



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



This project is co-funded  
by the European Union



## CAMBODIA

*CAPFISH-Capture: Post-harvest Fisheries  
Development Project*

*Women in Post-harvest Fisheries*

### CONTEXT

The CAPFISH-Capture: Post-harvest Fisheries Development project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNIDO in cooperation with Fisheries Administration, support institutions and private sector fishery businesses. The project is designed with the specific objective to contribute to the development of post-harvest fisheries under the following major interventions:

1. Institutional support for establishing an efficient food safety control system in post-harvest fisheries to harmonize Cambodian products with global market requirements including the EU.
2. Support to private sector businesses for upgrading the operations and market compliance to enhance business competitiveness.
3. Support for research and development through networking of Universities and research institutes.

### GENDER IN POST-HARVEST FISHERIES

Women play a significant role in different aspects of fisheries, aquaculture and fishery post-harvesting activities, particularly fish processing and marketing. In post-harvest fisheries sector, women play essential roles as wholesalers, processors and retailers. Based on our study with three target provinces, both marine and freshwater fisheries, in Cambodia, it is estimated that women and girls perform or involve in 70% of fisheries post-harvest activities.

In a recent study on gender analysis carried out by the project in association with NUPPUN Research and Consulting Co., Ltd the women-owned business is dominant across the sector, accounting for more than half (54%) of fermented products (prahok and paork), 67% of marinated fish and fish ball products, 75% of fish sauce production and half of dried shrimp production.

### MAIN APPROACH TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

CAPFish Post-harvest fisheries project intends to reach a target of 40% of women as beneficiaries at all levels, which will focus more on following approaches:

- ❖ Improve post-harvest management skill for value chain operators, especially for women in response to gender related constraints.
- ❖ Support women-led businesses to access value chain investment (VCI) support of the project.
- ❖ Promote research activities by research institutes responding to gender related issues of the fisheries sector.
- ❖ Strengthen capacity of relevant stakeholders on Gender to ensure they deliver gender responsive services for fisheries post-harvest MSMEs.
- ❖ Coordinate with financial institutes in developing gender responsive products with simple procedures and conditions, accessible to micro and small businesses owned by women.
- ❖ Support women producer groups or cooperatives or associations to participate in decision making process.

### AT A GLANCE

**Project title:** CAPFISH-CAPTURE: Post-harvest Fisheries Development

**Donors:** The European Union and UNIDO

**Budget:** EUR 16.9 million (EU: EUR 16 million with co-financing from UNIDO/other donor: EUR 0.9 million)

**Thematic areas:** Creating Shared Prosperity ; Agribusiness and Rural Development

**SDGs:** SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5 and SDG 9

## FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT WOMEN IN POST-HARVEST FISHERIES IN CAMBODIA

### FACT 1 POST-HARVEST FISHERIES SECTOR IS DOMINATED BY WOMEN BUT THEY ARE INVISIBLE AND LESS REPRESENTATIVE

More than half of the retailers, wholesalers, processors and collectors in the fishery value chains are owned by women (50.7%) while 43.4% are co-owned by men and women. Only 3.9% of the businesses are owned solely by men.

### FACT 5 LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL CONTEXT DUE TO LACK OF SEX DISAGGREGATED DATA AND INFORMATION

Women's roles in fisheries are often under-documented by national statistics and databases, both qualitative and quantitative information. To realize the gender equality and equity objectives, better understanding of context, causes, implication of gender inequality and the information are essential.

### FACT 2 WOMEN MAKE MOST OF THE DECISIONS IN POST-HARVEST FISHERIES OPERATIONS

Women have a decision-making role among 53% of the women-owned fishery businesses, based on the survey. In case of joint-owned businesses, women (15%) are more likely making decisions on operations than men (8%), although joint decision-making is most common (76%).

### FACT 6 WOMEN ARE KEY HOLDERS OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATED TO THE POST-HARVEST SECTOR

Women's roles are predominant in four tasks including sorting (80%), buying raw material (70%); salting, fermenting or smoking (70%) and cleaning (68%). On the other hand, men are predominant in transportation of raw materials or work demanding physical strength. Processing activities such as boiling and steaming are mostly done by men.

### FACT 3 WOMEN OVERWHELMINGLY RETAIN ESSENTIAL DECISION-MAKING POWER OVER THE MARKETING OF PRODUCTS

The majority of the women make the decisions on the price of the products for sale (84%) as well as the identification of the right market (80%). These figures correspond to the overall role of women in economic activity in Cambodia and their roles in retail and small trade.

### FACT 7 WOMEN ARE WELL PAID ON PAR WITH MEN FOR THEIR WORK RELATED TO POST-HARVEST OPERATIONS

The majority of the businesses provide equal pay for women and men workers, only in 17% of the enterprises (seven businesses) do owners provide higher salary or working wages to men based on men's physical strength and capacity to handle heavy loads, despite women having similar experience and responsibilities.

### FACT 4 WOMEN PROCESSORS ARE MORE AT RISK OF POST-HARVEST LOSSES THAN MEN

The reason for losses in business for women are combined with limited access to resources, technology and time poverty. Moreover, poor processing facilities and infrastructure are perceived as key reasons for losses by 51% of women, compared to 35% of men.

The above findings are derived from the Gender Analysis study carried out by the project during 2020 through comprehensive literature review and interviews with key informants and post-harvest fisheries value chain actors. The key findings and recommendations of the study were validated with key stakeholders.