



# Gender Integration in Fisheries: Challenges and Lessons Learned from the USAID SuFiA TS Experience

Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit, Jasmin Saad, Nguyen Thu Hue, Margot Stiles

9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF9)  
October 1-3, 2025  
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

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# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support

**PROJECT GOAL:** To improve the management of marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in the Indo-Pacific region by reducing unsustainable fishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

## Funder:

USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia

## Timeframe:

Nov 24, 2021 – Feb 28, 2025

## Geography:

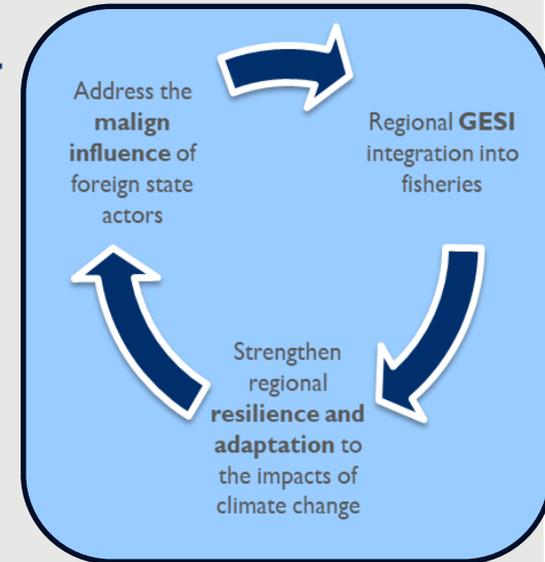
SEA countries and Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste

## Regional Partners:

Regional organizations, regional CSOs and NGOs, private sector

## SuFiA TS Strategic Approach

- SA1: Adoption and implementation of regional sustainable policies.
- SA2: Increase in the adoption of fair labor and sustainable fishing practices
- SA3: Effective and efficient project coordination, administrative and technical support, and outreach and communications
- SA4: Improved social inclusion within regional fisheries management, including small-scale fishers, women, and youth empowerment.
- SA5: Regional institutions and countries empowered to safeguard their fishery resources from foreign malign influences.

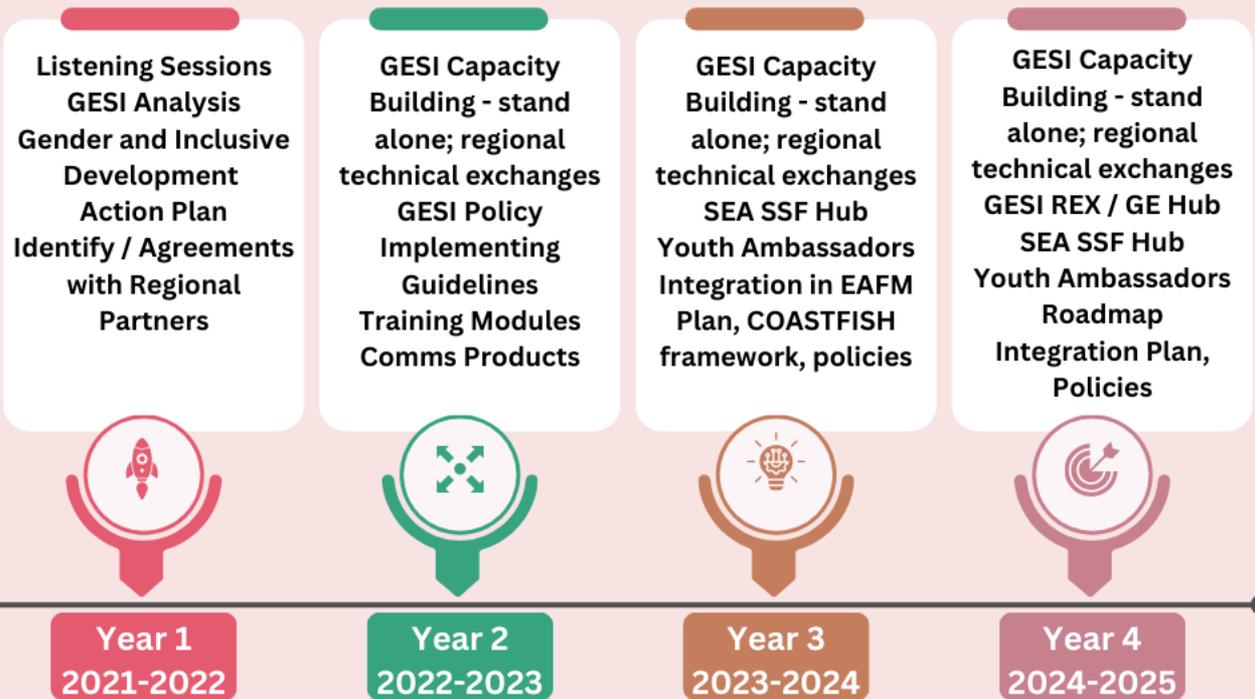




# PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR IMPROVED GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



# SUFIA TS GESI INTEGRATION

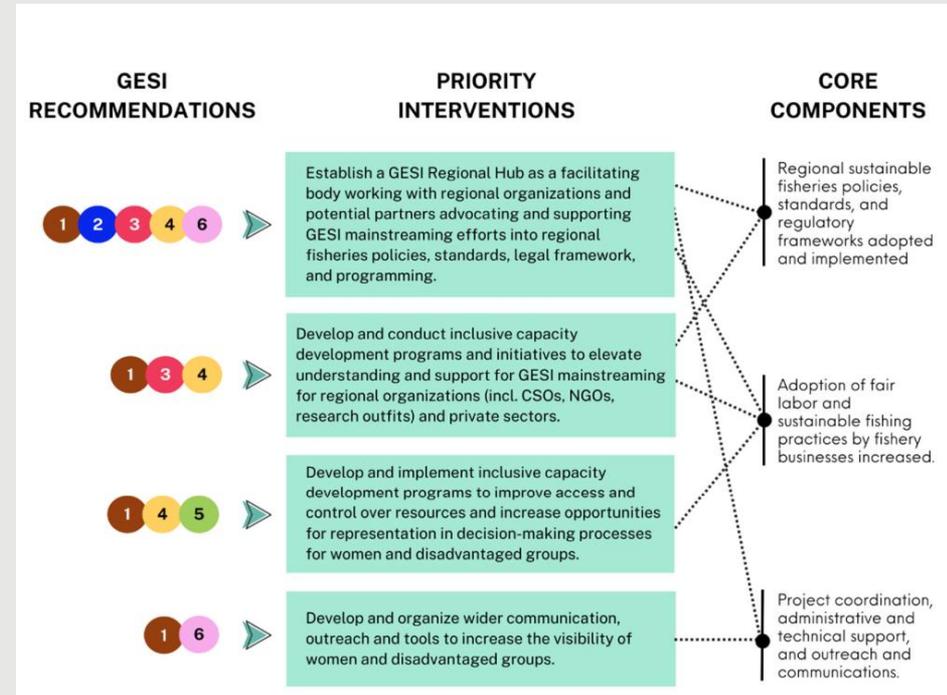


USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support GESI Integration

# GESI Analysis and Gender and Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP)

## GESI Recommendations

1. Increase primary research to address data and information gaps in reporting, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation.
2. Strengthen recognition and advocacy for ratification and implementation of international laws on human rights, gender, and other disadvantaged groups relevant to fisheries and fisheries supply chain for regional and national integration through frameworks, guidelines, action plans, etc.
3. Increase capacity building initiatives and activities for regional organizations (incl. CSOs, NGOs, and research outfits) and private sector partners to elevate understanding and support the integration of GESI programs and indicators.
4. Provide opportunities for women, youth, and other disadvantaged groups to represent and lead in the governance of the fisheries and fisheries supply chain.
5. Promote fair and equitable access and control over resources for women and disadvantaged groups, including access to economic resources, essential services, finance, education, information and technology, capacity building (and training), and markets.
6. Increase visibility of women and other disadvantaged groups working in the fisheries and fisheries supply-chain industry.



# EXPERIENCES with partners - GESI Integration

1. Regional Seascapes Technical Exchanges (Sulu-Sulawesi, South China Sea, Bismark-Solomon Seas) with Capacity Building
2. Technical Working Group Meetings esp with EAFM, CCA, Seascapes
3. CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap with Coral Triangle Center
4. CTI-CFF and Coral Reef Alliance Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fellowship – policy guidelines on gender responsive risk vulnerability assessments
5. Capacity building (training/workshops) on Communication, MEL, IUUF, Youth, CCA
6. SEA Small-Scale Fishers Hub (SEA SSF Hub)



# SEA Small-Scale Fishers' Hub



## Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network (SEAFISH)

- brought together CSOs and SSF organizations from SEA
- SSF Hub as a platform to amplify fishers' voices, share knowledge, and support sustainable practices
- Opportunity to recognize SSF importance in sustainable fisheries management

### Focus areas:

- IUU Fishing
- GESI
- Climate Change
- Ocean Mining



# Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP)

1. Agreement / Approval with CTI-CFF RS and WLF as the implementing partner
2. Recruitment of youth with CTI-CFF RS, WLF, NCCs
3. Online capacity building on various topics – EAFM, CCA, GESI, MDA, Marine biodiversity, leadership, technology
4. Global Youth Congress (2023), YAP Regional Exchange (2024)
5. Involvement of youth ambassadors in regional technical events (USAID, RS, others)
6. Youth involvement in their own institutions / universities, communities, advocacies – achievements
7. **YAP Roadmap – endorsed at SOM-19 (2024)**



# GESI activities

1. GESI in Fisheries Training of Trainers / GESI Integration in Fisheries Training Manual, Module and Field Manual
2. GESI Policy Implementation Guidelines Workshop
4. COVID-19 impacts on women in fisheries in the Coral Triangle: A cooperative action plan on working together towards gender equality and building back better
5. GESI Regional Exchange
6. GESI capacity building activities within regional technical exchanges
6. **Regional Gender Equality Hub:** WLF members as the Hub's founding members and progress GESI Policy and GESI integration in CT.



GESI Capacity Building, Sept 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



GESI Regional Exchange, Sept 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

# Climate Change Adaptation activities



Climate Risk and Resilience: Reimagining Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia

Assessment Report



PRACTICAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN FISH-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Planning Guide



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

GENDERED CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY SEASCAPES IN FISHERIES ACROSS THE CORAL TRIANGLE REGION

## Gender in Fisheries, and the Changing Environment



**Zelda Hilly** is a professional in marine biology, natural resources and fisheries management with interest in finding sustainable solutions to address the environmental challenges faced by her community in Solomon Islands. As a CTI CORAL Fellow representing the Pacific region, her primary duties include supporting several programs of CTI-CFF related to the cross-discipline areas of climate change, gender, and fisheries. When asked about this post, Zelda expressed, "It is a great opportunity to contribute to my incredible region, often called the Amazon of the Seas." Zelda, who is a firm supporter of efforts to protect and preserve these critical ecosystems, mentions that the

## Eyes on the Future: Tradition and Innovation

**Novena Rena Parengkuan** is a professional in marine fisheries and sustainable development, working to address climate change by integrating her extensive fieldwork experience into policy and advocacy efforts. She expressed how the CTI-CFF CORAL Fellowship advanced her expertise on policy formulation and implementation and inspired her to develop more activities that could help bridge the gap between grassroots realities and high-level policy advocacy. One of her pivotal contributions as a fellow was



# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. **Sustainability** of the activities beyond projects - working with partners such as regional and national organizations to ensure continuity or expansion; this involves commitment and resources mobilization through partnerships and collaborations;
2. **Implementation** of approved regional plans/documents at the country-level - for e.g., EAFM Plan, GESI Policy, CC risk management – constant capacity building of technical working groups to equip them to implement at the national level based on their own context;
3. **Regional nature** of the project, provision of technical services through the regional secretariats and regional technical working groups – required members to share country specific needs so they could be addressed; country-level interventions done by member countries themselves
4. **GESI Capacity building** is a continuum – should include all levels and new entrants

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered on a boat, likely a fishing vessel, on the water. The boat is constructed with wooden poles and has various equipment, including a large white bucket and a green container. The people are dressed in casual clothing, such as tank tops, t-shirts, and shorts. One man in the center is wearing a blue rain jacket. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background shows the dark, choppy water of the sea.

**Thank you!**