

Situational analysis on women engagement in the fisheries sector in the COMESA region

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (US\$)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Kenya, Rwanda and Seychelles	US\$40,000	100%	1	UNDP Addis Ababa	COMESA (Norwegian Aid)	1.12. 2024 to 31.03.2025	N/A

Detailed description of project

COMESA's fisheries and aquaculture resources span in 21 Member States comprising nine coastal countries, eight landlocked countries and four island states. The COMESA Mid Term Strategic Plan (2021 to 2025) describes fisheries and aquaculture as one of the renewable natural resources that can sustainably be used for food, nutritional wellbeing and wealth creation for its member states citizens. Women play a crucial role in the fisheries value chain stemming from management, value addition and fish trade and their role is underscored by the FAO – SOFIA 2024 (State of the world Fisheries and Aquaculture). Despite its significance, gender disparities exist within the sector, limiting the potential contributions of women.

This consultancy had a main objective to undertake in-depth analysis of the regional fisheries value chain focusing on women's participation in the value chain, opportunities for market expansion and upgrading. This work seeks to assess women's participation in the different nodes of the regional fisheries value chain and the main barriers facing women in their various roles in the value chains.; identify main stakeholders in the regional value chain; identify needs of women participating the value chain, including needs for technical assistance, finance and other services and gaps in terms of available support ; select best practices including documentation of successful gender inclusion practices and initiatives within the region and also to identify gender-responsive support and reforms required to support women to upgrade their roles in the value chain and propose recommendations for governments, private sector actors, women's business associations and women's cooperatives.

Type of services provided

Sustainable Seas Ltd were engaged to support a team of National Consultants to achieve the following tasks:

- Conduct an in-depth gender-responsive analysis of the fisheries value chain in the region
- Map relevant stakeholders in the fisheries value chain in selected countries.
- Interview key informants and focus groups in the fisheries sector in the selected countries.
- Conduct qualitative assessment of women's participation and constraints in the selected countries in the fisheries value chains.
- Identify national and regional gaps to gender mainstreaming in fisheries policies and legislations.
- Identify and conduct online interviews with the national and regional institutions and Women Networks/ bodies that play critical roles in gender mainstreaming in the fisheries sector.
- Consult relevant staffs in FAO, AU IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, UN Women and AWFISHNET.
- Produce draft reports and seek inputs from stakeholders.