



# Understanding the Current Gender Context in Bangladesh

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# Current Scenario:

## Fish Production in Bangladesh

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17 million people [1.4 million women] depend on the fisheries sector for livelihoods

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Fish alone supplies 60% of animal protein

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Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of fisheries resources and contributed 3.57% to the GDP

*[Fiscal year 2020-21]*

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Fish productions increased to 46.21 lakh MTs

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Growth rate of Hilsha production is 13.91% and Shrimp is 4.43%

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Recovered 29 near-extinct fish species in past 14 years (BFRI)





## Women Role in Fisheries



## Does Gender Important?



Men and women perform different tasks within fish value chains and have skills, experience, knowledge and decision-making roles



Women's roles in official fisheries statistics are often overlooked



Women remain disadvantaged throughout the fish value chain, with their productive potential unrealized

# Achievements of Women Fishers

## District-level Fisher Network:

A total of 3 Committees. In each committee, there are 11 women members. All of them came from SSF families

## Upazila-level Fishers Network

A total of 4 Committees. In each committee, there are 9 women members

## Union-level Fishers Network:

A total of 6 Committees. In each committee, there are 5 women members

## Group-based Fishers Network:

A total of 30 Committees. In each committee, there are 5 women members







## Achievements of Women Fishers

### Perceptual Changes in decision making:

Women's participation in the decision-making processes is increasing in fishing communities

### Strengthened Relationship:

Strengthened Relationships with govt. institutions at the Upazila level [Women & Children Affairs, Social Welfare, and Youth Development] and frequent communication

### Linkage with Upazila Fisheries Office:

Due to the continuous lobby, 100 small-scale fishers from the targeted program participants received fishers' cards. 70 of them received 40kg of rice under the Govt. social safety net program during the banned period

### Increased Access to Information:

Network members are getting the skills and knowledge for accessing service-related information e.g.; skill development, Widow allowance, Medical allowance, etc. from different govt. departments

### Ecological Preservation and Improved Livelihoods:

Usage of current nets is decreasing. Women's involvement in different AIGA is increased

# Obstacles Regarding Gender Mainstreaming

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Most of women fishers/workers faced various forms of violence

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Women workers involved in fish processing earn comparatively lower wages than their male counterparts

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Adverse in working conditions

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Limited access and ownership to resources/open water bodies

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Insufficient representation in fisheries management and other related supervisory bodies

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Lack of Education

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Lack of empowerment and low participation in the decision-making process at their own family level



# Way Forward

<b>Establish</b>	Establish targeted financial support tools/procedures to enhance women's access to credit for entrepreneurial activities
<b>Encourage</b>	Encourage networking and active involvement in advocacy efforts [e.g., UNDF, SFS, etc.] to address the impact of climate change and natural disasters
<b>Improve</b>	Improve safety, hygiene and health in workplaces considering gender and age-sensitive needs
<b>Conduct</b>	Conduct awareness campaigns for the recognition of women's contributions in the fishery value and supply chain
<b>Strengthen</b>	Strengthen fisheries organizations/cooperatives and promote gender-balanced roles
<b>Initiate</b>	Initiate community-driven mechanisms to recognize and protect the customary rights of SSF and promote sustainable fishing practices & use of resources
<b>Integrate</b>	Integrate gender perspectives into fisheries management policies and programs to address the undervaluation of women's roles







**Gender Mainstreaming is must for  
Sustainable Fisheries**

**Thank You**