

profile



Republic of Mozambique - Impact Evaluation of the Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project

Mozambique is home to over 24 million people, 70 per cent of whom live below the poverty line. The country's artisanal fishery sector is a major source of employment, food and income for the 11 million residents of the Sofala Bank, where 80-90 per cent of people live below the poverty line.

The Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project (SBAFP) was implemented from 2002 to 2011. Its goal was “to attain a sustained improvement in the social and economic conditions of artisanal fishing communities in the project area”. The project focused on community development, fisheries development, markets, financial services and policy support. SBAFP targeted about 500,000 people, including 26,000 direct beneficiaries in 290 fishing communities along the coast.

This is the third impact evaluation completed by the Independent Office of Evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The evaluation uses a set of internationally recognized evaluation criteria and a six-point rating system. This means that while the focus of the evaluation is decisively on the impact criterion, the project performance has also been assessed across all other criteria, thus allowing the impact evaluation to provide a more strategic and holistic assessment of SBAFP's performance and impact.

The impact evaluation followed a mixed-methods approach, using quasi-experimental techniques that

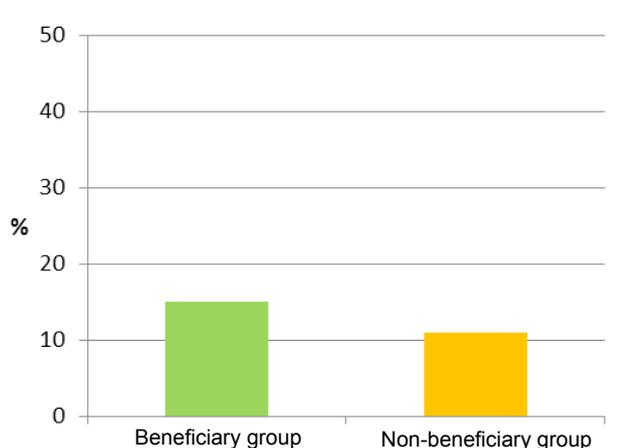
entailed a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis with the aim of attributing impact to the project. The evaluation designed an impact survey to collect primary quantitative data, which was administered to a sample of 1,028 households including beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. The quantitative part of the evaluation was complemented by a rich qualitative analysis to allow for a more comprehensive understanding of the processes of change induced by the intervention.

Main evaluation findings

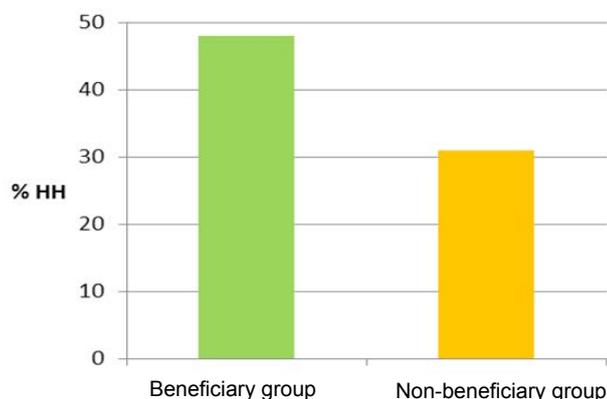
SBAFP was an important milestone in the development of the artisanal fishery sector. This is attributed to its integrated livelihood approach, which delivered tangible results beyond fishery development in remote and fishing areas. The project had remarkable impacts at the household and institutional levels. Impacts include better incomes and assets among beneficiaries, enhanced human and social capital, improved access to social and market infrastructures, as well as greater participation in grass-roots institutions, in particular in savings and credit groups

that enhanced the investment capacity of beneficiaries. At the policy level, SBAFP made an important contribution to policy formulation and legislation that favours the artisanal fishery subsector, and helped strengthen institutions in the subsector. In this regard, the development of the *Plano Estratégico para o Sector da Pesca Artesanal* (Plan for the Artisanal Fisheries Sub-sector, PESPA 2006-2016), which is planned to be renewed in collaboration with the World Bank, stands out as one of the project's highest achievements.

Proportional increase in households' monthly income



Percentage of households with productive investments



The evaluation assessed the above impacts as satisfactory. However, more could have been done to achieve greater results and impacts. Despite the key role that women play in the fishery value chain, the project design did not include a strategy for gender mainstreaming, thus constraining results on gender equality and women's empowerment. The support to market access remained mainly confined to developing infrastructure and improving post-harvesting practices. In particular, the inadequate attention to private sector linkages and engagement, business counselling services, and marketing of fishing products limited wider impact and transformation of the artisanal communities. Finally, the weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation system and availability and quality of data impinged on the ability to assess and attribute impact to the project.

Key recommendations

The impact evaluation offers four key recommendations to consider in the formulation of the forthcoming Mozambique country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) and in the design and implementation of future operations in the country aimed at developing the artisanal fisheries subsector:

1. IFAD should work closely with the Government of Mozambique and the World Bank to ensure that artisanal fishers' access to markets and finance are duly considered in the revised sectoral policy framework.
2. IFAD and the Government should ensure that private-sector stakeholders are clearly identified and involved as key partners in fisheries development, in both upstream and downstream activities.
3. Project design should include attention to gender mainstreaming and ensure that women can be more prominently involved in productive activities.
4. Measurement and evaluation should be better leveraged to promote greater development effectiveness.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project dates

- September 2001: Approval of IFAD loan by the Executive Board
- February 2002: Loan signature
- September 2002: Project became effective
- March 2011: Actual completion of the project
- September 2011: Actual loan closing

Total project cost: US\$34.31 million

- IFAD loan: US\$20.25 million
- Contribution of borrower: US\$2.77 million
- Contribution of beneficiary communities: US\$101,858
- Cofinanciers:
 - Norwegian Agency for International Development: US\$6.4 million
 - Belgian Survival Fund: US\$4.7 million
- Additional funding (channeled through IFAD):
 - European Union Food Facility: EUR 1.79 million
 - German Government: US\$290,585

Further information:

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