



Women as advocates against forced labor on fishing vessels

Women Work in Fisheries, Too!
November 29, 2021



Shaping the Future | Gender Justice for Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries



- About the SAFE Seas Project
- Results of the study on the Effects of Forced Labor/Trafficking in Persons on Female Relatives of Male Fishers
- Recommendations

Topics

Safeguarding Against and Addressing Fishers' Exploitation at Sea (SAFE Seas)

Project duration : January 2018 - november 2022

Grant Fund: United states department of labor (USDOL)

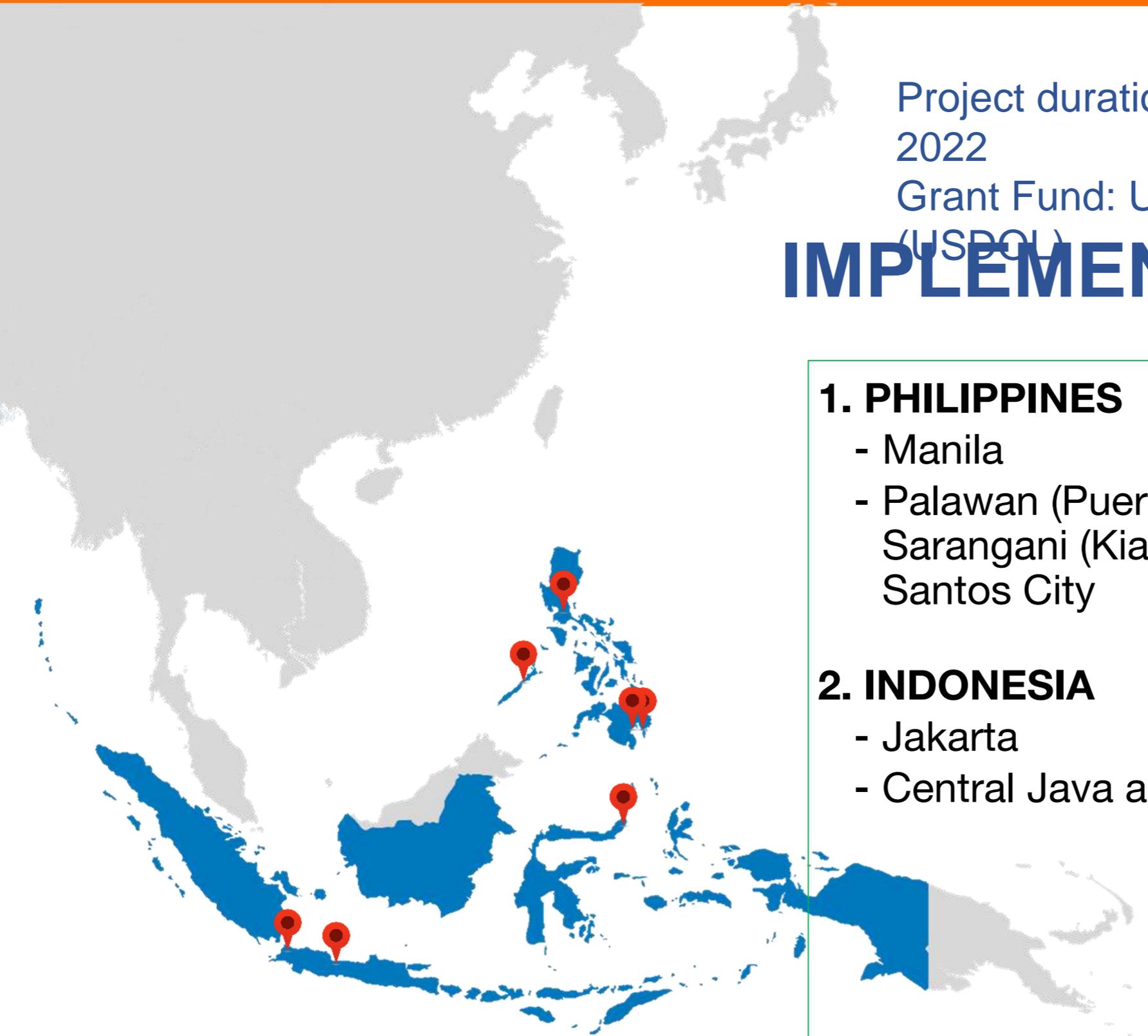
IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

1. PHILIPPINES

- Manila
- Palawan (Puerto Princesa City and Taytay), Sarangani (Kiamba and Glan) and General Santos City

2. INDONESIA

- Jakarta
- Central Java and Bitung, North Sulawesi



Project Outcomes

Improved enforcement and coordination to combat labor exploitation including forced labor and human trafficking in fishing vessels

Improve and strengthen frameworks for legal, policy, and regulations to address forced Labor/Trafficking In Persons (FL/TIP) among fishers

Improve processes and quality of labor-inclusive inspections on fishing vessels

Project Outcomes

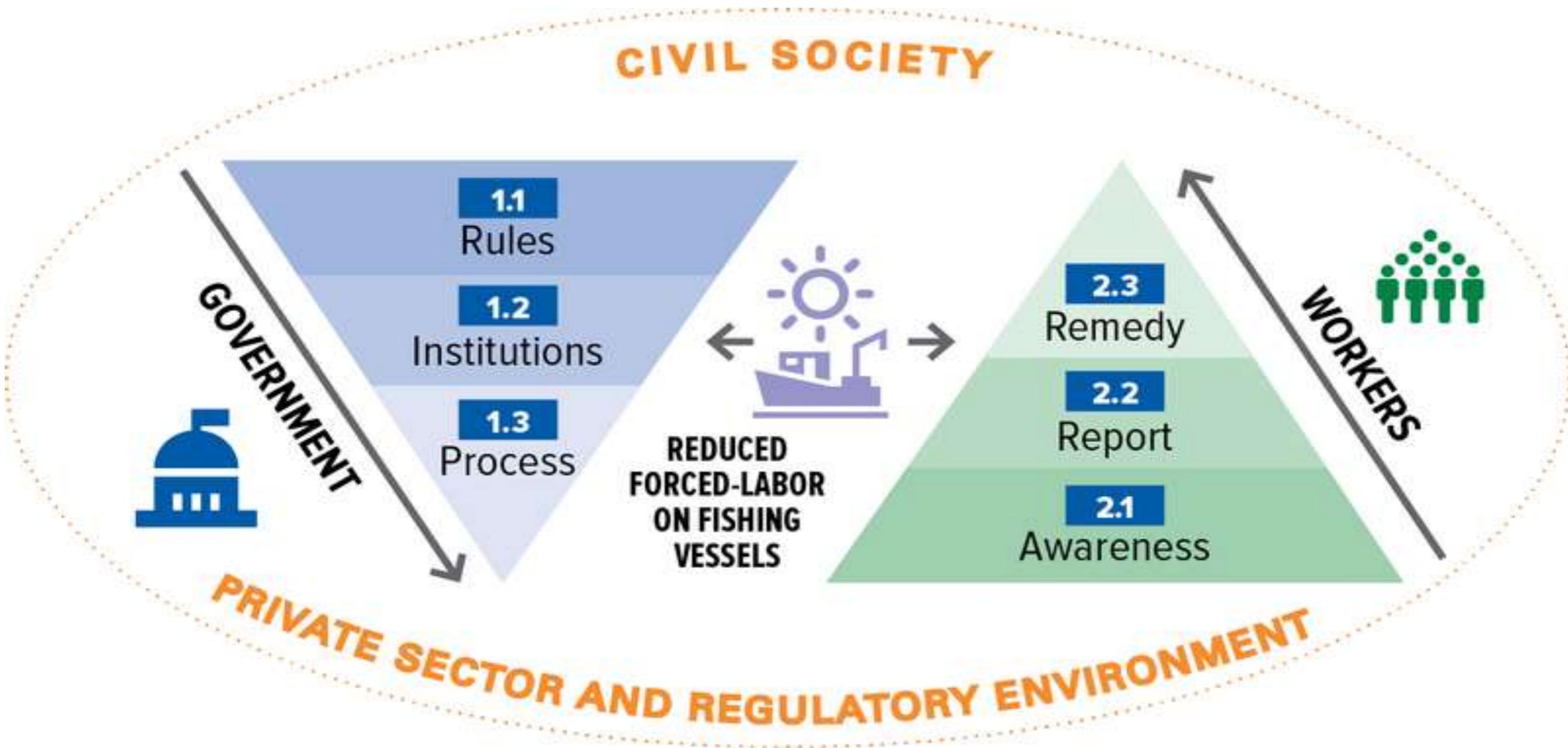
Decreased indicators of labor exploitation including FL/TIP on fishing vessels

Improved understanding among government, private sector, local communities and fish workers of acceptable work conditions in the fishing industry

Improved ability of fishers and their families to report exploitative working conditions

Improved access to remedies of FL/TIP and/or exploitative working conditions

Project Strategy



Harmonized regulations and policies, improved and strengthened multi-disciplinary inspection and coordination mechanisms and ensured stakeholder buy-in through Information and education campaigns

Women as advocates against forced labor on fishing vessels



#WOMENMAKECHANGE



WOMEN HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL AS ADVOCATES FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS IN FISHING.

We recognize this potential and through the SAFE Seas project, we can help empower them to be the voices of their husbands, sons, and relatives and speak up against labor exploitation at sea.

RYAN LANDER

Deputy Country Director for Programmes
Plan International Philippines

Effects of Forced Labor and Trafficking In Persons on Female Relatives of Male Fishers

OBJECTIVES:

- To assess women's awareness and knowledge of FL/TIP on fishing vessels.
- To explore women's experiences and coping strategies to the impact of FL/TIP
- To assess gender norms and gender relationships in the fishing community
- To identify potential future roles for women and how women's agency can contribute to prevention and protection against FL/TIP

Study location, respondents, & data gathering

Conducted on February 2020

- 2 Wives or female relatives of fishers working in GenSan and Sarangani were surveyed
- 1
- 9 In-depth interviews with wives or female relatives of fishers
- 0
- 6 Focus group discussions with women's groups (4) and men's groups (2)

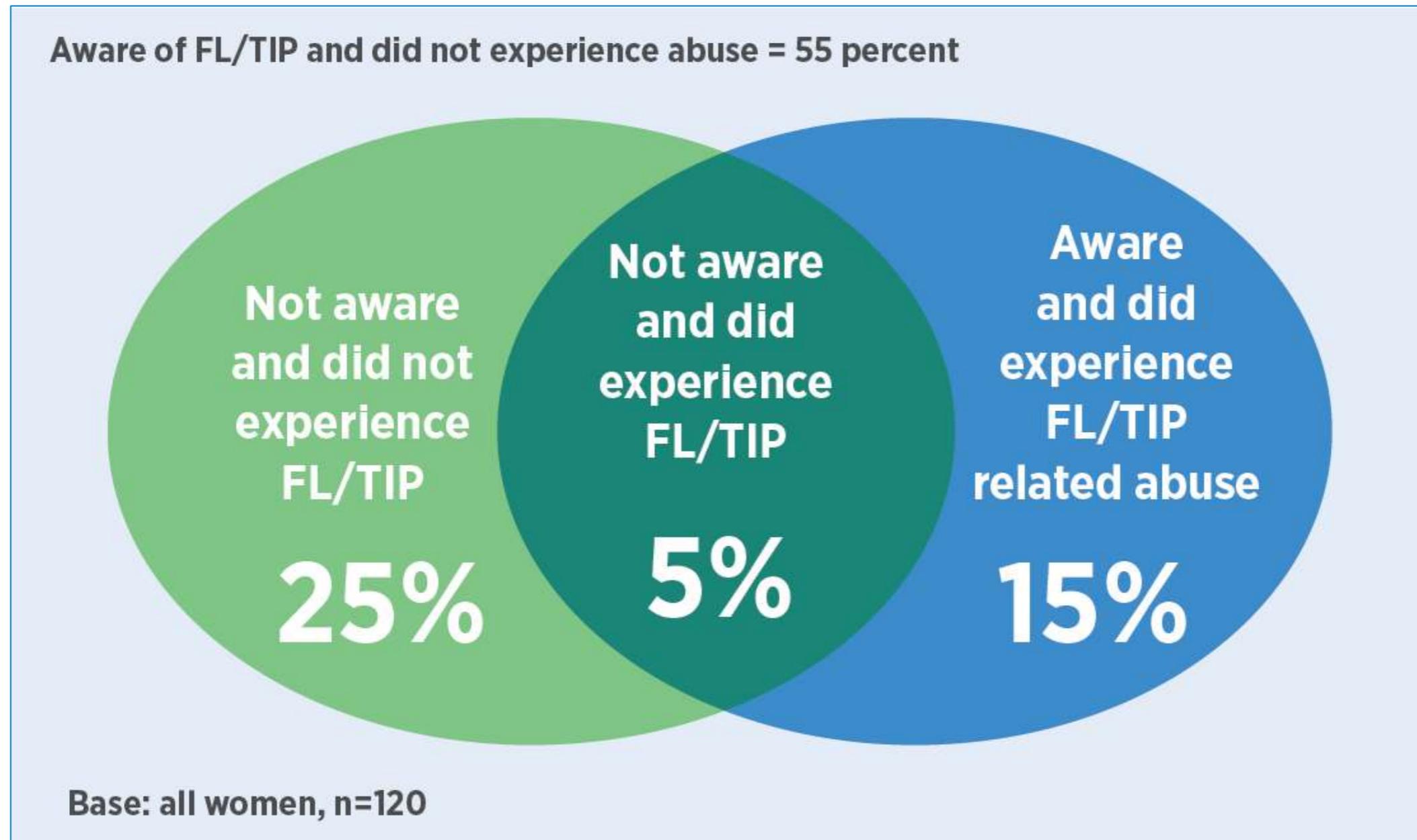


- 1 Key informant interviews with NGOs, local government officials, journalists, community members, fisher associations, and boat owners
- 0

Key Findings

WOMEN'S AWARENESS OF FL/TIP

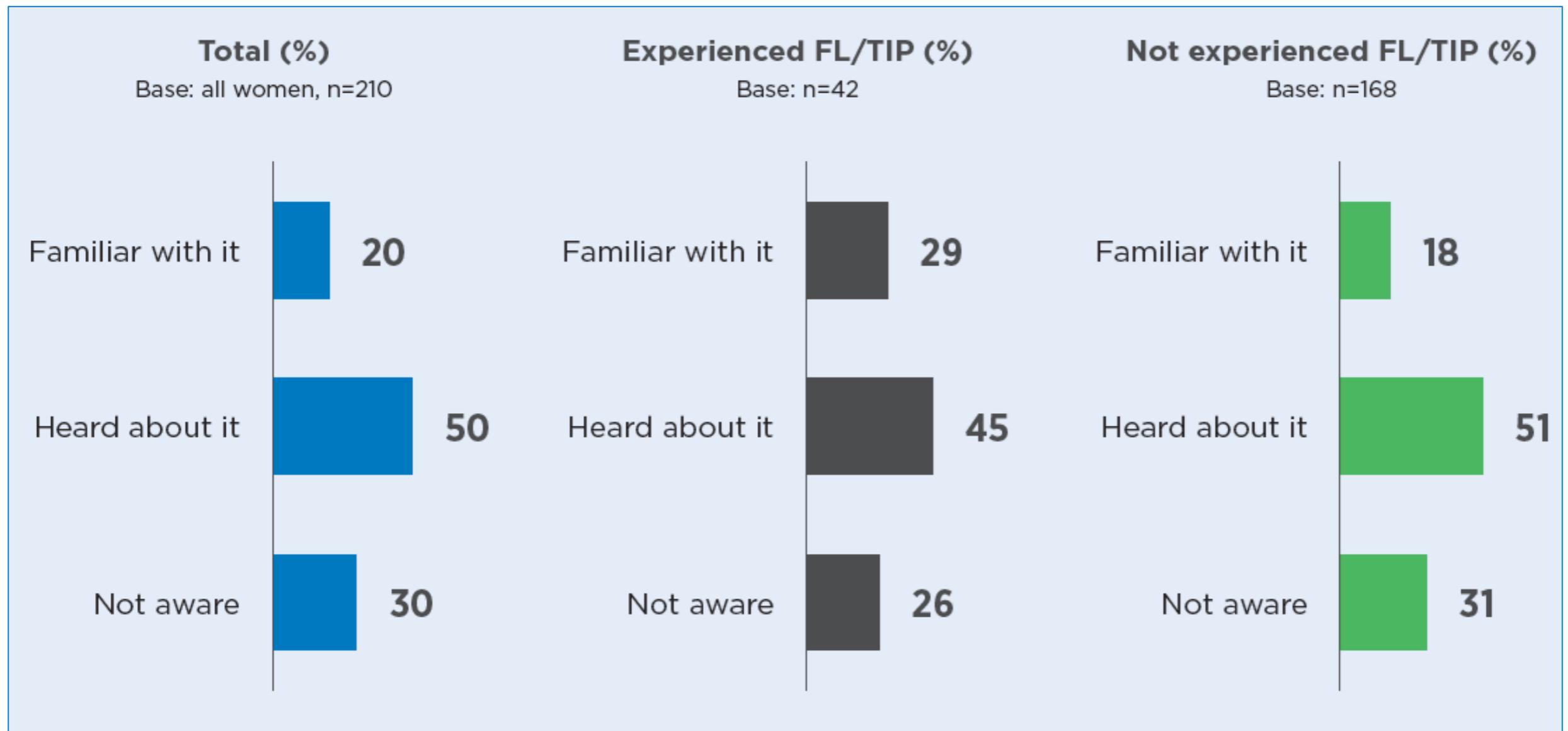
Results show that raising awareness alone may not provide a safeguard against FL/TIP. Being unaware of FL/TIP is not strongly connected with abuse experience.



Key Findings

WOMEN'S AWARENESS OF FL/TIP

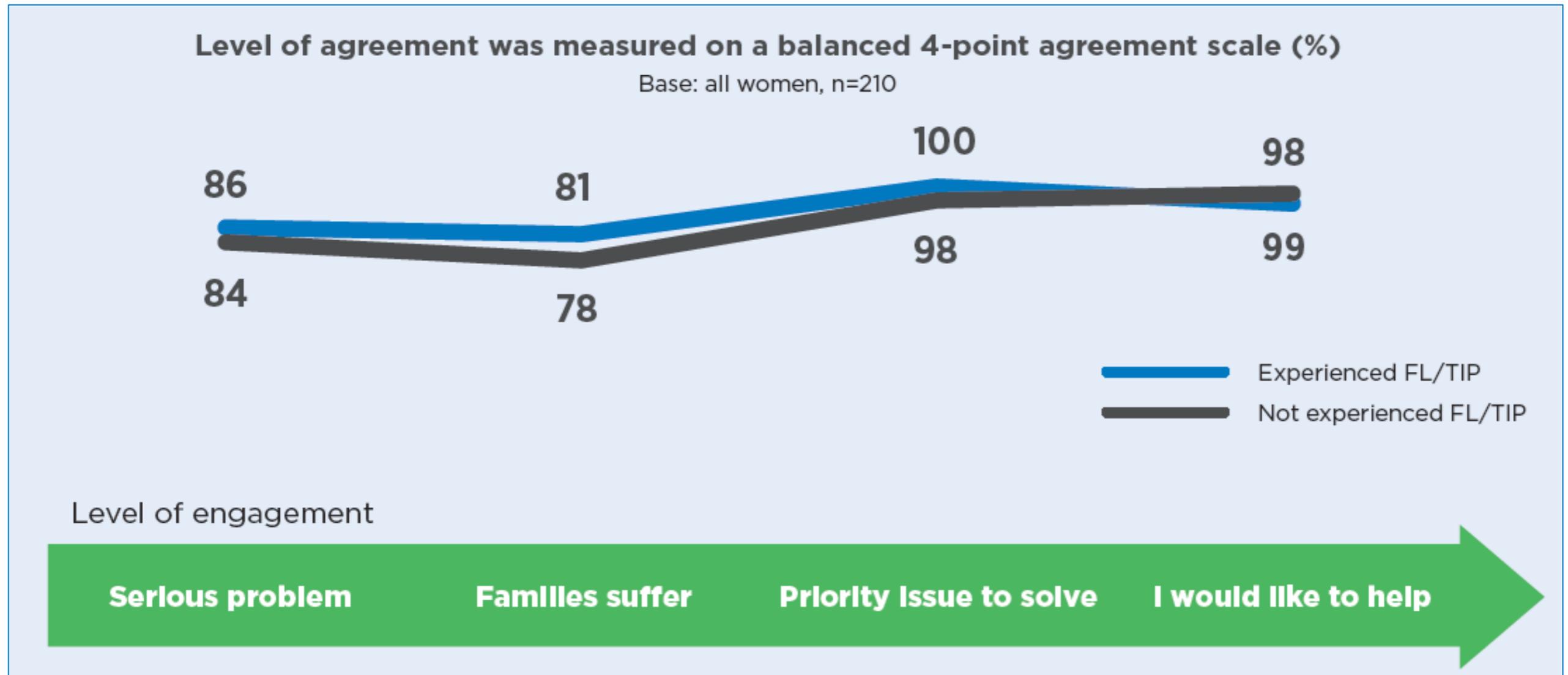
Existing gap: Even if the fisher relative has experienced abuse, this does not automatically translate into women being aware of FL/TIP. Also, awareness does not necessarily protect women from the impact of FL/TIP.



Key Findings

WOMEN'S AWARENESS OF FL/TIP

Women who experienced the impacts of FL/TIP and those who have not equally recognize FL/TIP as a problem and a priority issue that should be solved. Majority also showed willingness to do something and help.

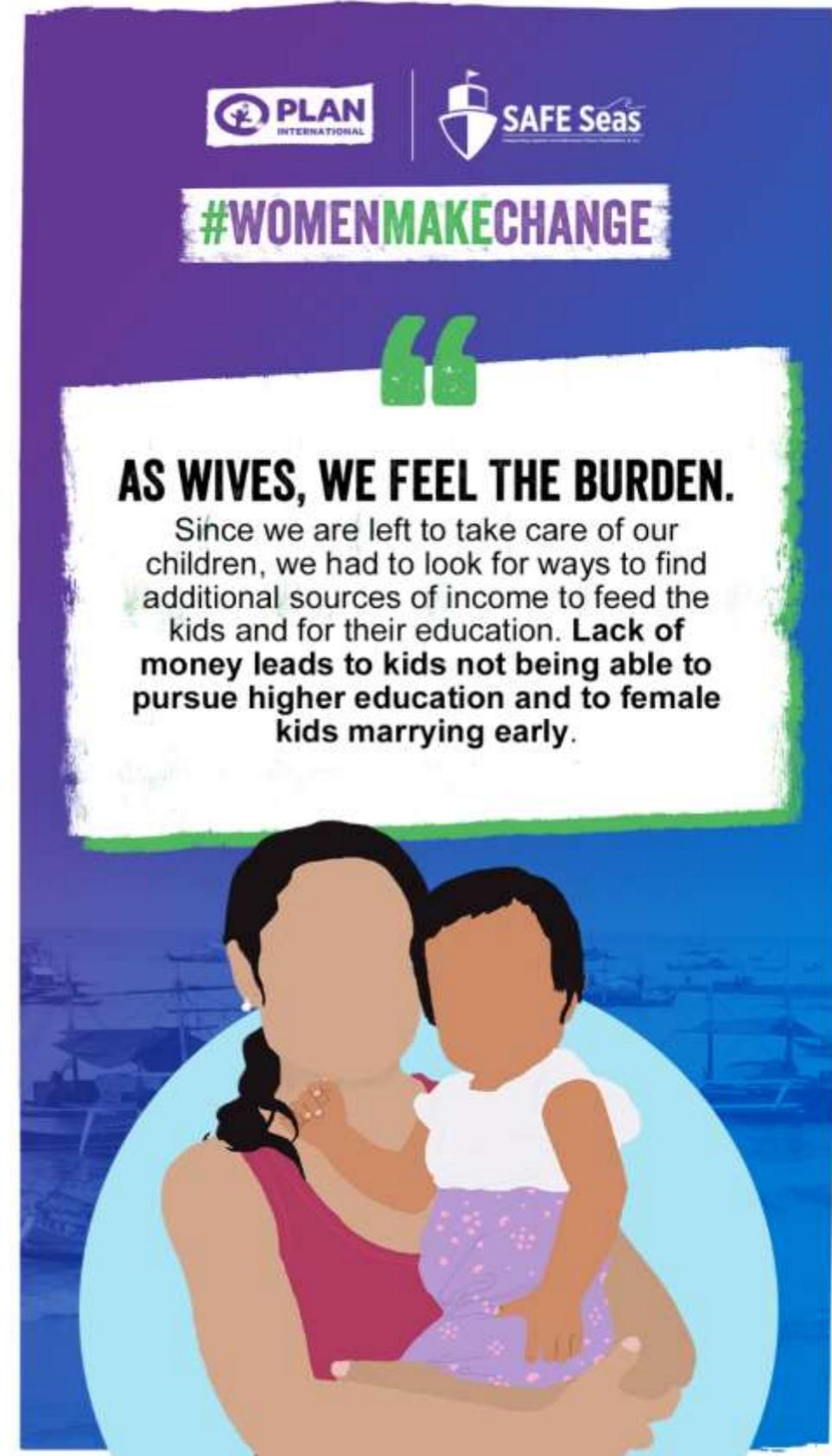


Key Findings

IMPACT OF FL/TIP ON WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Most mentioned negative impacts of FL/TIP on women and fishers' families are:

- Stress
- Having to work extra to make ends meet
- Debt burden



Key Findings

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“

MY HUSBAND HAD AN ACCIDENT WHILE WORKING AT SEA; HIS EYES WERE INJURED.

He was sent home and did not receive any medical help from the employer. A cash advance was released so he could go to a hospital, but it was not enough to pay for the Ophthalmologist's consultation fee, medicines, and tests. I had to borrow money from a loan shark with a high interest rate to help with his medications.

MOST COMMON COPING STRATEGY:

BORROWING MONEY FROM

like loan sharks with high interest rate or from boat owners in the form of cash advances.

INFORMAL LENDERS

The study shows that women often appear to be the lead decision-makers regarding household finances and negotiating loans. Nearly half (49%) of the respondents had debt with an average loan size of Php14,500.00

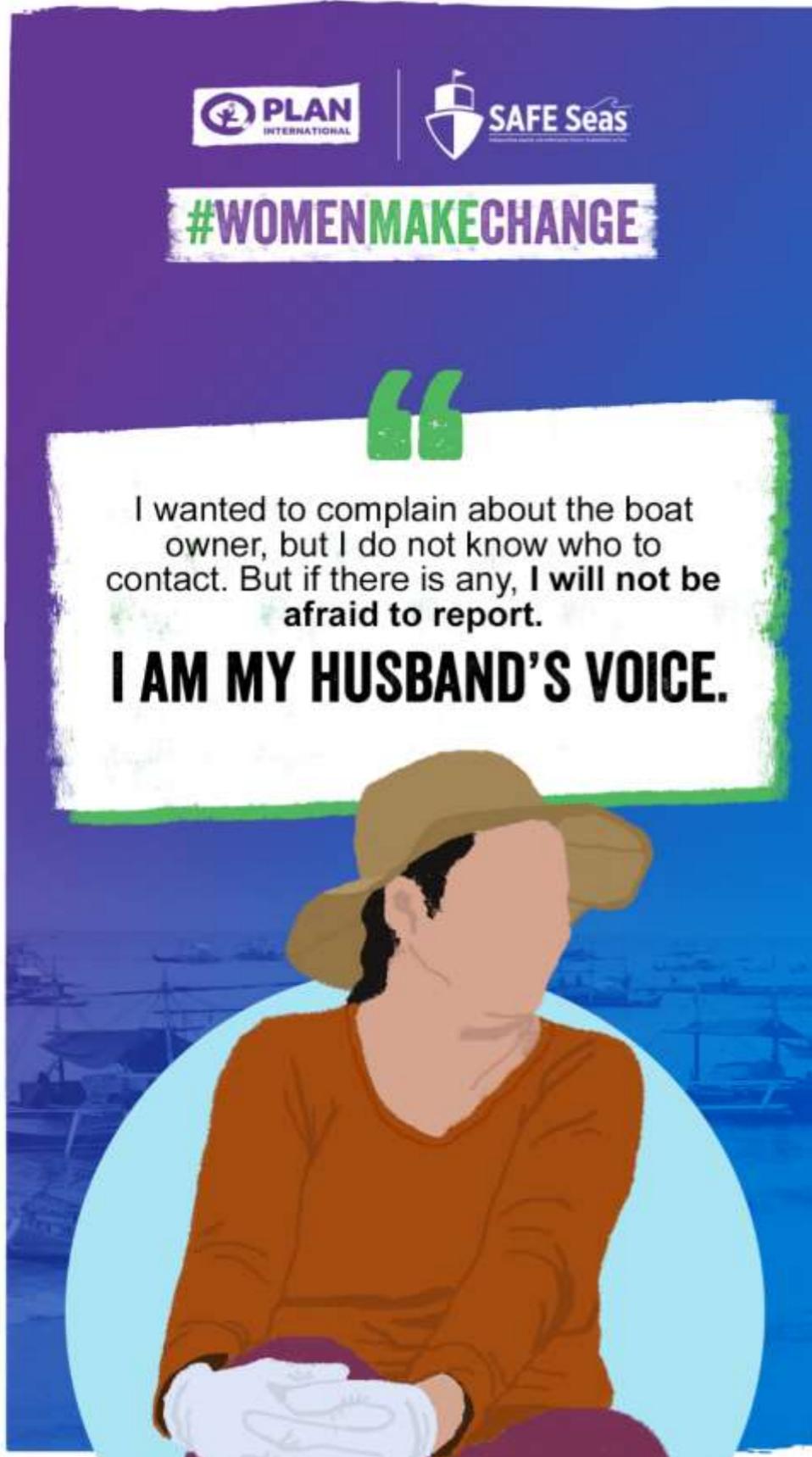
Key Findings

GENDER NORMS AND BARRIERS

- **Gender norms and social values determine the role of women and men** within and outside the household.
- **Beliefs around gender roles are reflected in the division of work** at home – women do most of the daily household chores.
- Much of the work women do, although productive, is often **unpaid or underpaid**.
- **Women also carried out fishing support activities** but it is not formally recognized.



Key Findings



WOMEN AS ADVOCATES AGAINST FL/TIP ON FISHING VESSELS

- **Women are central to their family's well-being**, especially when experiencing financial difficulties.
- Considering their participation and representation in local community organizations, **women may have considerable influence at the community level.**
- They can also **play crucial roles in advocating and applying pressure to the local government for more action against labor violations.**

Recommendations

- **Raise awareness on FL/TIP and its wider gendered impact;** and educate women on labor rights, legal services, and advocacy strategies;
- **Enable access to affordable loans and social protection programs;**
- **Promote livelihood and skills development** for greater agency; and
- **Build capacity and coordination of relevant stakeholders** to ensure coordinated efforts to improve the protection and livelihood of fisher households



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Thank you!



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