

Climate change, gender and aquatic food systems: call for action to address gender and social inequalities matters in the nexus

Rahma Adam, Amanika Amani, Rob Kuijpers, Ester Smits and Froukje Kruijssen

April 14th, 2022

Presented at the COP-27 Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt by WorldFish and KIT Royal Institute

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Overview

- Rationale for gender and social inclusion in the climate change and aquatic foods nexus
- Methodology used for research
- Findings of the study
- Actions to take to reduce gender inequalities and increase social inclusion in climate change and aquatic foods nexus

Rationale for gender and social inclusion in the climate change and aquatic foods nexus



Gender equality and women's empowerment are globally recognized priorities, as enshrined in **Sustainable Development Goal 5**.



Fish agri-food systems are intersected by macro- and micro-patterns of social and gender inequalities and inequities (Rajaratnam et al. 2020).



Invisibility of women in the AFS: Women participate in all parts of fish food systems, but are most visible in post-harvest processing and trade of fish.

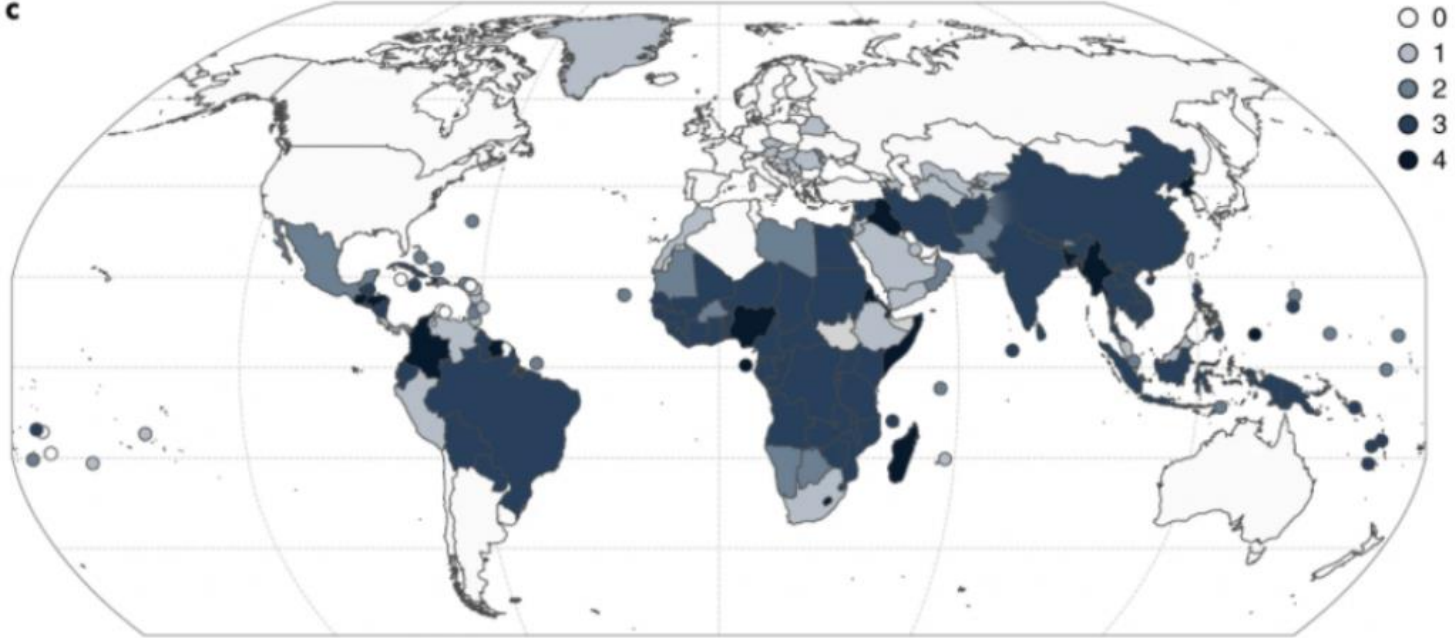


AFS are vital for global food and nutrition security and provide important source of economic livelihoods for women and other marginalized individuals across the globe.



Women experience a high degree of socioeconomic marginalization, poverty before even climate change and COVID-19 and thus require specific attention in COVID-19 responses and climate change to avoid responses worsening inequities (UN 2020).

AFS in low-income countries most significant at risk to be adversely impacted by climate change



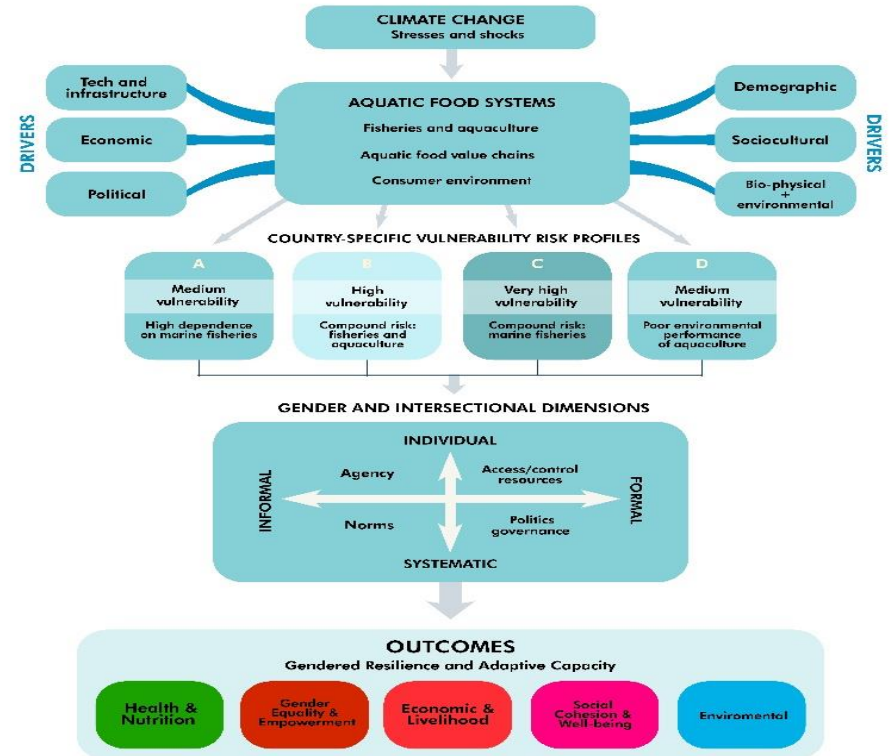
Source: Tigchelaar et al., (2021)



Methodology used for research and conceptual framework

Methodology used for research and conceptual framework

- A systematic literature review of the empirical literature using Cadima and NVivo softwares -> 62 articles met inclusion criteria.
- Quantitative analysis: (i) Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) 2011 to 2019: representative dataset of female and male aquaculture farmers in Bangladesh; and (ii) 2019 Illuminating hidden harvest datasets (187 countries).
- Conceptual framework:
 - (i) **Climate shocks and stresses** interact with **AFS and their drivers** leading to different country-specific risk outcomes; and
 - (ii) The **gender and intersectional dimensions** determine **individual resilience and adaptive capacity** and lead to **different outcomes for different groups**.

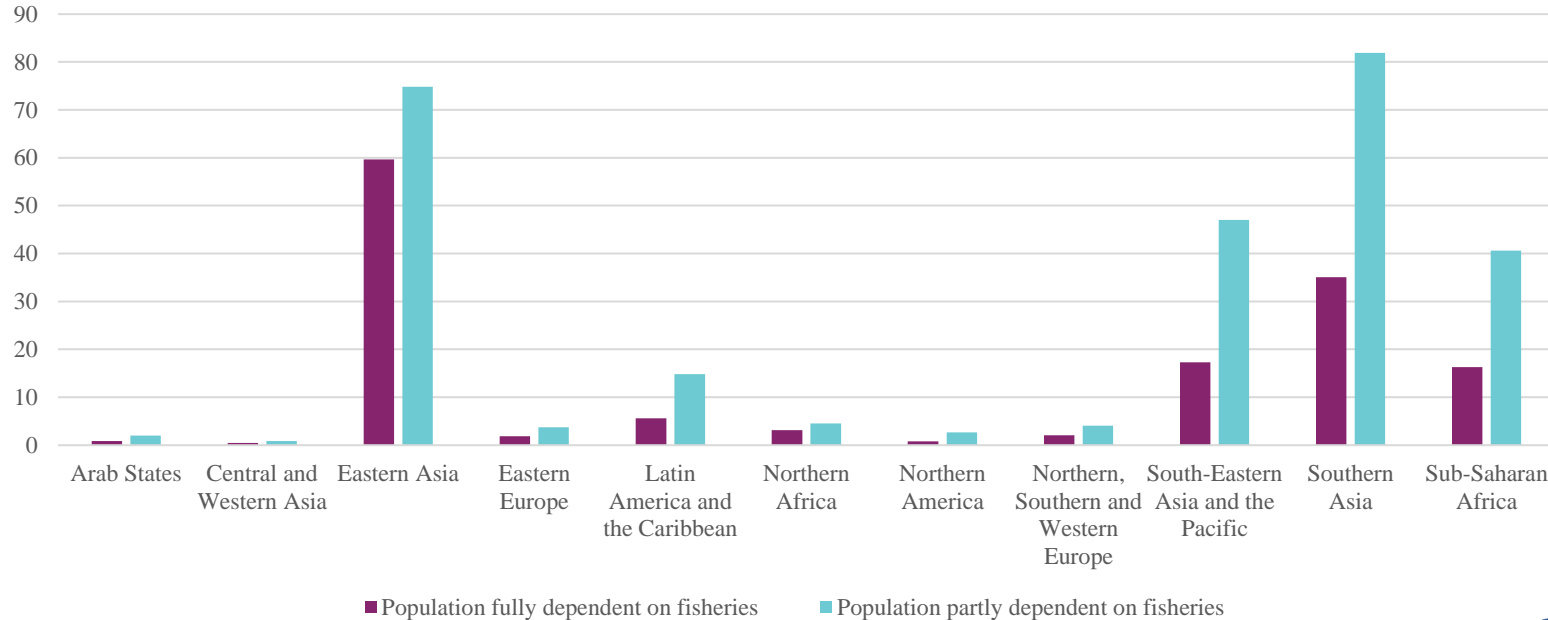




Findings

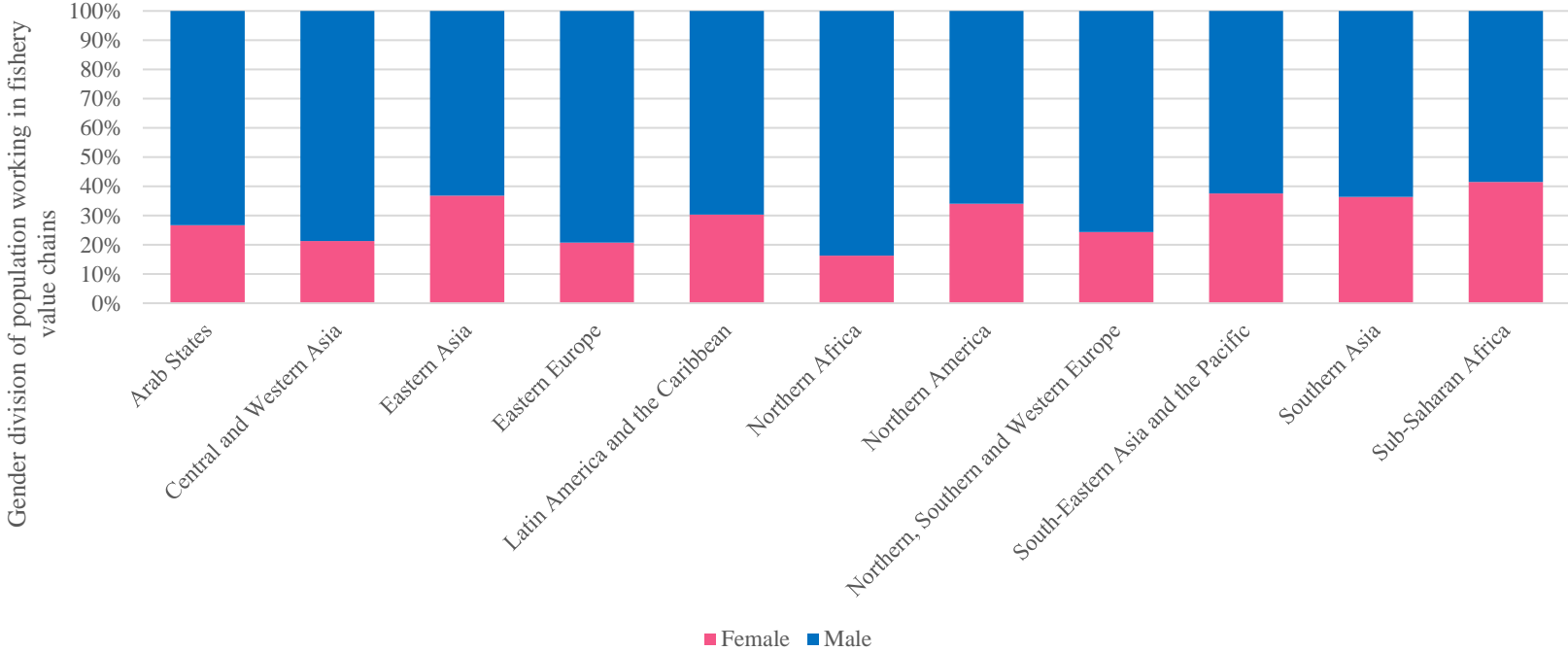
AFS are vital for the economies of coastal countries

Population dependent on fisheries (x 1 million)



Source: Illuminating hidden harvest data 2019

Women are crucial actors and contributors to AFS



Source: Illuminating hidden harvest data 2019



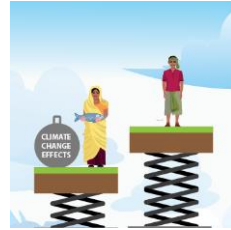
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Findings cont...



Invisibility of women is endemic within aquatic food systems, in scientific literature, fisheries and aquaculture statistics, M&E systems and fisheries policies.



Climate change further aggravates pre-existing gender and intersectional inequalities, pushing the most marginalized women and men into short-term coping strategies that undermine household, community and ecosystem health and wellbeing.



Gender and intersectional inequalities determine the responses of actors in aquatic food systems to climate shocks and stressors.



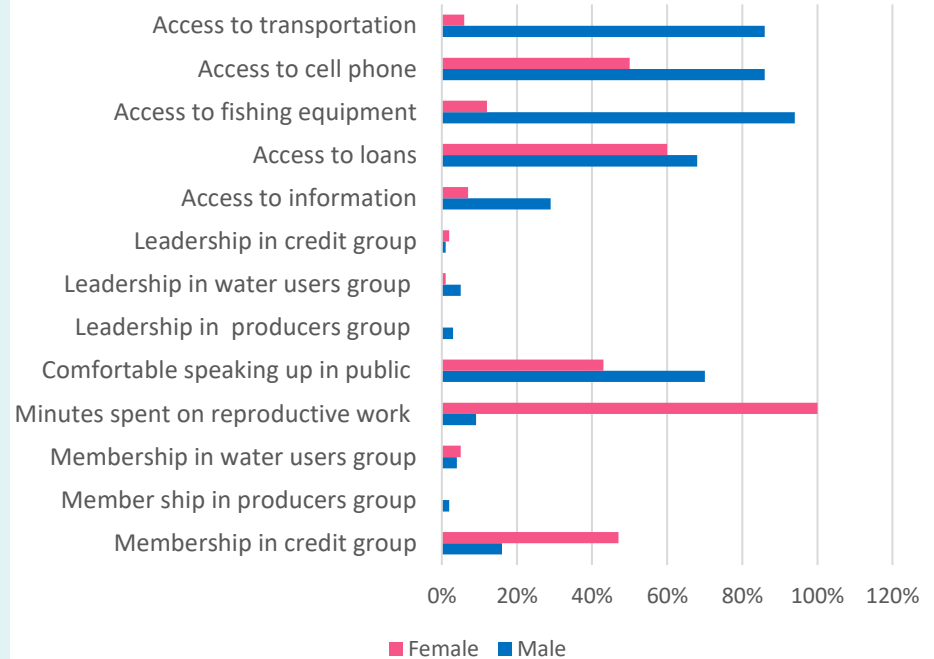
Aquatic food systems interventions and policies that address gender and power inequalities at individual, systemic, informal and formal dimensions are more sustainable and improve economic and social resilience of vulnerable groups, e.g., Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Vietnam, Ghana and Mexico.

Findings cont...

Based on WEAI module in BIHS (2019) we did a **comparative analysis** of **key resilient/adaptive capacity variables** between male and female aquaculture farmers.

Compared to men, women in aquaculture:

- have less access to productive equipment, communication, information, transportation, and loans;
- are more time constrained for productive activities due to unequal sharing of reproductive tasks in household;
- have less leadership positions in groups;
- feel less comfortable speaking up in public on issues such as infrastructure;
- are coping through higher membership in credit groups.



Actions to take to reduce gender inequalities and increase social inclusion in climate change and aquatic foods nexus

The unequal distribution of the adverse impacts of climate change on aquatic food systems is **not** only being felt **between countries**, but particularly **also within them**, with **people who already experience intersecting power inequalities** on the basis of gender, socio-economic class, age, location, ethnicity, ability, religion and caste, being **most disadvantaged**. Thus we recommend the following:



Policy, research and interventions for sustainable and resilient aquatic food systems need to commit resources and funding to address the structural inequities in the informal and formal, individual and systemic gender dimensions at intervention/project, institutional and policy levels.



Women's work within the aquatic foods value chain needs to be recognized, documented and valued for their contribution to the incomes, food security, health and resilience.



Research on climate change and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, with a gender and intersectional lens, is critically needed to provide key openings for interventions and policy on ways to work with the local actors as part of the solution, rather than the problem.

Thank You



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