Why integrated gender in fisheries?
The Fisheries sector is often seen as male dominant, while women are mainly considered in post harvest and market. In support of equal opportunities integration of gender aspects should be promoted to ensure better recognition and enhancement of the roles of women at regional, national and local levels including governments, communities and private sector in the process.

At global level:
• to contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Goal 14 on Life Below Water.
• to conform to fundamental guiding principles in the international human rights declaration and in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

At regional level:
• to adhere to the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted in 2011 calling for “strengthened capacity of relevant stakeholders and harmonized initiatives that support fisheries communities and governments, with a special focus on the women and youth.”

At national / local level:
• to increase gender equal opportunities and ensure women’s right to access to and control over fisheries resources and benefits.
• to create a lasting impacts with respect to ensuring household food security and alleviating poverty, while contributing to gender equality in fisheries.

SEX is what you were born with that is never change, while GENDER deals with personal, social and cultural perception of sexuality can be changed.
SEAFDEC-Sweden Collaborative Program’s Efforts

The SEAFDEC-Sweden Collaborative Program “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” has been working at the program level towards the promotion of gender integration in fisheries, as well as at the organizational level in SEAFDEC to blend gender perspectives in its future programs and projects.

At program level:
Recognizing the significance of gender mainstreaming to enhance the sustainability of fisheries for food security of peoples in the region, SEAFDEC through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Collaborative Program has been striving to:

- undertake Regional Gender Study in partnership with IUCN/Mangrove for the Future (MFF) and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to explore gender patterns in coastal and marine resources management in Southeast and South Asian countries;
- support activities of local partners, i.e. Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) of Thailand, CORIN-Asia Cambodia, and Learning Institute (Cambodia) to strengthen the capacity and roles of men, women, and community members in improving their livelihoods;
- conduct in-depth study on Social Profile and Livelihood Opportunities and Value Chain by Integrated Gender Dimension in Myanmar;
- promote institutional capacity building on gender; and
- strengthen collaboration and sharing of experiences on gender integration with partners - FAO, MRC, USAID, OXFAM, WOCAN, and etc.

At organizational level:
The SEAFDEC-Sweden Collaborative Program has also been exerting efforts to sustain the initiatives on gender mainstreaming in SEAFDEC to fulfill the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC Towards 2030 on the need to address gender issues in “recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries, welfare of labor in fisheries, safety at sea, and gender equality in the fisheries and aquaculture sector”.

Toward this end, the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting in 2018 supported the development of “SEAFDEC Gender Strategy” to provide an overarching framework for integrating gender in SEAFDEC future programs and projects, taking into consideration the Southeast Asian regional context and specificity.