

Report by the Director of Audit



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources

Department of Marine Resources

TAI Audit of COVID-19 socio-economic package

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Executive Summary

The National Audit Office conducted an audit in collaboration with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) who launched the Global Cooperative Compliance Audits of Transparency, Accountability and Inclusiveness (TAI) in the Use of Emergency Funding for COVID-19. This audit was designed to assess whether the Department of Marine Resources complied with the applicable laws, rules, regulations and policy decisions in terms of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the implementation of COVID-19 socio-economic package.

Based on the findings below, we have concluded that the use of emergency funding for COVID-19 socioeconomic packages within the Department of Marine Resources has not been carried out in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations and the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness for the period May 1st 2020 to June 30th 2021.

What we found

Transparency - The criteria for selection was not made available to all stakeholders in a timely, comprehensible and accessible manner. Reports were prepared and disseminated in a timely manner, however errors were detected.

Accountability - Expenditure information was accurate at both commitment and payment stages of the COVID-19 Socio-economic package (SEP). All individuals, households and businesses benefiting from the SEP did not meet the eligibility criteria. Benefits that targeted registered fishers were received by unregistered fishers, ministries and companies.

Inclusiveness - We found no evidence to suggest that persons were treated unfairly or that anyone was excluded from benefiting from the COVID-19 SEP. The planned SEP benefits only reached 11% of those that they were intended for, as unregistered fishers, companies and a Government Ministry were also able to benefit from the SEP.

What we recommend

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources:

- Develop written guidelines or a plan outlining the goals and objectives and coordinating the implementation of the COVID-19 SEP.
- Use all available methods of disseminating information to reach the majority of the target audience.
- Ensure that COVID-19 monies be used for the intended purpose.
- Conduct needs-based assessments when deciding how much money is needed and what need to be purchased with the money.
- Put controls in place with regards to identifying registered fishers who purchase fishing gear at the Department of Marine Resources.

PART ONE

BACKGROUND

Transparency, Accountability and Inclusiveness (TAI) Audits

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major destabilizing threat to the global economy. It has impacted economies worldwide in areas such as public health, employment, education, social protection and overall economic growth. The tourism sector was the worst affected with travel bans, closure of public places, curfews and lock downs. There has been a dramatic rise in unemployment and supply shortages. In light of the pandemic, many countries have allocated funds to provide social assistance to aid members of the society who were most affected. These expenditures were significantly material and relatively unexpected and were not factored into the 2020 Budget.

Most countries introduced COVID-19 stimulus packages to help cushion the economic fallout resulting from the pandemic. However emergency situations can lead to basic control systems being suspended or bypassed, combined with the weakening of accountability systems and oversight. This can cause mismanagement and corruption at a time when government resources are under pressure. A need for the assessment and evaluation of the use and dissemination of emergency funds used to address the downfalls of the COVID-19 outbreak was created.

In light of this, the National Audit Office conducted an audit to determine whether the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) complied with the applicable laws, rules, regulations and policy decisions in terms of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the implementation of a COVID-19 socio-economic package. This audit is being done in collaboration with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) who is conducting audits of COVID-19 relief programmes implemented across international Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). IDI launched the Global Cooperative Compliance Audits of the TAI in the Use of Emergency Funding for COVID-19. This was done to help SAIs to stay relevant and adapt to the changing environment. This audit's main

objective is to contribute to transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the use of emergency funding for COVID 19.

COVID-19 Socioeconomic package in the Department of Marine Resources

In 2020, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis announced a \$120 million stimulus package to help ease the burden and hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the stimulus package, \$10 million was reserved for the agricultural sector in the first instance, to boost food production and ensure greater food security for the Federation. The money was apportioned by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources, between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Marine Resources, \$7 million and \$3 million respectively.

The main objective of the DMR is to promote the increase in fish landings, while ensuring that all the fish and fishery products that are available for local consumption and export are obtained, while practicing conservation measures that will protect their sustainability. To accomplish this, the Department aims to build the capacity of fisher folk in order to improve their ability to function efficiently in the marine environment and conduct training in improved fishing techniques.

Audit Mandate

The Audit Act of 1990, part 1, section 6 (1) states that:

“The Director of Audit shall make such examinations and enquiries of Public Bodies as he considers necessary to enable him to report as required by this Act.”

Section 76, subsection 2(a) of the Constitution of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis states that:

“The Director of Audit shall:

- a) Satisfy himself that all moneys that have been appropriated by Parliament and disbursed have been applied to the purposes to which they were so appropriated, and that the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it.”

Audit Objective

The question that the audit aimed to answer was:

“Has the emergency funding for the socioeconomic package within the Department of Marine Resources been carried out in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations and the principles of accountability, transparency and inclusiveness for the period May 1st 2020 to June 30th 2021?”

In order to adequately respond to this objective, some sub questions were designed focusing on the areas of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness.

Transparency

1. Is criteria for selection available to all stakeholders in a comprehensible, accessible and timely manner?
2. Are suitable mechanisms in place to produce reliable and timely information that is available for all stakeholders throughout the stages/processes of the implementation of the Socio – economic package (SEP)?

Accountability

1. Is expenditures information (related to SEP) accurate at both commitment and payment stages?
2. Did the individuals, households and businesses benefitting from SEP meet the eligibility criteria indicated in the applicable laws and regulations?

Inclusiveness

1. Does the SEP framework provide safeguards against any unfair treatment or explicit exclusions of vulnerable sections during any of the stages of implementation of the SEP? (selection of beneficiaries, access to benefits, budgeting for needs)?
2. To what extent have the planned SEP benefits reach those that they were intended for, including the marginalized sections?

Scope

Our audit considered the expenditure of the Department of Marine Resources under the COVID-19 socio-economic package over the period May 1st 2020 to June 30th 2021.

Criteria

The following laws, rules and guidelines were used as the criteria for conducting this audit:

1. Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act Cap 14.07
2. The decision made by the Director of Marine Resources to reduce prices of fishing gears sold to 50% of the cost price. This cost reduction was targeted to all registered fishers in St. Kitts. Newly registered fishers would also be able to purchase fishing gear at the reduced cost.

The following best practices were also used as criteria for conducting this audit:

3. Suitable mechanisms should be in place to produce reliable and timely information that is available for all stakeholders throughout the stages/processes of the implementation of the SEP.
4. There should be adequate safeguards against any unfair treatment or explicit exclusions of vulnerable sections during the stages of implementation of the SEP.
5. There should be mechanisms in place to evaluate if the planned SEP benefits were achieved.

Methodology

The audit was conducted using an agile approach. The scope of the audit was streamlined to enable the audit to be conducted in a timely manner without affecting the integrity and quality of the audit work.

A variety of methods were used to gather information. We:

- Interviewed the Director of Marine Resources and the Fisheries Assistant at the Department of Marine Resources Conference Room.
- Reviewed the DMR's WhatsApp chat, the DMR facebook social media page and the DMR website.
- Examined the sales receipts.
- Recomputed the total receipts from sales over the period under review.
- Examined the DMR's Fisher Registration Form.
- Reviewed and analysed the Covid-19 Fisheries Sector Relief Prices.
- Reviewed, recalculated and analysed the Advance Warrant and corresponding list of items purchased with the warrant.
- Conducted data analysis.
- Reviewed and analysed the DMR's Fish Landings data, DMR Fisher Registration Data and the St. Kitts Fisher Community Consultation Report.
- Reviewed the expenditure in the government's financial management system, Intelligent Treasury Management System (ITMS).

PART TWO

Findings

Transparency

1. The criteria for selection of the recipients of the COVID-19 relief was not made available to the general public in a comprehensible and accessible manner.

During the interview held at the DMR Conference Room on 12th July, 2021, the Director of Marine Resources stated that approval was granted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture et al, to reduce prices of fishing gears sold by 50% for all registered fishers in St. Kitts. We found no evidence of a documented plan outlining the selection criteria for the recipients of the COVID-19 socioeconomic package (SEP), the target audience, implementation steps, control measures or reporting timeframes. We did not find any criteria specific to the implementation of the COVID-19 Socioeconomic package and there was no amendment made to the Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act Cap 14.07. If a formal, documented plan detailing selection criteria is not prepared or effectively communicated:

- The general public may not be aware of the COVID-19 SEP offered by the Department of Marine Resources.
- Employees may be unsure of what is required of them.
- The programme may not reach its targeted audience.

There were no advertisements made via radio, TV, social media pages and websites by the Department of Marine Resources to inform the general public of the selection criteria for the COVID-19 socioeconomic package. We noted that a WhatsApp group chat with a total of 150 participants was the main medium of communication between the Department of Marine Resources and the fishers, even though there were over 1200 registered fishers. This meant that only 11.89% of registered fishers were part of the group that received direct communication from the DMR. We found that the Department of Marine Resources placed a strong reliance on the WhatsApp group chat over other, more effective means of communication. As a result, majority

of the target audience was not reached and the information was not made available to the general public.

We found that communication between the Director of Marine Resources and the fishers via WhatsApp took place in a timely manner. An announcement was made by the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis on the 24th March, 2020 regarding the \$120 million COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package. On the 22nd May 2020, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis announced that \$10 million would go to the Ministry of Agriculture et al. We however, found no evidence of the selection criteria being communicated in the WhatsApp group chat. Discussions took place between the fishers and the Director of Marine Resources after the initial announcement by the Prime Minister. This discussion focused on suggestions of how the money should be used. The Director of Marine Resources communicated his intention to reduce prices on fishing gears at a later date.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources develop a written plan or guidelines, outlining the goals and objectives of the emergency funding and coordinating the implementation of the COVID-19 SEP. This plan should state how the program would be implemented, specify the target audience, selection criteria, measurement and reporting guidelines. A well written plan:



We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources use all available methods of disseminating information to reach the general public.

2. The DMR Fisher Registration Data report stating the number of registered fishers was incorrect.

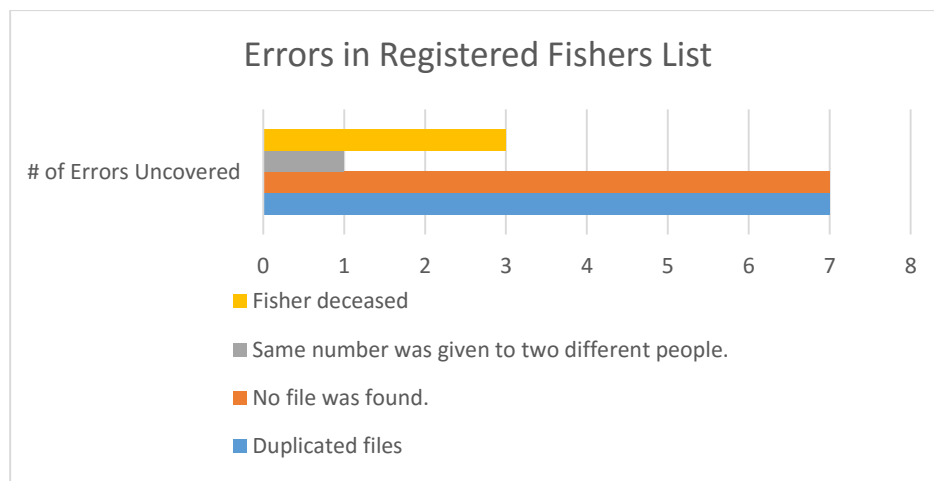
Suitable mechanisms should be in place to produce reliable and timely information that is available for all interested persons regarding the COVID-19 SEP. DMR Fisher Registration Data and the DMR Fish Landings Data Analysis were prepared on a monthly basis by the Director of Marine Resources. They were emailed to the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources before the end of the following month.

The information in the DMR Fisher Registration Data was compared to the list of registered fishers and the registered fisher files and the following errors were found:

- There were 7 instances where a name appeared twice on the list of registered fishers.
- There were 7 instances where a name was included in the list of registered fishers but a registered fisher file was not found for the person.
- There was 1 instance where the same registration number was given to two different fishers.
- There were 3 instances where we found the names of deceased persons on the registered fishers list. None of these individuals received the benefit of the COVID-19 SEP.

This is further illustrated in the bar chart below.

Errors found in the Registered Fishers List



Source: DMR Registered Fisher List and DMR Registered Fisher File

The DMR Fisher Registration Data report showed an increase in registered fishers in St. Kitts over the period under consideration. There were a total of 1175 registered fishers as of April 2020. This increased to 1280 by June 2021. However, this amount was overstated due to errors that we found. After adjusting for the errors, the number of registered fishers as of June 2021 was 1262 fishers.

These misstatements were mainly due to human error and a lack of oversight and review. Erroneous reports affect the reliability of the reports produced by the Department of Marine Resources.

Recommendations

The Director of Marine Resources should ensure that documents sent out by his office are accurate, reliable and timely. The data used to compile the reports should be thoroughly reviewed by a supervisor before the report is disseminated to the relevant stakeholders so that errors and misstatements could be discovered and corrected.

Accountability

3. Items costing \$105,160.75 were purchased using COVID-19 relief monies and used for the operations of the Department of Marine Resources.

The COVID-19 SEP monies were to be used to increase food production. The decision was made by the Director of Marine Resources to sell the fishing gear at 50% of the cost price, however we found that items totalling more than \$105 thousand were never placed on the DMR COVID-19 Price List to be sold to registered fishers. These items were used at the Department of Marine Resources to support existing services like extension facility maintenance or customer service.

Some of these include (not inclusive of all items):

Item	Cost
Generac- Protector Series 20KW Diesel Generator	\$48,874.30
Commercial Orbiter Floor Machine	\$1,222.61
Kristal 621 electric reel	\$4,510.03
Kristal KF003 rell with rod boom	\$7,004.50
Dorand 24 x 24 7000xl 1000lb capacity all	\$8,046.00
Dorand stainless steel load cell	\$2,484.00
CAS S 2000 JR price computing scale 60lb	\$1,247.40
CAS LP -100N Label printing price computer	\$4,247.10
Sanitizing Solution 95% alcohol 45 Imp G	\$3,900.00
2.5 GPM 3400 PSI Gas Power Portable High	\$1,558.42
3/4" Cutting Board 1/ SF	\$1,060.00
SaePlast D201 Industrial plastic buggy	\$1,439.00

*Source :Fisheries price listing of items purchased
:DMR Fishing Gears Price List*

Table 1 List of some items that were not on the price list or sold to registered fishers.

These items should have been purchased from the expenditure of the Department of Marine Resources, instead of with COVID-19 SEP monies. This would affect the measurement of the success of the program as all the monies for the COVID-19 SEP was not spent on items for the programme with an aim to increase food production.

Recommendations

- *The Director of Marine Resources should ensure that monies received for emergency funding be used for the intended purpose.*

4. The price of all items sold were not reduced by 50%. Prices varied considerably ranging from 82.5% less than the cost price to as high as 240% of the cost price.

The Director of Marine Resources stated that approval was granted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture et al to reduce prices of fishing gears by 50%. Newly registered fishers would also be able to purchase fishing gear at the reduced cost. The price reduction of 50% on fishing gears was not enforced on all items. Items ranged from 82.50% less than the cost price, to as high as 240% of the cost price. Some of the percentage change in prices are illustrated in the table below. The Director of Marine Resources made the decision concerning what items should be sold and the price that the items should be sold at. The items were placed on a price sheet and forwarded to the cashiers. Fishers did not receive all items sold under the COVID-19 SEP at 50% of the cost price.

Items Purchased (Advance Warrant)	Unit Price of Items Purchased EC\$	Unit Price of Items sold (Price List) EC\$	% change in prices
2.6X100 Snap with Swivel	\$2.40	\$5.00	108.33%
Snaps, Longline 2.75 x 100A+SBL Swivel	\$2.80	\$5.00	78.57%
Snap,2.00 x 80 V Nose+ BL	\$1.28	\$3.00	134.38%
Coastlock Snap Swivel # 10 (36 pack)	\$80.00	\$14.00	-82.50%
7-1/2 In. Hog Ring Pliers	\$36.65	\$50.00	36.43%
1/2 inch hog rings per pound	\$13.56	\$20.03	47.71%
Hooks, 117SW 8/0 Straight J Hook	\$1.47	\$5.00	240.14%
Hooks, 117SW 9/0 Straight J Hook	\$1.80	\$5.00	177.78%
Rocket parachute flare	\$229.58	\$100.00	-56.44%
Buoyant orange smoke flare	\$216.35	\$100.00	-53.78%
Hand Held flare Day/Night	\$136.88	\$48.00	-64.93%
NIS Makai 60lb test clear 2lb spool	\$39.00	\$50.00	28.21%
NIS Makai 100lb test multicolour 2lb spool	\$39.00	\$75.00	92.31%
1.4 mm poly BRD Loop Protector 100 pcs	\$8.50	\$16.69	96.35%
1.6 mm Polyester Braided Loop Protector	\$7.00	\$18.37	162.43%
Fish Pot Wire 5'X170' with Tying Wire	\$600.00	\$360.00	-40.00%
Buoy, bullet 7 x 14 Orange Seconds	\$18.75	\$15.00	-20.00%
Rope, 1/2" (13MM) PE x 400M Coil Black	\$425.00	\$200.00	-52.94%
Hooks, 117SW 8/0 Offset J Hook SS	\$1.57	\$5.00	218.47%
Hooks, Swordfish 9/0 Offset	\$1.76	\$5.00	184.09%

Source :Fisheries price listing of goods purchased
:DMR Fishing Gears Price List

Table 2 Percentage change in the price of fishing gear sold to fishers

Recommendation

We recommend that the Director of the Department of Marine Resources decide on a criteria for prices and enforce it at the DMR. The criteria stated by the Director of Marine resources was for prices to be reduced by 50% of the cost price. As a result, there should be no significant variation below or above the cost price.

5. Of the \$3.2 million in fishing gear purchased by the Department of Marine Resources for sale at reduced prices to the fishers, only \$190,830.25 was received by the DMR for sale of fishing gear between May 2020 to June 2021.

A needs based assessment should have been conducted to determine the needs of the fishers in order to accomplish the objectives of the COVID-19 SEP. A needs based assessment would have helped the Director of Marine Resources to identify, understand and prioritize the needs of the fishers and determine what must be addressed to improve performance. A needs based assessment is used to create a programme's overall plan and helps to identify strategies and prioritize resources.

We noted that \$3.2 million worth of items were purchased which should have been sold by the Department for approximately \$1.6 million to the fishers. However, after a full year of implementing the programme, only \$190 thousand had been received by the Department for sale of fishing gear to fishers.

The Covid-19 SEP was intended to stimulate food production and to cushion the impact of the pandemic on individuals and the economy in the short run. As at the end of June 2021, fishing gear, purchased under the SEP programme, with a sale value of approximately \$1.5 million remained in storage. If the sale of these fishing gear continue at the same pace as the period under review, it would take approximately 8 years for all the gear to be sold at the reduced prices. While the gear purchased may not have an expiration date, they do have a useful life and also the demand for the fishing gear held in storage may change over time. As a result, the Department may end up with fishing gear that cannot be sold and has no salvage value after a few years.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources do need based assessments when deciding how much money is needed and what needs to be purchased with monies for emergency funding programmes.

6. Of the 256 fishers who benefited from the COVID-19 SEP, 116 were unregistered fishers.

The Director of Marine Resources stated that approval was granted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture et al, to reduce prices of fishing gears sold by 50% for all registered fishers in St. Kitts. We found that the fishing gear purchased with the Covid – 19 emergency funds were sold at sometimes reduced prices to anyone who made a purchase at the DMR, regardless of their registration status. There were a total of 116 unregistered fishers who purchased fishing gears totalling \$72,256.00 over the period May 2020 to June 2021. While there was a selection criterion for the COVID-19 Relief Program, inspection of the sales receipts does not suggest that this criterion was passed down to the cashiers or monitored by senior staff. As a result, benefits totalling over \$72 thousand which were for the benefit of registered fishers did not reach the target audience.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources put controls in place to ensure that the benefits of the emergency funding reach those it was intended to benefit. This may include:

- *Equipping staff with access to the list of registered fishers.*
- *Ensuring that staff request a valid Government issued ID be presented with each sale and that the name is matched against the names on the Registered Fishers List.*
- *Ensuring that there is a clear and understandable process for persons who purchase fishing gear on behalf of registered fishers.*

Inclusiveness

7. There was no evidence of unfair treatment or exclusion of persons who should have benefitted from the COVID-19 SEP.

The COVID-19 SEP programme should provide adequate safeguards against any unfair treatment or exclusions of vulnerable sections.

We found no evidence that persons were denied from obtaining registered fisher status and benefiting from the COVID-19 SEP. In fact, the number of registered fishers increased over the period considered. There was no evidence of restrictions or limits on the amount of fishing gear a registered fisher could purchase.

The fisher registration form highlights the full name, date of birth, sex, marital status, number of dependants in household, address, place of birth and nationality. This data however, was not used in determining eligibility for the COVID-19 SEP. The only criterion was that the person had to be a registered fisher in St. Kitts. Records were not maintained to document the number of applicants that were declined or the applicants' income bracket.

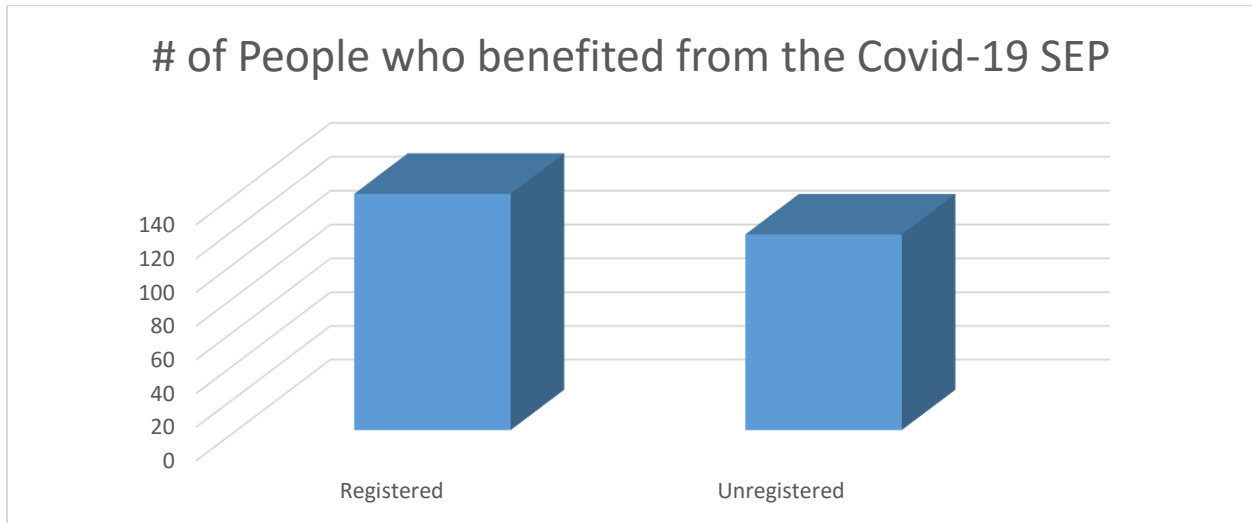
Recommendation

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources consider transparency, accountability and inclusiveness throughout all phases when implementing emergency relief programs to ensure that the maximum benefit goes to the vulnerable and those most at risk.

8. The COVID-19 SEP benefits reached 11% of its intended audience by June 2021 which is a small segment of the target population.

The aim of the COVID-19 SEP was to reach all registered fishers and attract new fishers in order to increase food production. However the medium used to market the programme only captured 11% of the target audience over the period reviewed.

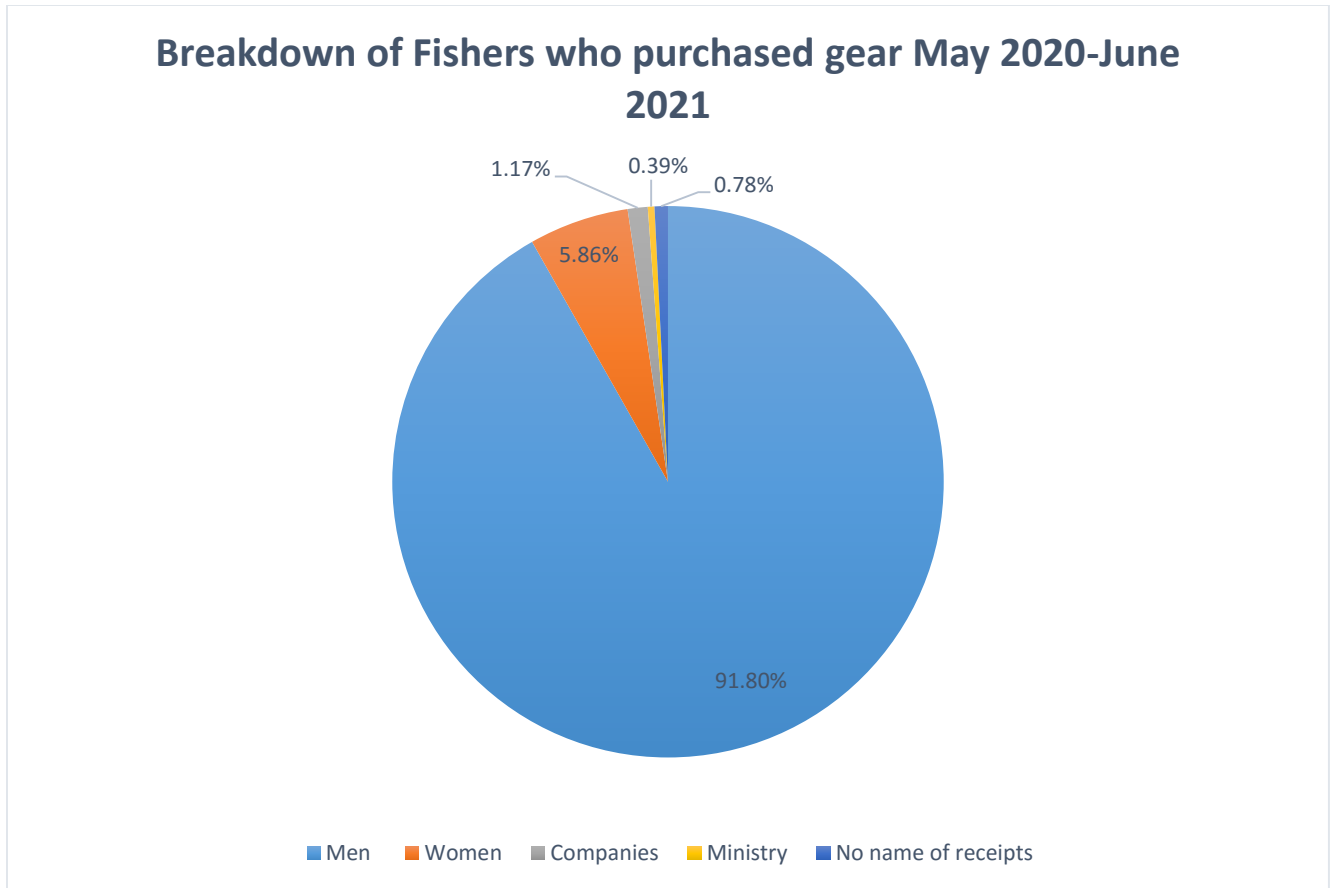
While we noted that 256 persons/businesses purchased fishing gear during the period May 2020 to June 2021, only 116 of these were registered fishers. This meant that out of the target group of 1262 registered fishers, only 11% of the target group actually benefitted from the program during the period under review. This is illustrated below.



Source: DMR Registered Fisher List

Registration Status of persons who purchased gear between May 2020-June 2021

We also noted that the 256 persons who purchased gear comprised of 235 men and 15 women. Three (3) businesses and 1 government ministry also benefitted from the reduced price of fishing gear. There were 2 sales receipts without names and these were classified as unregistered fishers. This is represented in the following diagram.



Source: DMR Registered Fisher List

Composition of Fishers who purchased gear May 2020-June 2021

According to the Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act Cap 14.07, a “fisher” means any person who engages in fishing or related activities. However the benefit was only to be received by those who registered with the DMR by filling out an application form and receiving approval.

DMR Fisher Registration Data report and the DMR Fish Landings Data Analysis were prepared on a monthly basis by the Director of Marine Resources. These reports focused on the increase in the number of registered fishers over the period considered and also increases in fish production. They were not tailored to capture whether the vulnerable or marginalized in our society were reached by the COVID-19 SEP. Income brackets were not requested on the Fisher Registration form and the information that was collected, was not analysed.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Director of Marine Resources:

- *formulate plans that target the vulnerable and marginalized in the society when implementing emergency relief programs.*
- *ensure that procedures are disseminated to the cashiers and enforced so that only the intended recipients benefit from the COVID-19 SEP.*

In a predominantly male oriented field, the numbers are in line with what we expected to see. We recommend that options such as awareness campaigns, sensitization, training and marketing can be utilized to attract a greater diversity in the fisher population.

Conclusion

Planning is essential for success and even more so in emergency situations to ensure that the goals and objectives of the organization are achieved. Monies were allocated to the Department of Marine Resources however, objectives were not clearly defined and plans were not created and carried out. The stages of the COVID-19 SEP from planning, implementation, control, measurement and completion were not clearly defined. The lack of oversight and monitoring were noted in the non-enforcement of the criteria for the COVID-19 SEP.

We concluded that the use of the emergency funding for COVID-19 socioeconomic package within the Department of Marine Resources had not been carried out in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations, best practices and the principles of accountability, transparency and inclusiveness. The audit uncovered some areas for improvement and some lessons that could be beneficial to the entire Government of St. Kitts and Nevis when addressing emergency situations.

Director's Response

On 15th July 2022, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) received an Audit Report of the COVID 19 Socio-economic Package for the period May 1st 2020 to June 30th 2021. The report highlighted a number of concerns regarding the applicable rules, regulations and principles of the transparency, accountability and inclusiveness initiative.

With respect to the recommendation #1, no criteria was given to the fisheries sector prior to the implementation of the economic support. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) looked at the impending food crisis after COVID 19 lockdown as an opportunity to boost the Federations food and nutrition security by increasing production. As a result, The DMR worked with existing fishers and new fishers who indicated a strong interest in the advancement of the fisheries sector. Based on the fish production numbers since the opening of the economy after the 2020 COVID lockdown period of April 2020, the DMR's fish production objectives were achieved. THE DMR is not averse to the Governments overall objectives with their economic support program for the fisheries sector. In the future, the DMR would desire that the Government's objectives are communicated in advance of financial support so that the DMR can align those objectives with the departmental objectives.

For recommendation #2, the DMR agrees that the operating procedures for the cashiers can be improved. As a result, the Department has already implemented the following:

- Review current price list with equipment/gear purchased for the socio-economic package to ensure all prices are aligned with that approved (justified recommendations will be forwarded).
- Develop and internally publish the procedures and guidelines required for the pricing and sale of government socio-economic packages. This will include, proof of fisher and vessel registration and licences, fish catch data submissions and fisheries laws and regulations compliance.
- Notices of socio-economic packages will be published to the targeted stakeholders/fishers no later than a week of sale commencement date.

Submit an inventory report which assess stocks and revenue needs on a quarterly basis for restock purposes.