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Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development
(LCD) Activity

**CTI-CFF WLF Learning Exchange on
Addressing and Coping with Covid-19 in the
Coral Triangle Region
Activity Report**

May 25, 2022

Submitted: June 6, 2022

Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development (LCD)
Activity

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Prepared for:

Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development Activity

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This document was produced by Jasmin Mohd Saad for review by USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development Activity implemented by RTI International. It was made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
1. Introduction and Objectives of the Learning Exchange	5
2. Learning Exchange Program	5
3. Session Details	7
3.1 Session 1: Introduction	7
3.2 Session 2: Presentation on Covid-19 and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Sector – Case Studies from other regions	7
3.3 Session 3: Country and Partners’ Presentations	9
3.4 Session 4: Working Session on recommended actions and draft action plan	12
3.5 Session 5: Closing and Wrap-up	13
4. Participants’ Training Assessments	17
5. Comments and Recommendations	17
Annexes	18
Annex 1. List of Participants	18
Annex 2. Group Photo	19
Annex 3. Presentation on Covid-19 and GESI in the Fisheries Sector – Case Studies from other regions	20
Annex 4. Country and Partners’ Presentation – Solomon Islands	32
Annex 5. Country and Partners’ Presentation – Coral Triangle Centre	37

Executive Summary

The USAID Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development (LCD) have been working closely with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to support the Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) based on identified needs and requests. In line with the objective of the SUFIA LCD program to facilitate the organizational capacity development of regional fisheries organizations, a Learning Exchange was developed and organized, at the request of WLF members, to highlight issues faced by women (at any level) in the Coral Triangle region during the ongoing pandemic and identify areas that need immediate action by stakeholders in the marine and fisheries sector.

This Activity Report presents the outcome of the Learning Exchange event which was aimed to serve as a platform for participants to connect and learn from each other's experiences and insights and initiate discussion on a cooperative action plan to provide recommendations to build back better.

One key lesson from the event is the acknowledgement that the pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges faced by women in fisheries and the small-scale fisheries sector as the most affected group in the event of a disaster (including impacts of climate change).

The Learning Event was conducted on the background of a plenary presentation on lessons learnt from other regions such as countries in Africa and Latin America on the challenges that women in fisheries faced in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The issues and challenges are not dissimilar to those in this region. The presentation highlighted ten recommendations from the case studies that could be adapted by the WLF. The recommendations are: (i) apply well-designed gender-responsive social protection mechanisms; (ii) extend affordable and flexible financial services and remove barriers to women's economic recovery and empowerment; (iii) increase gender-equitable access and availability of affordable fit-for-user processing and storage technologies and improve processing, storage and transportation infrastructure; (iv) increase investments in sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture and in equitable, safe and dignified access to fish; (v) improve accessibility of formal and peer-to-peer business capacity development for women; (vi) address the digital gender gap by empowering women equitably through information and communication technologies; (vii) enable women to realize their right to information; (viii) enable gender-inclusive fisheries and aquaculture governance, and transition rapidly to women's full participation and leadership in policymaking; (ix) proactively engage diverse women fish processors and traders, on par with men, in Covid-19 recovery planning processes; and (x) invest in collective organizations and networks.

The WLF plays a key role in providing an avenue and platform for women and other disadvantaged groups in the Coral Triangle region to make significant differences through strategic programs and projects and raising their profile and demands on bigger platforms.

Representing the WLF, the Co-chair of the Coral Triangle Centre emphasized that for the recommendations to be effectively implemented, support from CT6, developing partners and the Regional Secretariat is of the utmost importance.

It is hoped that a significant contribution from the participants and during further consultation sessions to the draft Cooperative Action Plan to address the challenges of a disaster such as the Covid-19 pandemic on women in fisheries can be secured and that the implementation of the Action Plan receives positive buy-in from both regional and national decision-makers to assist the vulnerable groups in the region.

The event was attended by 19 participants who are WLF national focal points (or representatives) from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Solomon Islands. Development partners include representatives from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Coral Triangle Centre (CTC). Finally, several representatives from the Regional Secretariat were present as well as the secretariat of the WLF. Of the total 19 participants, 58% (11) of them are female.

1. Introduction and Objectives of the Learning Exchange

The USAID Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development (LCD) Activity has been working closely with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to support the Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) based on identified needs and requests. In line with the objective of the SUFIA LCD activity to facilitate the organizational capacity development of regional fisheries organizations, a Learning Exchange was developed and organized, to highlight issues faced by women (at any level) in the Coral Triangle region during the ongoing pandemic, and identify areas that need immediate action by stakeholders in the marine and fisheries sector. The event aimed to serve as a platform for participants to connect and learn from each other's experiences and insights and initiate discussion on a cooperative action plan to provide recommendations to build back better.

In short, specific objectives of the Learning Event were to:

- Share experiences and insights on how women in the fisheries sector in the Coral Triangle region are impacted by the pandemic and how they are coping with it;
- Identify areas and key issues that require immediate actions by governments, regional agencies, the private sector, and civil society; and
- Connect participants to learn from each other and agree on working together on identified actions.

The Learning Event was also supported by the USAID SuFiA Technical Support program reflecting the program's focus on gender and social inclusion within the fisheries sector.

The event was attended by 19 participants ranging from country representatives, development partners and the CTI Regional Secretariat of which 58% were female participants. Please refer to [Annex 1](#) for the full list of participants.

2. Learning Exchange Program Agenda

The Learning Event was an online event and took place on May 25, 2022, for 3.5hours (including break time). The program was as follows:

Duration	Name of Session	Description	Remarks
30min	Introduction & Welcome Group Photo	Welcome remarks from representatives of SUFIA LCD, SuFiA TS and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat	Dr. Arlene Satapornvanit (Program Manager, SUFIA LCD) Jasmin Mohd Saad (GESI Consultant, SuFiA TS) and events facilitator
60min	Presentation	Covid-19 and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Sector – Case Studies from other regions	Jasmin Mohd Saad (GESI Consultant, SuFiA TS) and event facilitator
60min	Country and partners' presentation	Issues faced by women during the pandemic and their coping mechanisms.	Chelcia Gomese (WorldFish Solomon)

Duration	Name of Session	Description	Remarks
		<p>Presentation made by the Solomon Islands & the Coral Triangle Centre (CTC)</p> <p>Reflections on presentations by participants</p>	<p>Islands & CTI WLF National Focal Point) Leilani Gallardo (Coral Triangle Centre)</p>
30min	Working session on recommended actions and draft action plan	Collaborative session utilizing the Miro board to gather inputs and feedback on the recommended actions and draft action plan.	Facilitated by Jasmin Mohd Saad (GESI Consultant, SuFiA TS)
10min	<p>Closing Remarks and Wrap-up</p> <p>Post-Event Assessment</p>	Closing remarks by SUFIA LCD and TS, CTI Regional Secretariat, and WLF Co-Chair.	<p>Mr Gustaaf Lumiu (CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Deputy Executive Director, Corporate Services)</p> <p>Dr. Arlene Satapornvanit (Program Manager, SUFIA LCD)</p> <p>Jasmin Mohd Saad (GESI Consultant, SuFiA TS) and event facilitator</p> <p>Leilani Gallardo (Coral Triangle Centre, Co-Chair of CT WLF)</p>

3. Session Details

3.1 Session 1: Introduction

The Learning Exchange session was opened by Dr Arlene Satapornvanit highlighting the core goal of USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Project in the management of marine biodiversity and fisheries resources especially in addressing IUUF, at the same time being socially inclusive and gender-responsive in its activities. SUFIA Local Capacity Development (LCD), and activity under the SUFIA Project, supports the CTI Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) in building capacity through the provision of avenues for learning exchanges. During previous WLF meetings, it was suggested by members of the WLF itself to conduct this workshop looking at how women in CT6 cope and address the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and seeking realistic recommendations to be implemented by the right implementors.

Ms Jasmin M. Saad added in her welcome remarks that the SuFiA Technical Support (TS) program is supporting this Learning Exchange noting the importance of listening to the WLF members on the issues, challenges and needs of its members and other disadvantaged groups in the fisheries supply chain. It is hoped that this Learning Exchange will be a start to many activities moving towards mainstreaming the CTI GESI Policy into programmatic frameworks and operationalizing it through tangible actions.

Although this first Learning Exchange was attended by only a few of the CT6 country members, it was hoped that when presented to the WLF, follow-up activities will be organized to finalize the WLF Covid-19 Cooperative Action Plan.

There were no questions from the participants at this point. The atmosphere was positive as most of the participants were keen on learning more about the experiences of other countries dealing with the impacts of Covid-19 in the fisheries communities. Most were cooperative during the group photo session by opening their respective cameras.

See [Annex 2](#) for the group photo.

3.2 Session 2: Presentation on Covid-19 and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Sector – Case Studies from other regions

The session presented by Ms. Jasmin Mohd Saad, intended to highlight the impacts of Covid-19 on women in fisheries in other regions such as countries in Africa and South America; particularly the actions and recommendations presented that can be learnt and emulated in this region. The presentation also looked at the impact of the pandemic on small-scale fisher communities in Southeast Asia and the actions taken to minimize the economic and social-wellbeing impact due to the pandemic containment protocols.

As reported in a [UN Women Report](#), the pandemic has added extra pressure on women in general across the world, from the disruption of paid work, increased unpaid care and domestic work, and increased the stress of accessing basic goods and services causing severe strains on women's well-being.

The role of data is critical to ensure support can be channeled to the right groups with changes to policies, regulations and institutional structures made where necessary. For example. In the Maldives nearly 7,500 women informal workers have been included in the Government's Income Support Allowance Program. Similarly, in Rwanda, with the availability

of data, the Government have expanded the Economy Recovery Fund to cover small and medium enterprises, where women are concentrated.

The session shared that women involved in the fishery sector from countries such as Africa have been similarly affected due to the pandemic containment measures. Within the fish food system functions, production, storage & distribution, and retail & market disruptions meant a decline in the availability and accessibility of fish. In some places, scarcity of fish has increased competition and bargaining among post-harvest fish workers. The inaccessibility of markets and trading routes affected traders' access to customers and vice versa. The increase in transportation costs has caused the market dynamics to change and storage requirements have increased to avoid losses on unsold fish due to lesser demand from commercial clients (as a result of the closure of businesses, less purchasing power etc.).

From the individual well-being perspective, women fish processors experienced a reduction in incomes and profit margins, a lack of capital to restart the business coupled with increased debt levels and a lack of flexibility in repaying loans. Women must face the increased amount of unpaid domestic work and burden, thus costing them time that can be best used to generate income.

Where markets are opened, women bore a higher risk of infections conducting business in crowded markets and landing sites. Critically, families are forced to reduce food intake, in some cases, to one meal per day. Faced with insecurities and stresses, women also face increased risks of gender-based violence, in and out of the household.

The importance of capturing data and examining the intersectionality of gender-based data provides another layer to help target support for women in need. For example, businesswomen are perceived to be better off than others due to their higher level of bargaining power and rate of survivability.

In addressing these challenges, the session provided ten recommendations for the members of the CTI Women Leaders' Forum to consider adopting to:

1. Apply well-designed gender-responsive social protection mechanisms;
2. Extend affordable and flexible financial services and remove barriers to women's economic recovery and empowerment;
3. Increase gender-equitable access and availability of affordable fit-for-user processing and storage technologies and improve processing, storage and transportation infrastructure;
4. Increase investments in sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture and in equitable, safe and dignified access to fish;
5. Improve accessibility of formal and peer-to-peer business capacity development for women;
6. Address the digital gender gap by empowering women equitably through information and communication technologies;
7. Enable women to realize their right to information;
8. Enable gender-inclusive fisheries and aquaculture governance, and transition rapidly to women's full participation and leadership in policymaking;
9. Proactively engage diverse women, fish processors and traders, on par with men, in Covid-19 recovery planning processes; and
10. Invest in collective organizations and networks.

One critical aspect is to empower women leaders. As highlighted, in Brazil, a country that has recorded the third-highest number of infection and death cases, women who lead in

fishery associations tend to perceive the danger of Covid-19 as higher than their male counterparts which has led to a more proactive attitude in decision-making and empowering as great role models. For example, women leaders took on several roles to demand relief aid from the authorities, negotiated food exchanges with other communities (e.g., trading fish for vegetables), establish collective efforts to produce food and played a critical role in battling fake news.

The session also highlighted the impact of the pandemic on those working in the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector in the Southeast Asia region. Although the small-scale fisheries sector is a significant contributor to the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities in the region, they are one of the most affected communities. The existing challenges and vulnerabilities of the SSF communities are exacerbated especially the women. The pandemic forces fishers to make adaptive changes to their livelihoods such as embarking on direct fish marketing, online marketing, and home delivery services. Direct procurement by local governments such as done in the Philippines and Malaysia provided an assured market for their catch thus ensuring food security.

Specifically, the pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of the small-scale fisheries sector in terms of how the fishers can be directly affected by disruptions without a financial and social safety net. It highlighted the importance of good, reliable, and inexpensive storage in times of oversupply (or poor market demand), and more importantly the resilience of the community in uncertain times.

The participants were informed of the SuFiA Technical Support (TS) program which is especially focused on providing technical services to mainstream gender and social inclusion throughout the fisheries supply chain (in partnership with international and local partners). The recently approved SuFiA TS GESI Analysis and Gender and Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP) have taken the CTI GESI Policy and the draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0 into consideration in designing potential programs/work to support the CTI WLF.

There were no questions at this point. The same number of participants remains compared to the beginning of the event, indicating that the level of interest is still high among participants.

Please see Annex 3 for the presentation slides.

3.3 Session 3: Country and Partners' Presentations

3.3.1 Solomon Islands Country Presentation

The Solomon Islands is a country highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, and tsunamis. It is also prone to political unrest and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic with 146 deaths recorded with 18,174 confirmed cases. In this case, both rural and urban communities were affected.

Issues and Challenges

Fish food system function (before and during lockdown)

- Restricted movement reduced production.
- Before the lockdown period, internal migration has increased to rural areas increasing the demand for food due to the increased population – gleaning activities increased.

- Domestic shipping services disruptions caused unpredictability in deliveries of goods and services (due to lockdowns and high fuel prices). It also caused disruptions to local markets in providing fish supplies to urban markets.

Individual well-being

- The pandemic management protocols have increased the demand for unpaid care work with the closure of schools (which will be opened by end of May 2022) in terms of increased hours for childcare.
- Healthwise, access to medical facilities such as hospitals were limited to emergency cases, while smaller clinics were still available to serve the public.
- Most frontline workers are women, thus presenting a higher infection risk.
- The focus on managing the Covid-19 pandemic meant that existing resources for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were diverted. Some of the NCDs that contribute to high morbidity and mortality rate in the Solomon Islands are cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung diseases.

Basic needs

- Food and nutrition security were affected as shops and markets were closed, and fresh produce and fish were absent in urban markets.
- Rural communities relied on local foods and compounded by the difficulty of sourcing food during the rainy season. Some families' food intake was limited to one meal per day.
- In the absence of movement restrictions, rural communities continued fishing activities, especially in nearshore areas.
- Access to education was severely affected by the closure of schools, universities, and training centres.
- The closure of businesses affected many jobs where workers were laid-off and salaries unpaid. Women's pay was affected, for example, the majority of Soltuna workers are women (67%). Many urban families rely on daily income from various work done, with the lockdown and slowing down of businesses, incomes from families were severely affected as well thus limiting access to food.

Safety and relations

- The rate of sexual violence increased due to the stress the pandemic has caused on families. However, the number of violence reports/cases in the provinces are less than normal, probably due to the movement restrictions and isolation measures that are limiting victims to report them.

Interventions

- Government reliefs (with additional donor funding) supporting rural communities, e.g., lifting the *Bechedemer* (sea cucumber) bans for sale, provisions for farming tools, and food supplies.
- Economic packages for small businesses including the commercial fishing sector were provided.
- SAFENET is a government initiative service provided to victims of domestic violence.
- NGOs and communities (churches) organized food donations to front liners.
- Non-formal interventions: communal gardening, community-based resource management committees lifted bans for a short period, community-led Covid-19 prevention/management procedures, indigenous (traditional medical) knowledge

valuable in managing Covid-19-like symptoms in the absence of medical access, and availability of community support helping vulnerable groups (esp. women and poor families).

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

- Good governance in place (esp. for fisheries management) shall ensure the resilience of coastal communities and actions taken to ensure provincial town markets remains open for trade ensuring food security.
- Balancing law enforcement is key. During the pandemic, all law enforcement resources were diverted thus leaving less access for legal protection to victims of gender-based violence (GBV).
- A similar approach to access to healthcare. Balancing resources is critical, so resources are equitably distributed to address existing health concerns.
- Acknowledge and embrace indigenous knowledge (e.g., traditional medical practices that may alleviate some symptoms).
- Community support is key to continued resilience.

Western Province in the Solomon Islands

The following were added on top of the presentation made by the WLF focal point of the Solomon Islands. A WWF Pacific project working closely with women fishers cultivating sea grapes as a source of income has to some extent buffered the financial impact of the pandemic, benefitting from the savings club that was established a few years ago. Thus, their basic needs are met during the hard times.

Nevertheless, the women traders are having difficulty accessing the local markets due to the government's directives for all traders to be vaccinated. Some women are apprehensive about the effect the vaccine has on them and have not decided to take them. This hampers their ability to trade at local markets.

The sale of the sea grapes has been reduced due to the travel restrictions and the layover of many workers has caused the supply of sea grapes to exceed demand. Women are dependent on their agriculture efforts at home and savings, however, the increased migration rate from Honiara back to the villages caused increased dependencies on local capacity (home gardens) and has proven to be insufficient. Family meals are reduced, and most families are prioritizing feeding the children.

Importantly, the communities are calling for flexibility in the vaccination protocol in markets for them to have access to trading and ensure the well-being of families.

There were no further questions from the participants over the presentations from the Solomon Islands. Several of the issues and challenges presented are similar to the ones experienced by women in other region as presented during the first session on lessons learnt from the sub-Saharan African countries.

See [Annex 4](#) for the Solomon Islands country presentation.

3.3.2 Coral Triangle Centre's Presentation

The Coral Triangle Centre (CTC), also the Co-Chair of the WLF, was represented by Ms Leilani Gallardo. She presented case studies of their work in Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area, Bali, Indonesia.

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were severe especially on the tourism industry in the three main islands within the Nusa Penida MPA. The communities went back to traditional activities, such as seaweed farming where women are heavily involved in the harvesting and processing part. During the pre-covid-19 pandemic, most of the seaweed was dried and sold to third parties to make various products. However, during the pandemic, the women started to process the seaweed themselves seeing that there was an oversupply of seaweed. CTC provided support to enhance the processing process and marketing of the products including training sessions to produce edible straws and biodegradable food packaging from seaweed, training session on business development and marketing, and support in the application of product registration and certification and permits while meeting with the strict Covid-19 health and safety protocols.

Women are not only involved in post-harvest activities but are now building the business themselves, becoming more directly involved in processing activities.

Other activities involve enhancing existing traditional products in terms of supporting and improving the marketing of the products beyond local markets by improving the quality and packaging.

Another initiative that the CTC has been involved in is with the women in blue swimming crab fisheries in Lampung, Indonesia, where women are mainly involved as pickers (i.e., removing crabs from the nets) and working in the processing sector. This role limits their potential and they do not have much voice in decision-making processes. CTC provided training sessions helping them develop their own products from the blue swimming crab thus enabling them to gain access to financing. Additionally, CTC has collaborated with Photo Voices International to launch a photo exhibition reflecting the daily lives of the women working in the blue swimming crab fisheries. It reflects the realities of the women and the stories that they wanted to convey. The exhibition was recently launched by the Governor of the province with the presence of 20 local media.

Several reflections from CTC to raise the profile and empowerment of women in the Coral Triangle region:

- Guidelines to mainstream GESI are very useful when combined with training and awareness programs;
- Important to share lessons learned and case studies of GESI projects in the Coral Triangle region; e.g. in publications;
- Prioritize specific GESI pilot projects across the Coral Triangle;
- WLF can serve as a platform for the ten recommendations (in earlier Session 2) in terms of coordination, however, would need partners such as WorldFish, WWF and others to assist in the implementation of specific recommendations;
- Align GESI with other CTI initiatives.

Other points include alignment with global initiatives such as the SDGs, UNCBD 30x30 and UNFCCC; financing CTI activities through a well-governed and capitalized Trust Fund and having in place the capacity to design and manage MPA infrastructure to safeguard CT6 natural resources.

A further short sharing discussion ensued where questions were asked on the post-pandemic strategies around the diversification businesses that were created from seaweed farming by the women in Bali during the lockdown period. The communities realized that the food security business is more stable compared to the tourism sector where there are many opportunities to increase their income level through product diversification and production of high-value products, improvements in packaging, and better marketing strategies. Currently, the CTC is supporting the women communities to test packaging materials made from seaweed as another source of income making high-value products. CTC also helped the women in terms of the provision of technical capacity in packaging, knowledge in food safety, financial management and developing business strategies.

Apart from improving the level of income, these activities enabled the women to improve their positions in the supply chain and not only contributing to the sector as harvesters. They realized that they have a larger role within the supply chain, improve the well-being of the households thus making them more resilient to external shocks in the future.

One respondent expressed her appreciation to CTC sharing their activities and hope that it can be replicated and supported in other places.

Please refer to [Annex 5](#) for the Coral Triangle Centre's presentation.

3.4 Session 4: Working Session on recommended actions and draft action plan

On 11 May 2022, the participants were provided with a link to a Google Form requesting information to populate the draft Cooperative Action Plan as per the objective of the Learning Exchange. Only one response was received and was reflected in a MIRO board for further discussion during the Learning Exchange.

The figure below shows the structure of the MIRO board that was used as a tool for discussion for this session that cuts across three (3) main domains: (i) Fish food system function that refers to production disruptions, storage and distribution disruptions, and retails and market disruptions; (ii) Individual well-being that includes unpaid care work, health, safety and relations; and (iii) Basic needs that include food and nutrition, security and education.

The MIRO board remained open for the next two days to enable more feedback from the participants. The following [Table 1](#) illustrates the input gathered from the participants including several proposed recommendations from a presentation during [Session 2](#) that can be adapted for this region.

A draft Cooperative Action Plan was developed based on the inputs gathered from this session, and from the country and partner presentations. It will also be based on the goals and objectives of the CTI GESI Policy and the specific output and outcomes from the draft RPOA 2.0.



Figure 1: MIRO Board – Structure of Discussion

Table 1: Summary Working Document – Recommended Action Plans

A. Fish food system function refers to production disruptions, storage and distribution disruptions, and retails and market disruptions

<p>What are the key issues and challenges faced by women in the CT region during the pandemic?</p> <p>[Issue]</p>	<p>How will these key issues and challenges be addressed? What recommended actions need to be taken to address them?</p> <p>[Proposed action]</p>	<p>Who will be the responsible entity to best address these issues? To whom will these recommendations be addressed to?</p> <p>[Proposed proponents]</p>	<p>What is the timeframe to address this?</p> <p>[Proposed timeframe]</p>	<p>What are the resources needed?</p> <p>[Resources]</p>
<p>[Solomon Islands] Reduced products available in the local shops due to Inter-Island cargo shipping stopped for 3 months / domestic shipping services disruptions</p>				
<p>Local market disruptions</p>				
<p>[Example] Fewer fish landed - disrupt production for local women entrepreneurs (processors)</p>	<p>Invest in conservation and enhancement of wild fish population - implement the SSF Guidelines, and strengthen community-based approaches to fisheries management.</p>	<p>Development specialists, local NGOs, scientists (and researchers) Local governments</p>		<p>Technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs in the form of a flexible loan).</p>
<p>[Example] Significant fish losses and poor quality due to insufficient storage capacity & transportation limitations for distribution (increased transportation cost)</p>	<p>Increase the number of facilities around beach landing sites</p>	<p>Users themselves - should be led by communities to ensure appropriate technologies are applied.</p>		<p>Financing mechanisms to develop locally-based infrastructure</p>
<p>[Example] Reduced market demand due to closures of food and tourism-based businesses</p>	<p>Increase processing capacity for seafood-based products to reduce wastage Virtual marketing increased to meet demand from processors.</p>	<p>Researchers, technologists, marketers, entrepreneurs, and government agencies encourage food innovations and provide support to IT devices and infrastructures.</p>		<p>Technical and financial support to develop seafood-based products and affordable devices, and reliable communication infrastructure.</p>

B. Individual well-being that includes unpaid care work, health, safety and relations

<p>What are the key issues and challenges faced by women in the CT region during the pandemic? [Issue]</p>	<p>How will these key issues and challenges be addressed? What recommended actions need to be taken to address them? [Proposed action]</p>	<p>Who will be the responsible entity to best address these issues? To whom will these recommendations be addressed? [Proposed proponents]</p>	<p>What is the timeframe to address this? [Proposed timeframe]</p>	<p>What are the resources needed? [Resources]</p>
<p>[Example] Loss of revenue and lack of capital (reduced bargaining power)</p>	<p>Provide easily accessible and flexible loans (e.g. lower interest, longer and flexible repayments etc)</p>	<p>The financial sector and national financial policies for financiers</p>		<p>The financing sector requires an understanding of the nature of fisheries businesses - technical knowledge.</p>
<p>[Example] Women are prone to infections when leaving for marketing at crowded markets and landing sites/processing plants.</p>	<p>Comprehensive health campaigns (increase knowledge and awareness) on pandemic SOPs to minimize the risk of infection</p>	<p>Government, NGOs.</p>		<p>Communication technical support More local healthcare centres</p>
<p>Multiple burdens as women face additional unpaid care work due to the closing of schools, more people to take care for longer hours (this also happens beyond pandemic)</p>	<p>Advocate for shared housework load/self-care services for women - as part of their CSR?</p>	<p>Local women's & men's groups/Media/private sector</p>	<p>2022 - 2023</p>	<p>Budget for advocacy communication materials for radio, TV, and social media Private Sector CSR</p>
<p>Safety of women and other vulnerable groups when going out to work</p>				

C. Basic needs include food and nutrition, security and education

<p>What are the key issues and challenges faced by women in the CT region during the pandemic?</p> <p>[Issue]</p>	<p>How will these key issues and challenges be addressed?</p> <p>What recommended actions need to be taken to address them?</p> <p>[Proposed action]</p>	<p>Who will be the responsible entity to best address these issues?</p> <p>To whom will these recommendations be addressed?</p> <p>[Proposed proponents]</p>	<p>What is the timeframe to address this?</p> <p>[Proposed timeframe]</p>	<p>What are the resources needed?</p> <p>[Resources]</p>
<p>[Solomon Islands] People in villages continued to go fishing and to their food gardens</p>				
<p>[Solomon Islands] Schools closed</p>	<p>Develop online school curriculum resources for schools with appropriate technology donated</p>	<p>National Government, Ministry of Education and Resource development, Provincial Governments, Relevant schools authorities, Relevant donors</p>		<p>Technical support, Funding</p>
<p>[Solomon Islands] Limited PPE for front line works, limited vaccinations for remote communities, hospital services disrupted due to lack of PPE for medical staff</p>				
<p>[Solomon Islands] Due to the loss of jobs in the tourism, and hospitality sectors, income/cash was no longer available; people had to revert to making food gardens, and going fishing.</p>	<p>Provide resources such as farming tools, seedlings, fishing gears</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Livelihoods (MAL), NGOs</p>		<p>Funding support, tools, gears, training</p>

Additional comments/suggestions: Get training on crafts making, using any available resources available in the area; For plant hobbyists. They can sell ornamental plants also to supplement whatever they have at home; Having some vegetable gardens for daily use and also getting healthy and fresh produce right in from the women's and men's homes.

3.5 Session 5: Closing and Wrap-up

Mr Gustaaf Adolf Lumiu, CTI-CFF's Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services, highlighted the endorsement of the CTI GESI Policy and the task of mainstreaming the Policy to address inequality for many disadvantaged communities. He hoped that the intention of the project has reached its goal to support the WLF and meet the goal of SUFIA project at large, which is to improve marine biodiversity and fisheries in the Indo Pacific region with an equal focus on the social well-being of the coastal communities.

From the LCD program, Dr Arlene was happy to see the effort of implementing the GESI Policy in light of the pandemic. She hoped that this first Learning Exchange and its work to develop a set of actions responding to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic can also be a standard for CTI and WLF in the event of other disasters affecting vulnerable groups. Noting the absence of other CT6 participants, the draft Action Plan will be circulated to gain more input and can be finalized and proposed to the CT6 for further action both at the regional and national levels.

Representing SuFiA TS, Ms Jasmin noted the great start following the CTI GESI Policy to integrate GESI into CTI programs. The work of WLF is in line with the TS focus area, looking at women and other disadvantaged groups in the fisheries sector and she is looking forward to working with everyone.

On behalf of the CTC, co-chair of WLF, Ms. Leilani, thanked the participants and emphasized the importance of such a Learning Event as an avenue to learn from each other and is looking forward to opportunities for scaling up projects. She also looks forward to future WLF activities with partners, development partners and the Regional Secretariat.

4. Participants' Training Assessments

4.1 Post-Event Assessment

There were three (3) responses received – 1 male and 2 females from Indonesia, and Solomon Islands. Two of the respondents are within the age group between 30-49 years and another participant is within the age group of 50-79 years old. One of them is also from an ethnic minority group in the Solomon Islands.

All the respondents rated the overall quality, content, and process of the learning exchange as 'very good' with a general level of satisfaction on the level of facilitation and time management. One respondent commented on the need for more insights and experiences from other countries, in reference to the lessons learnt from other regions segment of the event.

5. Comments and Recommendations

The presence of a few active participants from the CT6 is beyond the control of the organizing team, the SUFIA LCD and the Regional Secretariat. In anticipation of obtaining a good number of active participants, the organizing team sent in advance a Google Form to gain as much input as possible, however, only received one response from a development partner. The lack of many CT6 participants could be due to several factors: overlapping dates with other commitments (e.g., the Asian Park Congress in Sabah, Malaysia), a reliable

internet connection particularly with the Pacific-based countries, and possibly inadequate time for participants to commit to the event in light of many other events that they might have already committed to.

As the Covid-19 restrictions are easing in many countries, it is recommended that future activities be undertaken physically to ensure commitment from the participants.

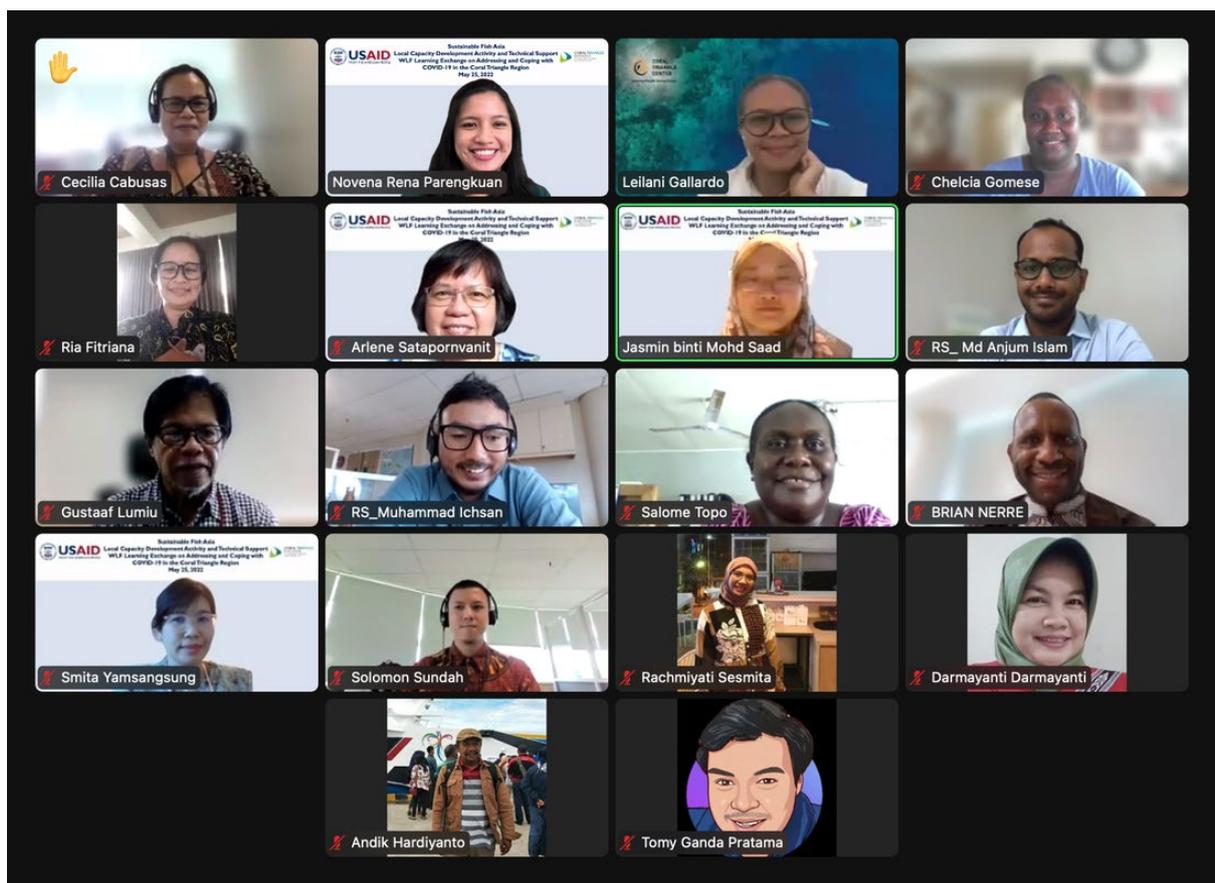
Annexes

Annex 1. List of Participants

No	Name	Gender	Email	Country / Organization
1	Aazani Mujahid	F	aazanimujahid@gmail.com	Malaysia
2	Andik Hardiyanto	M	ahardiyanto@wwf.id	WWF Indonesia
3	Brian Nerre	M	brian.nerre@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
4	Bunga Anggie Larasati	F	bunga.anggie.l@gmail.com	Indonesia
5	Cecilia Cabusas	F	cecilia.cabusas@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
6	Chelcia Gomese	F	c.gomese@cgiar.org	Solomon Islands / WorldFish Solomon Islands
7	Darmayanti Darmayanti	F	darmayantiapi@gmail.com	Indonesia
8	Gustaaf Lumiu	M	gustaaf.lumiu@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
9	Isqak Edi Pramono	M	edipramono2002@yahoo.com	Indonesia
10	Jacqueline Thomas	F	jthomas@wwfpacific.org	WWF Pacific
11	Leilani Gallardo	F	lgallardo@coraltrianglecenter.org	Coral Triangle Centre
12	Md Anjum Islam	M	anjum.islam@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
13	Muhammad Ichsan	M	muhammad.ichsan@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
14	Rachmiyati Sesmita	F	rachmiyati.sesmitacti@gmail.com	Indonesia
15	Ria Fitriana	F	rfitriana@gmail.com	Indonesia
16	Rili Djohani	F	rdjohani@coraltrianglecenter.org	Coral Triangle Center
17	Salome Topo	F	stopo@wwfpacific.org	Solomon Islands / WWF Pacific
18	Solomon Sundah	M	solomon.sundah@cticff.org	CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
19	Tomy Ganda Pratama	M	omy_pratama@gmail.com	Indonesia

*58% female participants

Annex 2. Group Photo



Annex 3. Presentation on Covid-19 and GESI in the Fisheries Sector – Case Studies from other regions



WLF Learning Exchange on Addressing and Coping with COVID-19 in the Coral Triangle Region

USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development Activity (LCD) and Technical Support (TS)
May 25, 2022

Total Covid-19 related cases and death

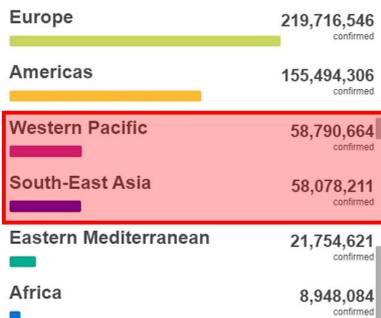
Global Situation

522,783,196
confirmed cases

6,276,210
deaths

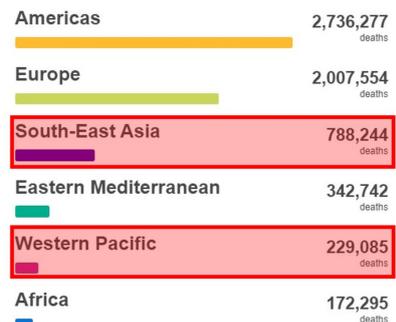
Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

Situation by WHO Region



Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

Situation by WHO Region



Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day or week.

Source: <https://covid19.who.int/>

Impact of Covid-19 on women



WOMEN'S PAID WORK WAS MOST LIKELY TO BE DISRUPTED

WOMEN TOOK ON EVEN MORE UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

COVID-19 DISRUPTED ACCESS TO BASIC GOODS AND SERVICES

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING WAS STRAINED

COVID-19 EXPOSES GENDER GAPS IN RELIEF AND SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

Source: https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/glaring_gaps_response_RGA.pdf

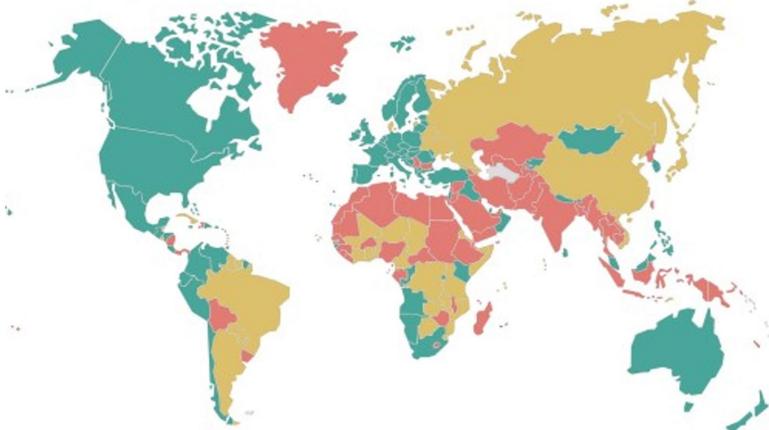
THE SEX, GENDER AND COVID-19 PROJECT

Sex, Gender & COVID-19 | The COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker | The COVID-19 Health Policy Portal | Resources | About Us | [Share Data](#)



As of 28 April 2022

● have reported data on cases and deaths in the past two months
 ● have reported either case or death data in the past two months
● no sex-disaggregated case or death data reported in the past two months
 ● not yet tracked



Role of Data

The UN Women's experience indicated that countries that collect gender data on the impacts of Covid-19 are able to inform critical gender-responsive policies and recovery plans to build back better.

In the **Maldives**, nearly 7,500 women informal workers are now included in the **Government's Income Support Allowance** programme.

In **Rwanda**, the Government expanded an **Economic Recovery Fund** to cover Small and Medium Enterprises, where women are concentrated.

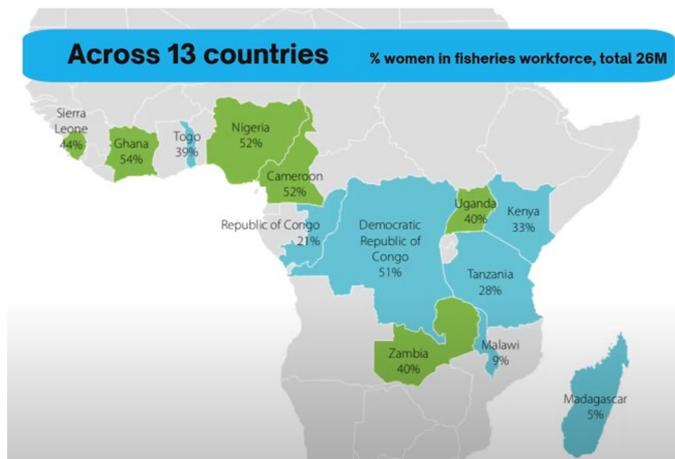
Source: <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/>

Impact of Covid-19 on fisheries and food system

- Covid-19 pandemic triggered a public health crisis followed by an ongoing economic crisis due to the measures taken by countries to contain the rate of infection through a range of measures (e.g. home confinement, travel bans, business closures).
- In essence, the measures taken created an environment in which food became more challenging to obtain.
- Fisheries' value chain includes local, regional and global markets and is complex.
- **Key activities:** fishing, aquaculture production, processing, transport, trading, wholesale and retail marketing. Each link is susceptible to being disrupted.
- The fish sector is impacted by changing consumer demands, market access, and logistical problems in relation to transportation and border restrictions.
- Adverse effect on fishers and fish farmers' livelihoods, food security and nutrition for populations relying on fish as a source of protein and essential micronutrients.

Adapting to Covid-19: Women in Fisheries

COVID-19 Experiences of Women Fish Processors and Traders in Africa led by WorldFish

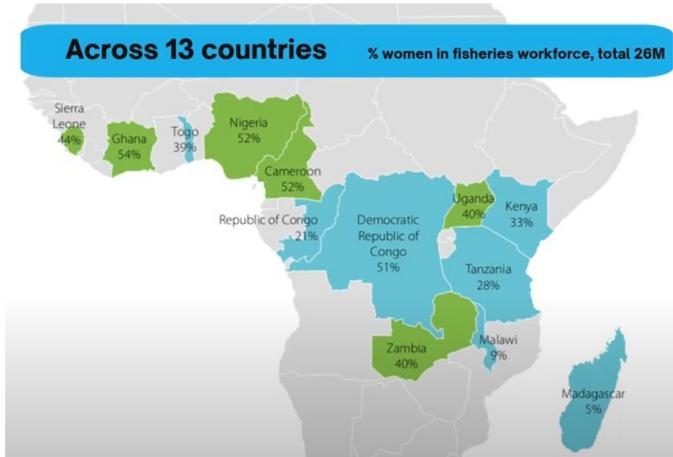


- The report draws on key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with national representatives of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFishNet), which spans 28 countries within the African Union.
- Supplemented with information from women fish processors and traders.
 - Collated experiences of women fish processors and traders across 13 countries in West, Central, Southern and East Africa.
- The data were collected from December 2020 to June 2021.

Source: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/covid-19-impacts-women-fish-processors-and-traders-sub-saharan-africa-insights-and>

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Adapting to Covid-19: Women in Fisheries

COVID-19 Experiences of Women Fish Processors and Traders in Africa led by WorldFish



Source: data from FGDs and KIIs.

Source: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/covid-19-impacts-women-fish-processors-and-traders-sub-saharan-africa-insights-and>



In December 2020, a collaboration commenced between the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network, On Our Radar and 14 women working across Africa. These are their experiences. A policy brief was developed: COVID-19 impacts on women fish processors and traders in sub-Saharan Africa: 10 recommendations for building forward better.

This collaboration was supported by Lancaster University, Birmingham University, WorldFish, Oak Foundation, the CGIAR Research Program on Fish AgriFood Systems and the CGIAR Gender Platform.

Source: [WorldFish](#)

Adapting to Covid-19: Women in Fisheries

Domains affected	Impacts
Fish food system functions	<p>Production disruptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 restrictions meant fewer fishers were able to access vessels and landing sites, thus there was less catch and fewer fish landed. • Some countries closed their borders, which limited imports of fish feeds (such as into Malawi). • Surges in the cost of imported fish feed have increased the cost of farmed fish production. • These factors have resulted in declines in the availability and accessibility of fish. • The scarcity of fish has increased competition and bargaining among post-harvest fish workers.
	<p>Storage and distribution disruptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 restrictions disrupted transportation to landing sites, urban markets and trading routes across borders. This negatively affected traders' access to customers and, vice versa, customers and consumers' access to fish. • Transportation costs increased. • Changes to market dynamics increased storage requirements to avoid losses on unsold fish. Where access to processing and storage infrastructure (e.g. cold-storage facilities, warehouses and ice) is poor, this resulted in significant fish physical and quality losses.
	<p>Retail and market disruptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closures, market closures, and disruptions to the restaurant, hotel and tourism sector significantly reduced market demand, retailing hours and marketing avenues. • Changing market dynamics, delays in selling and poor purchasing power of buyers and consumers contributed to increased fish quality losses.

Summary of COVID-19 impacts on women fish processors and traders in sub-Saharan Africa.

"I ended up with a stock of fish at home, but the customers couldn't come to my home because of a lack of means of transportation. And as our storage facilities are limited, I lost a part of the goods [fish]. The demand was there, but I did not have the possibility to go and make deliveries. The customers cannot come either, and many women have been in my situation, who had their goods, their fish rejected."

– key informant, Republic of Congo

Source: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/covid-19-impacts-women-fish-processors-and-traders-sub-saharan-africa-insights-and>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women in Fisheries

Individual well-being	Economic well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women fish processors and traders have experienced significant reductions in income as a result of the above disruptions. This includes the combination of quality losses and rises in costs of storage and of marketing, leading to reduced profit margins. Loss of revenue and a lack of capital has caused business failures. Consequential loss of capital has affected women's bargaining power. Economic instability has led to increased debt levels. Reduced profit margins have resulted in women not being able to pay back loans. They have not been able to negotiate any restructuring of their loan-repayments and/or have had to take out new loans to repay existing ones.
	Unpaid care work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 containment measures (e.g. school closures) have intensified women's unpaid domestic work burden, and in turn constraints on women's time. Women have shouldered the brunt of increased childcare responsibilities, including physical care, cleaning, feeding and at-home learning responsibilities.
	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women are routinely exposed to the virus and its physical health impacts through their reliance on work in crowded markets and landing sites. Food Intake has been reduced (see food and nutrition below). Declines in economic well-being and increases in unpaid care work have negatively affected women's mental health and have manifested symptoms of psychological distress, particularly stress and anxiety.
	Safety and relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarcity of fisheries resources has intensified already unequal bargaining and power relations in the food system, and it has increased incidences of sex-for-fish transactions (which in turn create additional risks and potential harm, including HIV). COVID-19 restrictions have increased police presence around fish landing sites and along transportation routes, with women experiencing harassment and exploitation by police. Household economic insecurity and distress have increased gender-based violence.

Summary of COVID-19 impacts on women fish processors and traders in sub-Saharan Africa.

"There are very few fish from the farms in Africa. Most of our fish comes from the wild, and women do not own any boats. The men do. In this COVID-19 season, we have seen decline in catches, which has resulted in fish-for-sex trade."

– key informant, Uganda

Source: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/covid-19-impacts-women-fish-processors-and-traders-sub-saharan-africa-insights-and>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women in Fisheries

Summary of COVID-19 impacts on women fish processors and traders in sub-Saharan Africa.

Basic needs	Food and nutrition security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic insecurity and declines in the availability and accessibility of fish and other food products have altered and reduced household food consumption. Some women resorted to eating only one meal per day.
	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic insecurity has adversely affected children's attendance at school. School closures and economic insecurity risk knock-on effects of potential dropout especially by girls, reduction in children's nutrition due to loss of access to school feeding programs, and additional time and economic costs of having children at home. There may also be educational setbacks during children's time out of school, especially for families with illiterate parents, who may not be able to play the role of teacher at home during school closures.

Intersectional experiences: How different women are affected differently

"There are some women who are very strong in business and they have the power, the bargaining power. They have the power to buy and assemble ... Those who are really, really poor are the ones who have been affected more when it comes to access to the resources ... Those that have financial stability, they can maneuver better than those who don't have the capacity."

– key informant, Tanzania



Three entrepreneurs carrying buckets of recently processed fish in Bargny, Senegal. Bargny is a settlement 15 km east of Dakar, where more than a thousand women work processing fish for domestic sale and for export to neighboring African countries.

Source: <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/covid-19-impacts-women-fish-processors-and-traders-sub-saharan-africa-insights-and>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women Leadership

LESSONS FROM BRAZIL ON FISHERWOMEN LEADERSHIP

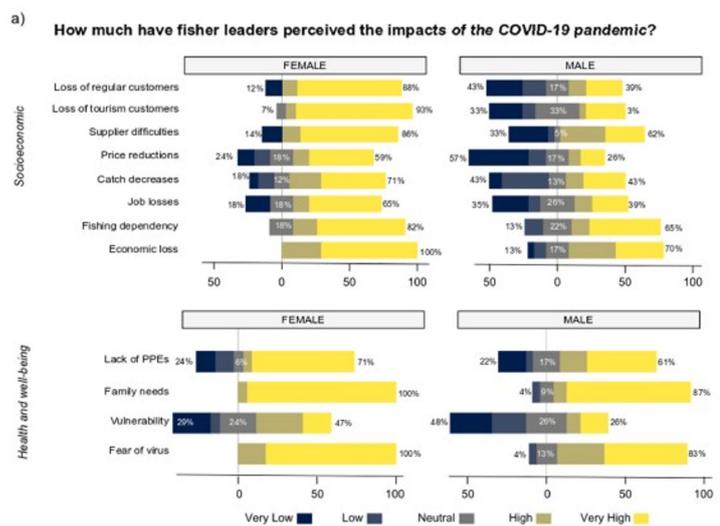
- First assessment of how SSF communities in Brazil have both been impacted (socio-economically and well-being) and reacted to the effect of Covid-19 esp. during the first wave.
- Assessment made with **40 heads of associations** [42.5% female; 57.5% male]. These associations represent a total of 81,196 fishers who mostly use cast nets and gillnets to fish.
- Results show that gender plays a key role in how the impacts of the pandemic are perceived – **female leaders** assess both the socio-economic and health/well-being impacts harsher than their male counterparts.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X2100453X>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women Leadership

LESSONS FROM BRAZIL ON FISHERWOMEN LEADERSHIP

- The **less severe appraisal of the fishermen** could translate into delayed actions and further compromise the negative consequences of the disease on the livelihoods of fisher families.
- Why women appraise the impact of the same disease differently than men? During the assessment, women revealed that they are more worried about family needs and more afraid of the virus than fishermen.
- More awareness of specific health, family income and food security learning experiences due to cultural and socio-economic roles.



Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X2100453X>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women Leadership

LESSONS FROM BRAZIL ON FISHERWOMEN LEADERSHIP

How Female Fishers Are Leading Their Communities through the Pandemic

Research shows that, at the pandemic's onset, female leaders in Brazil's fishing communities took the threat more seriously than men—and leapt into action.

by Eduardo Campos Lima

January 13, 2022 | 700 words, about 3 minutes

Source: <https://hakaimagazine.com/news/how-female-fishers-are-leading-their-communities-through-the-pandemic/>

Adapting to Covid-19: Women Leadership

LESSONS FROM BRAZIL ON FISHERWOMEN LEADERSHIP

- The pandemic has accelerated the growth of leadership change where women are increasingly holding more prominent positions, leading to a shift in the balance of power.
- Female fishers were more prepared to respond to the pandemic's impact due to their realistic understanding of the situation.

“Most men refused to understand the seriousness of the disease from the beginnings so we had to assume the role of caretakers”
Eliete Paraguassu—shellfish harvester

- Women took the pandemic more seriously that led to a more proactive attitude in decision-making and [strengthen them] as role models.

In most fishing communities, women took on multifaceted roles:

- they demanded relief aid from the authorities;
- negotiated food exchanges with other communities, such as trading fish for vegetables; and
- established collective efforts to produce food.
- Plays a critical role in battling fake news.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X2100453X>

Adapting to Covid-19: Small-Scale Fisheries in SEA

COVID-19 and Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Impacts and Responses. Accepted for publication on 23 April 2021

Indicators	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam
Main policy response to COVID-19						
National lockdown	Yes, gradual, decentralised ^a	Yes ^a	Yes ^a	Yes, gradual, decentralised ^a	Yes	Yes, in selected areas
Health protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disruptions						
Less fishing activities	Yes	Yes with curfew ^a	Yes ^a	Yes	Yes, with curfew	Yes ^a
Low demand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Low prices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Difficult marketing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Income loss	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coping strategies						
Continued fishing	Yes, mostly for food	Yes, mostly for food	Yes, mostly for food	Yes, mostly for food	Yes	Yes
Direct selling of fish	Yes, community and online	Yes, community and online	Yes, Community	Yes, community and online	Yes, community and online	Yes, community
Others	Women fish traders sold other agri-products and intensified fish processing	Continued to receive government's monthly cash and fuel subsidy			Fishers intensified processing	
Relief and support received						
Cash and in-kind (food) relief assistance	Yes, from the government and private sector	Yes, one time government cash support	None	Yes, government and private sector ^a	Yes, also daily subsistence goods; from government and private sector	Yes, from the government
Low interest loan	None	None	Yes, from the government	Yes, zero interest loan from the government	Yes, from the government and private sector	Yes, from the government
Provision of livelihood support	Yes, from the government ^a	Yes, from the government and the private sector ^a		Yes, from the government ^a		

- Small-scale fisheries is a **significant contributor** to the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities in Southeast Asia as a source of food, livelihood, and income esp. to the poor, vulnerable, and marginal sector (Pomeroy, 2012; Teh and Pauly, 2018).
- Existing **challenges and vulnerabilities of the small -scale fisheries sector*** in the SEA were exacerbated by the pandemic incl. the **women** where the challenges of balancing the role of caregivers and supporting spouses seeking alternative income (esp. with travel restrictions imposed and working in conditions where risk of infections are higher).
- The pandemic forces fishers make **adaptive changes** to their livelihoods such as embarking on direct fish marketing, online marketing, and home delivery services. Direct procurement by local government such as done in the Philippines and Malaysia provided an assured market for their catch thus ensuring food security.

**poverty; market access; financial services; livelihoods; poor access to public services such as health care, clean water, and sanitation; social protection; political and economic marginalization; gender inequity; natural disasters.*

Adapting to Covid-19: Small-Scale Fisheries in SEA

COVID-19 and Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Impacts and Responses.

Lessons Learnt

Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are vulnerable to disruptions • Fish in relief packages create sure and direct market for catch • Importance of cold storage during glut • Online marketing works for fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are vulnerable to disruptions • Need for social infrastructure and safety nets • Need to strengthen fisheries cooperatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are vulnerable to disruptions • Negative impact on the small scale fishers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are vulnerable to disruptions • Fishers maintain food supply amid crisis • Need for social infrastructure and safety nets • Direct marketing and online marketing work for fish • Importance of cold storage during glut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are vulnerable to disruptions • Online marketing • Direct marketing • Fish handling techniques • Promotion of fish to local consumers • Establishment of fishers groups to develop resilience strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online marketing • Financial help matters

Adapting to Covid-19: Small-Scale Fisheries in SEA

[COVID-19 and Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Impacts and Responses.](#)

Lessons Learnt

- Short-term responses to providing food and financial assistance have been helpful.
- **Long-term support** to address not only pandemics such as COVID-19 but also other stressors that require developing more resilient fishing households.
- This means **addressing fundamental social, economic, and environmental reforms** that affect coastal communities and livelihoods.
 - **Engage** coastal communities in a dialogue about the future they envision, the steps needed to get there, and the lessons learned along the way

Covid-19 & Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

USAID Asia
@USAIDAsia

.@USAID's Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support project works to promote #SustainableFisheries, including addressing gender inequity and forced labor concerns within regional seafood supply chains in the #IndoPacific. Find out more: go.usa.gov/xum5x #USASEAN45

GENDER EQUITY
+
SOCIAL INCLUSION
=
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

US Mission to ASEAN and 5 others
6:00 PM · May 17, 2022 · Twitter Web App

The **SuFiA Technical Support (TS)** project pays special focus on providing technical support to mainstream gender and social inclusion:

- *Women & youth (incl. small and medium enterprises)*
- *Small-scale fishers*
- *Migrant fishers*
- *Stateless fishers*

..throughout the fisheries supply chain with close cooperation with other international and local partners.

SuFiA TS Draft GESI Analysis and Gender and Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP) takes into consideration CTI GESI Policy and the current draft RPOA2.0.

Presenter's Name: Jasmin Mohd Saad

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jasmin@oceanresearch.biz

Website: <https://www.tetrattech.com>



THANK YOU!

Annex 4. Country and Partners' Presentation – Solomon Islands



Lessons on addressing and coping with COVID-19 in Solomon Islands

WLF Learning Exchange on Addressing and Coping with COVID-19
in the Coral Triangle Region

USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development Activity (LCD) and Technical Support (TS)
May 25, 2022

Background

- Solomon highly vulnerable to natural disasters

COVID-19

- First recorded COVID-19 case in 2020
- Community outbreak in 2022
- From **3 January 2020** to **6:43pm 24 May 2022**, there have been **18,174 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 with **146 deaths (WHO)**
- Both rural and urban communities affected



Issues and Impacts during COVID-19

Fish food system function

- Restricted movement reduced production (urban and rural)
- Increasing internal migration to and among rural villages is influencing strategies for food production and distribution
- There were increased reports of gleaning (gathering marine species by hand along the seashore)
- Domestic shipping services disruptions causing disruption of goods and services
- No domestic shipping service therefore no markets on ports in rural areas
- Markets disruptions (both in rural and urban areas)
- Reported reduced local fish trade, and in many cases that this was due to lack of cash among buyers
- Recently, fuel prices have increased causing less travel to markets to sell fish and vegetables.
- Changes in the marketing of fish varied between villages.

Issues and Impacts during COVID-19

Individual well-being

- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for unpaid care work in the Solomon Islands, with the closure of schools creating additional hours of childcare work.
- **Health:**
- Restrictions to medical facilities during the outbreak
- Women are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19, as they comprise the majority of frontline workers in hospitals and clinics (ADB news release 25 June 2020)
- Diverted resources from severe health issues eg. NCDs

Issues and Impacts during COVID-19

Basic needs

Food and nutrition security:

- No shops and markets available during lockdown.
- No fresh fish available in urban area during lockdown.
- Rural areas depend on local food. Communities also face shortage of local food due to rainy seasons
- One meal per day for some families
- In most rural communities, men, women, youth and children have continued fishing activities as normal (esp in nearshore and in the absence of any restriction)

Education:

- Schools, RTCS and Universities were closed

Employment/Income

- Loss of jobs eg. Soltuna workers (67% of work force are women)- SIG
- In urban areas, families depend on a daily income for survival. With the lockdown and restrictions, families were facing difficulties in buying food esp from the market.

Issues and Impacts during COVID-19

Safety and relations

- The Solomon Islands has one of the highest rates of family and sexual violence in the world. Family violence has reportedly increased since COVID-19, in a country which already had one of the highest rates of family and sexual violence in the world.
- Violence cases in the province slightly dropped since COVID-19 - the drop in cases of domestic violence is due to restriction of movement and isolation measures which does not allow them to report cases.

Interventions

Government (federal/municipal/local) through donor funding as well: Lifting Bechedemer bans to help rural communities (MFMR), MAL (eg. Seedlings, Relief food supplies), ESP for small businesses and including commercial fishing sector, SAFENET

WorldFish research to document changes and adaptations in village food systems to inform MFMR (See <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4195>)

Churches (mostly women groups), communities in Honiara donated food to front liners

Non-formal interventions

- Communal gardening
- CBRM Committees lift managed area bans for small periods of time
- Community-led COVID-19 strategies
- Indigenous knowledge played a major role in address COVID
- Community support to help vulnerable groups eg. Women

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

1. Good governance in regards to fisheries is a key factor in the resilience of coastal communities and the ability of provincial town markets to maintain their trade
2. Priorities by law enforcers all divert to COVID-19 and does not give room for other matters like GBV etc. It is challenging for women in terms of seeking help.
3. Important to ensure that resources are not diverted from ongoing severe health issues affecting women and men
4. Important to acknowledge indigenous knowledge
5. Community support- Pacific way.

Pacific communities are resilient. But with that resiliency, comes responsibility. So the government and other stakeholders need to be responsible in supporting our communities.

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Thank you!

Annex 5. Country and Partners' Presentation – Coral Triangle Centre



CTI-CFF GESI Policy Socialization
and WLF Learning Exchange

May 25, 2022



Covid-19 In Nusa Penida MPA → Boom In Seaweed Farming



Women Empowerment In Nusa Penida MPA



SEAWEED PROCESSING & MARKETING

- Training session to produce edible straw and biodegradable food packaging from seaweed
- Training session on business development and marketing
- Support in the application of product registration and certification and permits

Women Empowerment In Nusa Penida MPA



Women in Blue Swimming Crab Fisheries in Lampung, Indonesia



Reflections

- ❖ Guidelines to mainstream GESI very useful when combined with training and awareness program
- ❖ Sharing lessons learned and case-studies of GESI projects in the Coral Triangle region -> publication
- ❖ Prioritize specific GESI pilot projects across the Coral Triangle
- ❖ WLF can be the platform for the 10 recommendations in terms of coordination but would need partners such as World Fish, WWF and others to help implement specific recommendations
- ❖ Emphasize women leadership training and sharing of lessons learned amongst 6 countries through regional exchanges
- ❖ Align GESI with other CTI initiatives:
 - ✓ **International policy engagement and alignment** with global initiatives (SDGs, UNCBD/30x30, and UNFCCC)
 - ✓ **A well-governed and capitalised Trust Fund** will finance the achievement of CTI-CFF's MPAs, policy and human capacity development goals, and;
 - ✓ **Capacity to design and manage MPA infrastructure** is needed to safeguard the CT6 natural resources



THANK YOU

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