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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Trainer of Trainers of Development Action Association Site Advocates on COVID-19



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Cover photo: Group picture of participants during the Greater Accra batch of the site advocate training.

Photo credit: Development Action Association - DAA

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ACRONYMS

COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
DAA	Development Action Association
FC	Fisheries Commission
GoG	Government of Ghana
HM	Hen Mpoano
IR	Intermediate Result
LEAP	Evaluation of Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. TRAINING OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is a 7-year intervention (2014 - 2021) funded by USAID and seeks to rebuild targeted marine fisheries stocks through the adoption of sustainable fisheries practices. The project works closely with government agencies, fisheries authorities, policy makers and fisher folk in the entire coastal stretch of Ghana to achieve the project goals.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana in March 2020 it was considered that this unanticipated development could have dire consequences on the artisanal fisheries sector which is central to the economy and the livelihoods of 300,000 men and women in over 300 coastal communities given the communal nature of landing fish and the related post-harvest activities.

The outbreak of the COVID -19 pandemic continues not only to affect the health of people around the world but also the livelihood of families and individuals. This places significant burden on people with low income especially vulnerable families and individuals.

Fishers in Ghana are among those whose economic activities have been affected due to further restrictions from the pandemic in the country. Noticeably worrying is the low compliance to the preventive and community spread measures announced by the Ghana Government in landing beaches, fish markets and processing sites along the various fishing communities in Ghana. Some have attributed these occurrences largely due to misconceptions and inadequate flow of accurate information to these fishing and processing communities.

Little or no observances of the social distancing, non-availability and use of various PPEs, proper hand washing coupled with high frequency of physical currency exchange possess a greater risk of fueling community spread of the virus through direct person – to – person contact. On the economic side, most fishers have used their working capital to support family income and livelihood needs as the pandemic and subsequent partial lock down in some parts of the country led to reduced (*halt*) fish processing and sales. Phone interviews conducted with some fish processors reveals that, most of them are wondering how they will restart their businesses and also how to mobilize the working capital. Like many businesses, fish processors will be affected if not entirely collapse due to the pandemic.

1.2 Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Promote stakeholder participation in the SFMP COVID 19 prevention protocols in the among fishers.
- Strengthen the capacity of selected site advocates to carry out their expected data collection and monitoring assignments.
- Build synergies among selected site advocates across DAA designated landing sites in the Greater Accra and Central Regions.

1.3 Expected outcomes

- Site Advocates equipped with the needed tools for effective data collection and monitoring.
- Participants understanding of SFMP COVID 19 Project Intervention Enhanced.
- Beneficiaries knowledge of the duties and roles as site advocated increased
- Increased collaboration and synergy among sites advocates across various landing beaches

2. TRAINING PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

2.1 Organization and Participation

The trainings were held in two (2) batches on the 21st July and 22nd July 2020 in Accra (Kokrobite) at the DAA Fisheries Training Center (DFTC) and Winneba (Central Region) at the Gloriaka Hotel respectively. The trainings participants were selected from the six (6) coastal districts of DAA under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project with consultations with the chief fishermen of the various landing sites and the Fisheries Commission zonal & field officers. There were total of 37 trainees 3 trainees short of the total targeted of 40 participants. 16 of the participants (12 males, 4 females) took part in the Accra training while a total of 21 participants (8 males, 13 females) participated in the Winneba training.

There were other non-targeted participants such as the Fisheries Commission Zonal & field officers in all the 6 coastal districts of DAA.

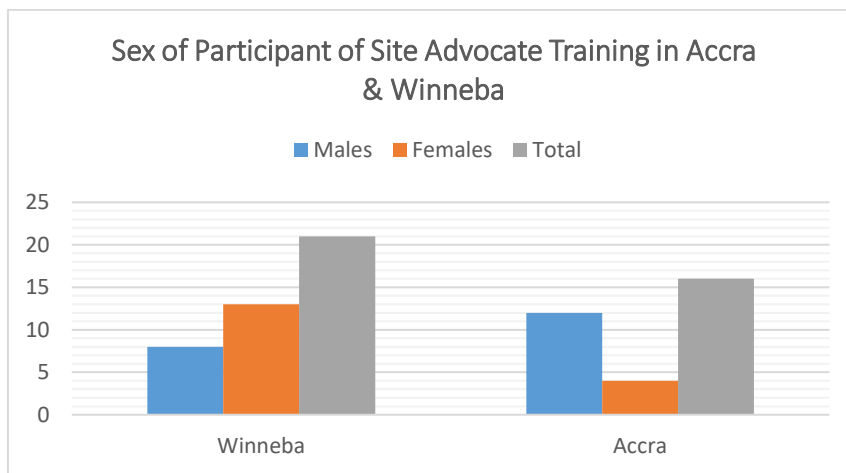


Figure 1 Sex of Participant of Site Advocate Training in Accra & Winneba

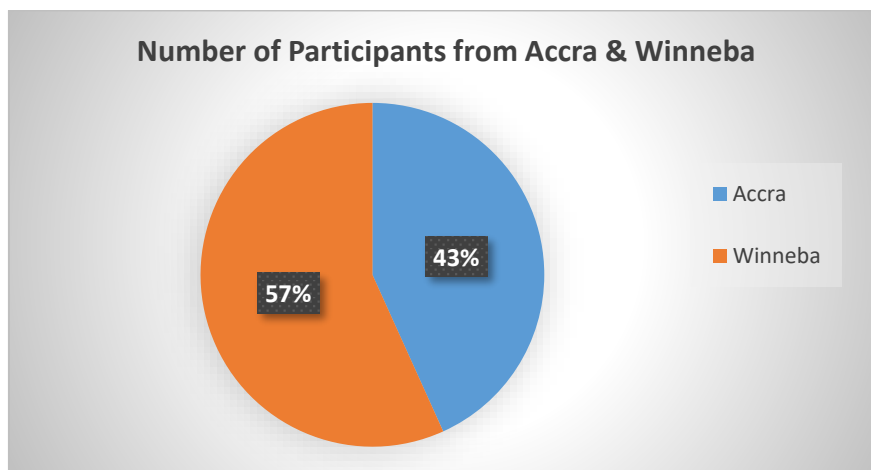


Figure 2 Number of Participants from Accra & Winneba



Figure 3 Training participants in a group picture (top – Winneba, bottom Accra).

2.2 COVID-19 Protocols

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the pre-training engagement ensured that, all participants went through a structured questionnaire which included participants contact health contact history for the past two weeks.. Before participants were allowed into the training hall, each one of them was required to wash the hands under running runner with the hand washing station provided by the training facilitators. Thereafter, using an electronic thermometer gun, each participant's temperature was taken and recorded. The participants proceeded to filled-out a questionnaire detailing their health contact history. After a sacksful completion of these procedures, the participants were allowed into the training hall with each wearing their nose mask.



Figure 4 Participants going through a COVID 19 health screening procedure before entry into the training hall



Figure 5 Participants observing the COVID-19 protocol by washing their hand thoroughly

Another key COVID 19 protocol that was not overlooked during the training was the observance of the mandatory social distance.



Figure 6 Participants observing social distancing during the training session in both Accra & Winneba

2.3 Facilitators and supporting staff

The table below summarizes the facilitators and the supporting staff of DAA used during the training in Accra and Winneba.

Table 1 Facilitators and support staff during the site advocate training in Accra and Winneba.

S/N	Training Venue	Facilitator /Support Staff Name	Organization
1	DFTC- Accra	Abraham Asare	DAA
		Lydia Sasu	DAA
		Irene Aikins	DAA
		Elias Akpapo	DAA
		Michael Darko	DAA
		Ofori Reynolds	DAA
2	Gloriaka Hotel - Winneba	Nassam Ibrahim	DAA
		Lydia Sasu	DAA
		Ebenezer Kottah	DAA
		Ofori Reynolds	DAA
		Albert	DAA

2.4 Methodology

The facilitators adopted a combination of method during the facilitation. These included a structured power point presentations and participatory rural / learning appraisal with highly participative, action-oriented approaches during the training delivery. The major tools used included the following:

- Power point presentation.
- Brainstorming.
- Energizers.
- Group discussion and presentation.
- Group exercises.
- Experience sharing.
- Role plays.

The combination of the above participatory tools provided a total inclusion of all participants irrespective of varied levels of education and experience to pay attention and contribute meaningfully during exercises and discussions. This was reflected as participant rated highly of the methods and training content during the end of training evaluation session of the training (*see evaluation section of report*).



Figure 7 Training facilitators (left) and participants (right) freely interacted during the training



Figure 8 Participants engages in an exercise as they practice the filling of the monitoring forms during the training

3. TRAINING CONTENT

3.1 Training Content and Delivery

3.1.1 Opening

After a brief prayer session by Elias Apkapo of DAA, the opening session of the training in both trainings was conducted by Madam Lydia Sasu of the Executive Director of DAA. After welcoming all the participants, she briefly explained the purpose of gathering and asked the participants to feel free and focus on the training content to be presented. She encouraged the participants to take the training seriously by paying attention to the facilitators and seek clarification on issues that bother them in their business endeavor.

Thereafter Mr. Abraham Asare took time to explain to the participants the importance of the site advocate training in supporting the course of SFMP COVID-19 prevention and social behavioral change protocols. He particularly emphasized importance of the participants getting involved in all discussions and contribute meaningfully for better understanding of issues.

3.1.2 Ground Rules Establishment

Mr. Asare led the participants to discuss the set of training ground rules that will guide the training. Participants made inputs and suggested some of the under listed as some of them;

- Put your phone in a way that do not disturb others
- Take notes if possible
- Respect the views of others
- Respond as you would in real life and allow others to do likewise
- Washrooms and fire exit rules observance all the time
- COVID 19 traceability test – everyone should fill
- General notice on COVID 19 protocols (wear nose mask, avoid handshaking, social distance)

This general discussion was immediately followed-up with a video presentation on COVID – 19. A link to the video presentation is given below;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCdxsnRF1Fk>

The video presentation briefly presented facts, information on the COVID 19 pandemic, how it spreads, what should one do to avoid a potential infection and above all, the proper way to observe all the COVID 19 protocols, i.e. social distancing, wearing of face mask, and proper hand washing under running water. A brief discussion ensued among the trainees and questions raised as result of the video presentation were discussed and answered.

3.2 Overview of SFMP and Covid-19 Project and COVID - 19 Protocols

The training beneficiaries benefited from understanding the background of the SFMP and its related COVID 19 project interventions. The key project goals and objectives of the CSFMP COVID 19 were explained. Detailed discussions of the project ensued afterwards. See appendix for some of the slides used during the presentation at the training.

3.2.1 DAA Background and Formation

The presentation touched on how DAA emerged from the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Action for Development (FFHC/AD), a program sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). DAA was formed in 1998 after the project ended with the sole aim of empowering her members to become self-reliant and fully participate in their own development. DAA as a farmer-based organization (FBO) now operates in about 74

communities in four regions of Ghana, namely Greater Accra, Eastern, Central and Volta regions.



Figure 9 Elias Akapo (left) and Mrs. Lydia Sasu (right) discussion the SFMP COVID19 project overview during the training

3.2.2 SFMP Overview and COVID 19 Interventions

Project Goal

To lessen the spread and mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 among vulnerable households in fishing communities in Ghana, and in the process contribute to processes towards sustainable management of the fisheries resources of Ghana.

Four project intermediate result areas to achieve the ambitious project goal:

1. Fisher Folk at 300 landing sites, processing and/or fish markets sites better adhere to official COVID-19 disease prevention protocols.
2. Two thousand extremely vulnerable fisheries-dependent households avoid extreme poverty.
3. Gog has evidence on approaches for effective livelihood assistance to fishing communities affected by COVID-19.
4. Cross cutting areas: private sector engagement and partnerships; gender and youth; building for sustainability.

Project Objective

1. Fisher folk at all the landing sites, processing and/or fish markets sites in district/municipal assembly better adhere to official COVID-19 disease prevention protocols.
2. Some extremely vulnerable fisheries-dependent households avoid extreme poverty through grants and other economic support.

Implementation Strategy

Among other things, the project will use the following as part of its strategy to compliment the Ghana Government (GoG) and the assembly's efforts to curb the spread of the pandemic;

- Production and distribution of social and behavior change communication materials
- Participation in TV/radio discussion/media engagements at various information centers across all the fishing landing sites, fish markets and processing areas in the municipality.
- Setting up of competition and prize awards to enhance compliance on the COVID 19 protocols.

- Hand washing stations at various sites (landing beaches, processing centers and fish markets)
- Pilot cash transfer approaches to enable vulnerable fishing/processors households in the district assembly to a basic food basket using existing livelihoods platforms.

3.3 Presentation on Covid-19 Protocols Monitoring Tool

The training beneficiaries received in-depth understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as how to fill in the data collection monitoring forms. The training provided practical exercises in demonstration of proper hand washing procedures as well as the serving as agents for the social behavioral communication change (SBCC) of the project.

3.3.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Site Advocates

Five key areas were identified and explained as the roles and responsibilities of the selected site advocates. These for areas aligned with some of the key objectives of the SFMP COVID 19 project intervention. These are presented below;

- Sensitizing Fisher folks on SFMP COVID 19 Protocols using SFMP SBCC
 1. Proper hand washing (show brochure of proper hand washing procedures in a practical demonstration).
 2. Nose/Face Mask Wearing and Social Distancing.
- Ensuring constant supply of consumables
 1. Soap.
 2. Water.
 3. Hand Tissues.
- Documenting using SFMP COVID -19 monitoring tool (Fill forms twice a week)
- Leading and taking data for SFMP Landing Beach Competition
- Participating in periodic project survey to ascertain progress of work through virtual phone prompts.

USAID/GHANA SFMP
SITE ADVOCATES DAILY MONITORING DATA SHEET
 Required in English
 Please Print

COVID RESULT AREA 1: Behaviour Change at Beach Landing Sites, Processing Centers, Fish Markets

Name of Site Advocate: _____

Implementing Partner: _____

Landing Beach Name /Name of Site: _____

Telephone Contact of Site Advocate: _____

m/year)	How many veronica buckets or washing stations are there at your site?	Did the veronica bucket hand washing stations have a supply of water and soap today? (few, half, most)	Veronica buckets are being used by how many people at the site? (few, half, most)	Are people staying 6 feet apart from each other, especially when fish are being landed, processed or sold? (few, half, most)	How many people are wearing face masks? (few, half, most)	The number of people using handwashing stations today (mostly men (M), mostly women (W), equal number of men and women (BOTH))

Figure 10 Sample of the daily site advocate monitoring sheet

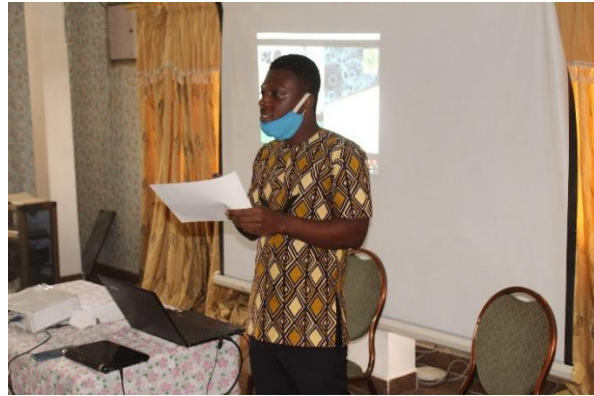


Figure 11 Mr. Abraham Asare (left) and Ibrahim Nassam (right) explaining and discussion the SFMP COVID 19 hand washing monitoring to the participants during the site advocate training

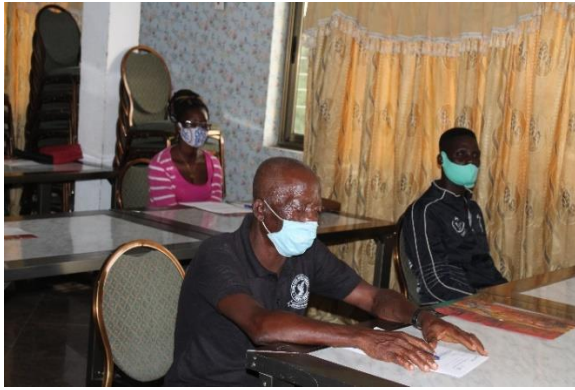


Figure 12 Participants interacting and going through monitoring protocols during the site advocate training

3.3.2 Proper Hand Washing Procedures

Participants received training on proper hand washing procedures. Part of the social behavioral communication change under the SFMP COVID 19 project is reinforce frequent and proper hand washing at the various landing beaches and processing sites as a means of preventing the spread of the corona virus. During the training, the sites advocates were taking through the various stages that handwashing should be done. They will intend briefly sensitize fishers who will be patronizing the handwashing stations that will be deployed at the landing sites. Site advocates were encourage to see the need for one washing his or hand for 20 seconds under running water.



Figure 13 Site advocates demonstrating proper hand washing procedures during the training in Accra and Winneba

3.3.3 Desirable Characteristics of a Good Site Advocates

- Speak local language of the community/landing site.
- Have local knowledge of community/landing site demographic.
- Be presentable (affable).
- Possess good communication skills.
- Have respect for diversity.
- Understand the cultural dynamics of the community.
- Be empathetic and understanding of varying cultural and individual difference.
- Value differences.
- Be able to manage conflict.

HAND HYGIENE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. This starts with washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water. These recommendations are based on standards from the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

WHY HAND WASHING IS EFFECTIVE

- Under a microscope, coronaviruses appear to be spheres that are covered with spikes, giving them the appearance of having a crown or "corona." Beneath the crown is the outer layer of the virus, which is made up of lipids, otherwise known as fat.
- Since soap dissolves fat, it can disrupt the molecular bonds in the fatty outer membrane of the coronavirus cell.
- Washing your hands properly with soap and water does not just remove the coronavirus; it can actually **destroy** the virus as it is washed away.



Figure 14 Hygiene and proper hand washing used during the site advocate training

WASH YOUR HANDS PROPERLY

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. This is especially important after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Wet:** Put both your hands under clean, running water.
- **Lather:** Apply a generous amount of soap to the inside and back of your hands as well as your fingertips.
- **Scrub:** Wash for at least **20 seconds**. Rub both hands together and move your fingertips around both hands. Remember to wash under jewelry and fingernails.
 - o Time is needed to allow the soap to interact back and forth with the virus particle.
 - o In one study, it was noted that the most common shortcoming for most people was the amount of time they spent washing their hands. Only 5% spent more than 15 seconds washing their hands.
- **Rinse:** Use running water to rinse away the soap.
- **Dry:** According to the researchers, it is best to dry hands completely, preferably using disposable paper towels or a clean, unused cloth towel.

Figure 15 Proper hand washing procedures tips

SANITIZE YOUR HANDS PROPERLY

- When washing with soap and water is not possible, alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be effective if they are used correctly.
- They must have at least 60% - 70% alcohol.
- To affect the germ membrane, the alcohol must come in direct contact with the virus.
- Placing a small amount of sanitizer in the hand and quickly wiping it away is usually not sufficient.
- Use enough product to cover every part of your hands, including the areas between your fingers and on the back.
- Rub your hands together until they feel dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

Figure 16 Additional proper hand washing procedures tips

3.3.4 Landing Beach Competition

It was explained and discussed with participants that the goal of the SFMP COVID-19 Landing Beach Competition is to encourage behavioral change among fisher folk, and the various landing beaches along the coast of Ghana, particularly in the adoption of the Ghana Health Service approved COVID safety protocols.

It is expected that, when the competition is rolled out, it will achieve the following key objectives;

- Encourage adoption and practice of approved Ghana Health Service COVID safety protocols.
- Create peer pressure influence amongst fisher folk, and landing sites and atmosphere for multiplier behavioral change effects.
- Towards adoption and practice of approved GHS safety protocols.
- Acknowledge effective community-based health and safety management that allow for learning in other areas.
- To create and encourage community based participation and ownership of shared responsibility towards health and safety.

The competition which will be held in all the 292 landing beaches in all the 27 coastal districts under the project implementation areas will have the following criteria as the parameters for the selections of the monthly winners;

- Wearing of Nose Mask at the landing sites.
- Frequent Handwashing/Use of Veronica Buckets for handwashing at the landing sites.
- Social distancing and avoidance of close bodily contact.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The training ended with capacities and understanding of the site advocates built. They were equipped with tools to enable the individuals to be effective in their roles and responsibilities as sites advocates for both the hand washing stations and the also on the SBCC of the project implementation.

In our effort to encourage the sites advocates, the facilitators encouraged trainees to immediately reach out to the other community members such as the chief fishermen and the “konko hema” to share lessons learnt during training to help achieve wide mobilization of fishers. Each trainee was tasked to further investigate the sources of portable water, how much it cost and the means of fetching it.

The training ended successfully. The participants were happy about the new skills sets acquired and lauded efforts of DAA and SFMP for being instrumental in helping improve lives of fishers amid this COVID 19 pandemic. They were confident of using the impacted skills well to achieve the goals of the project and also improved lives of fishers at the various landing beaches. They also expressed joy to facilitators for taking time to explain issues to them.

4.2 Feedback and Recommendations

Training beneficiaries gave specific feedback for improvements for the various monitoring tools. Some of the inputs are outlined below;

- Some expressed the need to allow them to only input numbers (figures) as answers for the hand washing daily monitoring tool instead of written test as some of the site advocates are limited in the writing of the English language.
- Some also expressed their disappointment for not able to know the financial allowances that will be given them for the services they will render.

4.3 Training Evaluation

The participants used mood barometer in evaluating the training, along the lines of evaluation framework provided pictures were drawn to represent the mood of participants; that is *strongly agree, not sure and not sure* and trainees were asked to tick their mood in relation to areas of assessment after the evaluation questions have been read out and explained to the participants.

The outcome analyzed and presented in *Table 2 below*.

Table 2 End of training evaluation using mood barometer) in both Accra and Winneba

<i>Instructions</i>	Gloriaka Hotel, Winneba Junction, Winneba			(DAA Fisheries Training Centre, Kokrobite, Accra		
	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
1. The objectives of the training were met	22	0	0	18	0	0
2. The presenters were engaging	22	0	0	18	0	0
3. The presentation materials were relevant	22	0	0	18	0	0
4. The content of the course was organized and easy to follow	22	0	0	18	0	0
5. The trainers were well prepared and able to answer any questions	22	0	0	18	0	0
6. The course length was appropriate	22	0	0	12	3	3
7. The pace of the course was appropriate to the content and attendees	22	0	0	18	0	0
8. The exercise/role play were helpful and relevant	22	0	0	18	0	0
9. The venue was appropriate for the event.	22	0	0	18	0	0

In the Winneba training, no participant was in the “not sure” or “disagree” categories of evaluation. However, in the Accra training, 12 participants ticked the “strongly agree” while 3 participants ticked “not sure” and another three chose “strongly disagree” for evaluation question six (*The course length was appropriate*). On the whole all trainees indicated that they were delighted about the program.