



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



**Regional Fisheries Livelihoods
Programme for South and
Southeast Asia (RFLP)**



Some Lessons Learned Mainstreaming Gender in the Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP)

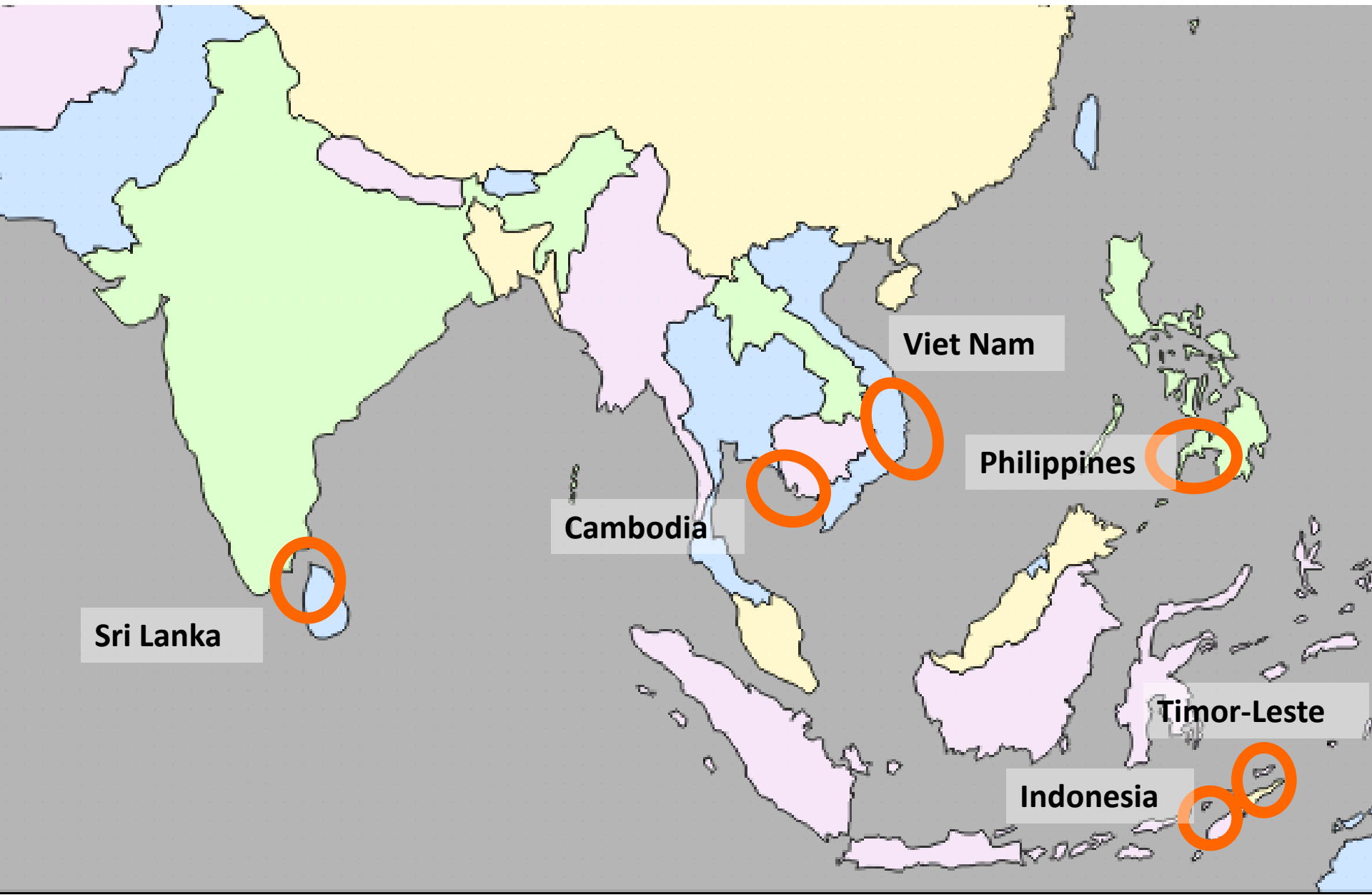
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Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP)

- 2009 – 2013
- US\$ 16.35 million
- Funded: Spain
- Implemented: FAO
- Goal: Strengthened capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions to drive improved livelihoods and sustainable fisheries resources management.
- Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam



Operating in six countries



Six key areas of activity

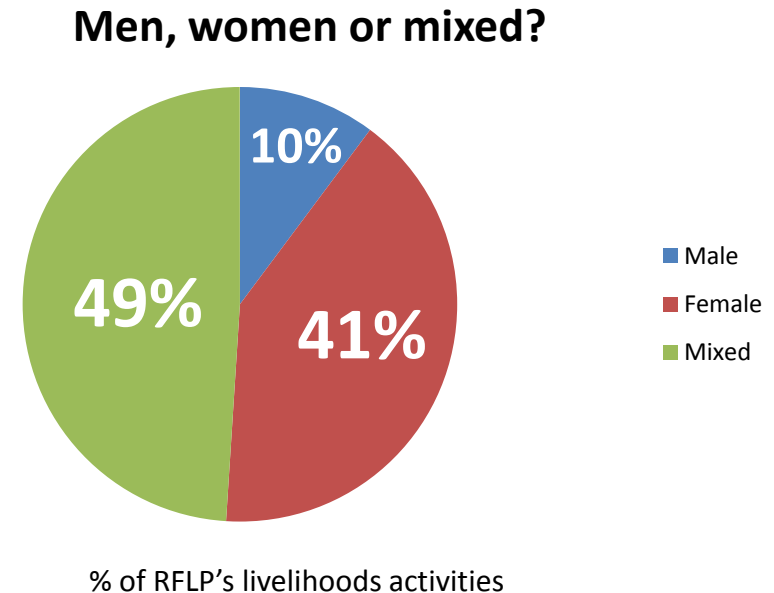
- Establish co-management mechanisms
- Improved safety at sea and reduced vulnerability
- Improved fishery products and market chains
- Diversified/ strengthened livelihoods options
- Better access to microfinance
- Increased knowledge sharing

- Gender is a cross-cutting issue



The significant role of women

- Women play a prominent role in RFLP livelihoods activities
- Real 'alternative' livelihoods offering income; reduce pressure on marine resources
- Income used for food, education, children etc.
- Women's groups often better/already organized
- Better analysis needed of women's roles in communities
- Relevant government agencies should pay greater attention to the potential contribution of women



Some lessons

- Don't get lost in translation!
- Think gender (from the start)
- Study first, then decide
- Consider quotas for women's participation
- Time and effort
- Be a gender focal point
- Consider the participation of women in "traditional male" activities
- Beware of the double burden
- Be flexible
- Gain the right support
- Alternative fisheries livelihoods are often women's livelihoods
- Collect gender disaggregated data
- Spread the good news

Timor Leste – women in co-management

- In Timor-Leste RFLP has for the first time documented traditional resource management practices known as *Tara Bandu*.
- To signify their agreement, community leaders have signed the documents, with women adding their signatures for the first time too.
- This may not guarantee women will play any enhanced role in resource management, but it is an important symbolic step that can hopefully be built upon

Women in co-management

- the inclusion of women representatives in co-management coordination committees established with RFLP support has been made compulsory.
- In addition, a minimum of two women directors must sit on the board of the RFLP-established Fish Finance Network Association.
- Meanwhile in the Philippines, RFLP is promoting the allocation of at least 30 percent of seats on Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Committees for women.

Viet Nam – women in co-management

- RFLP teamed up with the Women's Union to hold workshops to raise awareness of gender issues amongst members of fishing communities.
- The involvement of a large number of men (approximately 40%) helped dispel the impression that gender was 'women's business' and led to far more useful discussions on gender roles in the community.

Indonesia - seaweed products



'Mama Fons' brand seaweed snacks gone from being a purely local product to being marketed country-wide as part of national programme

Provided support to communities making snacks from seaweed in Sulamu Village, Kupang District NTT province

- Better seaweed farming skills
- Better processing skills/ recipes
- Better packaging/labeling
- Certification
- Improved marketing (local and national)
- Enhanced incomes / less reliance on capture fisheries
- Results: Enhanced quality products, officially certified, professionally packaged, better marketed

Philippines – Underwear group



Key lesson learned: Working with an existing group is more realistic over the shorter term.

Supported La Concepcion Women's Association initiative to produce underwear

- Sindangan, ZdN Province
- Sewing project chosen – not seasonal or marine resource reliant
- Group already existed
- RFLP provided business skills training, small equipment (sewing machines)
- Income supports family when husbands cannot fish due to monsoon
- Some income used for local MPA
- Results: Enhanced income, better status for women in community, & provincial government awards

Sri Lanka – Improving safety at sea

- In Sri Lanka, going out to sea to fish is almost exclusively the role of men.
- However, by involving women in RFLP's safety at sea training for fishers they learned about the importance of life jackets and other basic safety steps and encouraged their husbands, brothers, fathers and sons to follow them.

Changing roles

- In a number of RFLP countries men are providing support to their wives who were carrying out alternative livelihoods activities.
- In Viet Nam, husbands are helping their wives with chicken raising, while in Sri Lanka the men are supporting their wives' handicraft group and also making home gardening a family activity.



RFLP gender mainstreaming resources

- Field Manual for Mainstreaming gender in the fisheries sector.
- Lessons Learned
- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: Process and Lessons Learned
- Training materials
- Case studies

Have a look here!

- <http://www.rflp.org/gender>

Recommendations

- Recognize the demand for non-fisheries livelihoods
- Put fishing communities on the radar screen of other govt agencies
- Understand and enhance the role of women



Making fiber glass cool boxes in Indonesia

- Closer collaboration with communities
- Increase emphasis on access to micro-finance
- Link livelihoods actions to resource management
- Lobby for an enabling environment

A principled approach to livelihoods

- Promoting empowerment
- Working in partnerships
- Leveraging the strengths and potential of people and institutions
- Putting people at the centre
- Promoting sustainable fisheries livelihoods in a holistic way
- Being flexible and adaptable
- Being sensitive to traditional cultures
- Being transparent and accountable



Working with women's groups in the Philippines to enhance the quality of their shrimp paste products

For more information



www.rflp.org

<http://www.rflp.org/gender>

