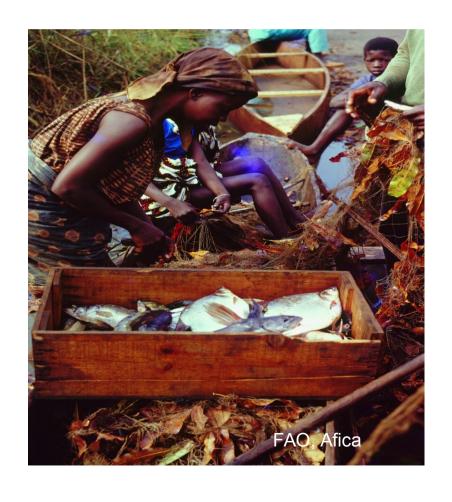
Implementing the VG SSF as a critical strategy in the economic empowerment of women

25th August 2015
IORA Women's
Economic
Empowerment
Event





Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Gender analysis

- Recognises the importance of empowering men and women to participate in decision-making processes (Objectives)
- Voices of both men and women are heard in the application of the guidelines (Nature and Scope)



Recognise that women are significant actors in SSF (Foreword) and that half those employed in SSF are women (Preface)



Cross cutting issues



- Focus on women
- Marginalised and vulnerable groups
- Indigenous communities
- Traditional knowledge
- Participation of the community



All have a role to play

FAO looks at collaboration for implementation with

governments, small-scale fishers, fish workers and their organizations, CSOs, research and academia, private sector, donor community

"All non-state actors including business enterprises related to or affecting small-scale fisheries have a responsibility to respect human rights."



The guiding principles

Recognize the importance of adhering to human rights standards and gender equality as fundamental to development

Encourage women leadership and take into account Art. 5 of the CEDAW





Gender Equality

- Recognize that achieving gender equality requires concerted efforts, different approaches and should challenge practices (8.1)
- Endeavour to secure women's equal participation in decision-making processes...; adopt specific measures to address discrimination against women ... " (8.2)
- States should establish policies and legislation to realize gender equality and adapt those that don't. Ensure women's equal access to extension services and technical access. (8.3, 8.4)

Responsible governance of tenure

Support equitable distribution of the benefits yielded from responsible management of fisheries (5.1)





Responsible governance of tenure

- Ensuring through legislation secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources, with a special attention paid to women (5.3, 5.4)
- Eliminate any form of discrimination against women in tenure practices in case of natural disasters and/or armed conflict (5.12)

ICSF

Sustainable resource management

Involve SSF with equitable representation of women in management of resources, including protected areas (5.15)

Encourage and support the role and involvement of both men and women, in pre- harvest, harvest or post- harvest operations, in the context of comanagement and in the promotion of responsible fisheries... ensuring equitable participation of women (5.18)



Social development, employment and decent work

 Recognise the economic and professional operations along the value chain and promote professional and organizational development opportunities for women (6.6)

• Ensure an environment free from crime, violence and abuse and ensure justice to victims (6.10); eliminate forced labour and prevent debt bondage (6.14)

Social development, employment and decent work

Promote investment in HRD and ensure affordable access to essential services and to savings and credit; preferential treatment to women if necessary (6.2, 6.5, 6.15



Value chains, post- harvest and trade

Recognise the unequal power relationships between value chain actors; the vital role of women in the post harvest subsector (7.1, 7.2)





Value chains, post- harvest and trade

- Ensure amenities and services are available... (7.2, 7.3)
- Recognise and support forms of associations and cooperatives of women, build capacities and have access to marketing mechanisms, trade information (7.4, 7.6, 7.10)





Disaster risks and climate change

Consult with women and men in SSF when developing policies and strategies to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation and building resilience. (9.2)





Disaster risks and climate change

Special support be given to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands where climate change may have particular implications for food security, nutrition, housing and livelihoods. (9.2)



Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation

- Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration with special attention paid to ensuring gender equity and equality (10.1)
- Gender sensitive policies in spatial planning (10.2);
 Gender-disaggregated data in official statistics (11.1)
- Gender analysis in SSF research & programme planning to inform strategies for ensuring equitable benefits; in design of policies, programmes; gender sensitive indicators for monitoring (11.10, 13.4)





Recognise the specific knowledge of women fishers and fishworkers (11.6)



Capacity development

 Ensure the equitable participation of women in representative structures in SSF subsector along the entire value chain; enable women to organize autonomously at various levels (12.1)

 Develop materials for effective dissemination of information on gender and women's role in SSF..." (13.3)



Lacunae in the VGSSF

- Does not explain what gender issues in SSF are exactly nor the impact of unequal power relations for sustainable development or community wellbeing
- Focus is on gender mainstreaming rather than transformational change
- Inclusive approach is no guarantee to equal benefits or that policies and programmes will reflect these
- Unclear how gender issues will be dealt with since VGSSF "should be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions"



Taking the VGSSF forward

- Provide an enabling policy environment through national legislation
- Strengthen women's
 organisations through capacity
 building initiatives, leadership
 training & exchange visits
- Promote women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurial training among women actively involved in postharvest and related value chain activities
- Ensure women are included in decision-making bodies at all levels
- Take up issues of rights and access to fisheries resources, land and property



- Improve the work conditions of women fish markets, transport, harbours
- Include women in social protection programmes by insisting on the term fishworker



Taking the VGSSF forward

- Link fisheries issues to the larger debates on agriculture, food security
- Involve men in gender empowerment initiatives
- Conduct national and regional workshops on the implemention of the SSF guidelines, with focus on gender dimensions
- Collect gender disaggregated data and conduct research to highlight women's contribution to SSF, and their needs
- Develop simplified and culturally appropriate material for women in fisheries



"It is vital to pay specific attention to securing the economic, social and cultural rights of women in fishing communities, including their rights to fishery resources, to coastal lands inhabited and used by them, to credit and transport, to appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services for fish processing and marketing, to basic amenities and services, and to decision-making processes affecting their lives and livelihoods."

Chandrika Sharma "Securing economic, social and cultural rights of small-scale and artisanal fisherworkers and fishing communities", MAST 2011, 10(2): 41-61

