



## Voices of Small Scale Fishermen in Mozambique

In Mozambique, over 80% of the labour force are employed in agriculture and rural development. The majority of people live in coastal zones, and at least one million Mozambicans benefit from fishing activities. This type of rural employment also contributes to food security for disadvantaged rural communities who are vulnerable to drought and hunger.

Skillshare International is working in partnership with the Institute for the Development of Small-scale Fisheries (IDPPE) to build their capacity to reach artisanal fishing communities, and support them to establish micro-finance associations and community management committees. This will benefit tens of thousands of families across 3 provinces – Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo.

In September 2004, Skillshare International placed development worker Sarojakshan as a Technical Adviser with IDPPE. Through IDPPE, he has trained fishermen on good fishing practices and how to use nets to maximise catches.

Manuel Gulamo (50), a fisherman who lives in Bairro de Puli near Angoche with his wife and 12 children, is part of this project: *“I’ve always been a fisherman. In Angoche we can’t do anything but fish as there’s nothing else to do to earn money. Fishing means I can give food to my family.”*

Manuel has participated in Sarojakshan’s training sessions, learning how to improve his techniques and fish responsibly: *“IDPPE gives us nets and teaches us how to construct good gill nets and how to hang them. Now we use scientific methods... we catch more fish and they’re bigger. The more fish I catch, the more I have to sell, and this means I can buy uniforms for the children so they can go to school and I can buy better food. We’re also taught not to use mosquito nets because fishermen who use these catch eggs and small fish which is very bad and if they keep using them there’ll be no fish left in the sea.”*

Nihumame Essiaca (50) lives in the same region. He is married with six children and has been a fisherman since 2001. He started working with IDPPE and Sarojakshan in 2007: *“Before I became a fisherman I was a farmer, but I prefer being a fisherman as I can provide for my family better. One of the problems with being a fisherman is that when it is windy the sea is not good and I can’t catch any fish. Working with IDPPE is good. Since I joined we have set up an association with some of the other fishermen. We’ve learnt how to use savings and are opening up a bank account. I now catch more fish than before I was working with IDPPE, and I can negotiate a better price when selling the fish. This is very important as I can provide more for the family and now we have more food.”*

Top photo: Manuel Gulamo.

Bottom photo: Nihumame Essiaca and Sarojakshan. Both © Emma Judge

