Outcomes from gender focused interventions for the shrimp PL collectors: Case of a fisher’s slum from southwestern coastal region of Bangladesh

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Presentation outline

• Introduction
• The interventions
• The outputs and outcomes
• Lessons learning
• Conclusion
• Recommendations
Introduction

• Shrimp industry in Bangladesh play significant role in the economy

• PL fishery comprises about half a million coastal people, about 50% of them are women and children

• Government banned wild PL fishing since 2001

• Failure to produce enough PL from hatcheries lead to wild PL fishing to continue

• GOB/UNIDO took development initiatives including gender focused pilot activities
Distribution of PL collectors

Chart 1: Division wise shrimp fry collectors and no. of fry collected from the coastal area

- No. of fry collectors (in thousand)
- Total no. of fry collected (in crore)
Gender focused interventions

• Selected a slum comprising 487 hh
• Formed women groups from 120 PL collectors
• Pedagogy and life-skill training through 4 Community Schools
• Rain water harvest and storage facilities
• Books and dresses for the school going children of group members
• Small business training on AIG
• Regular wage compensation for participants
Outputs

Setting of 4 Community School run through local committee

Most participants from literacy and life skill training learned reading and writing
Outputs

Installed Rain Water Harvest system in 4 Schools
Outcomes

- Out of 120, most of them started land based economic activities
- 5 started small shops, 3 tutoring, 3 started tailoring and two started duck rearing and another 2 women PL collectors vending vegetables
- Better school results by the children
- One became Ward Member for local UP
- 2 Women became School Teacher
- 12-15 women migrated country side and engaged in batter job
Lessons learned

- Gender focused awareness building and motivation by local ‘Community Organizers’ found works better

- Involving Community Leaders both in planning and implementation contribute better participation

- Adult education for women PL collectors helped them to understand value of education and contributed to school performance of their children

- Trained women can move for changed life and better empower

- Women voice better heard and counted
Conclusions

• Progress made better sustained through engagement of LGI and NGOs

• Regulations of ban & monitoring of wild PL fishing done by Coast Guard/DOF

• Replication of the interventions in other areas may help adopt better livelihoods

• Infrastructure development

• The poor PL fishers deserve positive interventions to reduce poverty and inequality
Recommendations

- Large number of small-scale fishers including women across the remote coastal areas are left out and often fail to benefit from results of mainstream development.

- Interventions on alternative livelihoods particularly for women PL fishers are imperative across the coastal villages.

- Operation of shrimp hatcheries to meet PL demand will lead automatic reduction of wild PL collection.
Community School for the PL collectors
Local Committee and participant PL collectors
Local Committee
Very difficult to access
Thank you