GENDER IN FISHERIES: A SEA OF OPPORTUNITIES

Through the AGENT partnership, IUCN & USAID have developed a guidance document that outlines existing evidence and recommendations to strengthen gender integration toward improving outcomes in the sustainability of fisheries, gender equality, and women’s empowerment.
ABOUT AGENT
A USAID-IUCN PIO grant partnership to strengthen environmental programming through gender integration and achieving gender equality outcomes
DOCUMENT AIM

Investigate existing evidence as to whether:

- Fisheries management is strengthened by integrating gender issues
- Fisheries are an important entry point and opportunity for women’s empowerment
- Gender-based violence (GBV) is a concern in the fisheries sector
METHODOLOGY

• Review of past and current USAID program and project documents

• Desk review of existing academic papers, project documents, and publications from other leading fisheries organizations/institutions

• Interviews with experts from USAID and USAID-affiliated partners

• Additional data collection and interviews with attendees of GAF7

• Peer review
SECTIONS

Women's roles in fisheries

Linkages between gender equality & sustainable fisheries management

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in fisheries

Recommendations and strategic interventions
KEY FINDINGS
WOMEN IN FISHERIES
HARVESTING, PROCESSING, AND TRADE

WOMEN HOLD
15% of harvesting roles

90% of processing jobs

IN AFRICA AND ASIA,
60% OF SEAFOOD IS MARKETED BY WOMEN.

DATA FROM THE FAO

WOMEN
MEN
## Women in Fisheries Leadership

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<th>Government</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Community Leadership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missed Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Globally, 9 positions (or 15%) of fisheries ministries are led by women</td>
<td>Of 71 major seafood companies studied, one CEO position (or 1%) was held by a woman</td>
<td>Malaita, Solomon Islands, where land and marine tenure is inherited via patrilineal and matrilineal lines, the majority of women are not included in natural resource management decisions</td>
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### Examples of Leadership Contributions

- [Image showing women in fisheries leadership](image)
THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

"The SSF Guidelines addresses the need to improve gender equality in the entire fisheries value chain.

It calls for equal participation of women in decision-making processes and organizations, appropriate technologies, and supportive policies and legislation."
LINKAGE 1: CONSTITUENTS & LEADERS

BENEFITS TO GENDER EQUALITY
- Quality of fisheries management directly impacts women’s lives
- Increase recognition of the roles women play in fisheries sectors

BENEFITS TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- Evidence of increased effectiveness when women are engaged in management
- Unintended consequences when women are left out
LINKAGE 2: STEWARDS

BENEFITS TO GENDER EQUALITY
● Improved livelihoods and security

BENEFITS TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
● Improved management of the resources they harvest
● Better ecosystem management contributes to improved fisheries for men
LINKAGE 3: MARKETS

BENEFITS TO GENDER EQUALITY
- Improved agency and decision-making
- Recognizing impacts on women’s livelihoods and family income

BENEFITS TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- Markets as leverage points for change
GBV IN FISHERIES

Gender-based violence (GBV) can take on many forms

Limited opportunities for income diversification, decline of fish stocks, food insecurity, poverty, and migration for work are factors that increase the vulnerability of women, girls, and boys—as well as men—to violence and abuse.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Conducting a gender analysis
• Creating a gender action plan
• Developing results chains
STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

• Strengthening women’s voices
• Supporting leadership
• Resource tenure
• Improving financial tools
• Adding value to fisheries products
• Improving marketing and sales skills
SUCCESS STORY: IMPROVING GHANA’S FISHERIES PROGRAMMING THROUGH A GENDER ANALYSIS AND RESULTS CHAIN PLANNING
SUCCESS STORY: SFMP RESULTS

3,473 women trained on business services and hygienic fish handling

601 women trained in leadership skills

New policies
Fisheries ministry adopted a gender mainstreaming and anti child-trafficking strategy

$12,500 savings
16 micro-savings groups formed
LEARNING INITIATIVE ON WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS TO FINANCE, AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
FILLING THE EVIDENCE GAP: A LEARNING INITIATIVE

Pilot approaches in five USAID sites, incorporating access to financial services and women’s empowerment into fisheries programs:

- Investigate **how fisheries are a key entry point for women’s empowerment**, in alignment with the W-GDP.

- Investigate the conditions under which **women’s empowerment interventions improve fishery management outcomes**
  - Women as stewards (Philippines, El Salvador)
  - Women as constituents & leaders (Ghana)
  - Women through their role in the market (Indonesia)
  - Retrospective sites (Malawi)