

A close-up photograph of a young man with dark hair and a focused expression, looking slightly off-camera. He is wearing a white work glove on his right hand, which is raised towards his face. The background is blurred, showing the red and white structure of a fishing boat. The IFFS logo is overlaid in the top right corner.

IFFS

INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR FISHING SAFETY

39 million fishers help feed the world. Yet, on average, four die at work every hour.

What if one of the most practical ways to accelerate social responsibility in seafood has been hiding in plain sight?

Fisher safety is still too often treated as separate from sustainable fishing. Yet it offers an accessible, relatively non-contentious entry point for improving decent work, supporting progress towards international labour and safety standards, ensuring fisher experience informs policy and practice, and preventing avoidable deaths.

The International Fund for Fishing Safety (IFFS) is emerging as a leading international mechanism for catalytic funding in fisher safety. It supports locally led projects that combine training, appropriate equipment, community action, and policy engagement. So far, **IFFS has helped 232,000 fishers in 15 countries.**

Whether you work in conservation, in FIPs, certification, in a seafood business, buying, funding, or a fisher-focused NGO, join us for a relaxed discussion about how better fisher safety can support your objectives.



Why IFFS was created

41 million global seafarers

1.9 million non fishers - 5%
39 million are fishers - 95%

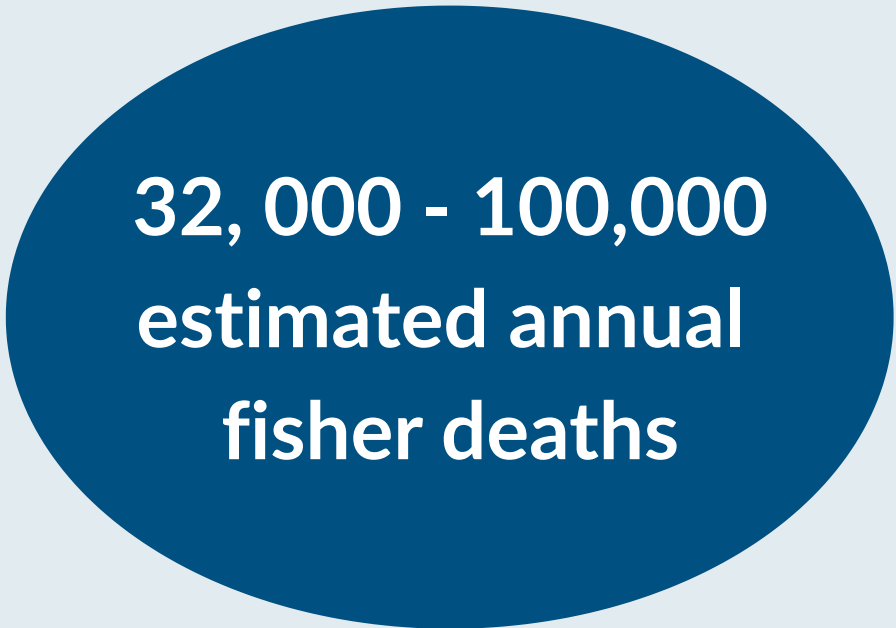
90% of fishers work in small scale fisheries

The Regulatory Gap

Fishing conventions lag far behind merchant shipping standards.

Framework	Merchant Shipping	Fishing
Countries adopting training standards (STCW / STCW-F)	170	36
Countries adopting labour protections (MLC / ILO C188)	105	26
Representation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO)	98	1

The Human Cost



Every life lost leaves families, livelihoods and communities carrying the impact.

The Evidence



have not received occupational safety and health training



have experienced harm at work

Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2024



“The boat owner would not allow lifejackets in case the crew prioritised their personal safety over the safety of the boat.

-Bangladeshi fisher

Fishers may not know the acronyms, but they understand the risks. International standards only become meaningful when fishers have the knowledge, equipment and authority to put them into practice.

What we do

1

Innovate

Local fishers are best placed to understand what they need. IFFS-funded projects are tailored to local contexts and co-designed with global fishing safety experts to share knowledge and maximise opportunities for replication and scale.



2

Advocate

IFFS amplifies worker voice to engage directly with policymakers to promote adoption of key international safety standards, including the Cape Town Agreement 2012, STCW-F, and ILO C188.

3

Sustain

IFFS-funded projects aim to embed safer behaviours from the bottom up, often involving women as agents of change. This builds local ownership so safer practices can continue and spread beyond the life of the project.

Initiatives include:

- Collective vessel safety auditing
- Life jacket rental schemes that reinvest profits to purchase further equipment.
- Train the trainer programmes

Global reach, local ownership

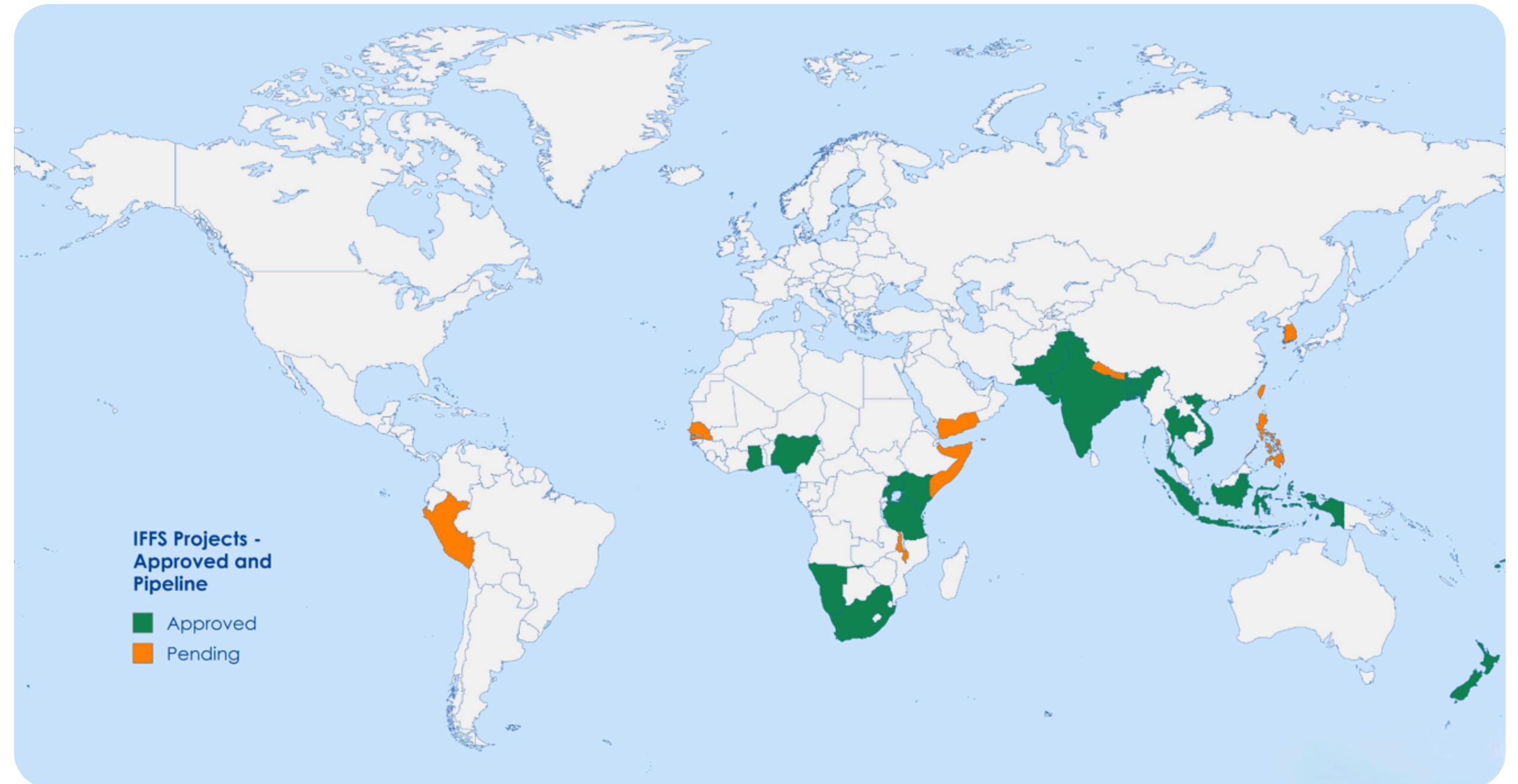
Since 2024, IFFS has grown to support projects across the Global South. To date:

23 grants awarded

15 countries / regions

£825,000 committed funding

232,000 fishers supported



Spotlight on Uganda: scaling safety on Lake Victoria



- Lake Victoria supports an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 active fishers, operating across thousands of small boats and landing sites.
- BARIA'S Association of Uganda delivered an IFFS-funded safety project across 58 landing sites, reaching more than 14,000 fishers and 4,000 community members.
- Combined life jacket access, survival training, first aid, health awareness, and responsible fishing education.
- Built trust between fishers, BMUs, fisheries officers, Marine Police, Army Marine Forces, health teams, and local leaders.
- The Government of Uganda has contributed 850 lifejackets and covered more than 50% of the 2026 campaign costs, demonstrating growing public-sector ownership.
- Regional learning is expanding across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda through the IFFS-funded East Africa Fisher Safety and Learning Exchange (EAFSLE) to develop a common Lake Victoria fisher training manual and a platform for engaging national and regional authorities on fisher safety.

Spotlight on Indonesia: integrating health, safety and social protection



- IFFS supported AP2HI, the Indonesian Pole-and-Line and Handline Fisheries Association, to deliver locally led health and safety festivals reaching 200 fishers and family members.
- 50 fishers were enrolled in Indonesia's national employment social security scheme.
- Fishers' wives were trained as six local first-aid champions, creating trusted emergency-response capacity.
- Health screening identified significant risks, including eye problems linked to prolonged exposure at sea. Participants received sunglasses to reduce glare while fishing.
- The project left behind practical safety infrastructure, including first-aid boxes, a referral pathway to mainland hospitals, and emergency contacts.
- A new incident register was introduced to record accidents, health issues, and deaths, strengthening future monitoring and local understanding of risk.

Mission aligned, not mission adjacent

Fisher safety is fundamental to the social responsibility agenda and can help strengthen the wider outcomes sustainable seafood programmes are designed to deliver.

FIPS

How should fisher safety be built into the improvement plan?

Buyers & Due Diligence

Who is responsible when a safety risk is found?

Certification

What evidence shows a safety risk has been addressed?

Community Resilience

How can safer fishing strengthen households and communities?

Conservation

Could safety risks undermine conservation outcomes?

IFFS brings specialist safety expertise, local delivery and funding to strengthen work already under way.

Join our roundtable

Five questions to test where better fisher safety could strengthen your work.

- 1 Where is the gap?
- 2 What is driving it?
- 3 Who should act?
- 4 What could collaboration add?
- 5 What would prove improvement?

A live case study from Bangladesh will ground the discussion in real choices around responsibility, response, funding and outcomes.

Safe fishers. Stronger fisheries

Other resources



Watch the film [here](#)

“All That Separates Us Is Distance”

Commissioned by Lloyd’s Register Foundation, this half-hour documentary follows fishers in Ghana, Indonesia and the UK, highlighting why the work of IFFS matters. Watch the film [here](#)

Safe Seas for Balochistan Fishers - YAD Pakistan

Watch the film [here](#)



Climate Risks Faced by Vietnamese Fishers

Watch the film [here](#)

Fisher Health Festival, AP2HI, Indonesia

Watch the film [here](#)



Who We Are

The International Fund for Fishing Safety is a collective of three organisations, united in our commitment to saving lives by improving fisher safety.



FISH Platform is a non-profit network of over 150 fishing industry safety and health experts across 40 countries. They co-design projects with local NGOs, enabling knowledge exchange that drives compliance with international safety standards.



Lloyd's Register Foundation is a major seed donor and leader in the field of maritime research and education.



The Seafarers' Charity donates in-kind support to manage the fund, conducting due diligence, disbursement, monitoring and evaluation, and fundraising.

Our Funders

We are grateful for the continued support of our funding partners





Alan McCulla OBE, Project Director



Jake Riddell, Fundraising & Partnerships

We look forward to starting the conversation



CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
FOR SEAFOOD SOLUTIONS

IFFS

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