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Gendering small-scale fisheries in Sub-Saharan Africa: Assessing the impact of training on women's income, household food security and dietary quality

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ABSTRACT

Women contribute significantly to the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector, food security and nutrition of their households. Yet, they face barriers including access to training and capacity-building. We combine inverse probability weighting methods with matching estimators to evaluate the impact of women's training in SSF value chain on their income from fisheries activities, food security and dietary quality of their households in four sub-Saharan African countries (Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, and Sierra Leone). Our results show that on average, fisheries-related income was about \$41-\$49 higher for women who received training than those who never received any training. The respective improvements in household food security and dietary quality were 10% to 11% and 3% to 5%. Such training has statistically significant effects on dietary quality and income in Ghana and Malawi, and household food security and income in Tanzania, but weak evidence in Sierra Leone. The channel analysis shows that women's training in SSF value chain significantly contributes to an increase in the number of days that their households consume fish by an average of 0.6, while increase in their income for receiving training contributes to the food security and dietary quality of their households by 3.4% and 1.3%. Considering this heterogeneous results, we recommend that government of the respective countries and their development partners must implement country-specific training programmes that are based on women's role in the SSF sector, their influence on decision-making on household income and food consumption, existing levels of food security and the overall development of the fisheries sector.

KEYWORDS Training; Small-scale fisheries; fisherwomen; income; food security; dietary quality

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