

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Project Title:	Empower Fishing Communities on Lake Victoria
Project Processing No.:	16.0126.9-102.00
Agreement No.:	81246624
Name of the Recipient:	Federation of Fisheries Organisations Uganda (FFOU)
Reporting period:	1st September to 31st November 2025 (Quarter 13)

1. Objective and description of the project financed by the financial contribution

Federation of Fisheries Organisations Uganda currently has one hundred thirty-one (131) member associations comprising of fishing Associations, Aquaponics Associations, and Co-operative Societies which brings together most of the Community Fisheries Businesses. The membership of all these-Business entities indicates the basis of FFOU's existence as a member-based organization.

FFOU in partnership with the NORWEGIAN AID is implementing Abavubi Fisher Mobile Application (AFMA) project. The project is aimed at Improving Fisheries Business management on Lake Victoria among fishing communities in Uganda.

Under the project, FFOU targets acquiring a total of 272560 or more downloads and active users with improved businesses.

A combination of the business skills and information technology through the App for extended marketing and proper record management is expected to foster business growth in the fisheries subsector. FFOU will carry out Business Development Services (BDS) among fishing communities in the Districts of Kampala, Mukono, Masaka, Mpigi, Kalungu, Kyotera and Kalangala. The project targets small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who will be equipped through trainings with knowledge and skills that are anticipated to enhance their business growth for more income, more fish and employment opportunities. The project is being implemented for fourteen (14) months with a target of reaching out to 750 trainees (576 men and 174 women).

Project Objectives

The major aim of the project is to contribute to Sustainable Fisheries Management for improved Food Security and income in Uganda.

The specific objectives:

- To improve business development and co-management within the fishing communities.
- To finalize the development of the Business Management App (Abavubi).
- To roll out the use of the Abavubi App to all fisher folk around Lake Victoria.
- To train 750 (174 women and 576 men) engaged in small and medium enterprises along the Fish value chain with business knowledge and skills .

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

2. Project measures financed by the financial contribution

Quarter 13 report is a three-month progress report covering the implementation period from 1st September to 31st November 2025. During this period, the following activities were implemented;

2.1 BDS Content delivery

Business Development Service trainings for 13th quarter covered the following modules; Fish handling and preservation, Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VGSSSF, group strengthening and regulatory compliance. Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VGSSSF) and Regulatory compliance were carried out in September 2025, Fish handling and preservation in October 2025 and group strengthening in November 2025.

A total of 179 sessions were carried out in September across the 7 districts with 21-Mpigi, 35-Kalangala, 18-Mukono, 24-Kampala, 30-Kyotera, 22-Kalungu, and 29-Masaka.

A total of 145 sessions were carried out in October across all the districts comprising; 20-Mpigi, 24-Kalangala, 18-Mukono, 21-Kampala, 20-Kyotera, 22-Kalungu, and 20-Masaka

A total of 162 sessions carried out in the month of November comprising; 23-Mpigi, 20-Kalangala, 25-Mukono, 26-Kampala, 20-Kyotera, 22-Kalungu, and 26-Masaka as shown in **Fig 1**.

Number of Training sessions carried out from September to November 2025

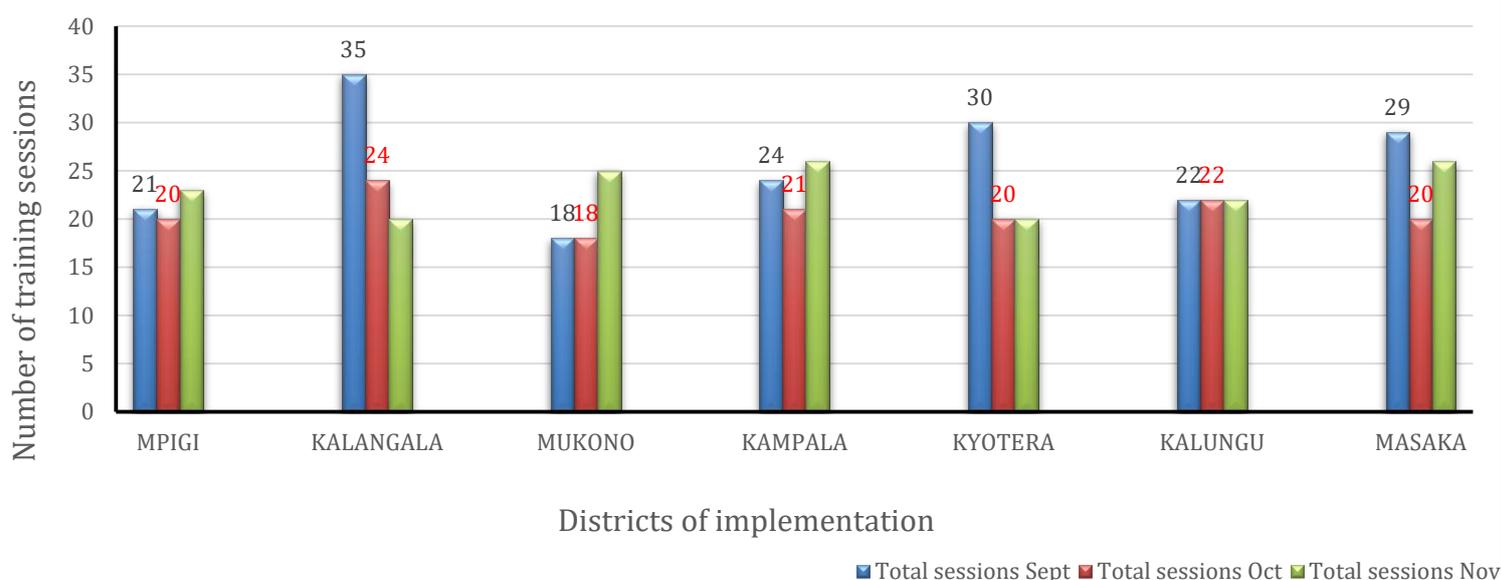


Figure 1; BDS Monthly training sessions per district

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

A grand total of 486 sessions were carried out in the 13th quarter from September to November 2025. These training sessions comprised 286 training sessions and 200 mentoring and coaching sessions. The coaching sessions involved practical translation of learnt knowledge into day to day skills, review of recent trainings, alternative income generating activities development, business plan write up and development.

A total of 705 trainees (495 males:210 females), 692 trainees (405 males:287 females) and 653 trainees (495 males:158 females) attended the BDS delivery trainings for the months of September, October and November 2025 respectively as indicated shown in **Fig.2**.

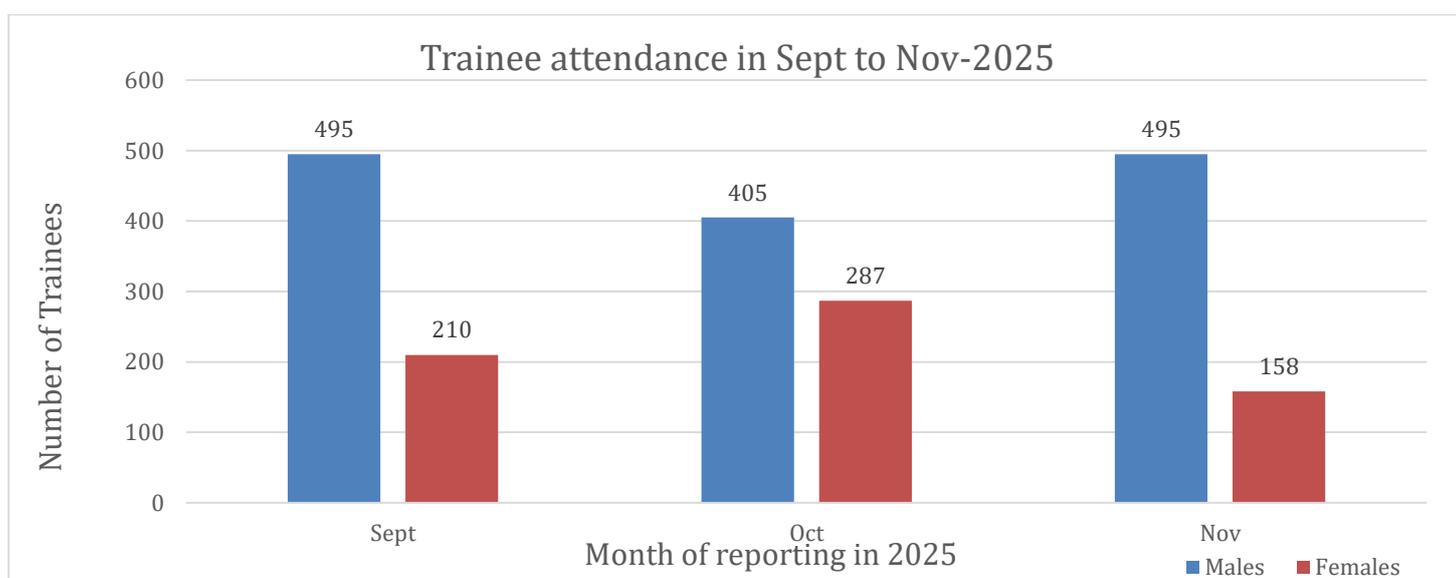


Figure 2; Monthly BDS Trainee attendance gender disaggregated data

Figure 3; Gender disaggregated data on the monthly BDS attendance

January 2025 had the highest number of trainees upto 803 (545 males : 258 female), and lowest was in November 2025 with over 653 trainees (495 males : 158 females). However, 750 trainees were recruited at the commence of the trainings and a drop put of 12% was reported by project closure in November 2025 percentage composition of 76% men and 24 % women.

A total of 235 trainees (145 males : 90 females) attended Group strengthening, 618 trainee (352 males ; 266 females) attended fish processing, and lastly 659 trainees (405 males : 254 females) attended the VGSSSF trainings.

Achievements, key outcomes and outputs

- ❖ BDS training program has well shaped the trainees into good business people with an improved mindset change on business management by 85% among the communities,
- ❖ improved tendency of working hard and not giving up on their business,

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

- ❖ improved ability by trainees to record and fully analyze the collected data,
- ❖ positive mindset changes on lives and wellbeing of participants through the BDS training sessions offered,
- ❖ mentoring of BDS trainees has highly yielded a lot through improved savings, and record keeping, promotion of leadership skills among the trainees.
- ❖ Self-governance was also extended to the participants through the trainings
- ❖ Over 10 saving groups were started at the different landing sites.
- ❖ Improved business plan development skills
- ❖ Enhanced skills in entrepreneurship, marketing, fish preservation and handling plus value addition. Trainees capacity built with equipped skills and knowledge thus improved fish quality assurance and standards
- ❖ Over 54 people have legalized their business
- ❖ A gradual change in behavioral and life style trends developed
- ❖ Most of the trainees have improved their saving culture by minimizing some expenses.
- ❖ Mentoring of BDS trainees has highly yielded a lot, savings, record keeping etc have all been done by the trainees.
- ❖ Through monitoring and evaluation by the trainer most of the trainee's businesses have picked up.
- ❖ 76 trainees reported to have adopted the business development services knowledge for the alternative income sources including soap making, poultry farming, piggery, and chicken feed production.
- ❖ 75% mindset change among fisher folk-Determined during the BDS business plan development
- ❖ 27 equity centres established in BDS districts for money transaction and linkage of fishing communities to banking systems; The equity lie under the MOU between FFOU and Equity ban where funds were sloted to boost fishing cmmnty businesses
- ❖ Saving culture improving and improved book record keeping by 52%.
- ❖ Over 256 bank accounts opened among fishing communities for the fisher folk.
- ❖ Registered 44% improved compliance with legal frame work among FFOU BDS trainees through business formalization and registration.

Challenges

BDS Based; Fuel price like other cost on the island was higher than mainland, Training had to be carried out in more than two languages due to multi-lingual communities and low education levels, Limited space/slots for the trainees as more and more people wanted to join the trainings, fluctuating fuel prices,

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Sectoral related; Some trainees and the community still practice illegal fishing thus need for more sensitization, trainees still operating unregistered businesses, there's still insufficient capital for the trainees to boost their businesses, unclear fisheries policies for the fisher folk, Lack of standard fishing equipment by the trainees such as smoking kilns, fishing nets etc.

Adopted solutions; Group strengthening, and togetherness helped the trainees to stick together and not exit their groups though they didn't get any reward which were given out by NORWEGIAN AID team, Utilization of the available resources by the trainees in order to keep operating their SMEs, Setting low minimum savings amounts that every member can raise every week such that some people are not left most especially women for instance at kasensero where the minimum was put at 2000 shillings, Opening up bank accounts for some of the groups such that the members can be assured of safety of their money, Setting up articles that govern the group money in the group constitution and making them clearly understood by every member, Taking the trainers through the benefits of working together as a group through saving with other group members, With the elected committee/ leaders now trainees trust each other hence spirit of togetherness..

Recommendations; there is a need to consider other sectoral engagements for example, agricultural boost activities as another aspect of food security in these communities, need for rehabilitation sessions to the frustrated fisher folks and also a project targeting alternative livelihood other than fishing should be considered, for continued impact multiplier effect, continued linkage of trainers and trainees should be maintained, and need for more mentorship and coaching trainings for the outgoing trainees and new incoming trainees through business clinics for continued improvement of SMEs

lessons learnt;

- Projects should be designed with holistic approaches to enable entry of social incentives
- Project sustainability strategies should be adopted at early stages of the project in the implementation communities
- Project planning should considered external factors like price fluctuations e.g fuel to avoid budget stressing
- Adoption of 15 min sessions of reading and writing before and after the BDS trainings helped improve reading and writing skills among the trainees
- Groups have been proven as evident to the success and reorganization for fisheries communities. The BDS grouped strategy has enabled ample delivery and systematic engagement of the fishing communities in regards to building sustainable cities and communities in resource management while promoting decent work and economic growth for quality assurance

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

- DIT certification is key to adding value to BDS Delivery and will promote consistent interest among fishing communities thus enhance paradigm shift from non skilled to semi skilled labor force in fisheries sector. The strategy is also important in improving government recognition of fishing communities as key priority areas.
- BDS to be linked to various incentive services like micro financing

2.2 Abavubi Fisher Mobile App (AFMA) capacity building Trainings.

Capacity building was carried out to empower member associations with skills and knowledge on the use and applicability of Abavubi fisher mobile app. The trainings were carried out for half a day involving a theoretical and practical session were carried out co-currently.

A total of 736 participants (476 males : 260 females) were introduced/trained on the App in Sept 2025 with a total of 32 training visits carried out. The trained groups included 31 BDS group at the various Districts of Implementation. 3 follow-ups were organized for each trained group making a total of 96 trainings. The follow-ups were focused on three key app components; personal accountant, market place, and mobile money payment & weather forecast whilst relating to the initially trained BDS modules of financial management, soft skills and business planning. A total of 96 trainings were carried out across all districts.

Key outcomes included; increased app awareness with over 80% participants turn over, positive and receptive uptake. The App currently has 421 active users (196 females and 228 males) with over 31,523 downloads as of November 2025.

2.3 Technical advisory Group Meetings

The forth BDS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) committee meeting was held in October 2025, to discuss the progress of the project among all Implementing partners. Participants included; FFOU, PMU Team leader, NORWEGIAN AID project Junior officer and Monitoring & Evaluation officer. All partners presented their progress, challenges and recommendations to PMU and NORWEGIAN AID where appropriate recommendations and action points per partner. The meeting was a key platform for sharing knowledge and experience on BDS implementation.

Key resolutions and results included; IPOs plan for sustainability submitted for discussion and project closure and handover of project assets.

Where FFOU's exit strategy included; Grouped meetups continued at the training centers, establishment of business clinic centers where fishers can always go, continued coaching by BDS Trainers for approximately 6 month, linking the BDS trainees to upcoming FFOU Vocational Institute.

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Recommendations / Best practice by FFOU included; need for continued training on reading and writing relating data entry in financial literacy and management, need for continued monitoring of implementation and adaptation of the skills across all regions on Lake Victoria for Uniformity of standards. BDS not taught at all areas/landing sites, Need for continued training strategy for incoming laborers who missed the BDS, BDS team to stay in the field with services relating mentoring and coaching, Recess on the financial literacy and management. **Presentation annexed 3**

2.4 Participation in the NORWEGIAN AID Sustainability and Exit strategy workshop

NORWEGIAN AID IPOS were invited for a sustainability workshop on the 3rd and 4th of Nov. 2025 at Mada Hotel – Jinja Nile Resort. Partners were expected to make a presentation on their sustainability strategies answering the following questions; Name of Product / Approach / Intervention, Which institution can take over? And Why?, Current status of ownership/capacity / funding, Activities till, and Lessons learnt- what worked and what did not work, and the capacity required to ensure the sustainability of the achieved interventions

NO	Name of Product / Approach / Intervention	Reason	Which institution can take over?	Current status of ownership/capacity / funding
			Why?	
1	Business Skills Development			
1.1	Continued grouped meetups at training centres	Continued group knowledge sharing Proper use of grouped acquired equipment	FFOU, for BDS continuity and appropriate monitoring of project outcomes and outputs	NORWEGIAN AID
1.2	Establishment of business clinic centers	For continued reference by Fisher communities To maintain communication with the trainees for any upcoming development To provide BDS related training to new fish labor force	FFOU	Under establishment
1.3	Documentation of success stories with other partners	For future lobbying For continued reference in future	IPOs, NORWEGIAN AID and PMU	
1.4	Continued coaching/mentorship by BDS Trainers for approximately 6 month	To maintain knowledge uptake by the trainees To provide recess sessions for the trainees and onsite visits for practical applicability of the previous sessions	FFOU	

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

1.5	Giving trainees Nationally recognized DIT certificate	For use in any upcoming opportunities due to the attached value as compared to a basic training certificate	DIT, IPO	
		To promote empowerment of fisheries labor force from non-skilled to semi skilled state	FFOU	
1.6	Graduation of the trainees	As part of the exit strategy and increased visibility of the project	NORWEGIAN AID, DIT, IPO	
1.7	Linking BDS trainees to FFOU Vocational Institute			
1.7.1	FFOU BDS Department	To coordinate the BDS operational Clinics and established training centres	FFOU	MOU signed with Ministry of education and sports to Use locally existing schools in fishing communities as BDS training centers, FFOU to retain
1.7.2	FFOU Legal aid Department	To provide legal aid & knowledge to Fisher communities on the Fishery	FFOU	
		To reduce ignorance about fisheries law among fishing communities		
1.7.3	UGANDA FISHERIES COOPERATIVE SAVINGS AND CREDIT SOCIETY	To provide business incentives through small and large scale financing	Uganda Fisheries Union, FFOU and its Member Associations	
		To promote saving culture and group strengthening		
1.8	FFOU Membership	To provide grouped financing for FFOU BDS continuity	FFOU	
2	Abavubi Fisher			

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

	Mobile Application			
2.1	Linking the App to various services	To increase on services delivered by the Abavubi App	FFOU	
2.2	Establishment delivery system	To increase fish delivery for purchases made on the App (Motor bikes delivery)	NORWEGIAN AID, FFOU	FFOU
		To increase visibility of the App	FFOU	
2.3	Continued lobbying	To acquire more resources that support sustainability of the App	FFOU	

Lessons learnt included; Projects should be designed with holistic approaches to enable entry of social incentives, Project sustainability strategies should be adopted at early stages of the project in the implementation communities, Project planning should consider external factors like price fluctuations e.g fuel to avoid budget stressing, Groups have been proven as evident to the success and reorganization for fisheries communities. The BDS grouped strategy has enabled ample delivery and systematic engagement of the fishing communities in regards to building sustainable cities and communities in resource management while promoting decent work and economic growth for quality assurance, DIT certification is key to adding value to BDS Delivery and will promote consistent interest among fishing communities thus enhance paradigm shift from non skilled to semi skilled labor force in fisheries sector and BDS to be linked to various incentive services like micro financing.

Presentation annexed 4

3. Status report on the implementation of the measures

Measure	Rating ¹	Status/Reasons for deviation
BDS Content delivery		
i. Group strengthening	A	Completed
ii. Regulatory compliance,	A	Completed
iii. Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VGSSSF)	A	Completed
iv. Fish handling and preservation.	A	Completed

¹ Rating (applies to sections 3 and 5):
A = on schedule
B = delayed by ... (state no. of months)
C = jeopardised
D = impossible

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Measure	Rating ¹	Status/Reasons for deviation
Abavubi Trainings	A	Completed
Technical advisory Group Meetings	A	Completed
NORWEGIAN AID Sustainability and Exit strategy workshop	A	Completed

4. Evaluation of achievement of objectives (including a contribution of the measures to the achievement of objectives)

BDS project has been implemented successfully and short come/ immediate results were obtained which is attributed to the effective implemetation approach, positive uptake and perception by fisherfolk on the project.

During the abavubi app trainings, the fisherfolk expressed need for better traceability of their products. FFOU has carried out tests on introduction of products traceability system in the fisheries sector. This will help in improved profit through better products traceability, quality assurance and introduction of certification. The traceability is key for improving app users wiith improved user incentives.

5. Major deviations from scheduled measures

No major deviation was experienced except the changes in scheduled implementation plans as a result of delayed reciept of funds.

6. Special events/developments at the level of the Recipient ²

6.1 Meeting with UPDF MARINE on VGSSF

FFOU in Nov 2025 held a meeting with UPDF MARINE . The meeting was intended to introduce VGSSF guidelines to UPDF MARINE and how they have been taught to the BDS trainees. This is to help all bodies stream line self responsibility among fishing communities. A total of 5 participants attended the meeting (3 males : 2 females).

6.2 Meeting with National Women's Council

FFOU in Nov 2025 held a meeting with NWC. The meeting was intended to introduce BDS to NWC with interests on gender mainstreaming in the fisheries sector. The meeting led to out comes of integrating FFOU women capacity building in goverment aligned activities/programs. The participants incilude Director – NWC, President FFOU, ED-FFOU, Operation Wealth Creation

² Major changes in framework conditions and their impacts on project implementation

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Coordinator, and FFOU-BDS project Officer. A total of 5 participants attended the meeting (3 males : 2 females).

6.3 Application to Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) certification

FFOU in October 2025 call for all BDS trainees to apply for DIT certification under FFOU's vocational institute centre number. The application were distributed and collected through FFOU trainers and submitted to DIT head office for consideration in November 2025. Applications for 705 trainees (495 males:210 females) were submitted for assessment which was planned due to take place in January 2023. **DIT certificate annexed 5**

6.4 Fish preservation and processing consultant introduction meeting

FFOU was invited to an introductory meeting with the consultants on the 20th September 2025. The meeting was intended to discuss the developed manual and later provide feedback on the developed content. The themes of discussion included; Introduce to you fish processing consultants, Contribute towards finalizing the proposed training content and communicate the training/implementation schedule.

6.5 Establishment of FFOU sustainability for BDS

FFOU in October 2025 reached an MOU with the Ministry of Education and sports (MOES) on the continuity of the BDS program in fishing communities. The MOU strictly looked at using present school infrastructure in localities of fishing communities as training centres / venues for BDS trainees. The model was adopted as the suitable alternative for paid venues after the project closure. The training centres will be used on week ends and evening times for BDS training continuity. **MOU annexed 6**

FFOU during the sustainability intends to mentor 20 co-trainers from the local communities. These will help on the continued coaching and mentoring of fisher folk for continuity of BDS knowledge sharing. With over 31 training groups, over 600 fisher folk will be mentored as co-trainers over the 7 districts of BDS implementation. These will be strategic to reaching the landing sites where BDS delivery did not reach.

Currently, FFOU Has so far acquired 25 primary schools that will be used as training points for BDS continuity where FFOU trainers through contract renewal will stay as the coordinators of the respective districts of allocation.

7. Status of contributions rendered by partners

Contributions by the recipient of the financial contribution

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

Target	Actual	Rating ¹
Office space	Office space	A

Contributions by third parties (where agreed)

No other Organization has contributed

Contributions by NORWEGIAN AID (where agreed)

Target	Actual	Rating ¹
€ 433,668.55	€ 390,301.55	A

8. Coordination with NORWEGIAN AID or third parties (where agreed)

Coordination formats³

Frequency (target)	Frequency (actual)	Rating ¹
Meeting with National Women's Council	A	Ongoing
Meeting with UPDF MARINE on adoption of VGSSSF	A	Ongoing
Application to Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT certification)	A	Ongoing
Establishment of FFOU sustainability for BDS	A	Ongoing
Fish preservation and processing consultant introduction meeting	A	Completed

9. Recommended action (referring to sections 3, 4, 5 and 6) and Consequences and action required by the Recipient

9.1 Recommendations

- Enhance creation of alternative income sources among fishing communities
- Need to create more training strategies for the incoming laborforce that did not participate in the recently finalized BDS trainings
- For continuity, co-trainers should be mentored in the recent training grounds during the sustainability implementation and adaptation. These will be key in reaching the areas / landing sites where training did not reach.
- Need for trainings on quality control and assurance to the BDS trainees during the sustainability implementation.

9.2 Consequences and action required by NORWEGIAN AID

³ For example, joint annual/half-yearly/quarterly planning; coordinating meetings; transmission of certain data/reports for results-based monitoring of the overall project, etc.

FFOU Project Progress report 2025

- Carry out a technical assessment of the recently implemented modules for example basic quality assurance and control should be introduced to fisher communities for improved quality right from the source of fish. This will help involve the missing gaps for the next implementation
- The sustainability plan should be introduced and tested before project implementation
- A thorough needs assessment should be always done to create holistic implementations for any implementation.

10. Planning for the period to be covered by the next report

- Business development service coaching and mentoring
- Implementation and adoption of the sustainability plan for BDS in the training communities.
- Development of mentorship for local co-trainers per 7 districts of implementation

Annexes

- Annex 1: Quarter 11 M and E sheet
- Annex 2: Financial Report Quarter 11
- Annex 3: Technical Advisory Group presentation
- Annex 4: Project Sustainability and Exit strategy workshop
- Annex 5: DIT Certificate
- Annex 6: Ministry of Education and Sports MOU