



Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) Project

Project number: 00141814

Annual Report (2023)

Submitted to

The World Bank

Grant No. Eo56-RY

March 2024

Data Sheet

Country	Yemen	
Donor (s)	The World Bank	
Project details	Project title:	Sustainable Fisheries Development (SFISH) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
	Project ID	00141814
	Project Start Date	October 2022
	Project End Date	September 2025
Total budget	\$ 41,150,000	
Total expenditure	\$8,562,193 (Expenditures for 2023 and Q1 of 2024: \$ 4,911,679 and commitments \$ 3,650,514)	
UNDP Contacts	Zena Ali Ahmed Resident Representative UNDP Yemen Email: Zena.ali-ahmad@undp.org	
Responsible Party	SMEPS (The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service) PWP (Public Works Project)	

Table of Contents

1.	Executive Summary	6
2.	Background and Contextual analysis	8
3.	Outcome: Fishery Value chain strengthened in Yemen	11
4.	Progress towards development results	11
4.1	Project Output 1: Improved resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods	11
4.1.4	Number of beneficiaries received awareness on OHS, Gender Inclusion, and Social Risk Management (Gender disaggregated)	16
4.1.7	Number of beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management. Women participants 30%.	19
4.2	Project Output 2: Developed governance systems and knowledge for effective management and climate resilience of fisheries.	19
4.2.1	Four sub-national fishery governance committees established.	20
4.2.2	Developing a simplified matrix for fishery data indicators for regular fishery data collection and reporting under limited capacity setting.	21
4.2.3	A study on fishery sector diversification and development of a business model developed and disseminated.	22
4.2.4	Producing two sub-national fishery management plans.	22
4.3	Project Output 3: Improved resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods	23
4.3.1	Micro grants by SMEPS in entrepreneurship and business development opportunities for women in the fishery value chain.	23
5.	Environmental and Social (E&S) Risk Management	24
6.	Monitoring and Evaluation	31
7.	Visibility	33
7.1.1	SFISH General Posts in media platforms:	35
8.	Partnerships / Coordination	35
9.	UNDP Project Management	36
10.	Risks Log	36
11.	Challenges	36
12.	Lessons Learned	37
13.	Procurement	37
14.	Financial Summary	38
15.	Annexes	39
	Annex 1: Training Materials	39
	Annex 2: Workshops Reports	39
	Annex 3: Consultants Training Reports	39
	Annex 4: Beneficiaries Training Reports	39

Annex 5: Community Committees MoUs	39
Annex 6: MEAL Logframe & Weighted Scores (Results Matrix incorporated)	39
Annex 7: Gender /SEA Plans.....	39
Annex 8: GM Complaints Log & Periods.....	39
Annex 9: Financial Report	39
Annex 10: Risk Log	39
Annex 11: Procurement Plan	39
Annex 12: Pictures of Activities.....	39
Annex 13: Other attachments (Business plan, Baseline, ToRs, Needs assessment)	39
Table 1: Outcome Indicators	11
Table 2: Project Progress - Output 1.....	13
Table 3: Distribution of Community Committees.....	14
Table 4: OHS, Gender, Social Risks Trainings / Awareness sessions conducted.....	17
Table 5: Landing Sites	18
Table 6: Project Progress - Output 2.....	20
Table 7: Project Progress - Output 3.....	23
Table 8: Consultation Matrix - PWP.....	26
Table 9: GM / GRM Focal Point	30
Table 10Media Production Plan	34
Table 11 Capacity Building on Communication for consultants	35
Table 12: Distribution of 1st Batch Tender	38

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCs	Community Committees
E&S	Environmental and Social Safeguards
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAF	General Authority of Fishery
GiZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GM \ GRM	Grievance Mechanism \ Grievance Redress Mechanism
IDA	International Development Association
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFR	Interim Financial Reports
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase classification
ISM	Implementation Support Mission
KfW	German state-owned investment and development bank
MIS	Management Information System
MoAIFW	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Fishery Wealth
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PDO	Project Development Objective
PWP	Public Works Project
PESTLE	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental
Quantum	New corporate management system at UNDP
RP's	Responsible Parties (Implementing Partners)
RRF	Resources and Result Framework
RVM	Remote Verification Mechanism
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs)
SMEPS	Small Micro Enterprise Promotion Service
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
US\$	United States Dollar
WB	World bank

1. Executive Summary

The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed the financing agreement on 21 June 2022 for the UNDP to implement the Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH). Conditions of effectiveness of the Financing Agreement were met in August 2022 and consequently, the Financing Agreement became effective on August 17, 2022. The project total budget is US\$ 41.15million. The project aims to support actions to improve fishery production and quality by reducing post-harvest losses and improving climate resilience and access to markets, thus contributing to restoring fishery sector related livelihoods and create economic opportunities for women and men. It will promote interaction and networks between fishers, micro and small fish processors, wholesalers, and retailers to improve access to markets in targeted coastal areas. It will also support developing local governance systems and knowledge to effectively manage fisheries and ensure climate resilience that aligns with the fishery sector strategy of Yemen.

The overall project objective as from PAD's PDOs, is to improve the effective fishery production and value chain in Yemen.

The objective is supported through the achievement of two outcomes: 1) Fishery value chain strengthened in Yemen, and 2) Capacity developed for effective management of Fishery in Yemen.

The Sustainable Fisheries Development (SFISH) Project's annual report for 2023 details the critical phases of the initiative from its start in October 2022 through June 2023, and highlights a third Implementation Support Mission (ISM) conducted in October 2023. This period has been foundational, marked by significant coordination, staffing, and the launch of project activities focused on enhancing Yemen's fisheries sector.

In these formative months, the project concentrated on laying the groundwork for its operations. This entailed robust collaboration with essential stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fisheries Wealth (MoAIFW) and the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF). Key discussions were held to select landing sites and establish beneficiary targeting criteria, ensuring the interventions are relevant and impactful.

The SFISH project's importance is underscored by its aim to improve fish harvest (reduce post-catch losses), processing, storage, and marketing, thus ensuring regular access to affordable fish for Yemen's population. This initiative is crucial for combating malnutrition and revitalizing sustainable economic activities along the fish value chain.

However, the project's progress has been challenged by Yemen's ongoing political instability, sporadic conflicts, and economic difficulties. Despite these challenges, the country has managed to maintain a relative calm situation, even without a renewed UN-mediated ceasefire or peace negotiations.

Yemen's precarious food security situation remains a pressing issue, with a significant portion of the population facing acute food insecurity due to structural and climatic challenges. The MoAIFW's imposition of a fish export ban in February 2023, in response to rising fish prices and local market scarcities, reflects the complex dynamics of supply, demand, and economic factors in the fisheries sector.

The project has benefited from continuous collaboration between the World Bank, UNDP, SMEPS, and PWP teams, engaging in bi-weekly meetings and regular meetings with MoAIFW and GAF to share updates, address implementation challenges, and discuss technical matters. The formation of an informal Fisheries Group, with various international and local stakeholders, has facilitated focused sector-specific discussions, with plans to formalize this group for enhanced coordination.

The project held its second ISM in February 2023, providing an opportunity for thorough engagement and alignment on the project's direction and priorities. Additionally, a third ISM was conducted in October 2023, further solidifying the project's strategic objectives and operational plans.

Despite encountering delays in the needs assessment and prioritization for specific sites, concerted efforts have

been made to streamline the design and clearance processes for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMPs), paving the way for subsequent rehabilitation and procurement of activities.

UNDP has proactively enhanced its support by deploying additional technical staff from the country office to facilitate a smooth transition and provide guidance to the newly onboarded project staff. In a strategic move in January, UNDP implemented a new HR strategy tailored for the development of the Fishery sector. This approach consolidates various sector initiatives into a unified team, leading to a more efficient management structure. This integration, particularly of the SFISH and the KfW funded Aden Fishery Harbour Rehabilitation and Value Chain Development projects, not only streamlines operations but also achieves cost efficiencies for the SFISH project. These savings are planned to be strategically reinvested based on the outcomes of the mid-term evaluation, as mutually agreed upon by the UNDP and WB teams.

Key achievements

- Established and provided training to 32 community committees, comprising 158 members (with a 44% female representation) across Al Mahrah, Aden, Hadhramout, and Taiz. Up to the end of March, 2024, the total number is 3,310 (1,021 female – 30%) which includes the number of beneficiaries.
- Initiated the selection process for sub-national fisheries committees in Aden, with plans to extend this to Hadhramout, Al-Mahrah, and Taiz.
- Conducted a comprehensive screening survey of 2,014 fishers and 1,272 women and youth, and successfully verified 967 supply chain enablers and associations for project involvement.
- Recruited and trained 160 field consultants, including 58 females, to support micro-producers, women and youth initiatives, and supply chain enablers and firms, with specific allocations of 62 for micro-producers, 64 (51 females) for women and youth, and 34 (7 females) for supply chain enablers and firms.
- Trained and employed 50 business advisors, including 7 females, to offer consultancy services to targeted supply chain enablers, cooperatives, and lead firms.
- Completed the selection process for the initial batch of beneficiaries, targeting 1,346 fishers and 855 women and youth for upcoming training sessions.
- Finalized preparations and contracting processes to initiate training programs for selected micro-producers, women, and youth.
- Successfully conducted business continuity management training for 830 firms, including 43 BCAs, and 787 Supply Chain Enablers, leading to the initiation of their business continuity planning.
- Tender documents for one of the landing sites in Hadhramout have been approved and finalized, with the announcement scheduled in January 2024. At the time of writing the annual report, the tender was opened on the February 15th, 2024 and selection of bidder is completed.
- The Terms of Reference for the fisheries management plan have been finalized and are set to be advertised in January 2024.

The total project budget until December 2023 was \$11,654,078. The project expenditure rate 73.5%. Total expenditure is \$8,562,193 (this includes expenditures for 2023 and Q1 of 2024: \$ 4,911,679 + commitments \$ 3,650,514)

\$8,562,193 (Expenditures for 2023 and Q1 of 2024: \$ 4,911,679 and commitments \$ 3,650,514)

2. Background and Contextual analysis

The project is implemented in four southern coastal governorates in Yemen namely Aden, Al Mahrah, Hadramout and Taiz where a large share of households is engaged (or have been engaged in past and returning back) in the fishery sector for their livelihoods, fishery contribution to local economy and those that have not benefitted from other fishery development activities/programs. Project sites within the targeted governorates based on poverty level of fishery communities and food security needs, previous existence of fishery production and distribution system and environmental impacts (risks to critical coastal ecosystems important for fisheries, illegal fishing, over-fishing) and feedback from stakeholder consultations will be given priority. The project is implemented in areas which are accessible and where development interventions can be implemented. The selected areas have been also identified as one of the few places where women, mostly from the low social status groups, are somehow involved in fisheries-related work. The project targeting (especially the landing sites) will be kept flexible, to make future adjustments due to changes to such as accessibility, and security concerns.

Contextual Developments

Political

Yemen remained without a truce between the International Recognized Government and Ansar-Allah during 2023. Mediation efforts continued albeit slowly toned and these efforts are credited with a major exchange of prisoners linked to Yemen's longstanding war in April 2023. Nearly 900 people from all sides, who had been detained in connection with the conflict, were released from prison because of meetings held in Switzerland under the auspices of the UN in March 2023¹.

The positive conclusion of the delicate undertaking to secure FSO Safer and to extract its 1.14 million barrels of oil by the UN led by UNDP is also attributed to support from the Yemeni sides. The UN begun attempts to secure the ship and oil in 2021 but only obtained headway to conclude in August 2023. The removal of the crude oil from a rusting supertanker prevented the immediate threat of a massive spill in the Red Sea which would have had a monumental environmental and humanitarian catastrophe.

Red Sea Tensions

Since the start of the Gaza war, Ansar-Allah has been carrying out a series of drone and missile attacks targeting Israel and international shipping in the Red Sea, opening a 'third front' with Israel. As a result, the majority of international shipping companies are rerouting cargo ships, resulting in increased transportation and maritime insurance costs, as well as causing delays and bottlenecks that are set to disrupt supply chains and inflate commodity prices around the world. As a result, the US initiated "Operation Prosperity Guardian" as a global alliance to confront these attacks. In December 2023, Ansar-Allah spokesperson announced that any ship destined for Israel was a "legitimate target" and claimed they will not stop until the Gaza Strip is supplied with "food and medicine".

Ansar-Allah have also fired on merchant vessels of various countries in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen, in the Bab-Al-Mandeb strait, a chokepoint of the global economy. This resulted in hundreds

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/news/topic/human-rights>

of cargo ships and tankers being rerouted around the southern tip of Africa to avoid the attacks in the Red Sea.

Risks of interruption of free and safe navigation of Yemeni waters to stall import routes could have devastating effects to the people of Yemen including access to fishery activities.

Economy

2023 has proven to be a challenging year for Yemen's economy, as the expiration of the UN-sponsored truce instigated a series of adverse economic events. This sequence of events is expected to push the economy back into a recession. The De-facto authority-imposed blockade of oil exports (2022) had a deep impact on oil production and exports. Additionally, a strategic move to import household butane gas into De-facto-controlled areas diminished the demand for gas extracted from non-De-facto authority regions. According to the World bank, challenges like fluctuating currency values, high inflation, and heightened social unrest, have hindered the non-oil sector, especially the private sector². As a result, and yet to be confirmed, projections indicate that Yemen's GDP contracted by 0.5% in 2023, a sharp contrast with the 1.5% growth observed the previous year holding effects of the Red Sea Crisis constant.

Food Security

Yemen has consistently been the poorest and most food insecure country in the MENA region, with concerning levels of malnutrition, long before the conflict. Currently, nearly half of the population cannot meet minimum needs of food consumption and high levels of acute food insecurity are becoming the norm in Yemen. Efforts to prevent a wide proportion of the population from sliding into more severe levels of deprivation are hampered by conflict, the increasing fiscal and economic challenges, limited institutional capacity, poor infrastructure, and the growing gap in essential services. Furthermore, humanitarian assistance, which helped millions in Yemen to avert the most severe levels of deprivation, has become increasingly low and unpredictable.

Despite some improvement of food security at the beginning of 2023, Yemen slid back to increased severe food insecurity starting June 2023. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis of October 2023 covering 118 districts and areas under the control of the Government of Yemen, showed a reduction in the level of food insecurity compared to 2022. However, the number of people facing severe acute food insecurity remained very high and of great concern in the majority of the analyzed districts. Furthermore, despite the slight improvement in food security, malnutrition deteriorated further during 2023 compared to 2022.

A draft report on IPC analysis due for publishing in February 2024, indicates that for the period October 2023 to February 2024, approximately 4.56 million people or 45 percent of the population analyzed in Government of Yemen controlled areas will experience high levels of acute food insecurity (AFI), classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The primary concern are the more than 1.3 million people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Compared to the initial projection analysis for June to December 2023³, the projection update analysis revealed a 12 percent

² [Yemen Economic Monitor, Fall 2023: Peace on the Horizon? \[EN/AR\] - Yemen | ReliefWeb Food Security](#)

³ [Yemen: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot - Acute Food Insecurity: January - December 2023](#)

increase in IPC Phase 3 and above, resulting into an overall 4 percentage point increase, from 41 percent to 45 percent.

The increase in food insecurity was due to a worsening economic crisis, continued localized conflict, reduced and irregular humanitarian food assistance and the negative impacts of Cyclone Tej, which hit southeastern coastal areas of Yemen in the last weeks of October 2023. Together, these shocks eroded some of the gains achieved from the improved security situation following the end of the truce period.

3. Outcome: Fishery Value chain strengthened in Yemen

Outcome Indicator	Sources	Baseline Value	Target	Achieved
Number of beneficiaries with job-focused interventions disaggregated by sex, age, PWDs, IDPs, and marginalized (1,680 women)	Project progress reports, TPMA reports	0	5,600	0
% of beneficiary households experienced at least ten percent increase in their per capita household income from the baseline situation	Beneficiary Household Survey/Assessment Report	\$ 256/ YER 64,132 per trip for fishermen \$ 345/YER 86,456 per month for women USD 5,570 average profit / month for supply chain enablers and cooperatives	60%	0
Number of sub-national climate informed participatory fishery management plans implemented	Project progress reports, TPMA reports and fishery management plans	0	2	0
Number of fishery communities benefited from the project rehabilitated assets	Project progress reports, TPMA reports	0	79,186	0

Table 1: Outcome Indicators

4. Progress towards development results

4.1 Project Output 1: Improved resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods

Summary achievement against project targets

Project Indicator	Targets (2023)	Summary achievement (including updates up to March 2024)	Status
1. Number of fishers and micro and medium enterprises benefitted from voucher inputs/micro	1,000 Male: 700 Female: 300	Successfully conducted the screening survey and finalized the selection process.	Training is completed. Distribution of micro

Project Indicator	Targets (2023)	Summary achievement (including updates up to March 2024)	Status
grants to develop fishery value chain activities (gender disaggregated)		Successfully trained 1,246 fishermen and 848 women in the first quarter of 2024. Out of which, 75 targeted women received their grants.	grants is in progress
2. Number of youths with enhanced skills with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities	350 Female: 350	Completed Business Continuity Management (BCM) training for a total 787 supply chain enablers and SMEs, where several business plans were received so far to be reviewed and approved by SMEPS Until the end of March 2024, a total 670 business plans were approved and 36 Supply Chain Enablers started receiving partial/full grants	In Progress
3. Number of fishery associations and cooperatives supported with matching microgrants for improved production	10	Supported 43 fisheries cooperatives, including one that is women led in Business Continuity Management (BCM) training. These cooperatives are currently developing and will submit their business plans for review. 35 associations are selected for matching grants phase.	Selection completed
4. Number of beneficiaries received awareness on OHS, Gender inclusion and social risk management (Gender disaggregated)	1,000 Male: 700 Female: 300	Facilitated awareness sessions for consultants, community committees, and other key stakeholders, achieving engagement with: 523 individuals received awareness on Gender, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/ Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), and Environmental and Social Risk Management and Monitoring.	In Progress
5. Number of fishery infrastructure (landing sites) rehabilitated/restored with enhanced climate resilience	9	Identified 9 landing sites across four governorates for rehabilitation: 2 in Aden 1 in Taiz 2 in Mahra 4 in Hadhramaut - One Site in Hadhramout (Al-Qarn) was announced for tendering in January 2024. The procurement process has been completed and the contract will be signed first week of May 2024. - One site in Aden (Dockyard) is currently under review and will be finalised in the Technical meeting on 28th April 2024. - Five Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) have been reviewed by UNDP. World Bank has approved one ESMP. The remaining 4 have been updated based on comments received on the first	In Progress

Project Indicator	Targets (2023)	Summary achievement (including updates up to March 2024)	Status
		ESMP, of which three have been shared with the WB team for revision.	
6. Number of beneficiaries who are receiving real time pricing information and transmit early weather warnings through the digital Information System installed at GAF (Gender disaggregated)	1,000 Male: 700 Female: 300	Discussions have been held to explore effective methods for data collection that circumvent the need for expensive licensing, ensuring a cost-efficient and sustainable approach to information dissemination. Update as of March 2023: The data collection specialist will be on board on May 2, 2024 and will work closely with PWP, GAF and the Ministry to design the DIS TORs.	In progress
7. Number of beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management. Women participants 30%.	2,500 Male: 1,750 Female: 750	Successfully trained and enhanced the capacities of 1,217 participants, including 189 females. This diverse group consisted of 830 representatives from firms and supply chain enablers, 158 community committee members, 53 business advisors, and 176 field consultants. Up to the end of March, 2024, total 3,310 (1,021 women – 30%) beneficiaries were trained.	In Progress
Overall status			Partially achieved

Table 2: Project Progress - Output 1

Activity Update

4.1.1 Fishery households benefited from voucher inputs/micro grants to develop fishery value chain activities.

The SFISH project finalized selection criteria for micro-producers, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as fishermen with limited income, no alternative income sources, and inadequate access to basic services like water and electricity. Special consideration was given to those without housing, larger families, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons or returnees.

So far, a total of sixteen community committees, comprising 158 members (90 males and 68 females), have been established in Aden, Al-Mahrah, Hadhramout, and Taiz to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement. The distribution of these committees varies across governorates, reflecting the number of selected landing sites per district/governorate and the sensitivity towards resource allocation. After the election process, an extensive training program was conducted for the elected members of the community committees, aimed at deepening their comprehension of key areas such as selection criteria, of beneficiaries reporting protocols, and the follow-up of activities.

No.	Governorate	Community Committees	Male Members	Female members	Total/Governorate
1	Aden	3	18	11	29
2	Al-Mahrah	2	12	7	19
3	Hadhramout	6	24	24	48
4	Taiz	5	36	26	62
TOTAL		16	90	68	158

Table 3: Distribution of Community Committees

4.1.1.1 Needs Assessment – Identifying the gaps and needs within fisheries value chain.

SMEPS Research & Development team completed an extensive needs assessment across the fisheries value chain in targeted areas. This study aimed to identify critical gaps, opportunities, needs, and key market players, setting a solid foundation for targeted support under the project. The English version of the report was shared in December 2023.

A dedicated team of 42 consultants, including 14 females (representing 33% of the team), trained and hired to facilitate the activity on the ground. This diverse team comprised 25 field surveyors, 5 data reviewers, 8 team supervisors, and 4 administrative consultants, all working synergistically to gather and analyze data. By the end of the reporting period, the team completed data collection and delivered an in-depth analysis through the Needs Assessment report. This report offers a detailed exploration of the specific needs within the districts of Al Mahrah, Hadhramout, Aden, and Taiz.

The findings, shared with the World Bank, provide important insights for effective interventions tailored to the community and district needs. The assessment played a significant role in shaping the project's strategic direction, focusing on the types of interventions and target groups.

Field visits were carefully coordinated with local and fishery authorities, ensuring seamless survey execution and engagement with key sector players. The assessment successfully screened a total of 1,679 individuals, as depicted in the accompanying graph, and highlighted potential supply chain

enablers for project support. This included an analysis of the main value chain contributors—factories, small producers/service providers, storage facilities, retailers, and transportation companies—offering strategic insights for market enhancement. The inclusion of SWOT and PESTLE analyses further enriches the assessment, providing a strong framework for understanding the sector's dynamics and identifying avenues for strategic impact.



Figure 1: Needs Assessment for Fishery Value Chain

Simultaneously, SMEPS developed extensive training materials, tailored to the specific needs of fishers and related communities. This curriculum encompassed sustainable fishing practices, highlighting the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems, and adjustments needed for their livelihoods. It also included training in the use of advanced technologies like GPS, boat and equipment maintenance, effective fish handling and quality control, preservation of critical fish habitats, sanitary measures, and methods for drying and packaging fish. This comprehensive approach aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of fishers in sustainable and efficient fisheries management.

Moreover, a preliminary list of 2,062 individuals from community committees across targeted areas including Aden, Hadhramout, Taiz, and Al Mahrah has been compiled thus far. These individuals were proposed as potential beneficiaries. A screening survey⁴ was then conducted on 2,014 of these individuals, aligning with the project's selection criteria. This process led to the identification of the initial batch of micro-producers, setting the stage for the collection of their baseline data during 2024.

4.1.2 Number of youths with enhanced skills with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities.

Selection criteria for Supply Chain Enablers, including SMEs, fishery associations, and lead firms, has been developed ensuring they are existing entities within the fisheries value chain, legally registered with a valid license and commercial record. Furthermore, SMEPS developed Business Continuity Management (BCM) training materials tailored for these supply chain enablers, focusing on risk management, business management, and planning to foster sustainability and growth. In 2023, 787 supply chain enablers, including 6 females, received BCM training to enhance their business and risk management capabilities, with the aim of expanding their operations. Participants have begun developing their business continuity plans to address gaps and needs within their businesses.

4.1.3 Fishery associations and cooperatives supported with matching microgrants for improved production.

⁴ [screening survey Screening](#) – PowerBI

A set of criteria has been developed and tailored for Supply Chain Enablers, SMEs, fishery associations, and lead firms, to ensure their effective participation in the fisheries value chain. These criteria stipulate that entities must be actively engaged in the sector, possess legal registration with a valid license from local authorities, and have a verified commercial record. This framework aims to standardize the qualifications for entities participating in the project, ensuring a professional and compliant cohort of beneficiaries.

In a significant step towards enhancing operational resilience, SMEPS has rolled out an intensive Business Continuity Management (BCM) training program specifically designed for 43 cooperatives, including one led by a female. Out of these, 35 cooperatives will be selected for further engagement. This initiative is focused on equipping these entities with advanced business and risk management strategies to fortify their ability to sustain and grow in the face of challenges. The training covers a comprehensive range of skills necessary for mitigating risks and optimizing business performance, with a strong emphasis on strategic planning and crisis management.

As part of the BCM training, participants are guided through the process of developing their own business continuity plans. These plans are critical for identifying potential vulnerabilities within their operations and formulating strategic responses to address these gaps. The objective is to create a strong framework that allows these cooperatives to maintain their operations during adverse situations and to capitalize on opportunities for growth.

Smaller fisheries cooperatives face difficulty to match the project grant as financial capacity and business infrastructure is weak however, following the training, several cooperatives have taken the initiative to submit their business plans for evaluation. These submissions are currently under review by the business advisors' committee, a panel of experts tasked with assessing the plans' viability and strategic alignment with the project's goals. The most promising plans will be selected to proceed to the grants phase, an opportunity that promises to provide financial support and further empower these cooperatives to achieve sustainable success. At the time of writing the annual report (March, 2024) 700 business plans were approved (670 supply chain enablers business 30 cooperatives) to start procuring their assets.

4.1.4 Number of beneficiaries received awareness on OHS, Gender Inclusion, and Social Risk Management (Gender disaggregated).

SMEPS carried out awareness sessions for 34 consultant and community committee focused on gender inclusion and social risk management, SEA/SH, Environmental and Social Risk Management and Monitoring, Occupational Health, and Safety (OHS), and Grievance Mechanisms / Grievance Redress Mechanisms GM / GRM). These sessions were designed to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of community committees, local authorities, suppliers, and field consultants. The primary goal was to ensure the application of these principles across all project activities, fostering a safer and more inclusive implementation environment. The sessions also aimed at helping participants identify and address various challenges effectively. The attendance for each type of awareness session is detailed in the accompanying table.

Training / Awareness sessions	Community committees	Local Authorities	Suppliers	Project Field Consultants	Total Trainees	Total Female
-------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------	-----------	---------------------------	----------------	--------------

	Total trainees	No. of Female	Total trainees	No. of Female	Total trainees	No. of Female	Total trainees	No. of Female		
Gender & SEA / SH	60	24	97	59	38	0	328	126	523	209
Environmental and Social Risk Management and Monitoring	30	12	97	59	38	0	367	138	532	209
OHS	60	24	0	0	38	0	178	98	276	122
GM	0	0	97	59	38	0	229	71	364	130

Table 4: OHS, Gender, Social Risks Trainings / Awareness sessions conducted.

4.1.5 Number of fishery infrastructure (landing sites) rehabilitated/restored with enhanced climate resilience.

In the initial phase of the project, PWP undertook comprehensive assessments to prioritize the needs of the landing sites. This involved organizing numerous meetings with the related authorities to outline the work plan, identify targeted sites, and establish the procedure for determining each sites' specific requirements and priorities. PWP facilitated public consultations and stakeholder engagements through social and environmental survey teams. These teams interacted with beneficiaries, local authorities, and fishing associations to gauge the level of their needs and satisfaction with the proposed interventions.

Engineering teams were deployed to the landing sites to evaluate the existing conditions and, in collaboration with the beneficiary entities, ascertain needs and set priorities. It became evident in some sites that the beneficiaries' requests exceed the available funds. Through constructive dialogue, it was agreed that priority would be given to essential components, with the understanding that remaining needs might be addressed through future funding. This approach received the endorsement of both the GAFs and the Ministry. Moreover, coordination with UNDP specialists ensured that all activities in this phase were aligned with broader goals.

The subsequent stage focused on the technical design for the landing sites. This process began with preparing the TORs and selecting consultants for the technical studies and designs. Seven landing sites underwent thorough technical study and design, with the BoQs being verified by PWP and the master plans undergoing UNDP's review for verification and clearance. The designs, incorporating feedback from UNDP engineers, are poised for final approval by UNDP and the World Bank. Notably, the designs for the AL-QARN L landing site have been approved with a public tender announced and contract signing anticipated by March 2024.

In parallel, draft Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for seven landing sites were prepared, with five submitted to UNDP for review. These drafts will be resubmitted post-technical design clearance, incorporating feedback from the Al-Qarn landing site review.

For the Dockyard landing site, the intervention plan includes the establishment of ice factories and cooling chillers. PWP specialist's site visit led to discussions on ice production needs and power requirements. The master plan, delineating the placement of ice factories, chillers, and solar panels, awaits UNDP clearance. Technical specifications for the ice plant, chillers, and solar energy systems have been refined and are under World Bank review, with preparations underway for the Dockyard business plan's TOR.

	Governorates	Districts	Landing Site	Confirmed \ Status
1	Aden	Al Buriqa	Al Darba	Way forward to be confirmed after looking into the environmental risks – An alternative landing site, Focum landing site was communicated by the GAF in October 2023.
2	Aden	Al Mualla	Dockyard	Confirmed. The designs are under discussion in the technical meeting 28 to 30 April 2024.
3	Al Mahrah	Haswin	Saqer	Confirmed. The designs are under discussion in the technical meeting 28 to 30 April 2024.
4	Al Mahrah	Al Masilah	Rakhot	Confirmed. The designs are under discussion in the technical meeting 28 to 30 April 2024.
5	Hadhrumout	Ad Dis	Qarn	Tender has been announced on 8, January 2024, tender closed on 15 February, tender evaluation completed and submitted 21 April and clearance of the evaluation received from WB on 23 and the contract will be signed with the contractor in the first week of May 2024.
6	Hadramout	Mukallah City	Rokab	Confirmed. The designs are under discussion in the technical meeting 28 to 30 April 2024.
7	Hadhrumout	Ar Raydah wa Qussay'ar	Al Rayida	Confirmed. The tender announced on 22 April and deadline set for 28 May, 2024.
8	Hadhrumout	Ash Shihr	Al-Hami	Confirmed. The tender announced on 22 April and deadline set for 28 May, 2024.
9	Taiz	Dhubab	Bab Al Mandab	Confirmed. The designs are under discussion in the technical meeting 28 to 30 April 2024.

Table 5: Landing Sites

4.1.6 Number of beneficiaries who are receiving real time pricing information and transmit early weather warnings through the digital Information System installed at GAF (Gender disaggregated)

The terms of reference for the DIS were initially drafted and then refined following constructive feedback from specialists at the related authorities. The revised TORs were subsequently submitted to UNDP and the World Bank, where it underwent further review, and feedback is integrated into a new version of the TORs.

During the review process, World Bank / UNDP specialists highlighted several challenges related to the operation and sustainability of the proposed system. These insights led to a recognition of significant obstacles that need to be addressed before committing substantial investment to the system's development. In response to these concerns, officials from the Ministry suggested considering an existing system developed within the Ministry's IT center, which utilizes an ORACLE database. A demonstration of this system was presented to PWP and UNDP. However, after thorough discussion, it was decided not to proceed with building upon the existing system due to its reliance on an outdated version of the database and the prohibitive costs associated with annual licensing fees.

The challenges identified prompted a strategic pivot during implementation support mission in October 2023, where it was recommended to engage in further discussions to identify feasible and implementable components that could be developed without encountering the previously identified

obstacles. The emphasis was on finding practical solutions that would align with the project's goals while also being sustainable and cost-effective in the long run.

4.1.7 Number of beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management. Women participants 30%.

The project committed to providing extensive training programs to ten thousand fishery households, targeting a broad spectrum of stakeholders integral to the fishery sector. This group encompasses targeted beneficiaries, field consultants, community members, supply chain participants, cooperatives, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), all of whom are crucial for the sustainability and advancement of the fishery industry.

In 2023, the project has conducted training and capacity-building sessions for 1,217 individuals, including 189 women, reflecting the dedication to gender inclusivity and empowerment within the sector. The composition of the trainees involved 829 individuals from firms and supply chain enablers, emphasizing the focus on enhancing the operational and logistical frameworks of the fishery industry. Moreover, 158 community committee members were trained, underscoring the important role of community committees.

In addition, 53 business advisors received specialized training to effectively support and guide fishery enterprises, while 176 field consultants were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide on-the-ground support and expertise to fishery households and businesses. This holistic approach to capacity building aims to address various aspects of the fishery sector, including business development, supply chain management, community engagement, and field consultancy.

4.2 Project Output 2: Developed governance systems and knowledge for effective management and climate resilience of fisheries.

Summary achievement against project targets

Project Indicator	Targets (2023)	Summary achievement	Status
1. Establishing sub-national fishery governance committees	1	The Sub-national fisheries committees in Aden have been formed. It is composed of 18 members.	Completed
2. Developing a simplified matrix for fishery data indicators for regular fishery data collection and reporting under limited capacity setting.	0	The ToRs we signed off by the WB and advertised by UNDP. The consultant join frm 2 nd May 2024.	Completed
3. Producing a study on fishery sector diversification and development of a business model	0	A revised ToRs are developed aligned to discussions held in June and October. This will be discussed with MoAIFW and WB before tendering.	Modification required.
4. Producing two sub national fishery management plans	0	The ToRs are approved, it has been sent to procurement for further action.	In progress

Overall status	In progress
-----------------------	-------------

Table 6: Project Progress - Output 2

UNDP directly implements four activities geared towards developing governance systems and knowledge for effective management and climate resilience of fisheries. These include (i) Establishing gender responsive sub-national fishery governance committees, (ii) Developing a simplified matrix for fishery data indicators for regular fishery data collection and reporting under limited capacity setting, (iii) Producing a gender responsive study on fishery sector diversification and development of a business model, and (iv) Developing gender responsive sub-national fishery management plans.

During this reporting period, it was expected to advance with the first three activities. ToRs on sub-national fishery governance committees were developed and shared with the WB for revision. During consultations between the teams, it was reported that other projects funded by the WB might be undertaking similar studies. WB suggested to halt activities until 2024 and/or after findings from those other projects were shared and discussed among the team. Both UNDP and WB followed up with FAO to share reports from their side and a presentation was done for the Fisheries Working Group on 22 June 23. The presentation was on Fisheries and Aquaculture Stock Assessment study under Yemen Food Security and Resilience Project. From the presentation, FAO concluded that data duplication and mismatch between agencies, lack of standardization in the data collection protocols and timeline for data collection, limited data sharing between agencies, inaccurate data, limited funding and resource constraints and lack of proper data management systems, were the key governance issues hindering progress. The project will peruse another FAO report from the study – Yemen Fisheries and Aquaculture needs and investment assessment of (31 March 23) to determine way forward with diversification study.

Description of Results

4.2.1 Four sub-national fishery governance committees established.

Under the ongoing efforts to strengthen fishery governance and promote sustainable marine resource management, the project team poised to extend the successful initiative of establishing gender-balanced sub-national fishery governance committees beyond Aden region (Aden, Abyan, and Lahj) which targeted 18 elected members., including 5 women members. As of March 2024, in total four committees were established. The formation of these committees involved extensive coordination, including meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Fish Wealth and the General Fisheries Authorities in all regions to develop the ToR and training curricula. The curricula focus on fisheries management, sustainability, and climate change adaptation. UNDP conducted field visits to the GAF of Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and Mahra Governorates to monitor the formation of the sub-national fishery committee. An open and transparent election process was implemented for selecting the representatives. Moreover, GAF issued directives to the private sector and other government bodies to nominate representatives for these committees. A five-day training session in each targeted area was conducted to build the capacity of committee members, aiming to enhance awareness about climate change and effective fisheries management.

The roles and responsibilities of this activity includes:

- Collect and provide data for a comprehensive fisheries management plan focusing on sustainable fishing practices, including regulations on fishing seasons, tools, and locations.
- Enhance communication with local stakeholders and the General Authority for Fisheries to ensure effective collaboration.
- Engage in fisheries management decision-making, focusing on responsible fishing, planning, and evaluation.
- Monitor and enforce fishing regulations, propose legal amendments for sustainable resource management, and promote compliance awareness.
- Oversee fishing activities, report violations, and take necessary actions.
- Develop and submit proposals to reorganize and strengthen fishing associations, aiming to improve processing, marketing, and value-added activities for fishermen.
- Create and adhere to local rules that blend traditional practices with scientific knowledge for sustainable marine resource use.
- Resolve and mediate community disputes related to fishery resources, supported by the General Authority for Marine Fisheries.
- Promote local awareness campaigns on sustainable fishing practices, responsible fishing standards, and safe fish handling to minimize losses and bolster the role of the fisheries authority.

UNDP places a strong emphasis on gender equality as part of its expansion efforts. It actively works to analyze and address gender dynamics within the fisheries sector, ensuring that women have equal opportunities and are encouraged to participate fully. UNDP's initiatives aim to integrate women into every level of fisheries management and decision-making, promoting gender equity throughout the sector.

UNDP is dedicated to advancing sustainable fisheries management by providing extensive training and capacity-building programs. These initiatives advocate for responsible fishing practices and support the adoption of community-based management approaches. By fostering a collaborative environment, UNDP seeks to engage and empower all community stakeholders, contributing to the sustainable development and preservation of marine resources.

The formation of these committees in Hadhramout, Al-Mahrah, and Taiz represents a significant step towards achieving the goal of nationwide sustainable fishery governance, ensuring that the principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and community involvement are upheld across all regions.

4.2.2 Developing a simplified matrix for fishery data indicators for regular fishery data collection and reporting under limited capacity setting.

In the same reporting period, alongside the ongoing discussions and review of the TORs by both the World Bank and UNDP, there is a concerted effort to develop a simplified matrix for fishery data indicators. This initiative is aimed at enhancing regular fishery data collection and reporting, particularly in settings with limited capacity. The development of this matrix is integral to the TOR and is a key component of the discussions between the WB and UNDP.

The simplified matrix is visualized to streamline the process of collecting and analyzing critical fishery data, making it more feasible for stakeholders operating in environments with constrained resources or limited technical expertise. By focusing on essential indicators, the matrix will facilitate more efficient monitoring of fishery activities, trends, and the overall health of marine ecosystems. This tool is expected to significantly contribute to the sustainable management and development of fisheries by providing reliable data for informed decision-making. Initially, the activity will be piloting in select areas of the project, with plans to gradually expand over a duration of 1 year, ensuring a comprehensive and effective implementation across the broader project scope.

The finalization of the TORs, which is currently under WB revision, will incorporate the specifics of this simplified matrix, outlining its framework, usage guidelines, and integration into regular fishery operations. The aim is to finalize consultation between UNDP and WB promptly, ensuring that the TORs not only reflect the strategic objectives of sustainable fishery management but also addresses the practical aspects of data collection and reporting in limited capacity settings.

After completion of TORs, a consultant who will be onboard in 1st quarter of 2024 will implement the simplified matrix within the fishery data collection and reporting processes.

4.2.3 A study on fishery sector diversification and development of a business model developed and disseminated.

The aim of this study is to explore viable avenues for diversifying the fishery sector, thereby enhancing its sustainability and resilience against economic and environmental challenges. By examining various aspects of the sector, from market trends to innovative fishing practices, the study will provide insights into potential growth areas and strategies for diversification. Furthermore, the development of a business model as part of this study will offer a structured approach to implementing these diversification strategies, ensuring that they are economically viable and sustainable in the long term.

The TORs, which are currently under discussion and review by the WB and UNDP, will outline the scope of the research, methodologies to be employed, and the expected outcomes in terms of actionable strategies for sector diversification and business model development.

Upon finalizing the TORs, a consultant will be engaged in the first quarter of 2024, to lead the execution of the study.

4.2.4 Producing two sub-national fishery management plans.

This activity focuses on producing two sub-national fishery management plans. This assignment is a pivotal part of the comprehensive approach to sustainable fishery management and development. Notably, the TORs for this activity have already been reviewed, approved, and finalized for a duration of 4 months.

The finalized TORs lay out a clear and detailed framework for the development of these management plans, which are intended to guide the sustainable use and conservation of fishery resources at the sub-national level. These plans will encompass strategies for resource management, environmental conservation, and socio-economic development within the fishery sector, tailored to the specific needs and conditions of the targeted sub-national regions.

With the TORs now approved, the project is moving into the phase of public announcement. This action is critical for ensuring transparency and inclusivity in the process of selecting the most qualified and capable entities to undertake the formulation of these management plans. The announcement aims to attract proposals from a diverse pool of experts and organizations with the requisite technical and strategic planning expertise in fishery management.

The development of these sub-national fishery management plans is expected to commence following the selection process.

4.3 Project Output 3: Improved resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods

Summary achievement against project targets

Project Indicator	Targets (2023)	Summary achievement	Status
1. Grant mechanism for women with enhanced skills to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities	100	A proposal to include women in the activity is in development by SMEPS and will be submitted to UNDP/WB for approval.	In progress
Overall status			In progress

Table 7: Project Progress - Output 3

Description of Results

4.3.1 Micro grants by SMEPS in entrepreneurship and business development opportunities for women in the fishery value chain.

During the SMEs identification phase of the project, only 21 women SMEs registered, but they did not meet selection criteria. In alignment with the commitment to supporting women and youth, a discussion was made to shift the focus towards offering vocational skills and business training to 480 women. This adjusted approach is in the process of being formalized by SMEPS and will subsequently be circulated for further review and necessary approvals.

Furthermore, to extend the support for women in the sector, SMEPS has been entrusted with the task of exploring alternative avenues to aid this demographic. We anticipate receiving this comprehensive proposal, which will outline new strategies to bolster our support for women SMEs, ensuring their inclusion and success within the project framework.

Efforts were made to promote registration among women SMEs, involving coordination with various stakeholders to increase participation. However, the presence of women SMEs in the fisheries sector was found to be very limited. The team engaged in several meetings with local authorities, businesswomen's groups in the chambers of commerce, the Youth Leaders Organization, the Fisheries Authority, and fish cooperatives to compile a database of women SMEs in the fish sector.

Lists of women working in the fishery sector were obtained from the chambers of commerce, along with lists of young women previously targeted in various interventions. Additionally, three workshops were organized for 75 women in the targeted districts to introduce and promote the project. These workshops revealed that most of the women attendees were owners of small-scale projects that did not meet the project's criteria, including the 21 women who had registered.

5. Environmental and Social (E&S) Risk Management

Stakeholders' engagement plan (SEP)

UNDP E&S team conducted meetings with partners in preparation for the kick-off of the activities. Both SMEPS and PWP E&S teams were also trained at UNDP in preparation for kick-off of activities.

UNDP and partners have prepared the stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). After approval from WB, the plan has been translated and uploaded on UNDP website in Arabic⁵ and English⁶.

During this reporting period, there were consultation meetings that took place with UNDP, SMEPS, PWP and local authorities in Aden to discuss the project's implementation, selection criteria, challenges and proposed solutions, and continuous coordination with stakeholder.

SMEPS:

During the team's field visits to targeted areas, the team were able to coordinate with the local authorities, MoAIFW and GAF, value chain stakeholders, input dealers and fisheries associations mainly in Al Mahrah, Taiz, Aden and Hadhramout. MoAIFW and GAF, were constantly reminded of the project objectives, activities and mechanism and their role to support in the project implementation. Below is a summary on the meetings conducted and outcomes achieved from each visit:

- Meeting with the General Fisheries Authority and the Secretary-General in targeted areas:

The team met with the General director of Planning and Development and the secretary general, introducing them to the project objective, mechanism, expected outcomes and their role in facilitating for the project implementation.

- Meeting with the head of the Fish Cooperatives in targeted areas:

Conducted several field visits for the fisheries cooperatives to coordinate with them, introduce them to the project objective, mechanism, expected outcomes and forward plans. Through the visit, the team discussed the project's interventions and targeted groups, in particular the private sector and how the associations' ability to benefit from these interventions and expected outcomes with further cooperation.

- The team met with the Office of Planning and International Cooperation and the Southern Fisheries Federation to resolve the problem of delaying activities implementation in Aden. After several coordination and follow up, they received approval to resume activities. Additionally, the team met with the director of Al Buriqa to facilitate and supervise further activities where they were able to formulate community committees in Al Buriqa District, Aden.

PWP:

PWP also conducted several consultations in targeted governorates, with stakeholders of the nine landing sites. A total of 683 participants participated in the consultation (114 Female and 569 Male). These consultations consisted of local authorities, Community Committees, direct beneficiaries, and fisherfolks. The consultations were focused on the project activities, and identified some

⁵ [Arabic Version](#)

⁶ [English Version](#)

environmental, social and OHS expected risks and the mitigation measures, grievance mechanism and channels to receive complaints. Beneficiaries had the chance to identify concerns and issues they might have regarding the project.

During the discussions, seven main concerns were raised:

- The absence of wave breakers to protect landing sites and boats from damage during the windy season.
- The lack of a marina for boats and a quay wall in the centers. The inadequacy of the current marinas to accommodate all boats, absence of fish-handling basin for offloading, and the low level of safety from the windy season in some other centers, forces the fishermen to search for berths far from the area. This results in additional costs and loss of time for the fishermen.
- Pollution resulting from sewage waste that flows into the grounds surrounding the landing site.
- Difficulty in fish marketing of quality products due to unavailability of basic services in the landing sites such as electricity, water, ice, and packaging containers, etc.
- Damaged infrastructure including administration buildings due to natural wear and tear and lack of maintenance.

As regards to women specific concerns:

- Lack of fisherwomen at the targeted areas given the difficulty of the job and the societal norms however, some women showed interest in becoming fisherwomen provided they receive the support and training needed.
- Lack of suitable work environment preferably isolated from men. Women suggested activities in which they can work in separate workshops e.g., in salt extraction, fish-salting, fish-cutting, or establishing a fish canning factory which will provide them with job opportunities.
- Knowing that, these consultations were led by PWP women team in the field, they have done these sessions with women of the targeted areas separately far from men consultations in response to women request.

Consultation matrix per landing site																	
Gov	Project Name	Consultation Dates	Local Authorities			Community committees			Direct beneficiaries			Fishermen			Supported Fishermen communities under SFISH		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Taiz	Bab Al Mandab Landing site	14/2/2023	1	0	1	3	3	6	29	18	47	28	0	28	300	0	300
Hadhramout	Al-Hami Landing site	8/2/2023	3	1	4	6	3	9	35	21	56	25	0	25	1200	0	1200
	Rokab Landing site	7/2/2023	3	0	3	5	2	7	27	23	50	4	0	4	557	0	557
	Al-Qarn landing site	18/2/2023	3	0	3	3	2	5	48	10	58	30	0	30	950	0	950
	AL Rayida landing site	12/2/2023	5	0	5	3	2	5	60	12	72	33	0	33	955	0	955
Al Mahrah	Rakhot landing site	13/2/2023	3	0	3	6	0	6	62	10	72	55	0	55	300	0	300
	Saqer landing site	9/2/2023	4	0	4	5	0	5	60	7	67	20	0	20	700	0	700
TOTAL			22	1	23	31	12	43	321	101	422	195	0	195	4,962	0	4,962

Table 8: Consultation Matrix - PWP

Follow up actions	Response of the IPs	Comments/Concerns
Sensitize on the importance of establishing community committees and of ensuring women participation. Provide capacity development targeting specifically women in the coastal communities and association in the fishery sector. Importance of mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment in the project (Planning and Implementation and Monitoring).	The team explained to the stakeholders that, the fisheries stakeholders in Yemen coastal areas must strive to ensure gender equality and protection of women in the fisheries sector, to take proactive measures to ensure the protection and recognition of women's role in fishery, and to protect their living space, in order to live up to their commitment. All Community committees will be given awareness sessions on grievance system and will be trained on the grievance handling mechanisms and processes as indicated in the approved Gender and GBV/SEA plan.	Lack of fisherwomen in the targeted areas given the difficulty of the job and the societal norms. Discrimination around the effective participation of women in the project.
The project will ensure that women's suggestions will be taken in due consideration. During the stakeholders' consultations, the women suggested some activities to take place in separate workshops in which they can engage e.g., in salt extraction, fish-salting, fish-cutting, or establishing a fish canning factory which may provide them with job opportunities. Ensure engaging women onshore tasks, such as making and mending nets, processing, and marketing catches, and providing services to the boats.	The team explained to the stakeholders this inadequate recognition of women's contributions in fishery roles hampers the sustainable development process, resulting in increased poverty and food insecurity.	Lack of suitable work environment preferably isolated from men.

Prioritize the beneficiaries needs and select the most relevant needs through consultations with members of the community.	Explain clearly and discuss the project objectives and activities .	Beneficiaries have high expectations during community consultation that are beyond the project scope (such as constructing new landing sites and waves breakers).
The project will ensure providing training and awareness raising on gender and women participation in the rehabilitation works.	IPs sensitized on the importance of establishing community committees and of ensuring women participation in the rehabilitation works of the landing sites.	Women participation in the rehabilitation works of the landing sites is made difficult by societal norms.

Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)

In accordance with the risk classification of the activities, only those under PWP required ESMP to be prepared ahead of the intervention. In this regard, the following progress was achieved during 2023.

ESMPs preparation:

Draft ESMPs were prepared for 7 landing centers. 5 of them were submitted to UNDP and WB for review.

As decided in Amman mission, draft ESMPs will be submitted again by PWP when the technical design is cleared. We expect that we can submit the draft soon while taking into consideration the comments raised in Al-Qarn landing center.

The ESMP of Al Qarn landing center was reviewed and comments were absorbed and updated plan was submitted to UNDP and WB.

ESMP, OHS and Gender SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plans

To ensure equitable and safe working conditions within the environmental conservation project, SMEPS developed plans encompassing gender equality measures, workplace safety protocols, and comprehensive health hazard awareness initiatives. Including the following:

- ESMP for specific subprojects.
- Stakeholder Engagement plan (SEP)
- Labor management plans (LMP)
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) plan. Gender & SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan Reported Incidents

Incidents: no fatalities nor LTIs (Loss Time Injuries) happened over this reporting period.

OHS, Grievance Mechanism, and SEA/SH

In 2023, SMEPS trained 34 field consultants (15 female) on Gender inclusion and social risk management & SEA/SH, & GM, and OHS, out of which, 11 field consultants (5 female) were hired as focal points for the SFISH project. Their main objective is to raise awareness about occupational health and safety, gender issues, and protection against financial and sexual exploitation. Moreover, these consultants will conduct engaging awareness sessions and training workshops for project beneficiaries. The following shows the main tasks of the field consultants:

- Conduct community awareness sessions on (gender inclusion and social risk management, OHS and Complaints & suggestions).
- Distribute PPEs and ensure that are used.
- Follow up on environmental and OHS plans of SMEs & fishery cooperatives to create mitigation plan.
- Collect and analyze data from the community and follow up on promoting gender mainstreaming.
- Set controls and follow up on the incidence of any cases of exploitation or accidents.

Grievance Mechanism (GM)

To apply the principle of accountability and transparency across all the projects implemented, all responsible Parties have a grievance mechanism or what so called – Complaints Handling Mechanism (CHM) in place and have previous experience of working in Yemen as guided by UNDP and by World Bank rules and regulations. A complaint in the GM ensures stakeholders can express dissatisfaction about the standard or quality of the Responsible Party's activities. Additionally, it allows identification of any negative and lack of actions taken by either of the Responsible Party or their partners that directly or indirectly cause distress to the affected beneficiary or any other party. Furthermore, SEA/SH GM is available as well to address complaints under responsibility of gender focal points and report to gender officer, in coordination to GM and safeguard officers. It also is reported to the safeguard staff of the UNDP who can advise on relevant service providers. IP's operators have been trained in the empathetic, non-judgmental, and confidential collection of these complaints. Only the nature of the complaint (what the complainant says in her/his own words) and additional demographic data, such as age and gender, can be collected as usual. The CHM receives complaints via different channels such as call center, text, complaint box, telephone, WhatsApp, and Email which are well registered, mitigated, monitored, and closed within 15 days. The objectives of CHM are as follows:

1. Improve accountability to UNDP, SMEPS and PWP and their beneficiaries.
2. Increase the level of beneficiaries' satisfaction with the delivery of services and enhance the relationship between beneficiaries and IPs (SMEPS and PWP).
3. Provide an efficient, fair, and accessible mechanism for resolving beneficiaries/partners complaints.
4. Guide SMEPS and PWP staff in handling complaints with specialized staff at the field and office such as gender, GM and ES and OHS safeguard; and
5. Allow to rectify mistakes, raise alertness to problems, and continuously learn and improve.

The CHM is characterized by several important features, including the following:

1. Protect beneficiaries /partners rights to comment and complain.
2. Neutrality and equity while handling complaints.

3. Timing: short cycle, quick response to critical complaints.
4. Transparency: Partners will be aware of the procedures; understand its purpose, have sufficient information on how to access it and understand how it works.
5. Confidentiality: Create an environment in which people feel comfortable to raise concerns and grievances or stand in witness. Confidentiality assures that any information given is restricted to a limited number of people and that it is not disseminated widely, therefore offering an element of protection and security to the complainant; and
6. Accessibility: The CHM will be easily accessed by as many people as possible within any stakeholder in the place where projects are being implemented.

GM focal points for the (SFISH) project:

Partner GM	Telephone or WhatsApp number	Email	Contact Person
PWP	8002626/77526262	a.sharhan@pwpyemen.org	Abdulrahman Sarhan
SMEPS	8005550/774002215	feedback@smeps.org.ye wmothana@smeps.org.ye	Wafa Muthana

Table 9: GM / GRM Focal Point

Summary of the Grievances during the reporting period:

In 2023, no grievances were received during the reporting period for PWP, while there were seventy-three messages (41 complaints, 27 inquiries & 5 suggestions/gratitude) received and documented by SMEPS, and they are analyzed as below:

- Forty-one complaints were received and all of them are settled and resolved.
- Most frequent complaint type was administrative in terms of beneficiaries' selection and targeting (18 cases), where they were not fully aware about the selection criteria. The team verified registration mechanism and criteria with the project team. Furthermore, the complainants were contacted and received an explanation on the project selection criteria according to which the names were registered.

Messages Classification per type:

Classification	Number of Messages Received	% Messages Received per Class.
Complaints	41	56%
Inquiries	27	37%
Suggestions	3	4%
Gratitude	2	3%
Total	73	100%

Messages Classification per governorates:

Governorates	Number of Messages Received	% Messages Received per Gov.
Taiz	38	52%
Aden	20	27%
Hadhramout	10	14%
Al Mahrah	5	7%
Total	73	100%

Messages Classification per gender:

Gender	Number of Messages Received	% Messages Received per gender.
Male	70	96%
Female	3	4%
Total	73	100%

No SEA/SH grievances were received during the reporting period by SMEPS, PWP and UNDP.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

A capacity-building session with project partners has been scheduled to enhance our partners' expertise in monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing the creation of baseline measures and the execution of a continuous monitoring strategy. The purpose of this session is to provide our partners with the essential skills and understanding required to carry out effective monitoring and evaluation activities consistently over the course of the project.

Throughout the project's duration, the M&E team has adhered to their established plans, closely monitoring the progress of project activities. They have systematically captured the outcomes and results through regular evaluations and field visits, aiming to gauge the satisfaction and feedback of beneficiaries from the training sessions for future enhancements. Additionally, the MEAL team undertakes Midline and Endline evaluations to thoroughly assess all outcomes and impacts, including those related to the Project Development Objective (PDO) indicators. This involves comparing midline/endline results with baseline data to document changes and improvements among the supported beneficiaries and associations, which are then detailed in the MEAL reports. All project activities are carefully recorded in the SMEPS MIS system and reviewed before being updated on the project dashboard.

In 2023, the MEAL team achieved several milestones, including:

- Development of the project's logical framework¹⁵ and comprehensive MEAL plan.
- Conducting 42 field visits alongside the project team, meeting with various stakeholders in Al Mahrah, Taiz, and Hadhramout to oversee the formation of community committees.

- Training 68 young graduates from Taiz and Al-Mahrah in the fundamentals of data collection, enhancing their skills for community involvement in project assessments. The training's pre- and post-assessment results showed a remarkable improvement from 70% and 58% to 96% and 97% in Taiz and Al-Mahrah, respectively, signifying a substantial increase in knowledge and readiness for this and future projects.

- Completion of screening surveys for:
 - 2,014 out of 2,062 nominated fishermen.
 - 1,272 out of 1,395 women and youth.
 - 967 out of 1,014 firms and supply chain enablers.
- Engagement of a consultant to conduct the baseline survey for the first batch of beneficiaries across all components.
- Initiation of the baseline survey for registered and verified supply chain enablers and firms.
- Development of a plan for the second phase of the screening survey for the upcoming batch of beneficiaries, expected to start on June 2024.

7. Visibility

The role of communication and advocacy is critical in highlighting the updates, news, results, and achievements of the project. The team intends to create various materials, as outlined in table 10 below (Media Production Plan), including documentary and animation videos, AJ+ (Aljazeera Short Videos) style, and designs that adhere to SFISH, UNDP, PWP, and SMEPS branding guidelines.

The project's communication team, in collaboration with other team members, has completed the development of social media templates and visibility material guidelines. This effort ensures consistent branding and logo use across different media, including social media designs, banners, brochures, and stand roll-ups. To streamline communication and updates on activities, news, results, and human-interest stories, a WhatsApp group was established, with all information being systematically archived in a designated cloud drive.

This year's key communication and media achievements include:

- Capturing project activities in Al-Mahrah, Hadhramout, Taiz, and Aden through photography, videos, and interviews with beneficiaries.
- Launching the "Fish of Yemen" series on social media, a bi-monthly, eight-month initiative that explores popular Yemeni fish species, detailing their scientific names, characteristics, fishing seasons, nutritional values, and culinary uses.
- Creating an educational video for fishermen on marine engine maintenance and safe fish handling practices.
- Conducting training for field consultants involved in the fishermen, women, and youth components to ensure cohesive communication between on-ground teams and social media messaging, aligning with the project's aims and developmental objectives.
- Finalizing the SFISH Promotional Items Visibility and Distribution Plan for further discussion with the communication liaison of SMEPS.

In a joint effort with key project partners including GAF, UNDP's implementing partners SMEPS and PWP, fisheries cooperatives and communities a dynamic social media campaign was launched to celebrate World Fisheries Day, featuring a variety of engaging content. This included informative posters highlighting the rich marine biodiversity in Yemeni waters, using the hashtag #FishOfYemen, and posts and tweets paired with vivid images to underscore the critical theme of sustainable fisheries, propagated with the hashtag #SustainableFisheries. The campaign also expanded its impact through a radio episode on Al-Mukalla Radio, designed to educate the community on different aspects of fisheries and encourage conservation practices.

Furthermore, the communication team plans to contract a production company to cover activities and produce planned materials following significant project progress.

Production	Progress
Social Media Posts Visibility for some of the project activities depending on the progress	Ongoing
AJ+ Video - Project Approach (AR & ENG)	Planned
Success stories / Case studies – and create videos of 2 to 3 minutes	Planned
Project Numbers – Infographic	Planned
3 Written Stories	Planned
Guidelines and Awareness brochures / banners on how the right practices of fishing to preserve the environment and increase fisher people efficiency	Ongoing Completed filming videos on awareness of some topics in the fisheries sector to be used in upcoming awareness activities.
Final Article on the project impact and results	Planned
Produce 3 – 5 Podcasts episodes on Fisheries and send it to local radios to be to the public	Ongoing Broadcasted a live episode on Mukalla Radio on November 21, 2023, which coincides with World Fisheries Day. According to Mukalla Radio, about 5,000 listeners listened to it.
Social Media Posts Visibility for some of the project activities	Ongoing

Table 10 Media Production Plan

SMEPS has successfully trained 191 field consultants as part of a strategic initiative to enhance communication and media representation of the project's activities. The primary objective of this training was to align the communication efforts of the field consultants with the content published on SMEPS's social media platforms, ensuring a cohesive narrative that supports the project's goals and maximizes benefits for the beneficiaries.

The training equipped the consultants with the skills necessary to professionally document their activities, including capturing high-quality photographs and videos. A significant focus was placed on the art of storytelling, emphasizing the need to effectively communicate the project's key messages, aligning with the expectations of partners and donors. The consultants were also guided on ethical considerations, such as obtaining consent from beneficiaries before capturing their images or stories, and adhering to the guidelines established by SMEPS, SFISH, and their partners and donors.

Furthermore, the training aimed to empower the consultants to accurately illustrate the project's impact on the ground, providing them with the tools to identify and document success stories. This approach is designed to ensure that all media messages are consistent with the project's activities and objectives, contributing to the overarching development goals. This initiative represents a significant step forward in enhancing the visibility and understanding of the project's achievements, fostering greater engagement and support from the community, partners, and donors.

Component	No. of Field Consultants
Micro-producers (Fishermen)	72
Micro-producers (Women and youth)	87
MEAL Unit	12
Business Advisors (Supply Chain Enablers, Fishery associations and cooperatives)	20
Total	191

Table 11 Capacity Building on Communication for consultants

7.1.1 SFISH General Posts in media platforms:

- Facebook

[Post 1](#) [Post 2](#) [Post 3](#) [Post 4](#) [Post 5](#) [Post 6](#) [Post 7](#)
[Post 8](#) [Post 9](#) [Post 10](#) [Post 11](#) [Post 12](#) [Post 13](#)

- X

[Post 1](#) [Post 2](#) [Post 3](#) [Post 4](#) [Post 5](#) [Post 6](#) [Post 7](#)
[Post 8](#) [Post 9](#) [Post 10](#) [Post 11](#)

- LinkedIn

[Post 1](#) [Post 2](#)

- Instagram

[Post 1](#) [Post 2](#)

8. Partnerships / Coordination

Partnership with Government: Working and cooperating with the GAF, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fish Wealth was key to ensuring the project's success and assisted in ensuring long-term sustainability for the fisheries sector through institutional learning and support.

The synergy and coordination between partners: In a strategic move to support project outcomes, a dynamic partnership between SMEPS and PWP, marked by a series of productive engagements. This collaborative effort has been pivotal in aligning both entities' expertise and resources, ensuring a unified approach towards achieving the overarching goals and objectives within the SFISH project.

This partnership embodies a commitment to collaborative innovation, with both SMEPS and PWP dedicated to driving substantial and sustainable impact. The established constructive collaboration between the two partners is set to be a cornerstone of future initiatives, promising to enhance project implementation and deliver transformative outcomes for the fisheries sector. This ongoing collaboration is highlighted as a key achievement towards fostering economic growth and resilience and will be diligently pursued to maximize the benefits for the communities we serve.

9. UNDP Project Management

During the reporting period, SFISH project onboarded staff including the Project Manager and National Coordinator in February, a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in March, an Administration and Finance Associate in April, a Gender and Social Safeguards Officer in June, a Communications Officer in September. An Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Safeguards officer is in the onboarding process and will on board by January 2024. Unfortunately, the National Coordinator left the project in September to pursue higher education, and recruitment of a replacement is currently underway. **Update: UNDP has completed the recruitment of National Coordinator and is expected to be onboarded on 16th May.**

UNDP introduced a new human resources strategy for fishery sector development projects in January, aimed at enhancing efficiency by unifying various sector initiatives under one team. This included integrating the SFISH project with the KfW-funded Aden Fishery Harbour Rehabilitation and Value Chain Development project, the SFISH project is set to benefit from shared resources, such as the expertise of an engineer and a procurement officer, both recruited under the Aden Fishery Harbour project. The procurement officer joined the team in June, and the recruitment process for the engineer is ongoing.

10. Risks Log

UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management Policy applies to risks across all levels of the organization, including project level. Risks at the Project Level are tracked through the Project Risk Register.

Risk is defined as the effects of uncertainty on organizational objectives. An effect can be positive and/or negative¹⁵.

11. Challenges

The project faced the following challenges:

- The change from UNDP Atlas system to Quantum platform. The project has been slowed down at various points during this period by technical glitches caused by the change. Quantum is a new corporate management system which aims to deliver a major advance in the way UNDP, other UN organizations and partners work using transformative technologies. The most notable delays, for example involved a delay in requesting the second withdrawal from WB. Then, PWP advance clearance which was delayed for more than a month in February since it was not being reflected in the new system. Furthermore, once the clearance was finalized, funds could not reach their account because of a detail error of their account which was only cleared in May. The project initially also faced challenges with the SMEPS accounts and could not process clearance procedure, but this has been resolved within the third quarter of the year. The project has prepared 2 Interim Financial reports (IFRs) with the staff costs being estimated due to systems challenges to generate HR expenditure reports and this was also resolved during the third quarter of the year.
- Gender Representation in Fishing Communities: Traditional perceptions in Yemeni fishing communities view fishing as an occupation solely for men. This has posed difficulties in identifying female beneficiaries. To address this issue, the project has conducted awareness-

raising sessions to emphasize the importance of women's involvement, aiming to enhance women's participation in the project.

- **Limited Banking and Financial Services in Rural Areas:** The non-availability of adequate banking and financial services in rural areas has posed significant challenges for the project's activities. A key issue contributing to this challenge is that most beneficiaries lack national identification documents, often relying on identifiers from local communities. However, this becomes problematic when attempting to open bank accounts, as financial institutions only accept national IDs.
- The changes in the identified needs for rehabilitation have caused delays in finalizing the final list of landing sites. Additionally, the emergence of additional requirements to support direct interventions beyond the initially agreed selection criteria has further contributed to these delays. Such requirements include the development of business plans, master plans, and other comprehensive documents, which necessitate significant time and resources to complete, thus impacting the project timeline.
- Lack of accurate information gathered for the sector which requires the project to collect scattered information which also causes delay in taking decisions and moving forward with activities.

12. Lessons Learned

- By working on the Al-Qarn landing site and absorbing all the comments and modifications led to facilitate speeding up the completion of designs for the other landing sites.
- Intensive coordination and communication between all partners played an essential role in moving forward and completing tasks that are implemented in a relatively challenging environment.

13. Procurement

A series of workshops were conducted successfully, training sessions conducted across Aden, Taiz, Hadhramout, and Al-Mahrah, engaging a total of 102 participants, including 43 suppliers and 59 consultants. They were educated on the effective preparation of project technical specifications, a move aimed at improving the transparency and efficiency of procurement processes and simplifying project implementation.

To further support the micro-producers' component, 5 specialized consultants were engaged to develop precise asset specifications for procurement procedures. This year marked a notable advancement in the procurement process, with SMEPS announcing tenders and processing submissions from various suppliers for the acquisition of assets critical to micro-producers in the targeted regions. Beneficiaries were systematically categorized into two groups to facilitate phased technical training and grant disbursement.

The procurement strategy was tailored to the specific needs of different beneficiary groups:

1. **Micro-producers (Fishermen):** A total of 801 boat engines were tendered to meet the fishermen's needs, identified in collaboration with local authorities and community committees. The focus was on providing boat engines and environmentally friendly fishing nets, with tenders currently under financial and technical review. At the time of writing this report, 1246 fishers have

received training on advanced and sustainable fishing practices including usage of GPS coordinates, fish preservation, handling and packaging and boats maintenance. They have also been trained on business and financial skills and occupational health standards.

2. **Women & Youth (Vocational & Business Skills):** Anticipated assets for this group include a variety of cooking equipment, packaging tools, and other essentials to support their entrepreneurial ventures in food processing and related activities.
3. **Supply Chain Enablers:** Expected assets for this group involve solar panels, ice boxes, and other tools to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the supply chain within the fisheries sector. At the time of writing this report, 36 supply chain enablers have received their assets. The remaining supply chain enablers are in the process of receiving their grants.
4. **Cooperatives & Lead Firms:** This group is set to receive significant assets such as large, advanced boats and infrastructure support, including land and ice manufacturer rehabilitation or establishment, to enable large-scale operations and sustainable practices.

Micro-producers (Tenders) for 1 st Batch		
Governorate	Asset Types	Quantity
Aden	Boats Engines	120
Taiz		204
Al-Mahrah		140
Hadhramout		337
Total		801
Aden	Equipment & devices	197
Hadhramout		348
Total		545
Overall		1,346
Notes:		
- 1st Batch assets are expected to be delivered by May - July 2024.		
- Equipment & Devices for Taiz and Al-Mahrah are part of Aden & Hadhramout.		

Table 12: Distribution of 1st Batch Tender

14. Financial Summary

In 2023, UNDP received \$10,589,934.47 from the World Bank. \$3,417,728.34 was spent by 31 December 2023. During this period, UNDP implemented the HACT exercise which spot-checks on RPs financial systems.

Total Amount Received in USD	Expenses Jan – Dec 2023 in USD	Expenses to Grants
10,589,934.47	3,417,728.34	36.02%

Detailed Financial Report Annexed¹⁵.

Update as of March 2024, SFISH has received \$11,654,078 from the World Bank and has spent and committed \$ 9,399,215, which represents 80.7 % delivery rate.

15. Annexes

Annex 1: [Training Materials](#)

Annex 2: [Workshops Reports](#)

Annex 3: [Consultants Training Reports](#)

Annex 4: [Beneficiaries Training Reports](#)

Annex 5: [Community Committees MoUs](#)

Annex 6: [MEAL Logframe & Weighted Scores \(Results Matrix incorporated\)](#)

Annex 7: [Gender /SEA Plans](#)

Annex 8: [GM Complaints Log & Periods](#)

Annex 9: [Financial Report](#)

Annex 10: [Risk Log](#)

Annex 11: [Procurement Plan](#)

Annex 12: [Pictures of Activities](#)

Annex 13: [Other attachments](#) (Business plan, Baseline, ToRs, Needs assessment)