



Recovery of Coastal Livelihoods in the Red Sea State of Sudan

Context

The Red Sea State (RSS) in eastern Sudan is one of the country's most disadvantaged states. A high proportion of its 1.4 million people live in poverty, with fishing communities particularly in need. At the same time, the Red Sea is endowed with abundant marine and coastal resources that hold the potential to spur economic development. Despite such potential, fisher folk do not possess the relevant technical skills, equipment and small-scale business management skills needed to drive the economic development of their communities. Limited infrastructure and support from public institutions further compounds the challenges confronting the fishing communities and the sustainable growth of the fishery sector.

Strategy

In order to unleash the economic potential of fishing communities, UNIDO is implementing a project to modernize artisanal fisheries and create new market opportunities in the RSS. Funded by the Government of Canada, the project seeks to address the constraints in the sector through a value chain approach. Beginning with the fish harvest and moving to handling, processing and finally marketing, the project is modernizing the value chain and helping fishery sector actors reduce post-harvest losses and create additional value. This is complemented through the construction of infrastructure and strengthening public support institutions.

Impact/Outlook

The project is playing a central role in the development of the RSS fishery sector and its impacts are considerable. The fishery sector is now viewed as a potential economic contributor to the state, not simply a subsistence activity for the disadvantaged. The three landing sites and the fishing cooperatives are serving as models for best practices for fish handling, processing and marketing. Through higher quality fish and landing site services, fisher folk receive more income for their harvests. The fishery sector is currently looking to move beyond current practices, to export fish products throughout the region. Finally, the women's business associations provide a model of how women can overcome economic marginalization to successfully engage in income-generating activities that contribute to household incomes.



Results:

- ◆ Three land sites constructed and operational as private-public businesses, improving the quality of fish landed, recording fishery data and creating employment. A small-scale ice factory provides ice to fisher folk and fishing communities.
- ◆ Three fishing cooperatives established and operational in fishing communities. Training courses ranging from fishing practices and gears to business management were provided.
- ◆ Five women's associations established and currently generating revenue through a variety of small-scale businesses. Small loans are also provided to members.
- ◆ Institutions mandated to support the fishery sector are actively engaged in the sector. Through the project, the RSS Marine Fishery Administration (MFA) has the capacity to undertake fish inspection at the landing sites and provide fishing technology training courses to fisher folk.

At a Glance

<p>GOAL: MDG:</p>	<p>Sustainable fishing for economic development 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, 7. Environmental Sustainability</p>
<p>THEME: DONORS: PARTNERS:</p>	<p>Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities The Government of Canada The Federal Ministry of Industry; the RSS Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment; and the RSS Ministry of Agriculture through Marine Administration/Fisheries Department.</p>
<p>BUDGET: STATUS: DURATION:</p>	<p>USD 4,687,240 Ongoing June 2009 – December 2013</p>