



THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

LEARNING SITE: GENERAL SANTOS CITY, PHILIPPINES

OVERVIEW

The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) conducted a gender analysis in Philippine fisheries, focusing on the tuna fisheries value chain in General Santos City and Sarangani Bay area. The analysis was undertaken by the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines, Inc. (WINFISH), an organization that works to improve the status of women, especially in the fisheries industry. Tuna fisheries are an established industry that greatly benefits the SOCCSKSARGEN area. As in other areas and with other species, tuna fisheries are traditionally a male-dominated industry, however, literature and observations show that women are heavily engaged in certain nodes of the tuna value chain. A gender analysis becomes imperative in order to capture the nuances of the industry that are influenced or affected by gender differentials along the value chain.

Specifically, the gender analysis identified the variations and commonalities in roles and interactions among the male and female players in both the municipal and large scale (purse seine and handline) tuna fisheries. Issues and needs that constrain the attainment of gender equality and equity as well as women empowerment concerns were likewise determined, through stakeholder consultations. From the results of the study, strategic areas of intervention to promote gender equity, and empower and build the capacity of women along the fisheries value chains were identified, particularly in the implementation of the Catch Documentation and Traceability System and in Sustainable Fisheries Management.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINDINGS

The gender analysis was conducted during 2016 to 2017, after which the results have been validated with the direct respondents and with a wider audience during the Integrated Stakeholder Workshop in 2017. In addition, the results have been presented in various meetings and conferences, locally and abroad. Research findings and observations showed similarities with the literature review conducted in the early phases of this research. In addition to desk-studies, a gendered Value Chain Mapping Workshop was held prior to in-field research to generate value chain maps; identify gender differentials in roles, opportunities, and constraints; and determine areas for further probing in the in-field research stage of analyses. The current research findings show that gender differentials exist in roles along the tuna value chain for both small- and large-scale fisheries. These findings include:

- men generally perform jobs that are more physically-demanding in nature, such as production (i.e. fishing) and hauling, loading and unloading.
- women generally perform jobs that are more detailed or transactional in nature, such as making preparations for the fishing trips, processing the caught fish, and selling the products. These jobs typically allow women to stay closer to home and on land, hence, complete their familial responsibilities such as caring for children, maintaining a home, and performing nurturance activities in the family.
- overlapping roles of women and men along the value chain, both at home and at work. This overlapping of roles is more evident in municipal fisheries where a number of tuna-related activities are carried out as family labor. Shared work are generally light such as processing tuna by-products, washing/drying fishing paraphernalia, and preparing the gears. Performing these tasks likewise serve as bonding time for the family or the couple. The multiplicity of women's burdens at home and in peripheral (often irregular) fishing-related work make women more vulnerable to the impacts of low fish catch and low market prices of fish products.
- In commercial handline fisheries, women's tasks are fewer than in municipal fisheries. Their participation is limited to final inspection/quality control, documentation, recording/reporting, and packaging and labeling in the processing node of the VC. Her participation is further limited by beliefs and practices of a traditionally-male dominated industry. Overlapping roles similar to those in municipal fisheries are observed and these are mostly light tasks which women do as an extension of their housework such as disbursements, purchasing/marketing on top of processing. Men are involved in pre-processing, butchering, receiving the fish at the plant site, freezing

the fish and cold storage, unloading of fresh/chilled/frozen fish from vessels/trucks, cooling, misting, pre-cooking, and cutting into fillet/steak or grinding the meat.

- In purse seine: women are in processing plants and mostly preferred for their being detail-oriented and perseverance in standing for long hours in assembly lines, and in marketing tasks since they are believed to be patient in the negotiating table. Women are discouraged from working in cold storage since they are perceived to be physically weak. Women are found in intermediary tasks in post-catch landing tasks such as *jambolero*, tray holders, and checkers. Men, on the other hand, do the production.

Since 2006, the Philippines has been the only Asian country and the only one of two developing countries with the **lowest gender gap**. However, no data is available on the contribution of the fisheries sector to the reduction of gender gap.

In the General Santos tuna industry, there is a **high turnover rate** in canning factories, especially among employees in the production department where most women are found in assembly lines.

Processing is mostly done by women. Trading is mostly done by women, too, but only in small-scale ventures. Men are in the medium and large-scale trading activities.

ADDRESSING WOMEN'S PRACTICAL GENDER NEEDS:

Addressing women's practical gender needs concerns that will keep her healthy, and the provision of gender-sensitive facilities and amenities in the workplace, especially for mothers who combine worktime with reproductive roles of watching kids and nursing babies:

- Provision of protective gears
- IEC for reproductive health
- Improved ventilation of canneries
- Hazard pay for risky jobs
- Nursing area(s) at the work place
- High chairs for production workers, to avoid long hours of standing
- Membership in the SSS, PhilHealth
- Provision of hauling equipment fit that considers the differences between men and women's physical make-up.

ADDRESSING WOMEN'S STRATEGIC GENDER NEEDS:

Addressing women's strategic gender needs pertains to her status as appendage to men's work and/or her workspace being limited by beliefs, perceptions, practices, and social and traditional norms in the male-dominated tuna fishing sector:

- Designing woman-friendly boat facilities so they can fish, too
- Driving lessons for women, to enable them to use equipment like forklifts and cranes
- Provision of machineries/equipment that may allow women to do fish hauling
- Increased access to IT
- Leadership positions for women
- Organization of women's groups

In addition to the practical and strategic gender needs that were identified, and which need to be addressed, there exists gender issues that were categorized as follows: issues on gender equity and women's empowerment, issues related to sustainable fisheries management, issues related to CDT, issues on human welfare, and other gender-related issues in the industry.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods. While the former helped to describe behaviors, patterns and trends about roles and relationships of women and men in the tuna value chain, the latter provided numerical evidence to back up those behaviors. Variables associated with the extent of work that women and men did (such as work hours) were quantified, and statistical tools were used to facilitate analysis of behaviors from the respondents' perspectives.

For purposes of capturing the roles and relationships of men and women at all phases and subsectors of the tuna fisheries, we employed a gender-responsive value chain as the framework for analyzing gender differentials. A gender analysis approach using USAID's six domains (i.e. access; practices and participation; knowledge, beliefs and perception;

time and space, legal rights and status; power and decision making) provided the overall lens in the implementation of the study.

Prior to field work, a comprehensive review of related literature and several ocular visits were conducted in late 2016. Primary data collection followed, which continued in 2017. Producers, processors and traders, as the value chain players, were included in the study together with value chain enablers such as government units, its agencies, and other development organizations which make possible the efficient functioning of the tuna fisheries value chain. A survey among 225 respondents (114 females and 111 males) representing the producers, processors and traders, was conducted. The producers consisted of municipal fishers, commercial handline crew/boat operators/owners, and the purse seiners. The processors included the workers in canneries, in frozen production and assembly lines as well as the small-scale entrepreneurs who process fresh/raw tuna into various value-added items. The traders included the *talipapa* (wet markets), the peddlers and vendors, and the support actors to traders such as the brokers, and *jamboleros*.

Sixteen key informant interviews (12 females and 4 males), and 8 Focus Group Discussions (3 all-female, 2 all-male, and 3 mixed female-male) were likewise conducted. The key informants consisted of individuals who were able to give inputs to the study by virtue of the position/rank they occupied, and/or their active engagement in the tuna fisheries value chain (VC), regardless of the VC node that they belong. There were representatives from both VC players and VC enablers. On the other hand, the FGDs involved small sets of VC players representing the different VC nodes such as the municipal fishers, those in the assembly line of canneries, the traders at the General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC), among others. Additional sources of data came from the results of the value chain mapping workshop which was conducted before in-field research commenced, and attended by value chain (VC) players and enablers, enumerators, and program partners.

The research instruments were pre-tested and were translated to the local dialect, then back-translated to ensure that nothing was lost in the translation process. The survey was paperless, which employed mobile data collection tools (Android-enabled smart phones and tablets) and free and open source software (Open Data Kit).

The study started in late December 2016 and field work for data collection occurred from the middle of January 2017 to early March 2017. The process was facilitated with the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Local Government Units and their various offices, the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, the fishers' associations/organizations, and similar groups engaged in tuna fisheries.

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