

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Fisheries, Coastal Resources
and Livelihood Project
(FishCORAL)



What is FishCORAL?

The Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project is a five-year endeavor (2016-2020) of the Philippine Government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) aiming to reduce poverty in economically-challenged coastal communities while strengthening local food and nutrition security in the target areas in the Philippines. Its executing agency is the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), under the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The project has three components: Coastal Resources Management, Livelihood Development, and Project Management and Coordination. FishCORAL is being implemented in four regions: Region 5 (Bicol), 8 (Eastern Visayas), 13 (CARAGA), and ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Through the cooperation of local government units (LGUs) and the coastal communities, the project aims for the project sites to adopt sustainable management of fishery and coastal resources as well as to increase the income of fishing households in the areas through sustainable engagement in diversified livelihood activities.

What are the components under FishCORAL and their objectives and expected outcomes?

1. Coastal Resources Management (CRM)

FishCORAL aims to apply the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to CRM. This means that interactions between and among all aspects of the ecosystem including plants, animals, humans and organisms as well as non-living components are considered in CRM.

The project design adopts the bay-wide approach to CRM. Thus, municipalities involving contiguous coastal bodies need to work together to improve law enforcement and protect, rehabilitate and sustainably manage the shared coastal resources within the following bays/ gulfs:

Region 5

Albay Gulf, Asid Gulf, and Ragay Gulf

Region 8

Leyte Gulf, Matarinao Bay, Silago-Cabalian Bay, and Maqueda Bay

Region 13

Butuan Bay and Lianga-Hinatuan-Bislig Bays

ARMM

Sulu Sea and Illana Bay

Expected Outcome

Established capabilities of LGUs and fishing communities to enforce sustainable management of fishery and coastal resources

Expected Deliverables

- 103 municipal/city Fishery Law Enforcement Teams (FLETs) and 103 Municipal/ City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (M/C FARMCs) formed, strengthened and sustained.
- 11 Bay Management Councils Formed/ Strengthened and Sustained
- 103 bay-wide fishing ordinances implemented at the LGU-level
- 103 Fisheries and CRM plans and ordinances updated and implemented by Local Government Units (LGUs)
- 103 municipal waters with accompanying zoning ordinances delineated by LGUs
- 103 patrol boats sustainably operated
- 11 climate resilient bay management and multipurpose buildings constructed and maintained
- 103 climate resilient watch towers constructed and maintained

Expected Outcome

Implemented municipal/city and bay-wide fishery and coastal resources management and investment plans

Expected Deliverables

- 103 Multi-year CRM and fishery management/ investment plan integrated into Comprehensive Land Use Plan/ Municipal Development Plan (CLUP/MDP) and Annual Investment Programs (AIPs) formulated or updated by LGUs
- 11 Bay-wide multi-year CRM and fishery management/ investment plans adopted by LGUs

Expected Outcome

Established/ rehabilitated habitats for fishery and coastal resources

Expected Deliverables

- 1,100 hectares (ha) of critical mangrove areas rehabilitated and sustainably managed
- 21,456 ha of fish sanctuaries established, delineated or rehabilitated, and sustainably managed
- 3,814 ha of sea grass beds rehabilitated/ protected, and sustainably managed
- 22 marine species stock enhancement projects implemented
- 5,200 units of supplemental artificial reefs deployed
- 5,150 ha of fish sanctuaries provided with delineation markers

Expected Outcome

Technical support to the communities

Expected Deliverables

- Technical support to communities provided by Project Support and Coordination Office (PSCO), 4 Regional Project Management Offices (RPMOs), 14 Provincial Fisheries Offices (PFOs) and 103 LGUs
- Equipment to support implementation
- Vehicle to support implementation
- Motorcycles to support LGUs

2. Livelihood Development

Restoring depleted coastal resources through the EAFM will not be complete without Livelihood Development. FishCORAL encourages coastal communities to engage in alternative and diversified livelihood ventures other than fish capture. The project aims to provide sub-project support through organizational strengthening and business plan development in the coastal communities.

Expected Outcome

Fishing households organized into livelihood groups.

Expected Deliverables

Four thousand four hundred and fifty-four (4,454) livelihood groups generating profit from fishery enterprises (50% of members are women).

Expected Outcome

Implemented livelihood fishery projects with corresponding climate resilient infrastructure and/or facility support

Expected Deliverables

- Equipment support to BFAR hatchery in Region 5
- Equipment support to 7 community-based hatcheries
- 515 communal seaweed solar dryers with storage
- 49 mobile ice makers and 94 chest freezers
- 1,200 linear meters of fish landing facilities
- 50% of the livelihood projects implemented by women

3. Project Management and Coordination

FishCORAL aims to improve the services to the fisheries sector through assistance to national and regional offices in project implementation, financial management and institutional coordination.

Expected Outcome

Established project management structures, systems, procedures at all levels

Expected Deliverables

- Functioning project financed structures
- Signed and implemented MOAs between BFAR and LGUs and other implementing agencies
- All manuals and guidelines followed

Expected Outcome

Timely, cost effective, transparent and gender- and culturally-sensitive project management

Expected Deliverables

- Complete and accurate financial records prepared and audited annually.
- Adherence to planning and reporting procedures and formats Project Years 1 to 5 (PY 1-5).
- Timely, efficient, and gender- and culturally-responsive Monitoring and Evaluation (M &E) activities Project Year (PY) 1-5.
- Annual dissemination of project lessons learned/knowledge PY 4-5.
- BFAR permanent staff and contract staff are in post with qualifications and experience appropriate for their terms of reference PY 1-5.
- At least 30% of the Project staff are female PY 1-5.

How much budget is allocated for the FishCORAL Project?

The FishCORAL Project is jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines (GPH), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through loan and grant proceeds, and the counterpart funds from the LGUs and the communities.

	Amount (in Million Pesos)
Loan	1,272
Grant	29
GPH	260
LGU	240
Community	56
Total	1,857

Who are the target beneficiaries of the project?

The Project will support local government units, coastal communities, and people's organizations to sustainably manage their fishery and coastal resources and therefore generate livelihood benefits in the project areas.

Through the CRM component, FishCORAL will support LGUs in managing their municipal waters through forming and strengthening Bay Management Councils (BMCs), delineation of municipal waters, patrol boat equipment support and construction of bay management and multi-purpose buildings (BMMB) and climate resilient watch towers, among others.

For Livelihood Development, coastal communities will benefit through organizational strengthening and business plan development while waiting for the spill-over effect of the CRM component to the municipal waters. Local stakeholders are encouraged to form and/ or strengthen People's Organizations (POs) in the area to participate in diversified livelihood activities through fishery sub-projects.

Livelihood sub-project beneficiaries are:

- Individual fishers or fishing households or groups who reside in the project area. (Note: existing and new fisherfolk POs registered to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) to provide management, common facilities, consolidation, and marketing of products if deemed necessary);
- POs/groups or individuals are involved in resource conservation initiatives or practicing good coastal resource management;
- Open to investments-have the capacity to provide counterpart funds of at least 10% (cash or in kind);
- Readiness to work-have the capacity to undertake business/enterprise and willing to undergo capability building; and
- Registered with Fisherfolk Registration (FishR) system.

Note: All project beneficiaries (LGUs and POs) should be willing to provide local counterpart or contribution (10%) in cash or kind during project implementation.

What is the importance of women participation in project implementation?

Gender mainstreaming is of utmost importance to the FishCORAL project implementation. Since the fisheries sector is mainly a male-dominated sector, gender mainstreaming should be embedded in all project activities. Thus, the 40-50% women participation in the POs is required. Existing and/or newly organized groups with less than 40-50% women members can still participate provided that they will open group membership to women along the way.

What types of livelihood sub-project does FishCORAL support?

The FishCORAL Project encourages coastal communities, through the POs, to venture into alternative livelihood enterprises while waiting for the positive effects of the project CRM efforts. Here are some fishery-related livelihood eligible for FishCORAL support:

Aquasilviculture

Rehabilitation and/or establishment of the sub-project should not disturb the natural mangrove ecosystem. Aquasilviculture can be supplemented with mud crab culture, since crablets thrive in brackish waters.

Seaweed Farming

This is a viable livelihood for the fisherfolks with its low capital yet high production. Seaweeds take a short time to be processed then sent to the market.

Mud Crab Fattening

Mud crab fattening can increase and/or even double the value of the commodity compared to marketing lean or 'empty' adult crabs.

Mussel Culture

FishCORAL encourages the use of raft method instead of the stake method using bamboo stakes. The stake method may result in poor water circulation and organic waste accumulation when bamboo stakes are left to rot in the culture area.

Lobster Culture

This is a viable venture for the coastal communities. Commercial lobster culture is popular these days since lobsters have a huge local and international market.

Fish Cages and Fish Pens Farming

These aquaculture enterprises not only augment the incomes of the fisherfolks but also encourage them to diversify instead of practicing capture fishing.

Other Livelihood Sub-projects

Sub-projects not listed here can still be eligible for FishCORAL support provided that they are not included in the negative list. Such sub-projects include eco-tourism, among others.

What is the importance of cost-sharing in financing sub-projects?

The LGUs and the community play an important role in the sustainability of sub-projects especially in the operation and maintenance of the rural infrastructures. It is therefore essential that the local stakeholders be fully involved in all sub-project processes to develop their sense of ownership towards the sub-projects. Hence, a grant-equity mix of financing to rural infrastructure interventions is implemented to establish partnership among stakeholders and sustain project benefits.

What is a negative list and what are included in this list?

A negative list indicates what sub-projects are not qualified for FishCORAL Project support.

FishCORAL Negative List

- Social Infrastructure (potable water supply, health stations, school buildings, multi-purpose buildings including government offices, etc.);
- Religious buildings (churches, mosques, chapels and other worship facilities);
- Purchase of land and expenditure requiring displacement of people;
- Purchase of fishing boats, commercial transport boat, fishing gears, fish aggregating devices and harmful chemicals;
- Use of mangrove and corals as building materials;
- Gasoline and other fuels products vending;
- Sub-project subject to illegal acts and practices of trade; and
- Purchase of weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

What is community participation?

Community participation is participation of local communities towards project sustainability. It also increases the communities' sense of ownership. As Project Beneficiaries, the community can participate during the implementation of their proposed livelihood and rural infrastructure sub-projects by:

- Attending meetings and consultations during sub-project implementation;
- Assisting LGU technical staff in site identification and in the conduct of detailed survey works;
- Providing labor during construction;
- Engaging in *Pakyaw* or community contracts for simple infrastructure works;
- Assisting in monitoring activities;
- Assisting in maintaining peace and order within the vicinity of the area of work;
- Operating and maintaining the completed facilities;
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of O& M activities of the completed facilities; and

Note: The Project also encourages the participation of the communities to be directly involved in the Project's procurement activities through the Alternative Method of Procurement through Community Participation as stated in the Government Procurement Act (RA 9184) by providing services (labor) and goods (e.g bamboos, and other resources available in the community) required by a certain CRM or Livelihood Project.

What are the eligibility criteria for livelihood sub-projects?

All livelihood sub-projects should have the following characteristics to qualify for FishCORAL support:

1. Will increase income of fishing households;
2. Will not degrade the environment or deplete any resources (sustainable resource use);
3. Will use technology suited to the technical capacity of the beneficiaries (Aqua/marine-based, fishery related activities such as fish processing and non-fishery activities;)
4. Have clear or established market for the product/services; and
5. Will integrate the Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) or Philippine National Standards (PNS) food safety practices.

What sub-project proposals should be prioritized?

There are several aspects to consider in prioritizing sub-project proposals:

- Feasibility of the livelihood enterprise in the community
- POs good record with past livelihood sub-projects
- Accessibility of basic business services in the area
- Involvement of the POs in resource conservation and/or
- POs with good coastal resources management practice

What are the considerations in selecting livelihood commodities for the sub-projects?

- Suitability of the commodity for the community
- Value-adding capacity
- Availability of local and international markets

What is a MOA?

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is a document defining specific roles and responsibilities between collaborating parties. In the FishCORAL project, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) executed a MOA with LGUs. Local chief executives signed the MOAs with BFAR indicating their support during FishCORAL project implementation.

Meanwhile, LGUs can also collaborate with national agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), among others for technical assistance.

What are the roles of the LGUs in community livelihood enterprises?

Local Government Units through the Municipal/ City Agriculturist Office will create a Municipal/City Project Management Office (M/CPMO) in Regions 5,8, 13 and Municipal Project Implementing Unit (MPIU) in ARMM.

The M/CPMO and MPUI will assist the POs in planning sub-project proposals for inclusion in the municipal/city plan and approval at the regional level. The established offices will ensure the implementation of the approved livelihood proposals. Moreover, they will coordinate with other municipalities and cities in the bay to implement project activities and monitor implementation and submit reports as required.

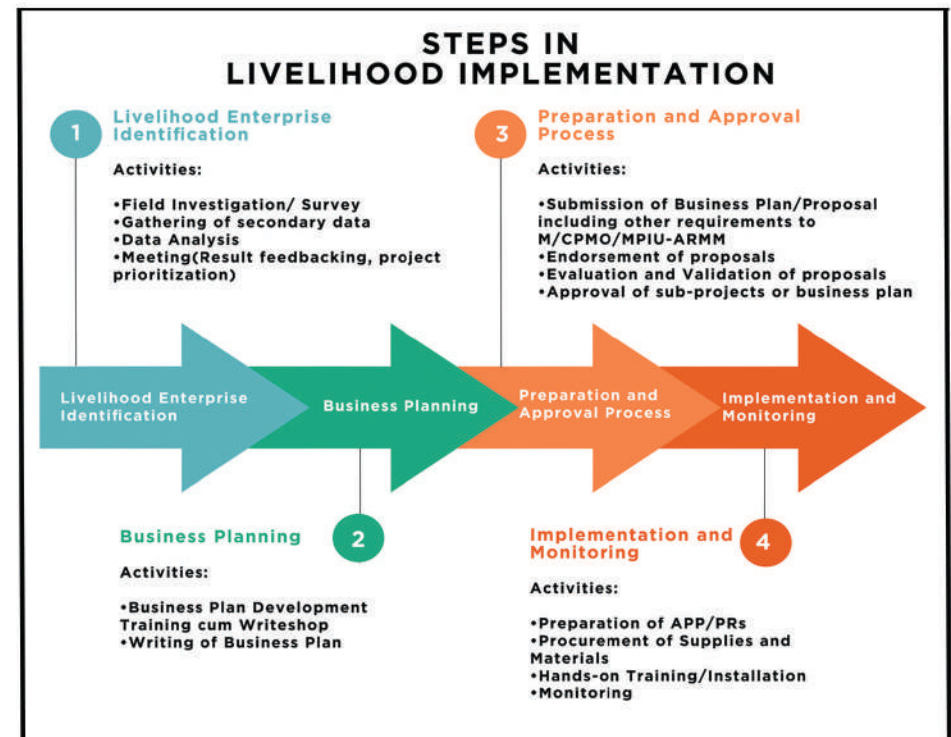
What processes are involved in livelihood sub-project implementation?

Target beneficiaries of the Livelihood Development component are individual fisherfolks, fishing households, and fisherfolk organizations or POs. It should be noted that POs will most likely provide the management, common facilities, and consolidation and marketing of the sub-project products.

The proposed livelihood sub-project or enterprise of the target beneficiaries shall be based or result of consultation, data gathering and data analysis. This will be proceeded by writing of the business plan with the help of the CF.

After submitting the business plan with other requirements to the Municipal/ City Project Management Office (M/CPMO) or Municipal Project Implementing Unit (MPIU), the plan will be evaluated based on an eligibility criteria. If the proposal is approved, subsequent funding will be provided for procurement of supplies and materials. Consistent monitoring will be conducted after the sub-project implementation.

The figure on the next page briefly enumerates the main steps in implementing sub-projects with corresponding preliminary activities.



What are the roles of the LGUs in CRM?

Through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, contiguous municipal waters making up a bay will be treated as one ecological unit, which consider interactions among living and non-living components within the bay.

Since LGUs have the legal mandate to manage municipal waters, they play an important role to CRM. LGUs after forming a Bay Management Council (BMC) will closely coordinate with each other in managing coastal resources through interventions such as resource rehabilitation projects (fish sanctuaries, mangrove reforestation, stock enhancement, and artificial coral reefs); updating of CRM plan; and enforcement of fishery ordinances.

What are the roles of the People's Organizations in Livelihood Development?

Registered POs are the main beneficiaries for the livelihood development subprojects of FishCORAL. For them to avail such support, their crafted livelihood proposals should be certified eligible by the respective Regional Project Management Office (RPMO). It should also be made clear that they will provide a 10% counterpart financing for the sub-projects. Moreover, they are responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) procedures of the enterprise.

What are the roles of the POs in CRM?

The POs also play an important role in CRM. With the guidance of the LGUs, they are encouraged to partake in CRM-related activities at the community level. FishCORAL can support POs interested in resource rehabilitation activities such as aquasilviculture, stock enhancement, and fish sanctuary establishment and management, among others.

How can we know more about the FishCORAL Project?

PSCO

Basement, PCA Building
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100, Quezon City Philippines
Landline: +632 441-1446
Telefax: +632 453-3299
Email: fishcoral.pSCO@gmail.com

RPMOs

Region 5

BFAR RO 5, RFFTC Compound
Fabrica, Bula, Camarines Sur
Email: fishcoral.bicol@gmail.com

Region 8

JGC Building, 3rd Floor
Marasbaras, Tacloban City
Email: bfar8.fishcoral@gmail.com

Region 13

Sitio Tawilon, Brgy Masao
Butuan City
Email: bfar13.fishcoral@gmail.com

ARMM

BFAR-ARMM, ORG Compound
Cotabato City
Email: fishcoral.bfararmm@gmail.com