



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# — 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.

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# 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

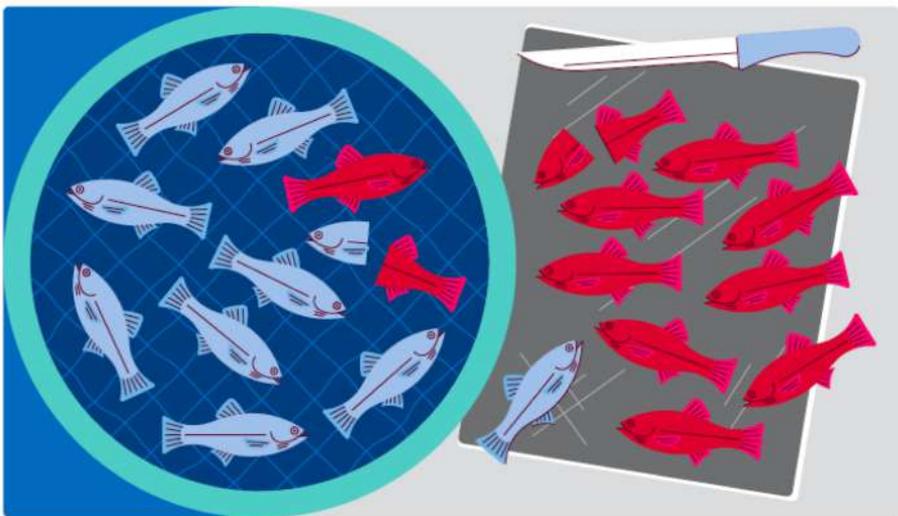
WOMEN HOLD

15%

of harvesting roles

90%

of processing jobs

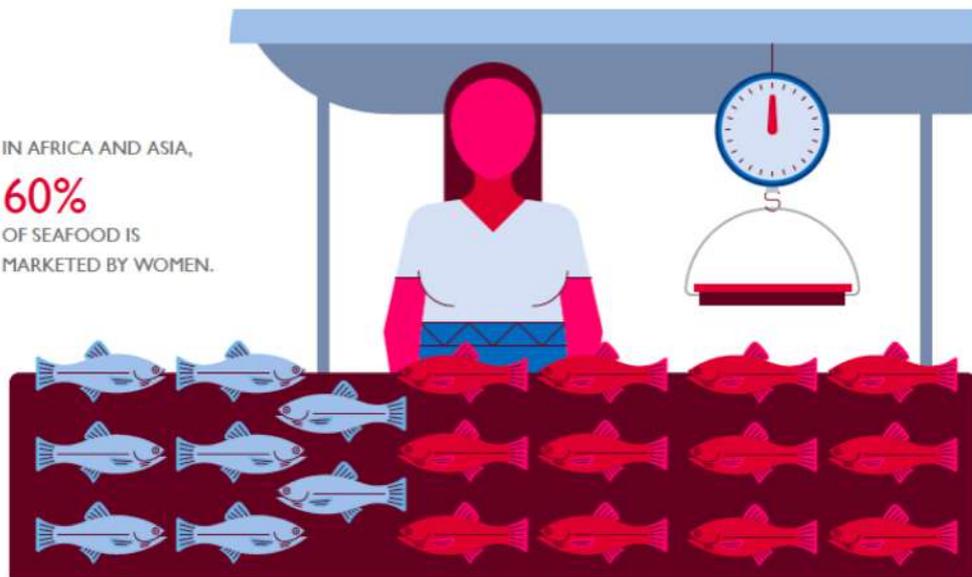


DATA FROM THE FAO

IN AFRICA AND ASIA,

60%

OF SEAFOOD IS  
MARKETED BY WOMEN.





# WOMEN IN FISHERIES

## LEADERSHIP

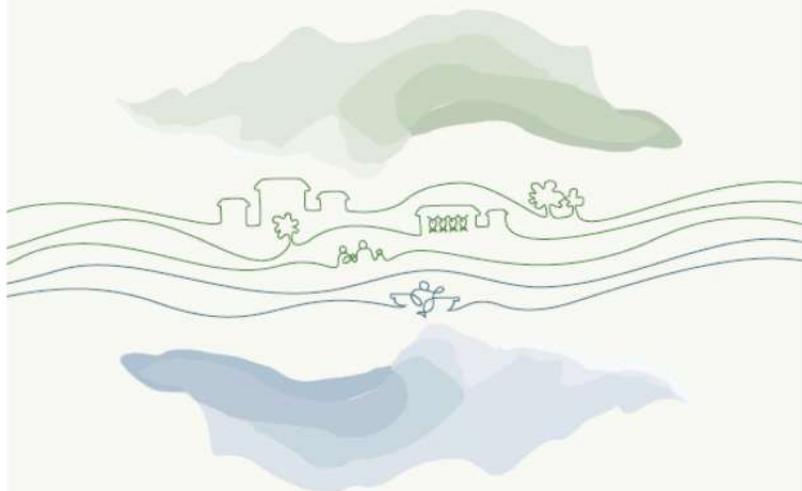
	GOVERNMENT	PRIVATE SECTOR	COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES	<h1>15%</h1> <p>Globally, 9 positions (or 15%) of fisheries ministries are led by women</p>	<h1>1 %</h1> <p>Of 71 major seafood companies studied, one CEO position (or 1%) was held by a woman</p>	<h1>72 %</h1> <p>Malaita, Solomon Islands, where land and marine tenure is inherited via patrilineal and matrilineal lines, the majority of women are not included in natural resource management decisions</p>
EXAMPLES OF LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS			



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

In the Context of Food Security  
and Poverty Eradication



# 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 I: 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



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## 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



FISHING COMMUNITIES CAN BE  
HOTSPOTS FOR HIV/AIDS,  
WITH HIV INFECTION

**RATES 4 TO 14**  
TIMES HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGES.



DATA FROM E. MATTHEWS, ET AL

## GBV IN FISHERIES

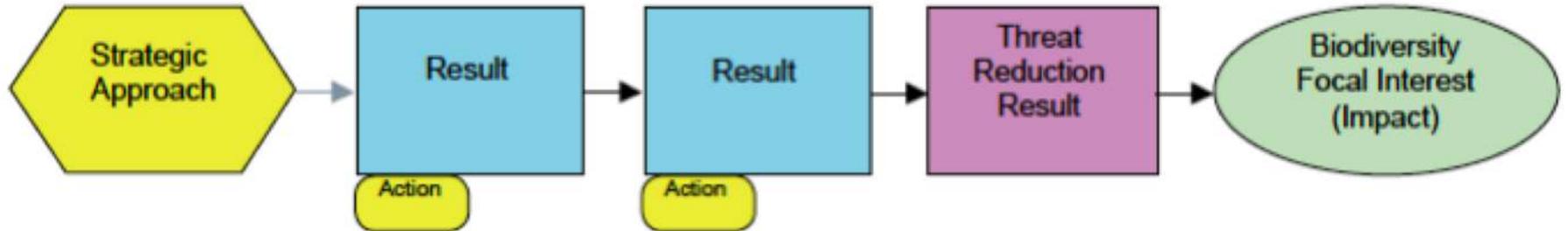
Gender-based violence (GBV) can take on many forms

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



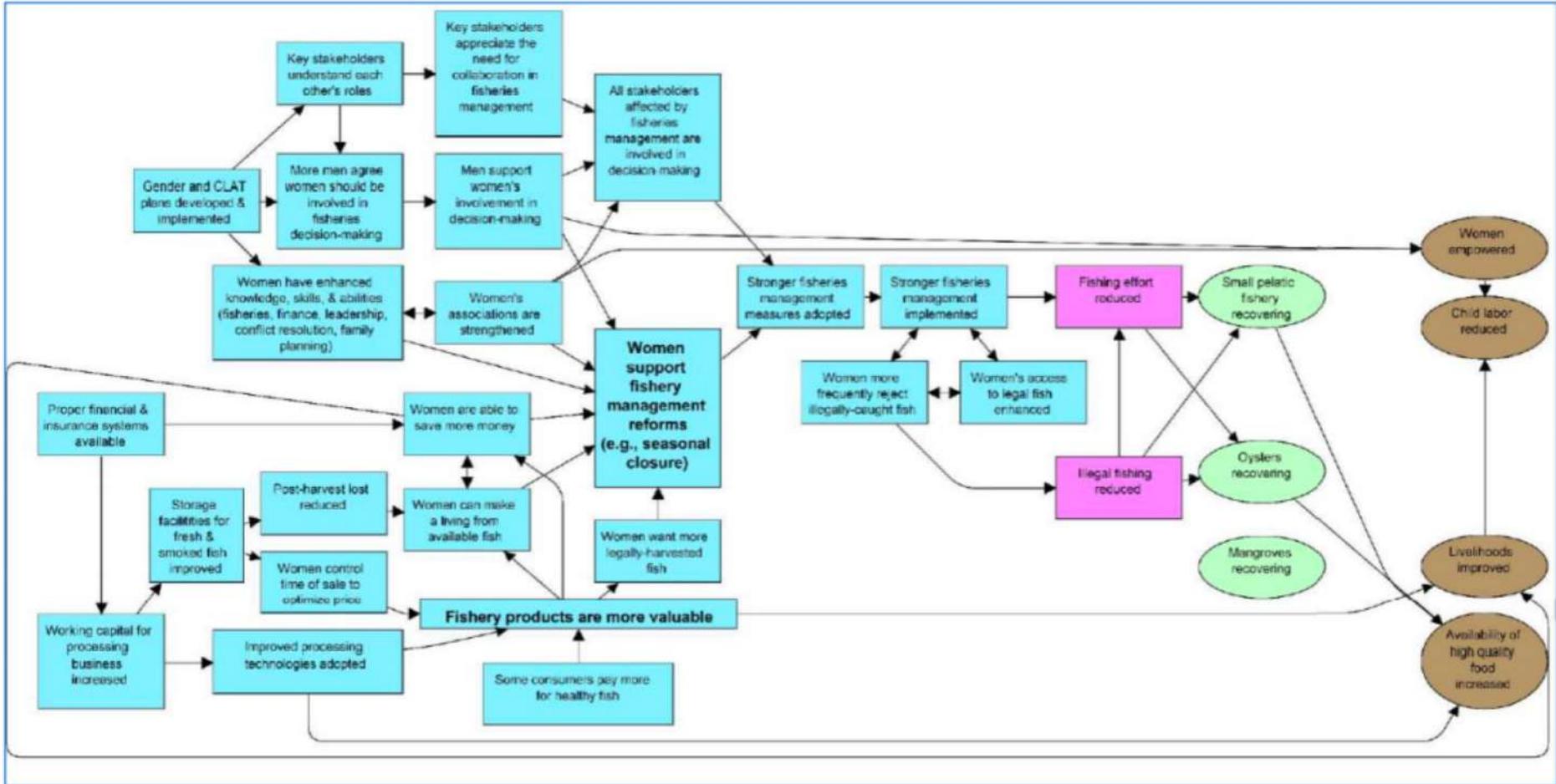


# STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

- 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)

