

Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project



Context

Fishing in the East African Community is a major economic activity with the potential to grow. The fisheries sector provides livelihoods for two million people in the region, and protein and micronutrients for up to 25 million people in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Nile perch fishery in Lake Victoria is one of East Africa's most important value chains. Fish catches in Lake Victoria in 2020 amounted to 1 Mio metric tonnes accounting for 1% of the world's fisheries.

In Uganda, the sector contributes 3% to National GDP and 12% to the Agriculture Sector GDP. Fisheries also contribute significantly to Uganda's National Development Plan III and Vision 2040 which aims at achieving increased household incomes and improvement of quality of life of the population.

This is done through earnings from the export of fish and fish products, provision of employment across the fish value chain, and locally available fish for food security.

Fish catches in Uganda increased from 307,149 MT in the FY 2018/19 to 603,220 MT in 2020, with fish exports increasing from 14,894 MT to 37,048 valued at USD 227 million by 2020. The increase in turnover is attributed to improved compliance with regulation, through the registration and licensing of fishing boats, protection of fish breeding grounds, promotion of self-monitoring and controls for the private sector, and increased surveillance on the lakes. However, challenges regarding illegalities and post harvests losses still exist and continue to negatively affect the fisheries sector in East Africa.

Our objective

The food insecure population in Uganda and East Africa has more fish products available as well as an increased income from sustainable and resource-conserving Nile perch fisheries.

Activities in Uganda with outreach to Tanzania and Kenya

Business Development Services: Training programs and advisory services teaching basic business skills to Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and especially women entrepreneurs.

Organizational and financial preconditions for a resource-conserving Nile perch fishery: Cooperation in reviewing existing laws and regulations and developing new ones based on updated information through studies and surveys (hydroacoustic, etc) and the provision of (technical) advice on their implementation.

Improving the supervision and monitoring of the Nile perch fishery: Supporting the introduction of registration and licensing systems and effective controls.

Promoting fisheries marketing through the development of digital platforms: Through a Fisheries Business Management App (ABAVUBI), Seafood MAP (GSSI International trading platform), and Fisheries and Aquaculture Directory, SMEs have access to information and markets.

Re-establishment of Co-management Structures: For inclusion of all stakeholders especially the local communities in the management of the resource.

Protection of fish breeding and nursery areas: for conservation and increasing production of fish

Sustainable Development Goals the program contributes to:





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Region

Uganda, with some activities in Kenya and Tanzania

Term

October 2016 to September 2024

Budget

15.50 million EUR

Partners

Directorate of Fisheries Resources (DiFR),
Federation of Fisheries Organisation in Uganda (FFOU)
Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT)
Association of Fisheries and Lake Users of Uganda (AFALU)
Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA)
Lake Kyoga Integrated Management Organisation (LAKIMO).
Sustainable Fisheries Initiative (SFI)
Uganda National Women Fisheries Organisation (UNWFO)

Lead executing agency

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)

Target group

Actors in the fisheries value chain, including micro-, small-and medium-sized enterprises, as well as vulnerable households and communities

Business Development Services on Lake Victoria

Most businesses along the fish value chain are conducted by SMEs without proper business management skills such as record keeping and cost calculations. Post-harvest losses also negatively affect returns on investment. To improve this situation, RFBCP partnered with Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT), the Association of Fishers and Lake Users in Uganda (AFALU), and the Federation of Fisheries Organizations of Uganda (FFOU) to train at least 2800 SMEs (50% female) from Lakes Victoria and Kyoga by building the capacity of business owners to improve business management.

The Training Entails:

Enterprise Training: with a focus on attitudes and entrepreneurial behaviors necessary for growth-oriented businesses, marketing, group strengthening, and leadership skills.

Financial Management: Including record keeping, saving culture, and financial linkage.

Fish handling including fish preservation, processing, and value addition.

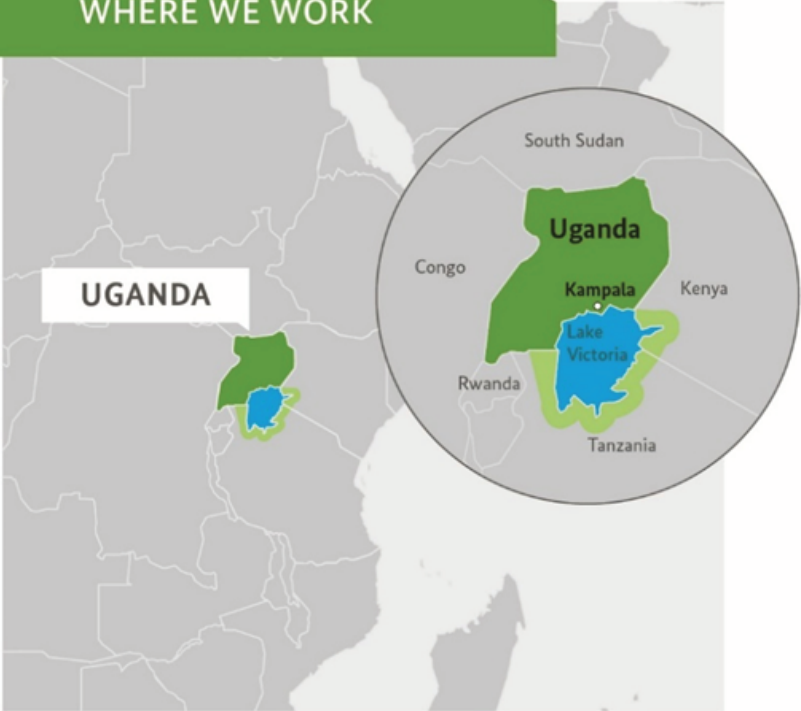
Responsible fisheries: This includes training in Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) and information sessions on regulatory compliance and business formalization.

Additionally, trainees who formed groups received preservation and processing equipment including smoking kilns, sealing machines, solar freezers and driers, cooler boxes with elements, and drying racks as well as fishing gears (nets, boats, engines, and life jackets) to boost production.

Result

The BDS training has already equipped 2000 beneficiaries with functional business knowledge and skills that have changed the way they work, invest, and make business decisions. BDS training has improved product development and value addition of fish products and marketing skills of SMEs that is boosting their incomes.

WHERE WE WORK



Sharifa Nantongo: “The business- and leadership training that I received under GIZ-RFBCP in partnership with KWDT has changed my lifestyle. I now engage in a legal fishing business that is more profitable than when I was dealing with undersized fish. I operate my business in an organized manner and have access to better markets. The training has also enabled me to take on leadership roles in the community. Now I have more income enabling me to meet the basic needs of my family as a single parent. Thank you GIZ - RFBCP and KWDT.”

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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January 2023