

Fisherfolk Cooperative, Philippines Case Study



Practice Area: Counter-IUU

Donor/Client: State Department

Location: Zamables, Cagayan,
Sulu

Enumerators: 36

Surveys: 6,000

Qualitative Engagements:

Key Findings

After data-mapping the three regions (Zambales, Cagayan, Sulu) that would eventually house the fisherfolk cooperatives, several recurring variables stuck out to the team. Firstly, the most reported grievance was the lack of livelihoods. In these coastal communities, fishing and fishing-adjacent jobs make up the majority of available work. This scarcity of career opportunities is compounded by the other significant findings of the survey, namely the decline in quality and quantity of catch in recent years and the rise of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This can take the form of local fishermen fishing in protected areas all the way to foreign vessels draining Filipino fisheries.

Methodology

- Enumerators in the field use SurveyCTO to conduct person-on-the-street interviews, with questions ranging from demographics to perceived issues facing their community and threats to their natural resources.
- This raw data is then entered into a data analysis software and is then assessed and cleaned by data analysts.
- The data is then transferred to a dashboard where it can be analyzed and any trends or patterns can be identified in order to drive programming or future surveying.

Program Design



Outcomes

In order to address the grievances discovered in the initial data-mapping, impl. project established a large fishing cooperative in Zambales, which functions to provide training and equipment to members, grow fishing revenues, distribute humanitarian aid, and strengthen the community as a whole. In the first three months of the cooperative's existence, its fishing captain's average household income increased by 50%. Despite facing a 70% increase in diesel prices since December, the cooperative has been able to purchase two fish aggregation devices. Similar cooperatives were also established in Cagayan and Sulu.