal and fragmented nature of the SSFOs. Similarly, there are several aspects that, in general, an organization could further support, but it is not seen as an important objective, related to access to credit, quality upgrading of their products, or facilities for product handling.

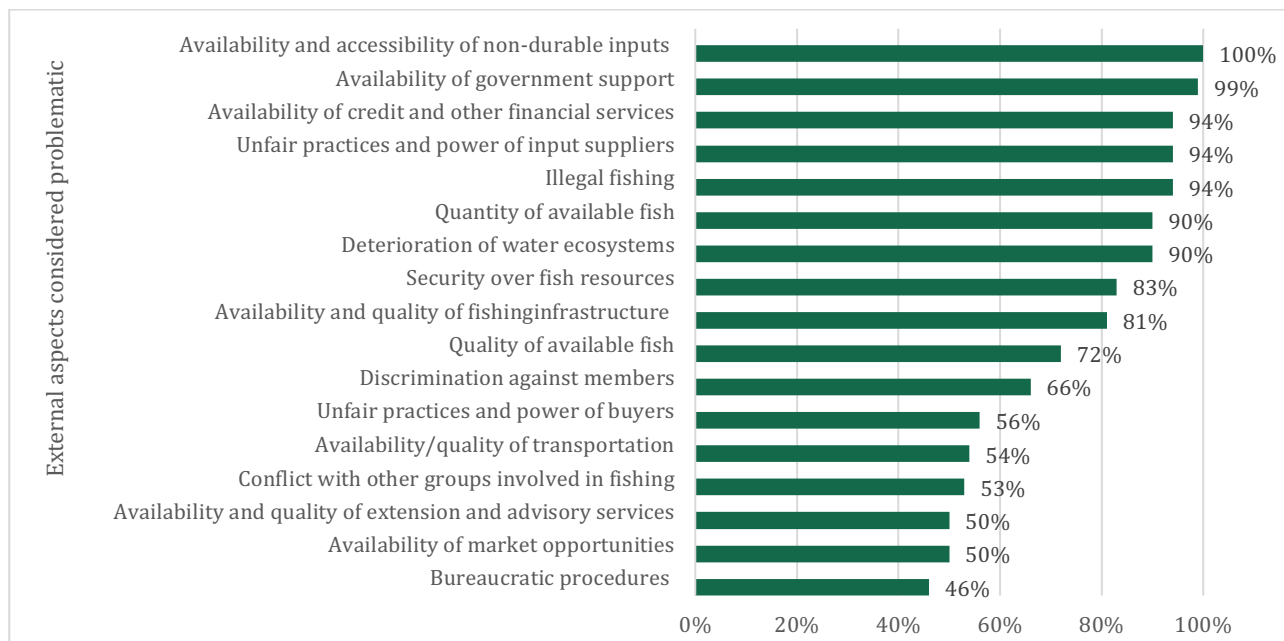
Table 5. Small-Scale Fisheries organizations' strengths and weaknesses (self-assessment)

	Capacity among organizations engaging in activity (%)			Not engaging in activity (%)
	Good	Acceptable	Poor	
Provide better access to fish and other natural resources	13	44	44	78
Provide better access to facilities and workspaces	0	33	67	71
Provide better access to non-durable inputs (fuel, bait, packaging.)	1	6	37	56
Provide better access to durable assets (boats, machineries, nets)	5	9	86	70
Provide better access to technical knowledge and information	2	41	57	32
Provide better access to credit and financial services	10	24	67	71
Help members increase the quantities produced	0	29	71	76
Help members sell their production at better conditions	7	27	67	79
Increase the incomes of members	18	18	65	76
Support members in case of need	49	41	10	3
Provide better access to public support programmes	2	10	89	43
Ensure a better management of fish stocks and ecosystems	3	38	60	44
Increase members' respect in society	28	33	40	40
Increase members' participation in political processes	6	39	55	54
Increase respect of members' rights	26	37	37	38

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

SSF organizations face a variety of challenges both of internal and external nature. Challenges of external nature are more widespread. Availability and accessibility of non-durable inputs and availability of public support are considered a small or major problem by all the associations, followed by the availability of credit and other financial services (94 percent), unfair practices of input suppliers (94 percent) and illegal fishing (94 percent). The most common problems of internal nature are availability of financial resources (88 percent), lack of commercial skills (70 percent) and technical knowledge (58 percent).

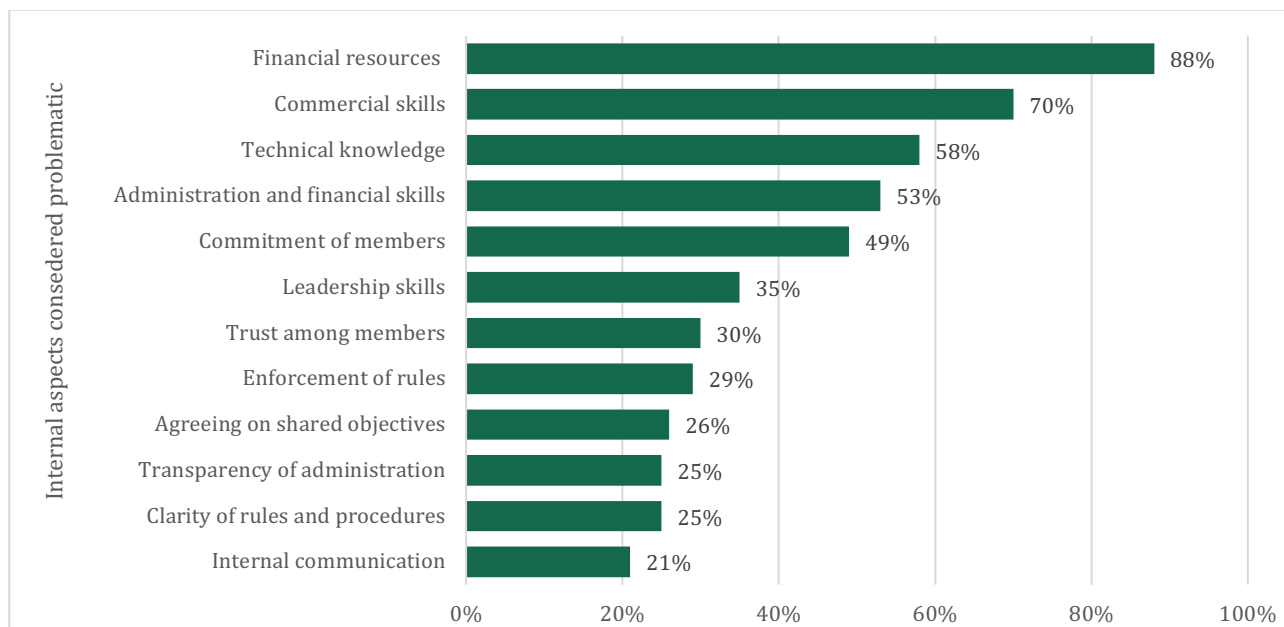
Figure 14. External aspects that represent a problem (major or small) for Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations



Note: N=72

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Figure 15. Internal aspects that represent a problem (major or small) for Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations



Note: N= 72.

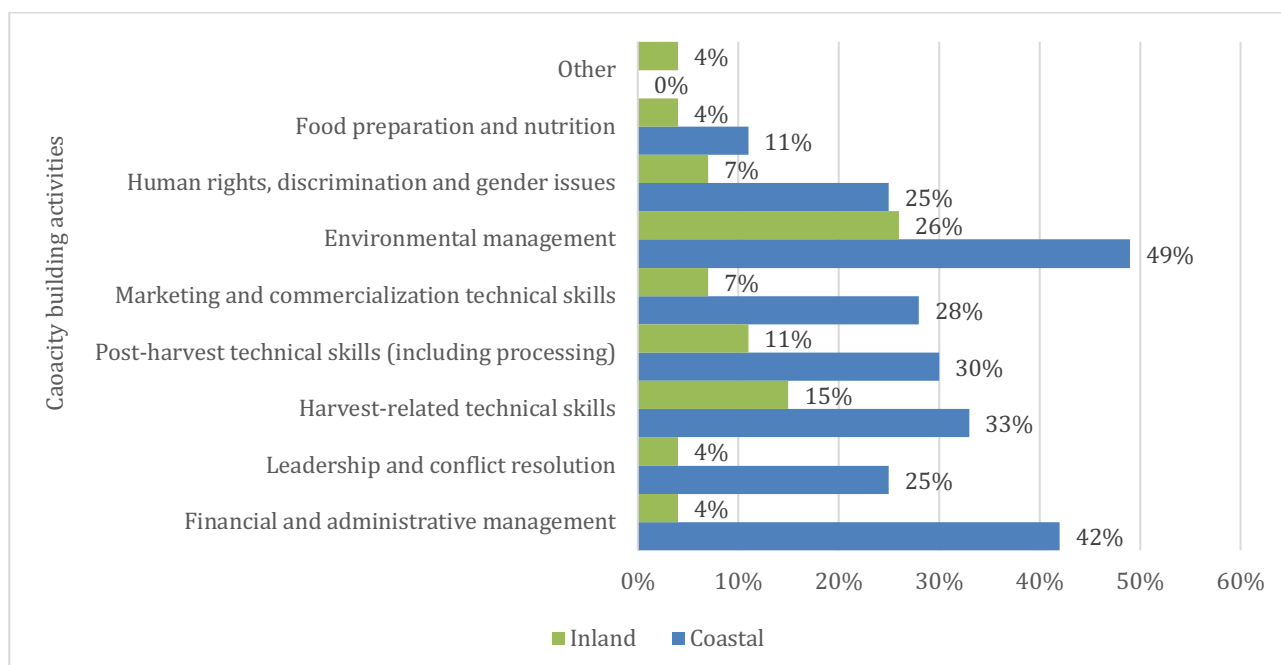
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.8 Capacity development and Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

3.8.1 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

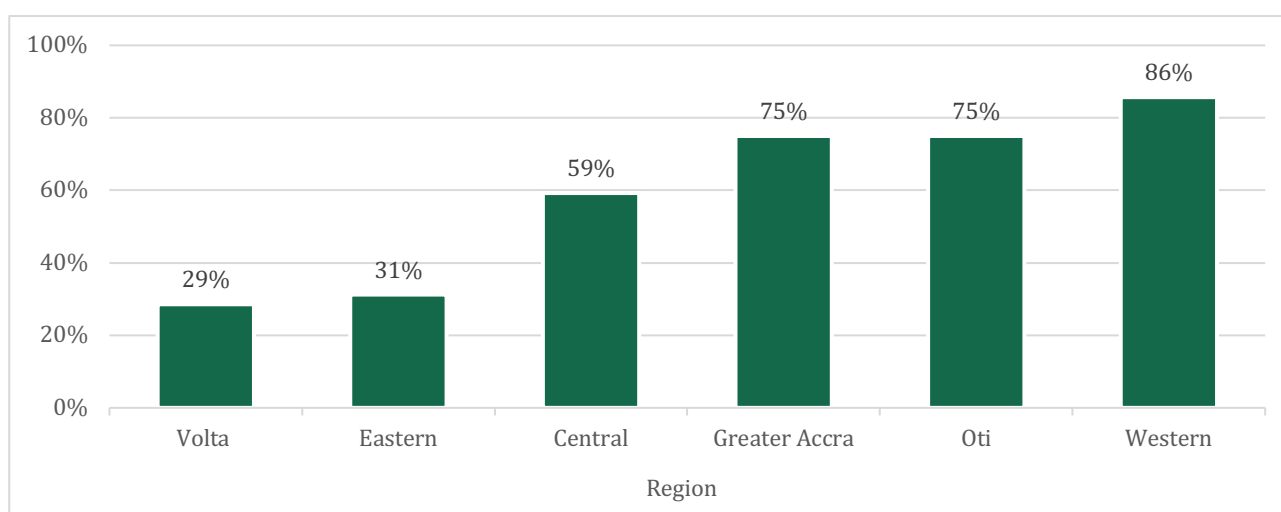
When asked about capacity building activities in which the organizations participated recently, 57 percent of respondents confirmed to have participated in capacity building activities in the previous two years. Organizations were exposed to a variety of topics, the most common of which were environmental management and financial and administrative management (See Figure 16). Coastal organizations were proportionally more involved in capacity building activities with respect to inland communities: 65 percent of coastal organizations received training compared to 37 percent of inland organizations, with the highest rate of organizations trained found in the Western region (See Figure 17).

Figure 16. Participation in capacity building activities by inland and coastal communities



Notes: based on 72 answers (45 coastal, 27 inland), more than one answer possible. Option other includes safety on the lake.
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Figure 17. Share of organizations receiving training by region

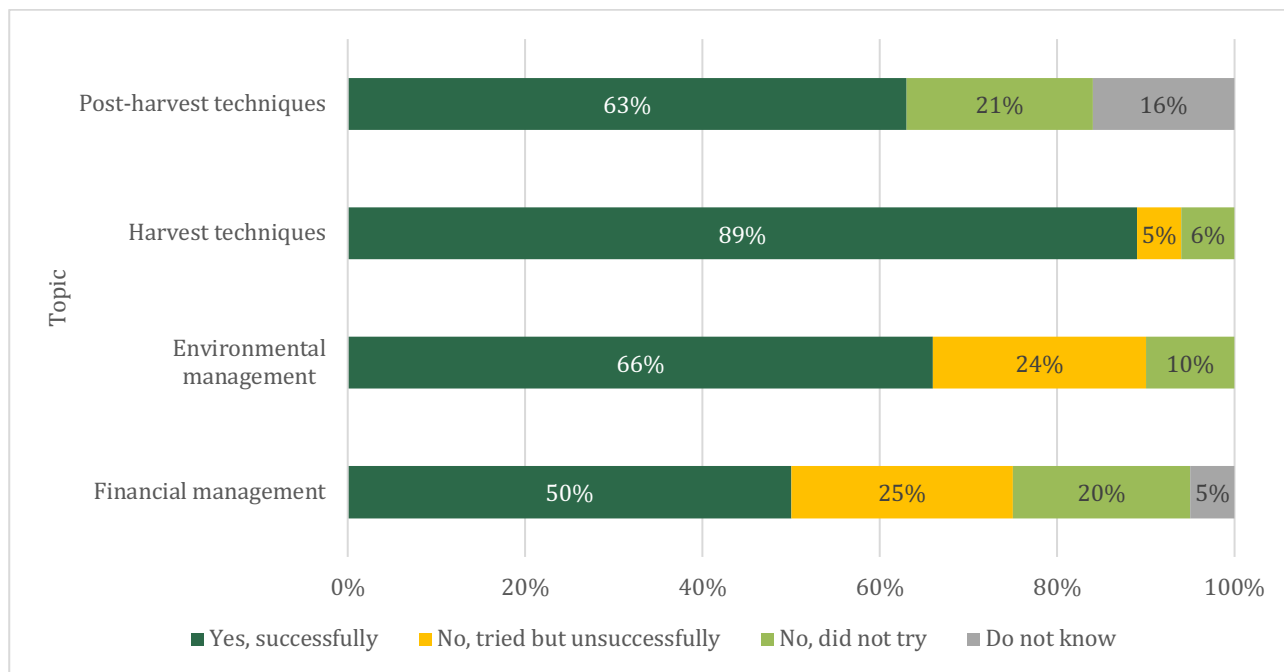


Note: N=72.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

For the top four topics (environmental management, financial and administrative management, harvest technical skills and post-harvest technical skills), the capacity building activity were delivered in a larger share by the government, followed by NGOs. In some cases, it was the group itself organizing the training or a more experienced fisherman. All these courses were delivered as group trainings. For all the top four topics, half or more organizations confirmed they were able to successfully apply the knowledge acquired during the capacity building activity (See Figure 18).

Figure 18. Applied knowledge acquired in training



Note: N=72.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

As per the organizations that did not receive any capacity building activities, most of them consider receiving training useful or extremely useful.

Beyond the topics listed in Figure 16, other topics that the associations would like to receive training on are:

- safety at sea
- fire safety
- protection/maintenance of fishery resources
- use of GPS at sea/lake
- search and rescue
- enforcement of fisheries laws
- fighting illegal fishing
- fish value chain
- how to increase production
- chemicals to catch fish
- alternative livelihoods
- health education for children
- farming, agroforestry, rearing of livestock
- sanitation and hygiene

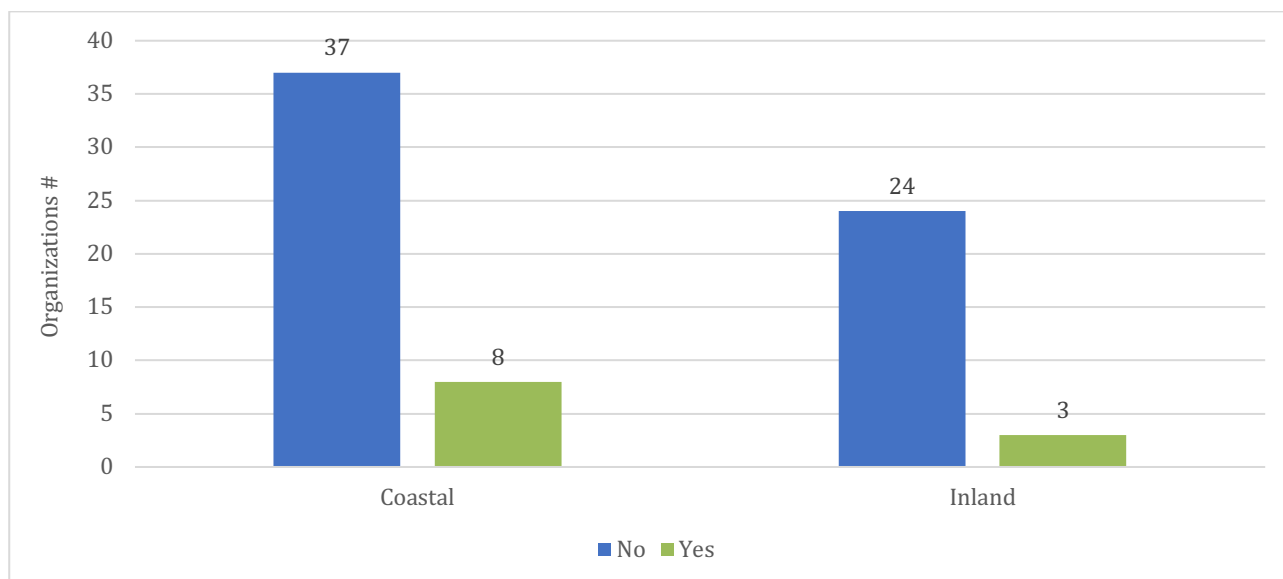
The preferred modality of delivery is group training, selected as first choice by 97 percent of respondents, followed by participation in exchanges/conferences/education trips with other producers and stakeholders (21 percent).

3.8.2 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES

With respect to the SSF Guidelines developed by FAO, only 11 organizations (eight coastal and three inland) affirmed to be familiar with the guidelines. None of the four organizations in Oti stated to be familiar with them.

Among those familiar, nine learned about the guidelines through workshop meetings, one through the media and another one from an umbrella association. Associations were exposed to the guidelines starting from 2021 and four of them have taken steps for implementation. Among those who did not know about the SSF guidelines, the majority is interested in learning about them (97 percent).

Figure 19. Organizations that are familiar with the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines



Note: N=72.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

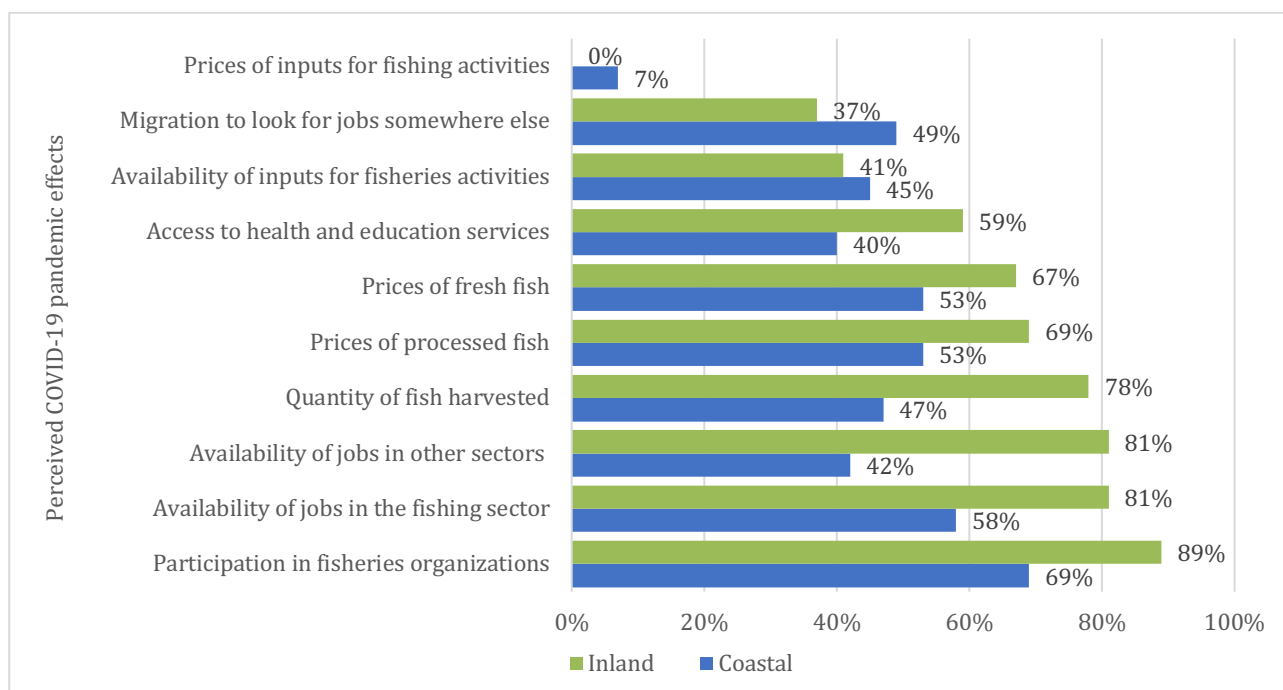
3.9 COVID-19 pandemic

The first case of COVID-19 in Ghana was confirmed in March 2020 and as of December 2022 recorded 171 048 cases and 1 461 deaths (Mathieu *et al.*, 2020). The questionnaire included questions on the COVID-19 pandemic and related special measures, impact and coping strategies.

In the country, the COVID-19 pandemic movement restriction mainly affected Accra, Tema and Greater Kumasi. Only Tema New Town and Teshie were directly affected among the countries of our sample, but some of the remaining communities were indirectly affected in doing business with these areas. According to the respondents, seven associations located in five communities in the coastal area (Ekumfi Narkwa, Moree, Nungua, Shama, Tema New Town) were affected by special restrictions put in place due to the pandemic such as mobility restrictions, and closure or limited operating hours of ports, fish processors and markets for fish, food and non-food. One association based in Tema was also affected by a navigation ban.

Local livelihoods were impacted to a different extent by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the inland communities being more affected by its negative impacts. Respondents perceived that the pandemic was responsible for a decreased participation in fisheries organizations and a reduced availability of jobs in both the fishing as well as other sectors (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Perceived effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (share of organizations that affirmed the pandemic decreased price and/or availability of the following services)



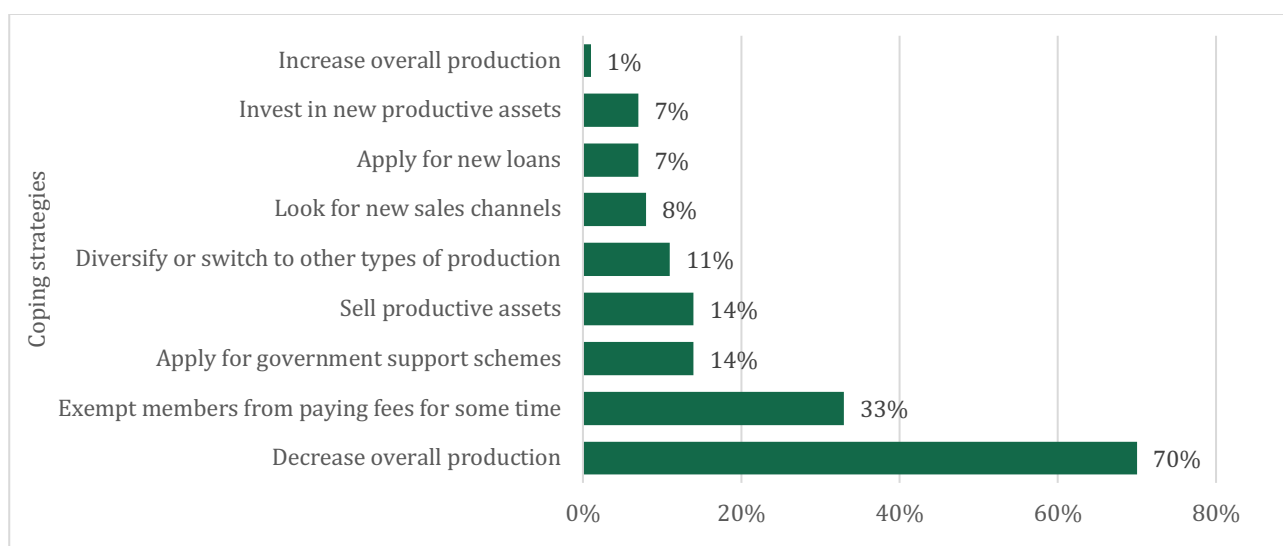
Note: N=72.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

In response to the pandemic, most of the associations were forced to decrease the number of services provided to their members (44 percent). Associations and their members adopted a series of coping strategies among which decreasing production (69 percent), exempting members from paying the fees (33 percent) and selling assets (14 percent) were found to be the most common strategies (See Figure 21).

A few organizations (nine) benefitted from special measures put in place by the government, such as postponement of payment, subsidize prices for inputs and services, special grants and delivery of personal protective equipment.

Figure 21. Coping strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: N=72

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

3.10 Umbrella organizations

The study collected information also on a set of umbrella entities, namely organizations that coordinate the activities of the various fisheries organizations in the country at various level (national, regional and district). Interviews were administered to 14 umbrella organizations. Two of these, the National Fisheries Associations of Ghana (NAFAG) and the Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association (CaFGOA) operate at a national level. NAFAG is a well-established organization that coordinates the activities of the fisheries organizations, while CaFGOA is a relatively new association that has the mission to represent canoe and gear owners and facilitate stakeholders' engagement while promoting sustainable fishing and welfare of artisanal fishers. Although still at early stage they seem adequately organized thanks to a well-educated and informed leadership. Other six organizations operate at regional level and the remainder six at the district level.

Table 6. List of umbrella organizations

Association name	Region	District	Organizations represented (#)
Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners Association (CaFGOA)	National	N/A	10
National Fisheries Associations of Ghana (NAFAG)	National	N/A	5
CAFGOAG	Central	N/A	35
Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association (GIFA)	Central	Komenda	2
Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association (GIFA) - Mumford Branch	Central	Ekufmi	0
Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF) - District Ekumfi	Central	Ekufmi	10
Eastern Regional Fishermen Association	Eastern	N/A	81
Ghana Inshore Fishermen Council	Greater Accra	N/A	N/A
Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF) - Region Greater Accra	Greater Accra	N/A	N/A
National Inland Canoe Fishermen Council	Oti	Biakoye	38
Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association - New Takoradi	Western	N/A	1
Ghana Inshore Fishermen Association - Sekondi	Western	Shama	0
Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF)	Western	N/A	N/A
Ghana National Canoe Fishermen council - District Nzema	Western	Nzema East	9

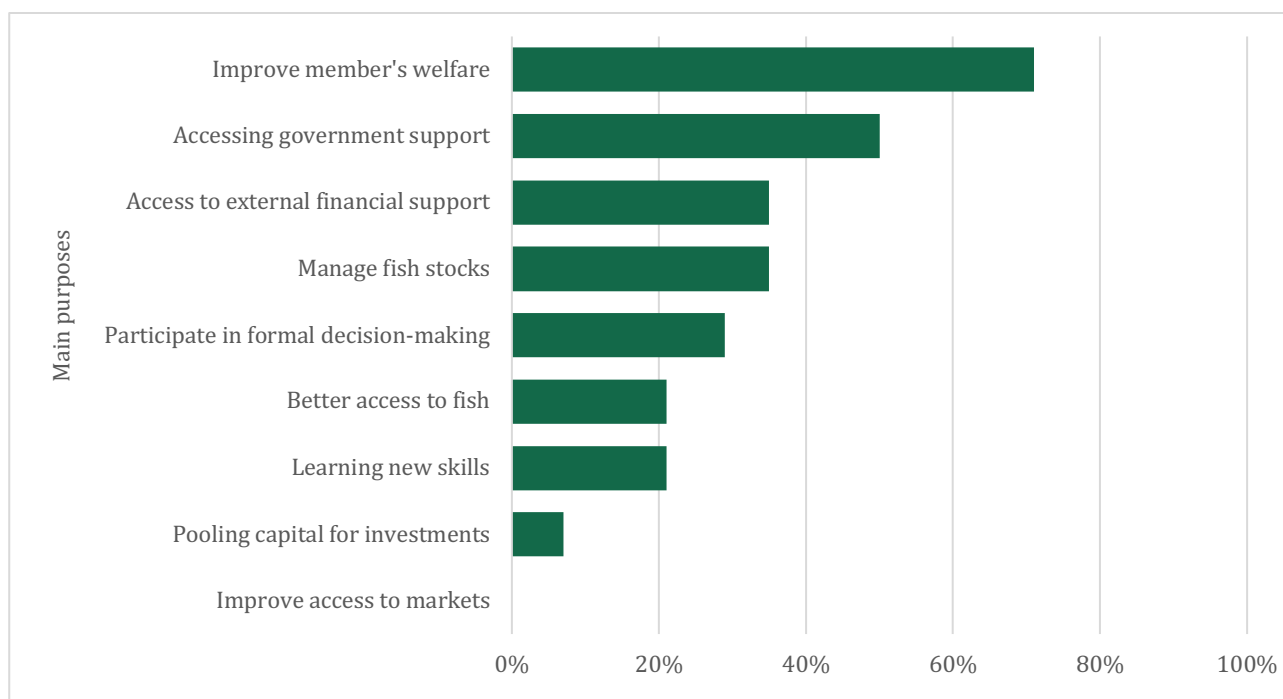
Note: N/A = not applicable.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Similar to the organizations they represent, the main purpose for most umbrella organizations is to improve the welfare³ of their members (ten organizations), followed by accessing government support (seven organizations), accessing external financial support (five organizations) and manage fish stocks (five organizations).

³ The respondent could adopt his/her own interpretation of welfare while in the case of the lower-level organizations, a suggested definition for poverty was provided "Poverty is the situation in which people are not able to satisfy basic needs such as food, clean water, housing, clothes, but also health and education."

Figure 22. Organizations' main objectives



Note: N = 14, more than one answer possible.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

All of them except three are formally registered at the registrar general department (eight organizations) and the district assembly (three organizations). All of them have an Executive Committee and keep meeting records, and most of them (12) have a constitution, a members' list and a bank account. Only four of them have a website.

Most organizations fund themselves through members' contributions either mandatory or voluntary and interestingly two of them affirmed to fund their activities through the sales margins of subsidized marine gas oil. None of them has access to loans and only the Western Region GNCFC has access to external grants. These organizations regularly hold meetings, about every two or three months or more often and they regularly share relevant information with their associates.

Ten⁴ of the 14 organizations provide extension and advisory services to their members. Of these, nine are granted some of the extension services for free by the government and/or NGOs, eight organize and deliver them on their own; the Greater Accra region GNCFC both organizes its own training and purchases others from external suppliers. According to 60 percent of the organizations, the trainings are partially adequate to the needs of their members.

Both the GIFA organizations, the Mumford and the Komenda branch, can provide loans to its members even though they state the amount is not adequate or only partially adequate, according to the respondents. The Komenda branch also facilitates for its members access to loans from other institutions such as banks, governments and NGOs, while the Greater Accra GNCFC facilitates access to insurance schemes.

The umbrella associations were also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a coping strategy more than half of them were forced to decrease the number of services provided to their members, half of them exempted their members from paying fees for some time, and the GIFA was also able to apply for government support as well as for new loans. Only two organizations benefitted from special measures: the Ekufmi GNCFC was allowed to postpone the payments and the Ghana Inshore Fishermen Council was granted subsidies inputs and services as well as a special grant.

⁴ Except for the NAFAG, GIFA, Ghana Inshore Fishermen Council, the GNCFC (Western region).

Similarly, to what emerged with SSF organizations, the self-assessment on the strengths and weaknesses reveals that only a few organizations perceive themselves strong in their functions and in the support they provide to their members. From their answers it seems that the most common strengths are supporting the members in case of need, ensure a better management of fish stocks and ecosystems and provide better access to technical information. Yet, there are areas that high level organizations could further support but are not considered as part of their mandate at the moment. Organizations identified the main weaknesses in the capacity to increase the incomes of their members and in the provision of better access to durable and non-durable assets.

Table 7. Umbrella organizations' strengths and weaknesses

	Capacity among organizations engaging in activity (%)			Not engaging in activity (%)
	Good	Acceptable	Poor	
Provide better access to fish and other natural resources	0	57	43	50
Provide better access to facilities and workspaces	0	17	83	57
Provide better access to non-durable inputs (fuel, bait, packaging.)	0	22	78	35
Provide better access to durable assets (boats, machineries, nets.)	0	13	88	43
Provide better access to technical knowledge and information	10	50	40	29
Provide better access to credit and financial services	0	0	100	71
Help members increase the quantities produced	0	29	71	50
Help members sell their production at better conditions	0	0	100	57
Increase the incomes of members	0	0	100	50
Support members in case of need	50	33	17	14
Provide better access to public support programmes	25	0	75	43
Ensure a better management of fish stocks and ecosystems	27	36	36	21
Increase members' respect in society	0	56	44	36
Increase members' participation in political processes	14	29	57	50
Increase respect of members' rights	30	20	50	29

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Respondents were asked about which internal and external aspects represent a problem for their organizations. The most common internal problems are the availability of financial resources to make investments, indicated by all the respondents, and commercial skills. Other common problems include the enforcement of rules and technical knowledges, both indicated by nine respondents. The two regional GNCFC (Greater Accra and Western) identified all aspects as small or major problems. However, the most pressing challenges for the sampled organizations seem to be of external nature, in particular the quantity of available fish, identified as a problem by all organizations, illegal fishing, the deterioration of the ecosystem and the accessibility of non-durable inputs.

Table 8. Umbrella organizations' main internal and external problems

Internal problems	N	External problems	N
Financial resources	14	Quantity of available fish	14
Commercial skills	11	Deterioration of water ecosystems	13
Enforcement of rules	9	Illegal fishing	13
Administration and financial skills	9	Availability/accessibility of non-durable inputs	13
Technical knowledge	9	Quality of available fish	12
Commitment of members	7	Availability of credit and other financial services	12
Transparency of administration	6	Availability of government support	12
Leadership skills	6	Security over fish resources	11
Trust among members	5	Availability and quality of advisory services	10
Clarity of rules and procedures	4	Conflict with other groups involved in fishing	10
Internal communication	3	Unfair practices and power of buyers	10
Agreeing on shared objectives	3	Discrimination against members	10
		Availability and quality of fishing infrastructure	10
		Unfair practices and power of input suppliers	10
		Availability/quality of transportation	9
		Availability of market opportunities	7
		Bureaucratic procedures	7

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

All the umbrella organizations, except two, received or participated in capacity building activities in the last two years, with the most popular topic being environmental management received by 11 organizations while nutrition and marketing emerged to be the least common topics, although it could be a topic of interest since many of them indicated commercial skills as one of their internal problems.

Most trainings were delivered by government and NGOs, but in some cases by universities and private firms (particularly in the case of environmental and financial management). In the case of environmental management, all the organizations were able to successfully apply the knowledge learned during the training. Other topics in which the organizations would be interested in receiving training are communication; coastal resilience; fund raising; safety at sea and weather warning; navigation; alternative livelihoods; business development (how to invest money). Group training is the preferred delivery.

Of the 14 organizations interviewed, seven are familiar with the SSF Guidelines developed by FAO and the others are not. The ones familiar, have learned about them in workshop and meetings between 2021 and 2022. Two of them have taken steps to implement them and all the organizations are interested in learning more about them.

4 Conclusions

This survey represents the first effort in the context of UNDF to study producers' organizations, specifically small-scale fisheries organizations in Ghana. The research generated some important findings on the SSF organizations that can be used to establish a baseline to inform formulation of interventions and to strengthen this strategic sector. As the focus of the survey was small organizations supporting small-scale fishers, and these organizations are often informal, it was not possible to get a full list of organizations. The project relied on snowball sampling techniques to identify relevant fishing organizations of the area of the project. The survey collected 72 interviews from SSF organizations and 14 from umbrella organizations between May and August 2022.

The study reveals that the SSF organizations are mostly informal groups, have very low assets endowment (both durable and non-durable) and they do not practice collective sales, mostly due to lack of organization and lack of trust. Their members' livelihoods are diversified and engage in other sectors particularly in farming and livestock. The findings reveal an important role of these organizations to support small-scale fishers in several ways such as supporting their members in case of need or when hit by shocks and in providing capacity building. However, these organizations face many challenges both of internal and external nature and some of the challenges, such as lack of availability of inputs, government support and of credit but also commercial skills and technical knowledge, are common both to SSF and umbrella organizations. Umbrella organizations are more focused on supporting smaller organizations, as expected, and to have more resources and information. However, they show weaknesses in some areas such as access to finance and marketing skills where there is room for strengthening them.

These difficulties highlight the important role that FAO can play in working with fisheries organizations in Ghana by providing capacity building as well as increasing the awareness of the SSF Guidelines, which are still marginally known, throughout their implementation. Most organizations have received training in the past, mostly on financial and environmental management and most of them showed an interest in receiving more training especially on safety at sea, alternative livelihoods and marketing. Beyond training, there is a need for enhancing the resources and skills managed by these organizations by supporting them in becoming formal organizations, improve their governance and establish channels for engaging in collective activities and sales to improve the welfare of their members.

Finally, the SSF Guidelines will celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2024 and this study could inspire similar assessments to take stock of the results of the programme so far and inform future implementation.

References

- Bank of Ghana.** 2008. *The Fishing Sun-Sector and Ghana's Economy*. Accra. https://www.bog.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/fisheries_completerpdf.pdf
- Dovlo, E., Amador, K. & Nkrumah, B.** 2016. *Report on the 2016 Ghana marine canoe frame survey*. Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. Accra. <https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/Final-2016-Canoe-Frame-Survey-Report.pdf>
- Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) & Hen Mpoano.** 2019. *Gender analysis: Ghana's artisanal fisheries 2019*. Hen Mpoano, Ghana. <https://henmpoano.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Ghana-GENDER-ANALYSIS-2019-final.pdf>
- FAO.** 2015. *Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication*. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/i4356en.pdf>
- FAO.** 2022. SSF-Lex Country Profile - Ghana. In: *FAO. Rome*. [Cited 10 June 2023]. <https://ssflex.fao.org>
- FAO.** 2023. *Evaluation of the project "Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries"*. Project Evaluation Series, 02/2023. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4620en>
- Kassah, J.E. & Asare, C.** 2022. Conflicts in the Artisanal Fishing Industry of Ghana: Reactions of Fishers to Regulatory Measures. In: S. Jentoft, R. Chuenpagdee, A. Bugeja Said & M. Isaacs, eds. *Blue Justice*. MARE Publication Series, vol 26. Cham, Switzerland, Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-89624-9_6
- Lazar, N., Yankson, K., Blay, J., Ofori-Danson, P., Markwei, P., Agbogah, K., Bannerman, P. et al.** 2018. *Status of the small pelagic stocks in Ghana in 2018*. Scientific and Technical Working Group. USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. https://www.crc.uri.edu/download/GH2014_SCI082_CRC_FIN508.pdf
- Mathieu, E., Ritchie, H., Rodés-Guirao, L., Appel, C., Giattino, C., Hasell, J., Macdonald, B. et al.** 2020. Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). In: *Our World in Data*. [Cited 10 June 2023]. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>
- Okyere, I., Chuku, E.O., Dzantor, S.A., Ahenkorah, V. & Adade, R.** 2023. Capacity deficit and marginalisation of artisanal fishers hamper effective fisheries governance in Ghana: Insights and propositions for promoting sustainable small-scale fisheries. *Marine Policy*, 153: 105640. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2023.105640>
- Smith, H.** 2022. *Mapping Women's Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations in Ghana: Results from assessing current capacities, gaps and opportunities to strengthen women's organizations in the sector*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8500en>

Annex

Table A1. Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations' location and number of members

SSFO ID	Community	Region	Coastal/inland	Members (#)
SSFO 1	Eekumfi Narkwa	Central	Coastal	32
SSFO 2	Moree	Central	Coastal	53
SSFO 3	Moree	Central	Coastal	135
SSFO 4	Eekumfi Narkwa	Central	Coastal	48
SSFO 5	Eekumfi Narkwa	Central	Coastal	19
SSFO 6	Elmina	Central	Coastal	60
SSFO 7	Eekumfi Narkwa	Central	Coastal	38
SSFO 8	Moree	Central	Coastal	-
SSFO 9	Moree	Central	Coastal	60
SSFO 10	Moree	Central	Coastal	120
SSFO 11	Elmina	Central	Coastal	100
SSFO 12	Moree	Central	Coastal	100
SSFO 13	Moree	Central	Coastal	150
SSFO 14	Elmina	Central	Coastal	60
SSFO 15	Elmina	Central	Coastal	40
SSFO 16	Elmina	Central	Coastal	-
SSFO 17	Moree	Central	Coastal	30
SSFO 18	Elmina	Central	Coastal	45
SSFO 19	Moree	Central	Coastal	45
SSFO 20	Elmina	Central	Coastal	80
SSFO 21	Moree	Central	Coastal	25
SSFO 22	Elmina	Central	Coastal	-
SSFO 23	Eekumfi Narkwa	Central	Coastal	30
SSFO 24	Elmina	Central	Coastal	45
SSFO 25	Moree	Central	Coastal	45
SSFO 26	Moree	Central	Coastal	80
SSFO 27	Moree	Central	Coastal	25
SSFO 28	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	40
SSFO 29	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	250
SSFO 30	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	25
SSFO 31	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	80
SSFO 32	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	25
SSFO 33	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	53
SSFO 34	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	20
SSFO 35	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	72
SSFO 36	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	50
SSFO 37	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	20
SSFO 38	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	45
SSFO 39	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	75

SSFO ID	Community	Region	Coastal/inland	Members (#)
SSFO 40	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	50
SSFO 41	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	35
SSFO 42	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	25
SSFO 43	Akateng	Eastern	Inland	105
SSFO 44	Tema New Town	Greater Accra	Coastal	N/A
SSFO 45	Tema New Town	Greater Accra	Coastal	250
SSFO 46	Tema New Town	Greater Accra	Coastal	N/A
SSFO 47	Nungua	Greater Accra	Coastal	104
SSFO 48	Tapa Abotoase	Oti	Inland	11
SSFO 49	Tapa Abotoase	Oti	Inland	100
SSFO 50	Tapa Abotoase	Oti	Inland	60
SSFO 51	Tapa Abotoase	Oti	Inland	45
SSFO 52	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	55
SSFO 53	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	57
SSFO 54	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	38
SSFO 55	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	145
SSFO 56	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	64
SSFO 57	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	25
SSFO 58	Dzemeni	Volta	Inland	36
SSFO 59	Axim	Western	Coastal	N/A
SSFO 60	Shama	Western	Coastal	34
SSFO 61	Axim	Western	Coastal	N/A
SSFO 62	Shama	Western	Coastal	35
SSFO 63	Axim	Western	Coastal	523
SSFO 64	Shama	Western	Coastal	25
SSFO 65	Shama	Western	Coastal	10
SSFO 66	Axim	Western	Coastal	N/A
SSFO 67	Shama	Western	Coastal	26
SSFO 68	Axim	Western	Coastal	52
SSFO 69	Axim	Western	Coastal	50
SSFO 70	Axim	Western	Coastal	128
SSFO 71	Shama	Western	Coastal	86
SSFO 72	Axim	Western	Coastal	30

Note: SSFO stands for Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations. N/A = not applicable.

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

CONTACTS

Agrifood Economics and Policy Division – Economic and Social Development
ESA-Director@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy