

FisherFolk Net

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations

Some Fisherfolk Not Getting Income Support in St. Vincent and the Grenadines After Hurricane Beryl

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, many fishermen in St. Vincent and the Grenadines faced significant challenges regarding income support from the government. The situation unfolded as follows:

The government had announced that fishers, farmers, and other individuals affected by Hurricane Beryl would receive income and production support. This announcement was made with an emphasis on verifying inclusion on a list displayed in various constituencies.

On the designated day for disbursement, numerous fishermen arrived to collect their income support only to find that their names were not included on the lists provided by authorities. This led to widespread disappointment and frustration among those who had suffered losses due to the hurricane.

Winsbert Harry, president of the National Fisherfolk Organisation, expressed profound disappointment. He reported that he did not receive any cash support and noted that many fisherfolk traveled long distances only to be informed that they were not eligible for assistance.

In light of these events, there is a strong call from leaders within the fishing community for greater transparency and clarity from government authorities regarding eligibility criteria for income support.

National Fisherfolk Organisation in St. Vincent and Grenadines

In 2024 WhyHunger gave a small grant to support the members of the NFO in SVG. This reflects a proactive approach to addressing the compounded issues of food insecurity following natural disasters. As communities work towards recovery from the 2024 hurricane season, contributions like this play a vital role in ensuring that no one goes hungry during challenging times.



L-R Betty Fermin WHYHUNGER, and Winsbert Harry CNFO

STORIES FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING SECTOR



Mitchell Lay

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

CNFO Program Coordinator will be a speaker on the BE Fisherfolk webinar on 12 February - "Climate anxiety?: perspectives on justice matters". This is one of six other webinars CERMES will host as part of the Just BE Fisherfolk project. The first webinar was on Wednesday 15 January at 7pm. AST.



San Sauveur, Dominica

<http://www.beach-on-map.com/san-sauveur.html>

DOMINICA

In San Sauveur, under the Environmental Adaptation and Livelihoods - Coastal Resilience Project (EAL-CRP) there are plans to make improvements to the slipway, construct a fish cleaning and vending area, and make improvements to the existing locker rooms.

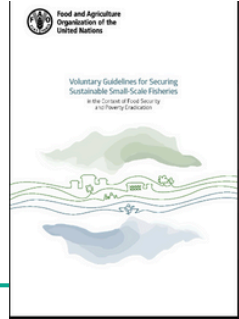
ST. KITTS & NEVIS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Marine Resources is forming the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the St. Kitts and Nevis Agricultural Transformation and Growth Strategy 2022-2031. Fisherfolk Mr. Earl Freeman is on the committee and attended the inaugural meeting on 16th January 2025.



Picture of Mr. Earl Freeman of Nevis

Small-Scale Fisheries GUIDELINES CORNOR



About SSF Guidelines

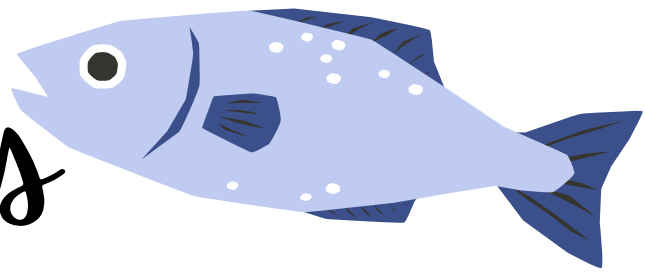
The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are the first international instrument dedicated entirely to the immensely important small-scale fisheries sector. They are the result of a long and intensive global bottom-up consultative process.

<https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

CNFO PADF/USAID “Caribbean Sustainable Ecosystems Activity” Project SUSPENDED

- On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order that mandated a 90-day pause on all U.S. foreign assistance programs pending reviews to ensure alignment with his administration’s priorities.
- This order specifically instructed department heads to halt new obligations and disbursements of development assistance funds until further notice.
- As a result, the CNFO’s “USAID Caribbean Sustainable Ecosystems Activity” implemented by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) faced immediate uncertainty regarding its funding and operational continuity as activities were ordered to be suspended during this period.

Project Updates



CSFUND/TIDES FOUNDATION

January 9, 2024 Tides Foundation, on the recommendation of CSFund, gave the CNFO a grant of USD\$60,000.00. This grant is for the CNFO's Just Transitions. The grant period is from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026



RAG-LAC

The RAG LAC Project aligns with the objectives of the SSF Guidelines. This project aims to enhance the livelihoods of small-scale fishers in Latin America and the Caribbean. If you would like to financially support the advisory's group, contact the CNFO office.



CANARI PROJECT

Promoting the ecosystem approach to fisheries

Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW.

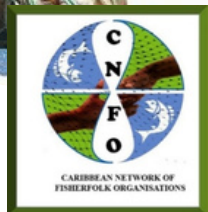
January 2024 and July 2026

WHYHUNGER/CNFO

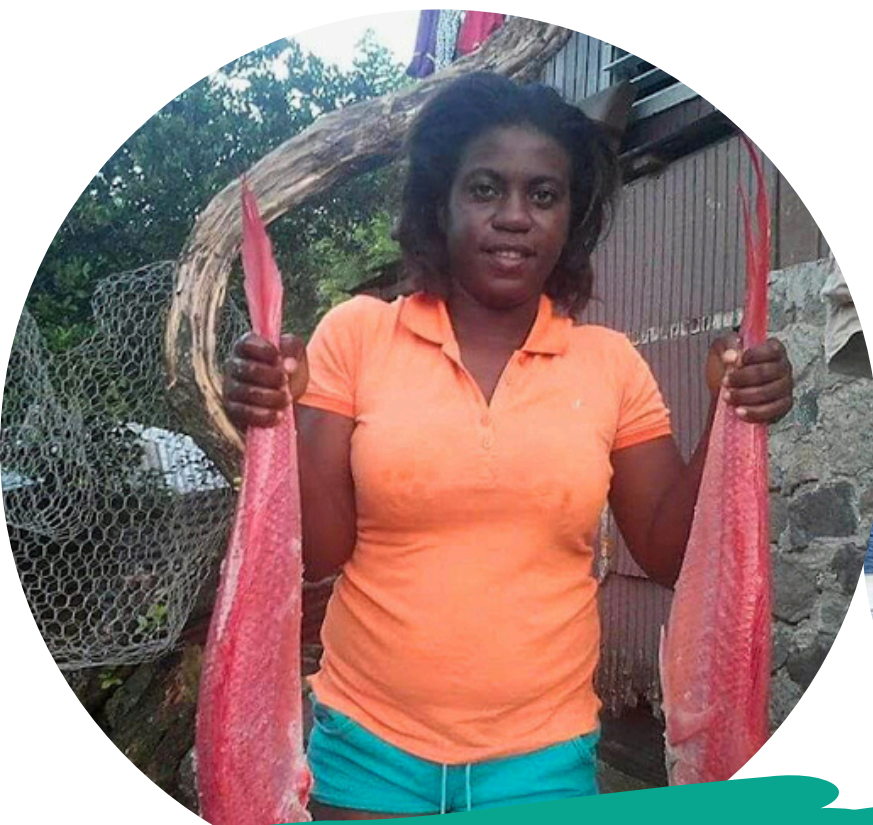
WHYHUNGER is supporting the CNFO with twelve (12) communication products to share in Fisherfolk Net which are to:

Build Awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).





CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE 25% BY 2025 REDUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY FOOD BILL



CNFO/CRFM SSF ACTION PLAN LINK:

[HTTPS://CNFO.FISH/CNFO-CRFM-SMALL-SCALE-FISHERIES-ACTION-PLAN-2023-2025/](https://cnfo.fish/cnfo-crfm-small-scale-fisheries-action-plan-2023-2025/)

BE-CLME+

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM PROJECT

The BE-CLME+ Project is a regional initiative aimed at promoting blue economy development in the Caribbean region through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), development of climate-smart sustainable fisheries value chains, and knowledge management in Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Panama.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is the Executing Agency for the project, while the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

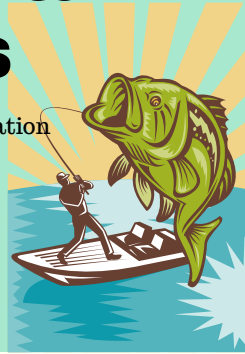
PROJECT UPDATE

CNFO members attended a Training Workshop on Mainstreaming the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines into Value Chains in Caribbean Fisheries, 10-11 December 2024, Barbados.



Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



Value chains, post-harvest and trade

Involve post-harvest actors in the decision-making process. Stress the role of women. Infrastructure and technology investments, value-added activities, and post-harvest loss and waste reduction.

GOVERNANCE OF TENURE

Secure equitable tenure rights to fishery resources and coastal land. Sustainable resource management including co-management.

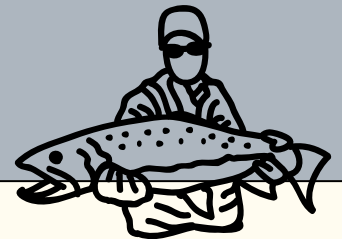
Social development, employment and decent work

Address issues such as education, health services, financial services, social protection, public infrastructure, and other public services.

Health and safety; measures to improve safety at sea.

Gender equality

Improve gender equality in the entire value chain. Equal participation of women in decision-making, mainstreaming gender issues.



DISASTER RISK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Develop policies, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and emergency response and disaster preparedness.



Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

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RAISING AWARENESS: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND OUTREACH

Communication materials on SSF Guidelines, implementation guides, translation into local languages, promotion and awareness-raising



Empowering stakeholders: capacity development and institutional strengthening

Effective participation and fair representation in governance and development. Capacity development (technical skills, organizations skills, business development)

Supporting implementation: program management, collaboration and management

Establishment of a transparent monitoring system and strengthened partnerships and collaboration.



Strengthening the science-policy interface: sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform

A strengthened knowledge base that informs a policy reform within a human rights context.

Good practices need to be identified and shared. Case Studies, technical support, and assistance for review and revisions of policy and legal framework.



CNFO CONTACT:

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VIDA CHIDDICK



Meet Vida Chiddick, a vibrant 34-year-old from Gouyave, St. John, Grenada. Born on July 21, 1990, Vida is not only a skilled Customs Broker and Accounts Clerk but also a passionate advocate for her local fishing community. Beyond her primary job, Vida dedicates her time to the Gouyave Fishermen Cooperative, where she serves as Secretary and is an active board member. Although Vida does not swim and does not participate in fishing activities herself, she finds fulfillment in supporting the fisherfolk in other meaningful ways. Her commitment ensures that their fishing trips are repaired. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to facilitate logistics, provide resources, and advocate for better conditions for the fishing community.



UPCOMING

EVENTS

- SMART SEAS SSF WEEK 2025
Trinidad and Tobago, 3rd to 6th Feb 2025
- CNFO/SVG workshop
PADF/Sandals Feb 2025
- WFFP strategic planning/
youth assembly planning,
Sri Lanka March 2025
- CRFM Fisheries Forum 5-7
March 2025. Virtual



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