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TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT ON GENDER-SENSITIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

June 2022

SDGs:



Country:

Cambodia

Project Code:

TCP/CMB/3705

FAO Contribution:

USD 300 000

Duration:

1 November 2019 – 31 December 2021

Contact Info:

FAO Representation in Cambodia
FAO-KH@fao.org

Implementing Partners

Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Beneficiaries

Fishers and concerned national ministries and stakeholders within the sector, institutions and interested development partners (DPs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF Outcome 2: Equitable and sustainable management of natural resources, and increased capacity to monitor and report climate action.



BACKGROUND

Fisheries are critically important for Cambodia. With about 32 percent of the country consisting of either permanent or seasonal wetlands, and 435 km of coastline along estuaries, bays and islands, fisheries make a large contribution to diet and livelihoods. In terms of food security, the apparent annual per capita consumption of fish is estimated to be 52 kg and as high as 76 kg in flood plain areas, representing about 70 percent of Cambodia’s intake of animal protein. Overall, around 6 million people are involved in fisheries, around 50 percent of them are women, assuming major roles in cleaning, sorting and grading fish catches, although precise analysis on gender and child labour roles and involvement is still lacking and there is a recognized need to collect more sex-disaggregated and gender-specific data and information. At present, it is estimated that 70 percent of Cambodian women and 59 percent of men are engaged in vulnerable employment, often in the agricultural sector, including fisheries. Rural women often play a double role when contributing to household livelihoods, in reproductive and productive tasks (often unpaid) through the fish value chain.

Women assume responsibility for post-harvest management and home-based small local enterprises that process agricultural and fish products. Among children aged between and 14 years old, 62.1 percent have been reported to be working in the agriculture sector, including fishing, post-harvest fisheries activities, the repair of fishing gear and fish trading.

Much progress has been made in fisheries reform in the country, but many challenges remain. Among these challenges is the lack of recognition of women and children’s roles and the problems they face in the fisheries sector, especially with regard to issues of child labour and gender inequality at community level. This is a root cause of household poverty and poor community development, as well as of poor fisheries management.

To address these issues, the Fisheries Administration of MAFF developed a European Union-supported programme entitled the “Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector (CAPFISH)”. FAO was requested to provide technical assistance to the capture fisheries component of the programme, CAPFISH-Capture, through project GCP/CMB/043/EC. The Project Agreement signed between FAO and the European Commission indicated that FAO would complement European Union support through the co-funding of three distinct projects, including the current project. This project would support gender and child labour assessments and the development of a gender action plan and awareness-raising materials, and improve fisheries data collection and information management, as well as providing capacity-building to the relevant government counterparts. The knowledge generated from the project would support the broader CAPFISH-Capture Programme.

IMPACT

The project has achieved the envisaged outcome, that of “Strengthened institutional and human capacity for sustainable fisheries management contributing to empowerment of women and youth and effective gender-sensitive monitoring of the capture fisheries sector” by developing key technical solutions related to strengthening the fisheries information management system (FIMS) and by introducing the tools required to undertake gender and child labour assessments. This will aid the recognition of women and children’s roles in capture fisheries value chains and lead to reform of the sector.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project had four outputs, all of which were successfully delivered. The first output involved a comprehensive institutional analysis of data collection in marine and inland capture fisheries. Two key reports were produced and presented at an online validation workshop in December 2021. The second output provided support to the analysis of the existing FIMS. This was achieved through extensive consultations and close collaboration with fisheries staff at both national and sub-national levels, especially the fisheries statistical unit within FiA, and the preparation of reports containing the relevant findings and recommendations. These were presented and validated, with the participation of the core FiA focal points for fisheries statistics and information management, at the December workshop mentioned above. Output 3 was concerned with assessments of gender and child labour in fisheries communities and of fish value chains for evidence-based policy support to FiA, including the development of awareness-raising materials. The project supported FiA in undertaking a gender and child labour assessment and in developing draft strategies and plans. The work was fully coordinated with the FiA Technical Working Group (TWG) on Gender Equality Promotion and Child Labour Elimination, and capacity development provided.

The methodological approach to the assessment included an extensive literature review, including institutional and policy mapping on gender equality and child labour related to fisheries. Meanwhile, primary data was collected through semi-structured key informant interviews (KII) with staff at FiA, the FiA Cantonments of the 25 provinces in Cambodia and representatives of other development partners working in the field of gender and child protection in fisheries, as well as KII conducted with local authorities, namely the Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC), village chief and community fisheries members. In addition, a total of 75 focus group discussions took place with Cambodian fisherfolk in 25 selected community fisheries. To consult the findings from the data collected, participatory regional consultation workshops were conducted in November 2021, followed by a national validation workshop with stakeholders relevant to the fisheries sector in December 2021.

Communication materials to raise awareness on gender equality and child protection from hazardous work in fisheries developed under this output included ten posters, billboards, two videos, and leaflets. The final output regarded stakeholder consultations and the dissemination of the lessons learned during the project.



Three project steering committee (PSC) meetings were conducted during the project as part of an integrated management process. The final workshop was organized in December 2021, with 75 participants, including 18 women.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

The timing of implementation was adjusted in response to restrictions on travel and meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a two-month no-cost extension was granted to enable project activities to be completed. All activities were implemented within the planned budget.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

It is recommended that every effort be made to ensure that the gender and child labour action plan produced under the project be adopted.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

The project developed policies for gender and child labour that have been integrated into existing national policies. It strengthened existing structures, such as the TWGs, and was fully embedded in FiA. These alliances will help to ensure the sustainability of the project results. In terms of exit strategy, the project was an integral part of a larger FAO-European Union-supported programme that will continue to implement project recommendations. This includes addressing the recommendations for improving the FIMS; identification of practical follow-up activities, including capacity-building, and the formulation of a strategic development plan for FIMS, which are ongoing.

2. Gender equality

The project developed a gender and child labour action plan, and ensured that men and women were engaged throughout the consultation processes.



3. Environmental sustainability

The development of an effective FIMS will improve the capacity of stakeholders to sustainably manage fisheries.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The gender and child labour assessment and awareness-raising materials developed under the project will contribute to improved understanding of women’s and children’s rights in Cambodia.

5. Technological sustainability

The project developed capacity in gender and child labour assessments, and the analysis of fishery information management systems. The stakeholders in government institutions are continuing to use the tools developed by the project.

6. Economic sustainability

The funding needed to continue follow-up activities is allocated through the European Union budget support programme and government’s regular programme budget.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Mainstreaming Gender and Child Labour issues in the FAO CAPFISH-Capture Project: FAO CAPFISH Action Plan on Gender Promotion and Child Labour Elimination 2021-2024.* Phnom Penh, June 2021. 41 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Billboards on electric fishing gear and mosquito net fishing gears.* Phnom Penh, October 2021. 2 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Billboards on advantages/importance of flooded forests.* Phnom Penh, November 2021. 1 p.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Billboards on inundated forest fire prevention.* Phnom Penh, November 2021. 1 p.
- ❑ **Phare Creative Studio.** 2021. *Ten posters on gender and child labour for awareness-raising related to 1) Child labour and not child labour, 2) Women and men’s roles in fisheries value chain, 3) Children need to be protected, 4) Common fishing tasks, hazards and potential health consequences, 5) Children need protection-children are not small adults, 6) Women’s work is key for fisheries, 7) Women’s work and the cycle of invisibility, 8) Integrated approach from ending child labour to better livelihoods, 9) Acknowledge that women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are valuable, and 10) Gender action plan.* Phnom Penh, 16 December 2021. 10 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Assessment findings of Gender Inequalities and Child Labour Issues in fisheries communities and fish value chains, including recommendations for FAO-CapFish Project and FiA action planning on Gender and Child Labour.* Phnom Penh, June 2021. 44 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Leaflet of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project in English.* Phnom Penh, 12 December 2021. 2 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Leaflet of TCP project in Khmer.* Phnom Penh, 12 December 2021. 2 pp.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Two videos produced to promote gender equality and no child labour in fisheries sector.* Phnom Penh, December 2021.
- ❑ **FAO/CAPFISH-Capture.** 2021. *Two videos produced to promote gender equality and eliminate child labour in fisheries sector.* Phnom Penh, December 2021. <https://bit.ly/3PkZvh7> and <https://bit.ly/3nXocV4>.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved fisheries management and conservation in Cambodia		
Outcome	Strengthened institutional and human capacity for sustainable fisheries management contributing to empowerment of women and youth and effective gender-sensitive monitoring of the capture fisheries sector		
	Indicator	Number of concrete actions identified to improve gender equality and reduce harmful child labour in the capture fisheries sector.	
	Baseline	0	
	End Target	1	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	The project strengthened institutional capacity through the development of tools and training materials.	
Output 1			
Institutional analysis of data collection in marine and inland capture fisheries and their dependent communities and gaps identified			
Indicators		Target	Achieved
Number of institutions analysed.		2	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>A comprehensive institutional assessment was undertaken online (owing to COVID-19 restrictions). Two key reports were generated by the project, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Report on mapping of institutions assessment and FIMS involved in data collection. – Report of TCP validation workshop with FiA on assessment of institutional analysis of data collection and the current FIMS. <p>The key issues identified by stakeholders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Include fixed amount in annual budget for data collection and dissemination to make data collection sustainable in the long term, without dependency on external donor funding. – Improve and standardize tools and methodologies used at sub-national levels, to generate reliable and accurate data and information. – Provide training in data collection and analysis targeted at sub-national staff (set up task force of FiA trainers). – Establish a single data and information portal (FIMS) accessible through Internet by all stakeholders, to allow easy access to data and information (reports, manuals, guide books, articles and training material). – Form a separate working group within TWG-FiA to discuss issues related to data collection. – Develop a strategic plan for generating data and information, including a communication strategy, with clear prioritization of data and information requirements, while clarifying the responsibility of each FiA department (including linkages with sub-national government). – Use fisheries management planning as the main process to identify data and information needs. – Include data collection to address cross-cutting issues like gender, child labour, climate change into both routine data collection and ad-hoc surveys. – Clearly distinguish between routine data collection and research, while increasing focus on scientific research, including support for grants. – Have a specific unit or staff responsible only for data collection. 		
Activity 1.1			
Mapping of institutions involved in data collection			
Achieved		Yes	
Comments		A desktop review was conducted, followed by discussions with key FiA informants from the Department of Planning, Finance and International Cooperation (DPFIC and the Department of Administrative Affairs and Litigation (DAAL) to identify main stakeholders, as targets for follow-up interviews.	
Activity 1.2			
Validation of findings			
Achieved		Yes	
Comments		An online validation workshop was undertaken in December 2021 with FiA and partners on both Output 1 “Improved compliance with fishing regulations and protected fisheries” and Output 2 “Improved ecosystem restoration, protection and conservation” of project GCP/CMB/043/EC, for the assessment of the institutional analysis of data collection and the current FIMS. A validation workshop was implemented with the main FiA stakeholders, with participants from DPFIC and DAAL, to discuss the main preliminary findings from the desktop assessment and key informant interviews.	

Activity 1.3	Finalization of the institutional analysis report		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	An institutional analysis report was prepared. Follow-up workshops are planned with FiA.	
Output 2	Analysis of current fisheries management information system supported		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of reports.	1	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>A scoping exercise was done to review the framework and support required to update, implement and maintain the FiA FIMS within the context of the government vision and contribute to FiA's vision of knowledge-based planning and decision-making.</p> <p>In parallel with FAO, CAPFISH and FiA, work was done to develop approaches to catch monitoring for inland and marine fisheries, as well as providing support for field data collection using tablets and scoping of the required FIMS.</p> <p>In addition, FiA requested a rapid needs assessment for the Fisheries Statistical Information System, with an emphasis on developing a realistic, sustainable and comprehensive approach to facilitating the generation of Fisheries Statistical reports; this is now available as a draft report and covers an assessment of gaps in catch monitoring approaches.</p> <p>Three reports were produced under this output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Report of Digital Government in FiA: FIMS. – A Rapid Assessment of the Fisheries Statistical System and the FIMS in Cambodia. December 2021 . – Report of TCP validation workshop with FiA on assessment Institutional analysis of data collection and the current FIMS. <p><i>With regard to the FIMS:</i></p> <p>The work provides an overview and way forward for initiating the development of the FIMS, with FiA, the Fisheries Administration Cantonment (FiAC), FAO CAPFISH and other stakeholders working closely together. FIMS is an integration of a collection of applications for processing, analysing, publishing and accessing data and information, using technological solutions to serve to mandate of FiA. The target is to improve access and use of the available data and information, which should lead to a better understanding of gaps in coverage and the required improvements to data collection in order to optimize the limited resources within FiA and FiAC. From the consultations conducted during the project, it is clear that here is no agreement on the exact scope of the FIMS, as this would require a more robust consultative process than was possible during the mostly online interactions necessitated by restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-up consultations, targeting both FiA and FiAC, should be considered. A more detailed discussion is required based on the main recommendations included in this report for increasing capacity for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Digital data collection, data and database management. – Data analysis and visualization including Geographic Information System (GIS) and statistical software. – System design and development. – Information technology support, system and network maintenance. <p><i>With regard to statistics:</i></p> <p>The report recommended that data requirements for management and policy development follow the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries and listed core data available at FiA. Emphasis was placed on how data collection could be improved and on how better data management would facilitate the preparation of fisheries statistical reports. The review suggested that a long-term sustainable routine data collection can only be achieved if improvement of data collection focuses on the capacity of FiAC staff, with regard to funding, training and the development of databases.</p>		
Activity 2.1	Consultations with staff of agencies involved in fisheries management information system		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Staff members from DPFIC, FiAC and the two FiA research institutes directly involved with catch monitoring were consulted. Budget availability, staff capacity and the need for a FIMS strategic development plan were the main issues involved in implementing an FIMS.	
Activity 2.2	Preparation of report on analysis of current system and needs		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Two reports were prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Report of Digital Government in FiA: FIMS. – A Rapid Assessment of the Fisheries Statistical System and the Fisheries Management Information System in Cambodia. December 2021 (drafted). 	

Activity 2.3	Validation of findings and recommendations		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A validation workshop was organized, with the preliminary findings and recommendations by the consultant presented during the final project workshop. A report of the validation workshop with FiA on the assessment of the institutional analysis of data collection and the current FIMS was produced.	
Activity 2.4	Finalization of report		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Three reports were produced under this output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Report of Digital Government in FiA: FIMS. – A Rapid Assessment of the Fisheries Statistical System and the Fisheries Management Information System in Cambodia. December 2021 (drafted). – Report of TCP validation workshop with FiA on the assessment of the institutional analysis of data collection and the current FIMS. 	
Output 3	Assessments of gender and child labour in fisheries communities and value chains including action planning		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of gender and child labour assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 25 community assessments. – 10 value chain assessments. 	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>The project supported FiA to undertake a gender and child labour assessment, and to develop draft strategies and plans. The work was fully coordinated with the FiA TWG on Gender Equality Promotion and Child Labour Elimination. Three key targets were agreed during the work planning phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Target 1. Policy update: Strategic framework on Gender Equality Promotion and Child Labour Elimination in the Fisheries Sector. – Target 2. Enhanced general institutional capacity on Gender Equality Promotion and Child Labour Elimination. – Target 3. Awareness-raising materials developed. <p>The project assisted FiA to develop and implement a research methodology to assess gender inequalities and child labour in the fisheries sector. The main findings from the Gender and Child Labour Assessment were categorized and presented in the sections below. Key documents included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inception report for the Assessment on Gender Inequalities and Child Labour Issues in the Fisheries Sector including tools and methodologies and coaching methodologies. – Introduction to Data Analysis Methodology for the Gender and Child Labour Assessment in the Fisheries Sector. – Training report on finalizing the tools and methodologies of Gender and Child Labour Assessment in the Fisheries Sector. – Strategic Planning for Mainstreaming Gender and Child Labour issues in the FAO CAPFISH-Capture Project: FAO CAPFISH Action Plan on Gender Promotion and Child Labour Elimination 2021-2024. – Coaching Methodology on Gender and Child Labour Assessment in the field. <p>Follow-up support to FiA includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Policy component supporting the integration of gender and child protection considerations in national instruments and guidelines. – Capacity development component to build more knowledge and capacities on integrating socio-economic relevance throughout fisheries governance. – Focus on gender-sensitive and child-centred implementation and affirmative actions to strengthen women's economic empowerment and combat child labour. – Strengthen monitoring and evaluation and delivery mechanisms to monitor progress on the implementation of the FiA five-year Gender and Child Labour Action Plan (2022-2026). 		
Activity 3.1	Preparatory activities		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The project supported FiA in the preparation of tools and methodology for the assessment of gender and child labour in the fisheries sector at all levels (including institutions, communities and action planning).	
Activity 3.2	Gender and child labour assessments		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Field missions were carried out by FAO-FiA teams to undertake 25 participatory community fisheries assessments.</p> <p>Key Informant Interviews were conducted with local authorities and Focus Group Discussions (with a total of 750 people), using gender analysis and institutional capacity needs assessment. Support was provided to the TWG on Gender and Child Labour in the development of a roadmap and work plan.</p>	

Activity 3.3	Presentation of findings of assessment and recommendations	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Findings were presented at the TWG-FiA meeting, held in December 2021, with 58 participants including ten women. The project closure workshop was conducted in December 2021, with participants from FiA, FiAC, NGOs and DPs, with 75 participants, including 18 women.
Activity 3.4	Finalize assessment report and action plan	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>The Gender and Child Labour Assessment Report was finalized in January 2022. The main findings from the assessment were categorized and presented, as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Relevant government policies and strategies exist, but have been severely constrained by the limited resources and the lack of capacity and structural mechanisms to facilitate the implementation. – Women’s representation in Community Fisheries Management Committees, and involvement in decision-making, are still limited. At national level too, however, women account for a marginal proportion of those in decision-making positions in state affairs. – Time poverty is a major challenge for women in taking up leadership roles in their community while keeping up with diverse livelihoods and family care. – Gender Inequalities were identified in the access to information, training and services. – The majority of post-harvest micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in fisheries are owned by women. Although they are active in processing, marketing and selling fishery products, women face significant gender discrimination. There is little data on, or recognition of, women’s roles in the sector. – Families in rural fishing communities are engaged in highly labour-intensive livelihood strategies to survive, with no social safeguards in times of external shocks, while in many cases children support their families and do not attend school. – Many children from fishing communities work in factories, construction and plantations, and are at risk of hazardous work and suboptimal conditions. The assessment found that there is still a prevalence of child labour that imposes serious consequences affecting not only children, but also long-term national economic and social development for sustainable employment, productivity and decent work for adults by creating cycles of intergenerational poverty. <p>Based on the findings of the study, the key areas of priority actions for the Fisheries Administration Gender Action Plan for the next five-year period of 2022-2026 are summarized as follows:</p> <p>Objective 1: Effective mainstreaming of gender and child protection perspectives through strengthened capacities and institutional frameworks.</p> <p>Objective 2: Equality of women and men in representation and participation in decision-making for informed fisheries planning.</p> <p>Objective 3: Equality of women and men in accessing economic and natural resources, information and technology and protecting children from child labour in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Objective 4: Strengthened accountability and delivery mechanisms to monitor progress on the implementation of the Action Plan, including targeted data collection and research.</p>
Activity 3.5	Development of communication and advocacy materials	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The project supported the development of gender and child labour materials, including two videos, ten posters and leaflets.

Output 4	Stakeholder consultations and dissemination of lessons learned		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of meetings and workshops.	3	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No inception meeting was conducted because of COVID-19 restrictions. - Three project steering committee (PSC) meetings were held as part of an integrated management process. - Project work plans and progress reports were produced. - The closure workshop was held and a workshop report produced. 		
Activity 4.1	Project inception		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 restrictions prevented the conduct of an inception workshop. - Three PSC meetings were held. 	
Activity 4.2	Organize national dissemination workshop		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Three regional consultation workshop were conducted on the findings of the Gender and Child Labour Assessment with 64 participants, including 27 women.</p> <p>The final project closure workshop and workshop report was conducted in December 2021, with 75 participants (including 18 women) from FiA, FiAC, NGOs and DPs.</p>	

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy