

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Experiences and lessons from large-scale industry and SSF in Chile, Bangladesh and Ghana

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SUSTAINABLE OCEANS: A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

- 5-year project funded by SIDA since 2018 – strong gender focus
- Responding to lack of HRBA in fisheries & aquaculture
- In-depth multi-year studies assessing human right impacts in fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh, Chile and Honduras
- Smaller studies in Africa; Ghana, Senegal & Madagascar
- Global activities: briefings, tools, policy processes
- Frameworks: International, regional & national human rights, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and SDGs

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WHAT WE DO WHERE WE WORK PARTNERS RESULTS TOOLS

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PROJECTS

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Period:

Starts: 2018
Ends: 2022

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Download:

↓ TWO-PAGER: Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture cannot be achieved without human rights

↓ KEY MESSAGES: International Expert Meeting in Copenhagen, June 2018

↓ PROJECT BRIEF: Sustainable Oceans

Promoting human rights in fisheries and aquaculture

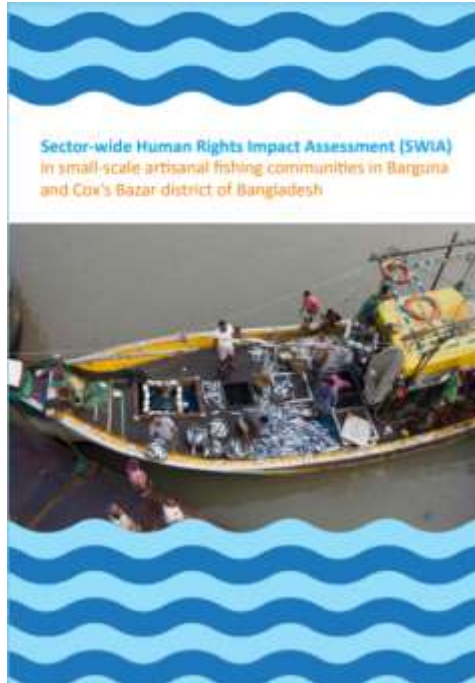


By documenting & addressing human rights implications the project seeks to promote a sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Purpose

Forced labour, limited access to marine resources and markets among small-scale fishers. Increasing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, commercial exploitation and lack of respect for indigenous peoples' rights. In many parts of the world the fisheries- and aquaculture sectors face severe

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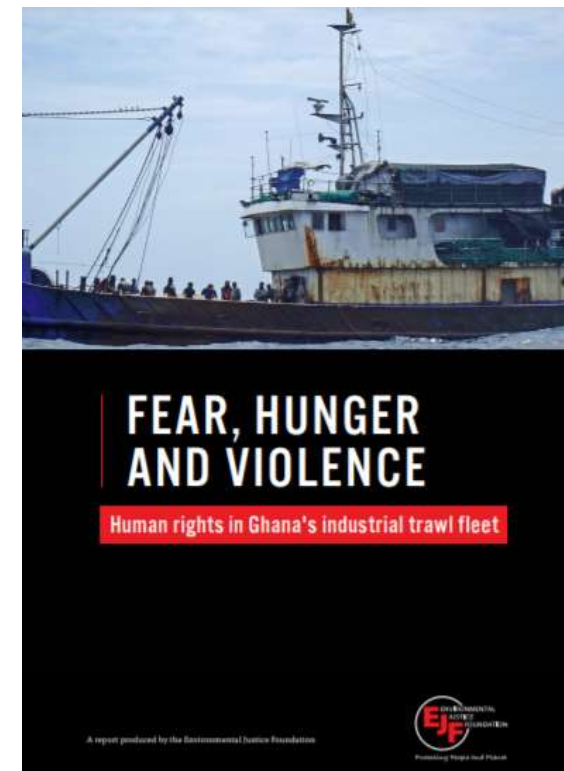
Sector-wide impact assessment in small-scale artisanal fishing communities in Bangladesh



Report of Roundtable on human rights and salmon farming, by DIHR, IHRB and Rafto Foundation



Sector-wide impact assessment of the Chilean salmon industry



Study by NGO Environmental Justice Foundation on human rights in Ghana's industrial trawl fleet



Sector-wide impact assessment of the lobster diving industry in Honduras

THE SALMON INDUSTRY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

Sector-Wide Impact Assessment

October 2021



**SUSTAINABLE
OCEANS**

Human Rights, Fisheries
and Aquaculture



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LABOUR ISSUES



Falta de cumplimiento para necesidades de trabajadoras embarazadas

Además de descuentos por asistir a control y hostigamiento para que renuncien



Los sistemas de turnos y el trabajo nocturno tienen fuertes repercusiones en la vida familiar

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS IN THE BANGLADESHI SHRIMP SECTOR

Impacts on women workers - Key study findings

- Gender wage gap: women workers do not receive equal pay for equal work as their male colleagues
- A large number reported the absence of gender segregated sanitary facilities at workplace
- Pregnant women do not have special provisions at workplace and work the same hours as other women/men
- Overtime is common to supplement low wages, but affects women disproportionately as they also have to take care of children
- Limited availability of child care facilities
- No reports of sexual harassment but harassment and discrimination prevalent



Sector-wide Human Rights Impact Assessment (SWIA)
in small-scale artisanal fishing communities in Barguna
and Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh



HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS IN ARTISANAL FISHING COMMUNITIES IN BANGLADESH

Key findings regarding impacts on women and girls:

Livelihoods, standard of living:

- Fishing is a dangerous threat to the whole family's livelihood. Women live with **fear** and sense of **insecurity**
- **Poor access to social security** when husband dies (75 % receive no compensation)

Personal integrity:

- Women **do not feel safe** in their own homes when their husbands are at sea –fear violence and abuse
- 68% have experienced problems while husbands are at sea, 10% report sexual assaults

Unequal pay:

- 64% of women interviewed engage in income-generating activities, mostly post-harvest processing
- Double discrimination: unequal pay; harassed and criticized for working with men

GHANA: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL AND OVERFISHING



Photo courtesy: Cover photo EJF report

- Large no. of women involved in fish processing, distributing and marketing across Ghana
- Small scale fishing has a positive impact on the rights of women: increased access for rural women to income generating opportunities
- But: inequalities between men & women:
- Limited government support is available to women working in fish processing and trading activities, including limited access to:
 - a.) subsidies;
 - b.) skill upgrading/training;
 - c.) support to form cooperatives
 - d.) Lack of social security coverage
 - e.) secondary education
 - f.) sufficient food and sanitary facilities

COMMON TRENDS:

Women working in fisheries & aquaculture along the value chain, from industrial to small scale, face:

- Systemic discrimination in the workplace and community
- Are paid less and valued less
- Limited access to capacity building & training
- Limited access to & participate in decision-making processes
- Health and well-being impacts incl. sexual assault



Photo courtesy: Dr. M. Gulam Hussain



Photo: World Bank

Recommendations:

- Need for stronger laws and policies on gender equality and non-discrimination + implementation of human rights instruments
- Company commitment to human & women's rights in accordance with UNGPs and SDG 5 + 8 and practice HRDD
- Inspections + certification audits should be more gender sensitive in terms of content & process
- Bring human rights/gender - fisheries and aquaculture disciplines closer together
- Capacity building stakeholders in understanding gender and women's rights in fisheries and aquaculture
- More research + public data needed on impacts on women in fisheries and aquaculture → public information can raise the bar
- Give affected women a voice: more participation at all levels - bring them to fora like this

THANK YOU!



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Photo: Tulika Bansal