



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

GFCM study on “Women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region: roles, challenges and opportunities”

Key outcomes and conclusions

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GFCM Secretariat

MEDAC FG Equal Opportunities | 20 June 2024

GFCM: THE RFMO FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA



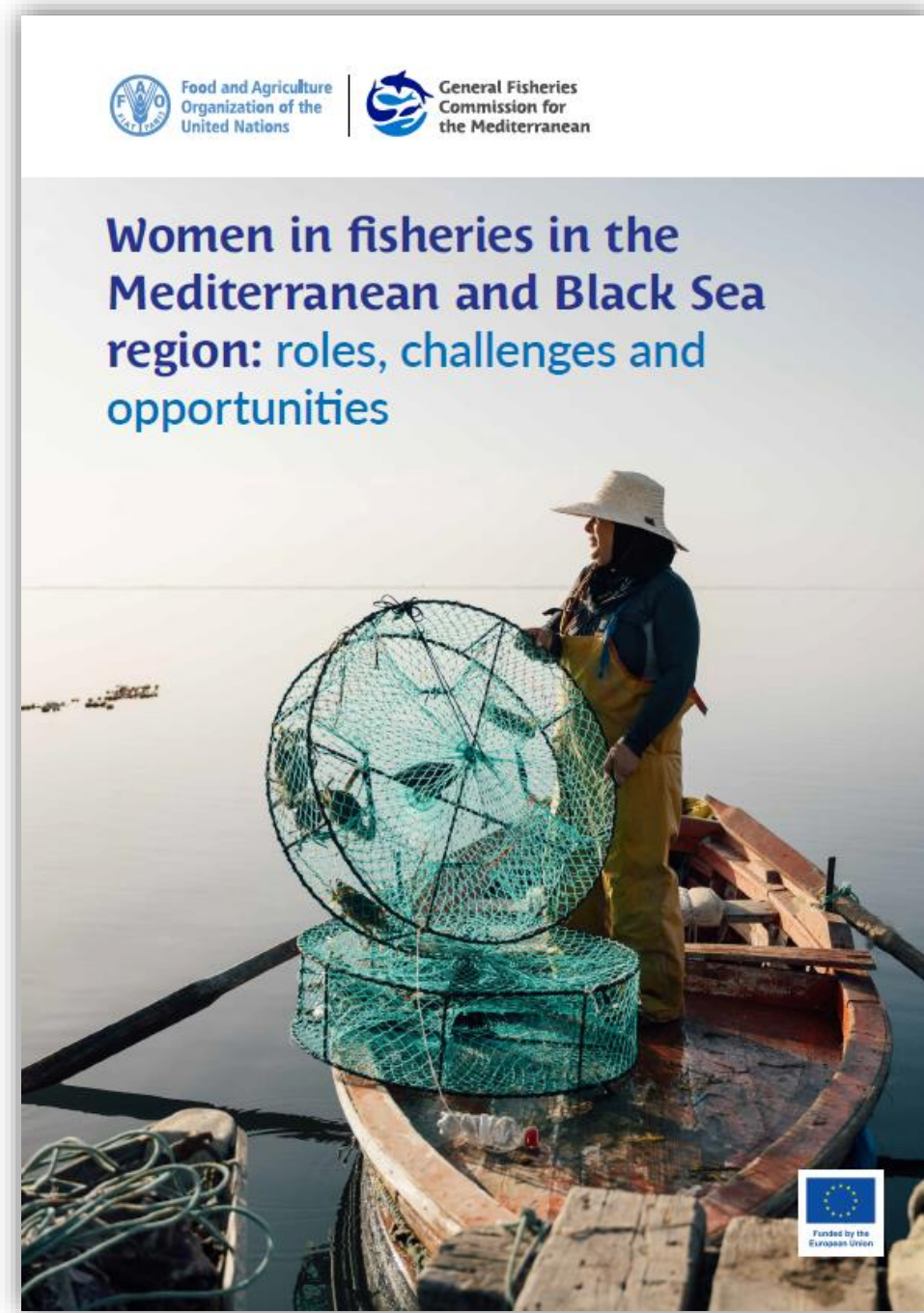
OBJECTIVES

Federate efforts of countries towards:

- the **conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources** at all levels (biological, social, economic and environmental)
- the **sustainable development of aquaculture**

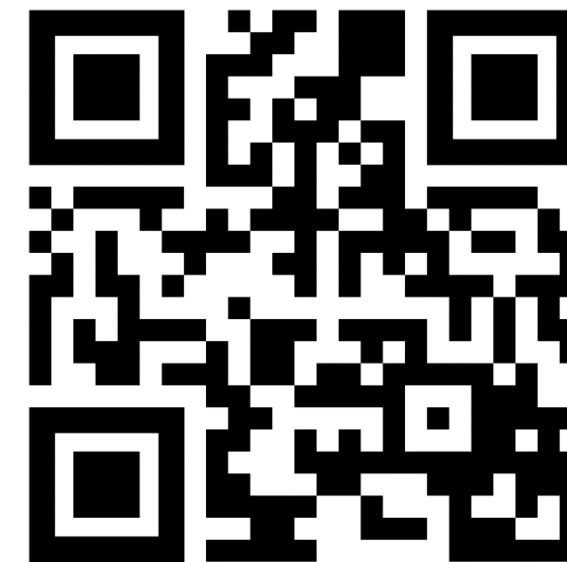


Improving knowledge and better supporting women in fisheries

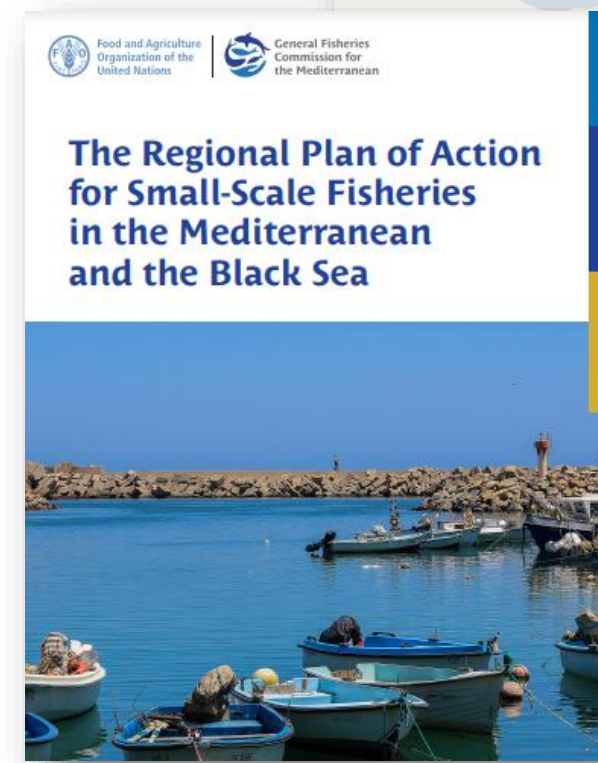
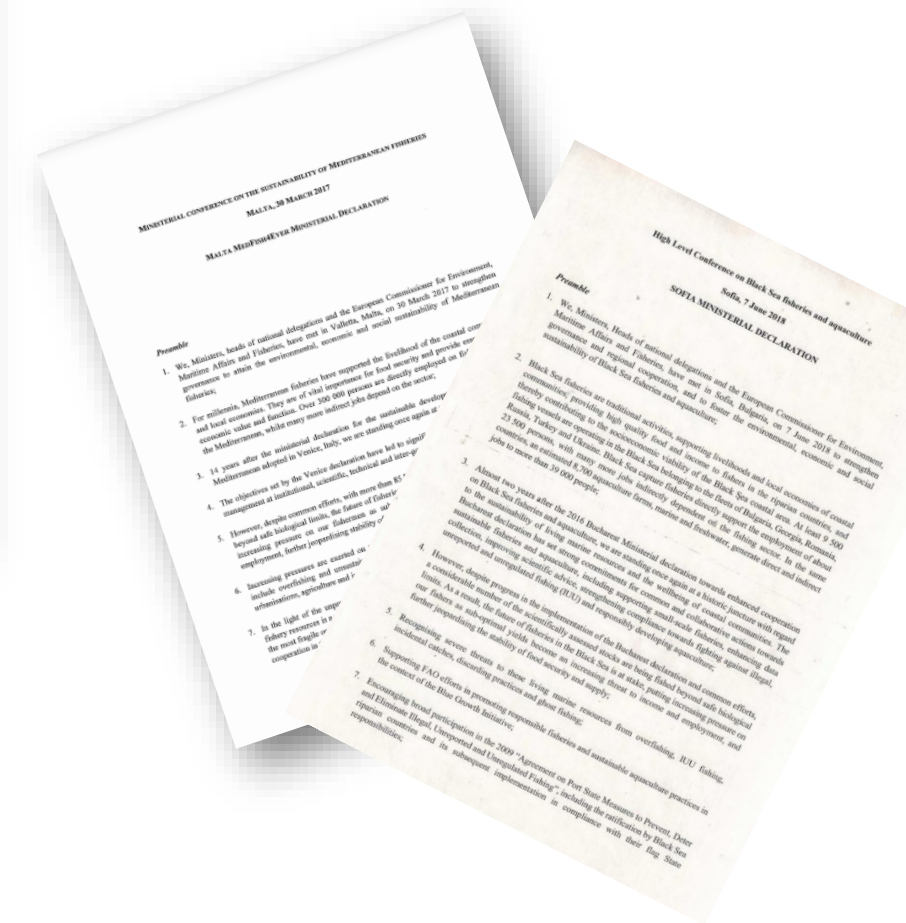
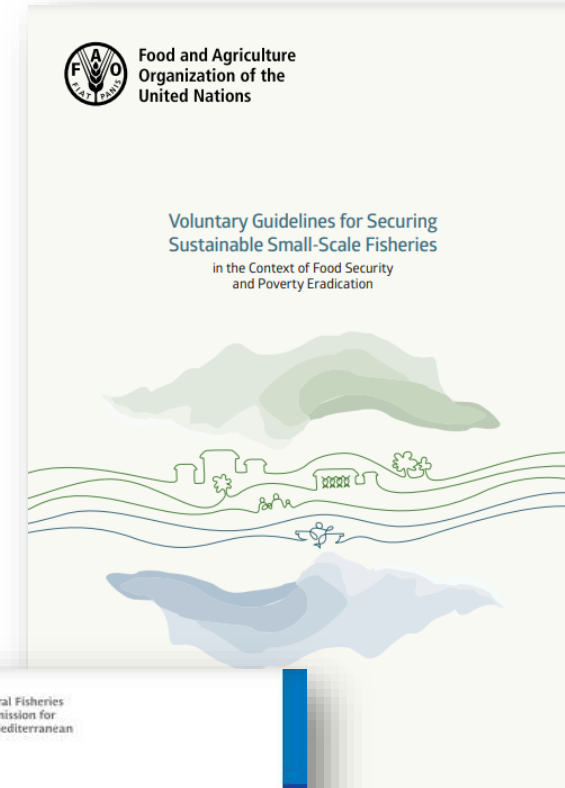


GFCM study on Women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- Published on 8 March 2024 (Women's Day!)
- <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc9869en>



Rationale: Institutional framework



TARGET 4.
LIVELIHOODS:
 DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND ENGAGED FISHERS
 TOWARDS PROFITABLE FISHERIES



Strengthening the role of women

Rationale

Need to better understand what forms our collective perception of the fishing sector in this region....



Rationale

Need to better understand what forms our collective perception of the fishing sector in this region....

...and how we can ensure women are part of this picture



Lack of data on the contribution of women to the sector

A **lack of accurate information** on the role of women in the sector risks **relegating the issues faced by women in decision-making processes** and when designing policies and programmes

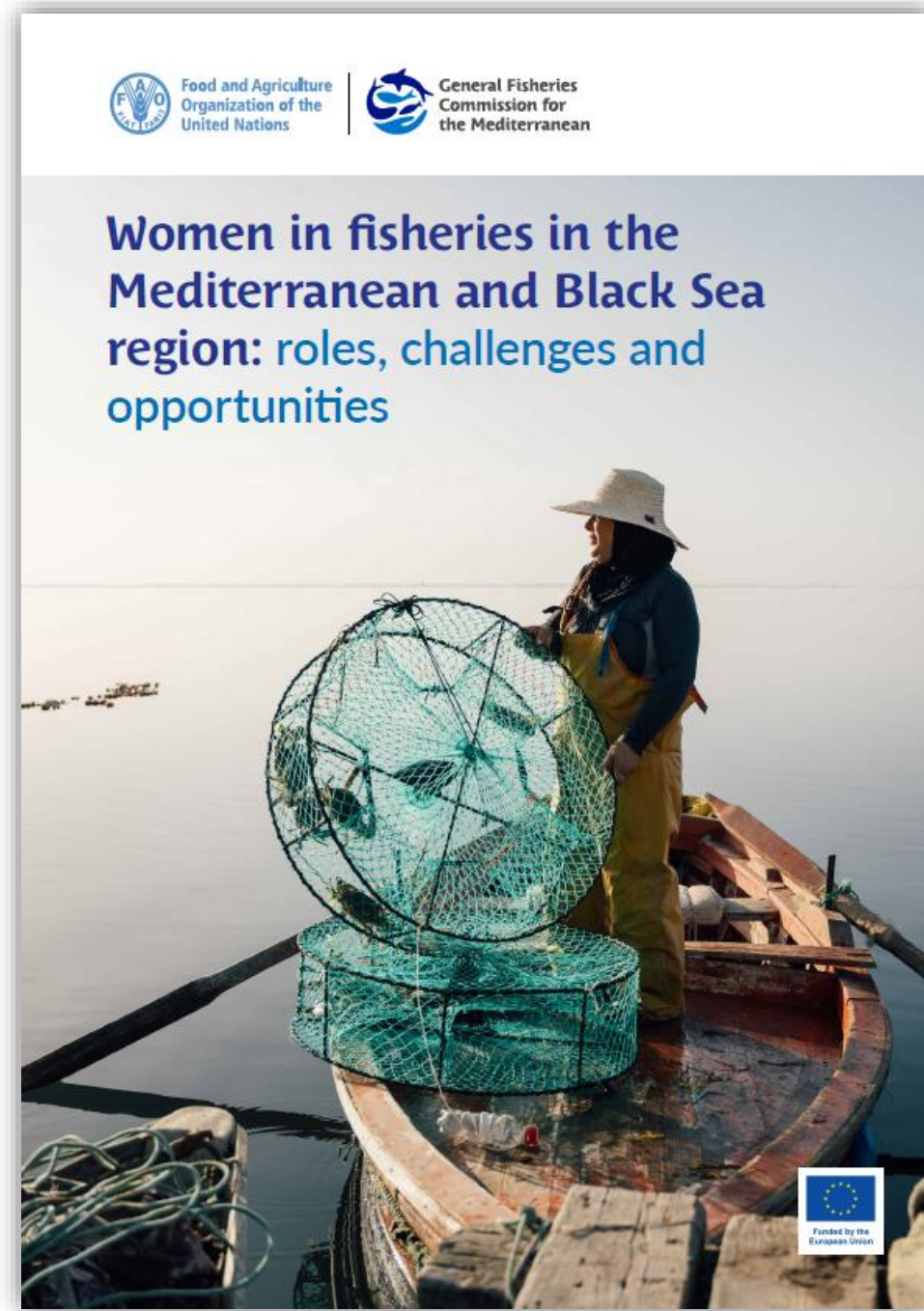
This can lead to:

- potential marginalization of women
- inadvertent discrimination
- widening of existing gender inequalities

We also miss out on the valuable knowledge and experience women bring!



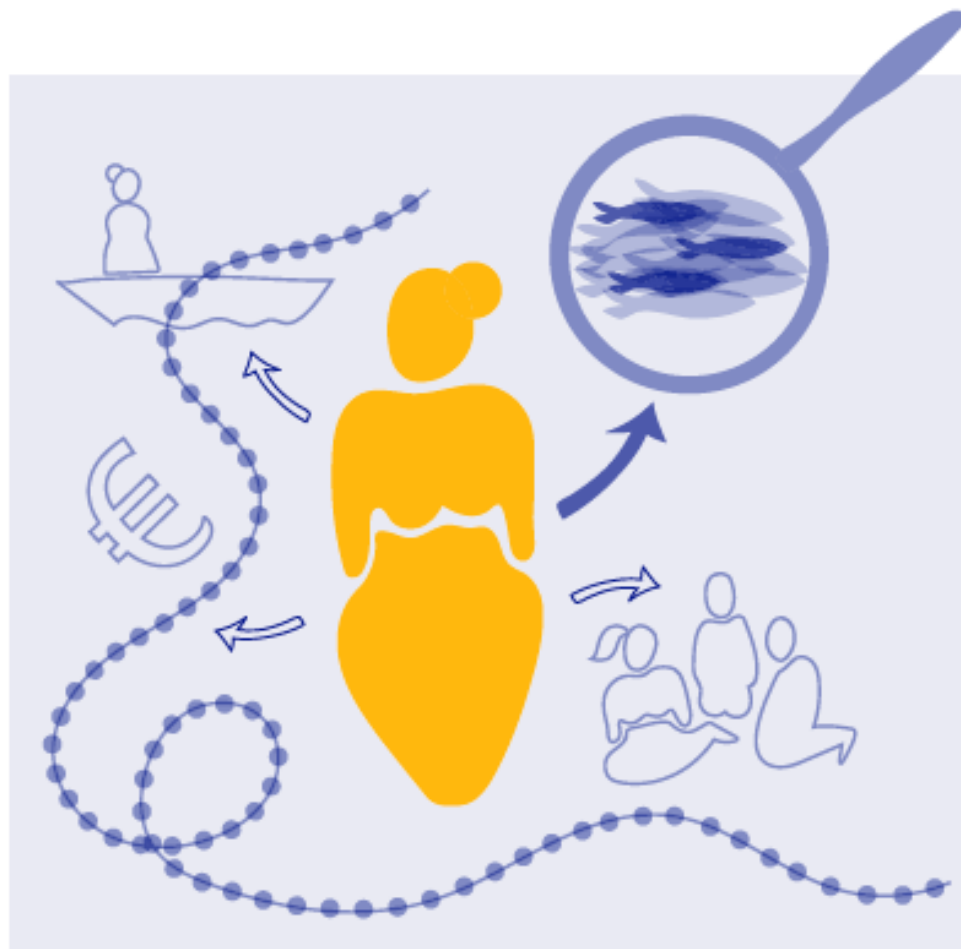
GFCM study on Women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea



Study objectives:

1. Consolidate available information and **produce clearer estimates** quantifying women's employment in the sector;
2. **shed light on existing challenges and opportunities** for women, including access to resources, mobility, information and training, and decision-making; and
3. provide **actionable recommendations** to support the visibility and participation of women in the sector.

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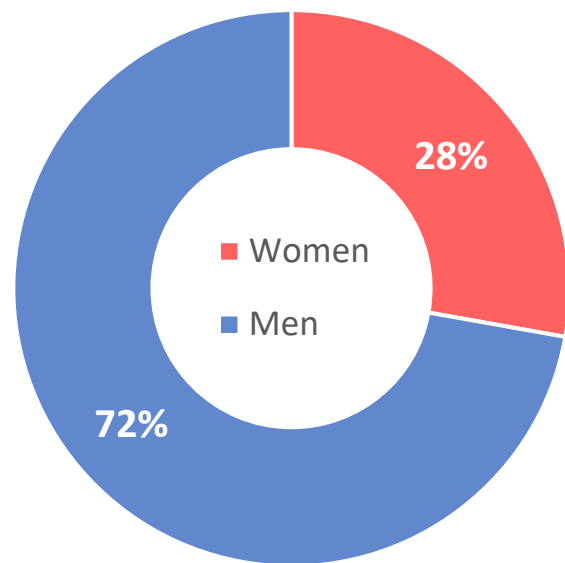
In the Mediterranean and Black Sea region and around the world, women are engaged in all stages of the fisheries value chain, but a lack of gender-disaggregated fisheries employment data, as well as a lack of data on unpaid or informal fisheries work, means that women's contributions to the economies of coastal communities remain largely underestimated and undervalued.

Quantifying women working in fisheries

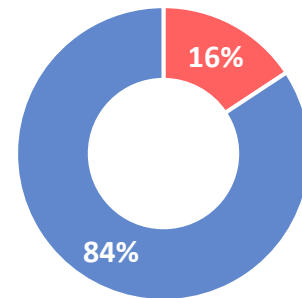
213 500

women estimated in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

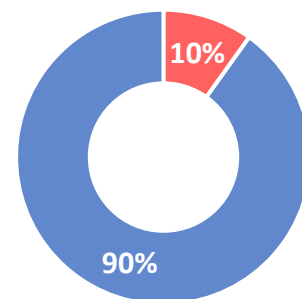
Employment along the fisheries value chain



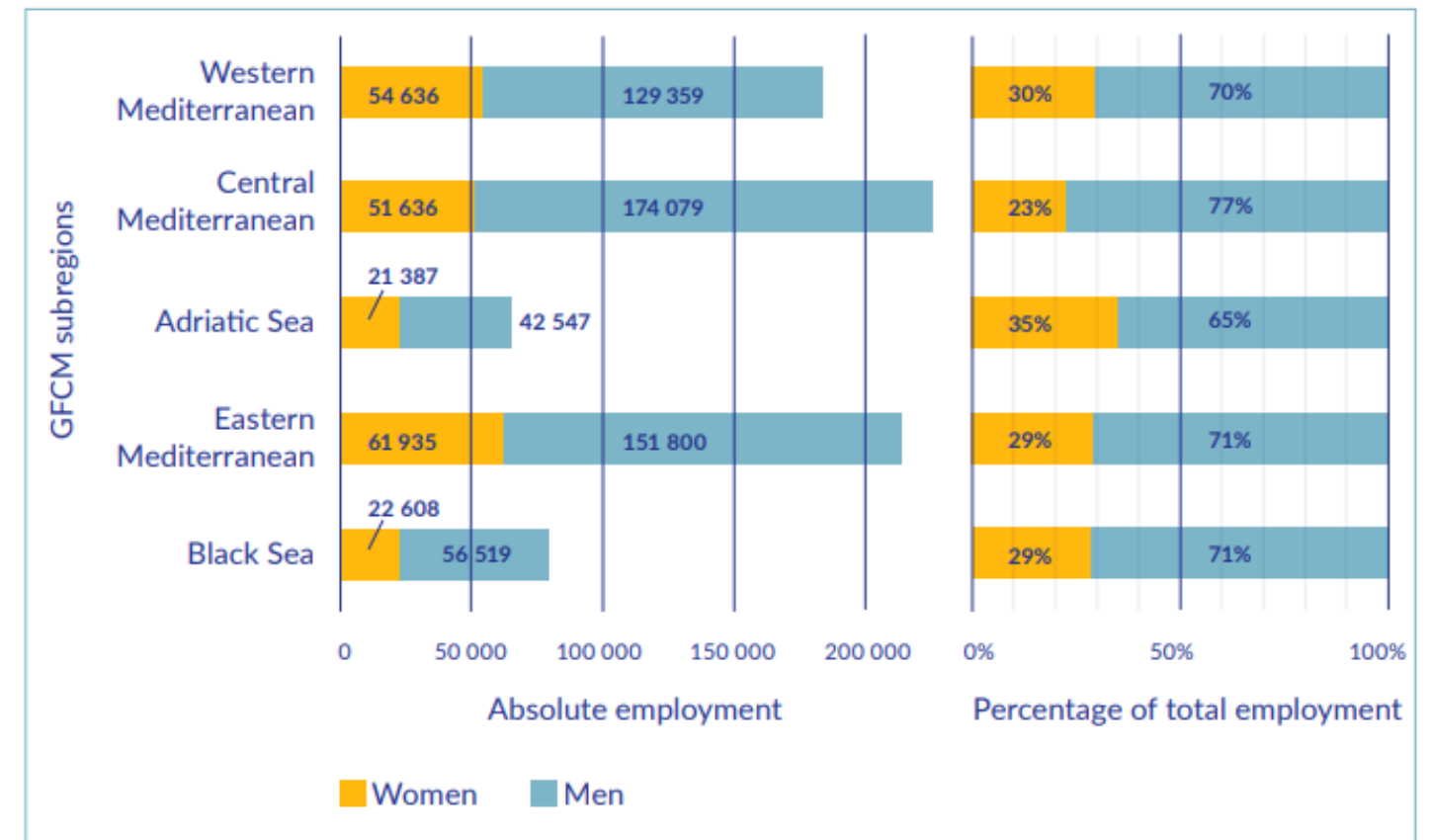
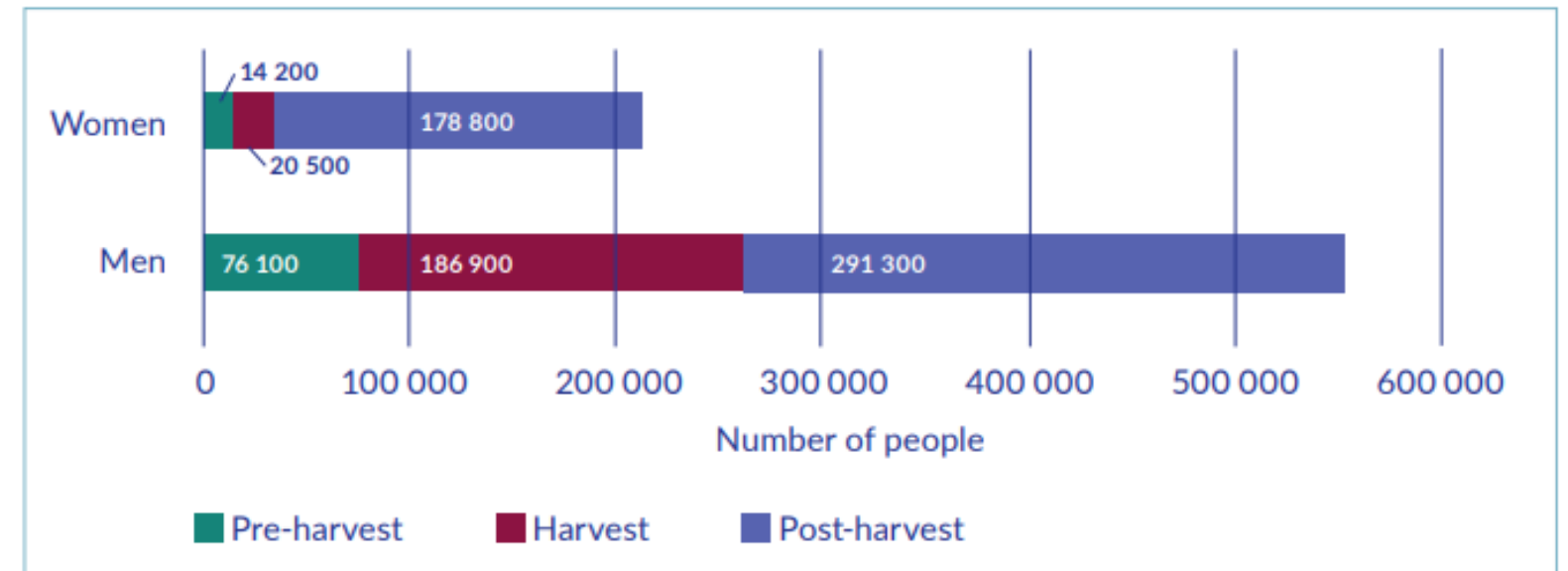
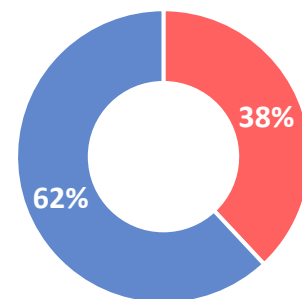
Pre-harvest



Harvest

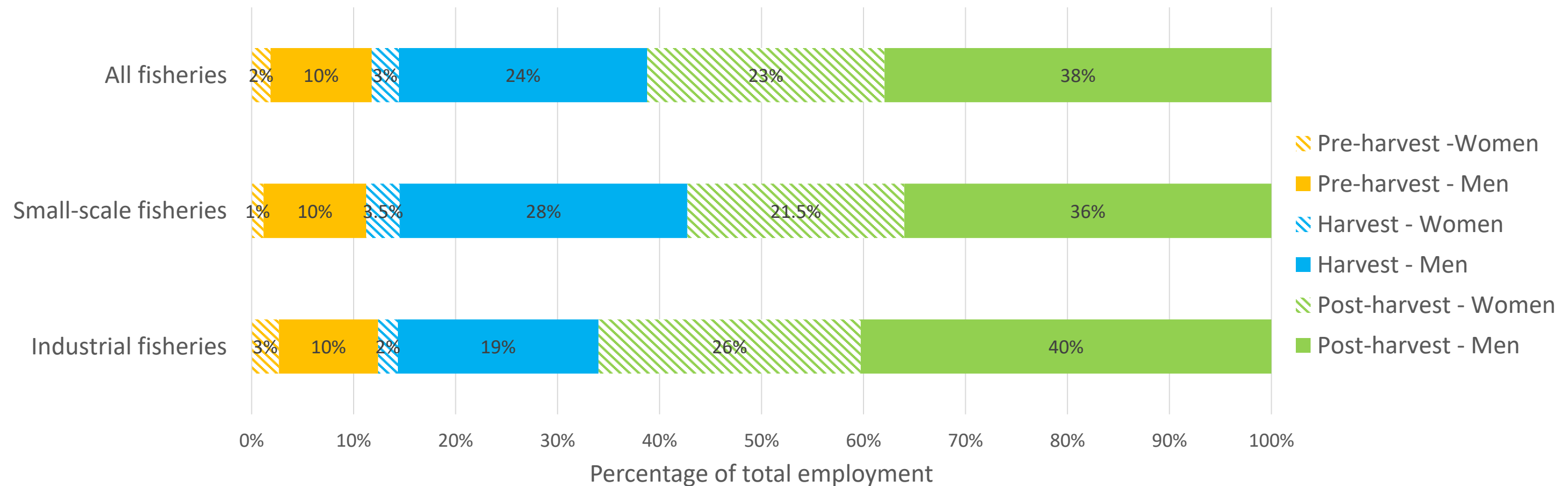


Post-harvest



Quantifying women working in fisheries: SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

108 000 women estimated in Mediterranean and Black Sea SMALL-SCALE fisheries (26%)



Challenges and opportunities

Women occupy about one in three fisheries-related jobs across the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, with notable variations in their participation depending on the value chain stage and subregion.



Yet women face obstacles to their full and equal participation in fisheries due to barriers to owning assets and accessing finances and information, as well as limitations on their mobility.

But promising initiatives promoting their engagement throughout the region serve as good practice examples.



Promote gender-sensitive projects and trainings

Actions:

- Ensure that a **gender analysis or assessment** is carried out in the initial phase of any policy, project or initiative in the sector.
- Identify **key female stakeholders** for participation or engagement.
- Facilitate women's **access to trainings and project meetings** by making sure that their limitations in terms of time and mobility are considered when designing schedules and choosing locations

Recommendations

Support women's organizations

Actions:

- Support the **creation and sustainability of women's organizations** in the fisheries sector.
- Recognize women's organizations as valued actors and ensure that they are **invited to engage in relevant consultations and sectorial meetings**.
- Build bridges between fisheries administrations and the women working in the fisheries sector, **ensuring that channels of communication are established so that women are informed of relevant information, projects, opportunities and decisions**.



Recommendations

Remove barriers and inequalities



Actions:

- **Provide training** to women on topics such as fish-processing technologies, access to new markets, and setting up a business.
- Support the **financial inclusion of women** in the fisheries sector.
- Provide or facilitate **access to relevant equipment**.
- Improve access to social protection programmes for women working in the fisheries sector, including by enhancing coordination with relevant social ministries and ensuring that **social registries capture and recognize women working in the sector**.

Recommendations

Raise awareness

Actions:

- **Raise awareness of women's contributions to the sector by enhancing the visibility of women in communications materials and other knowledge products on the sector.**



Recommendations

Improve data

Actions:

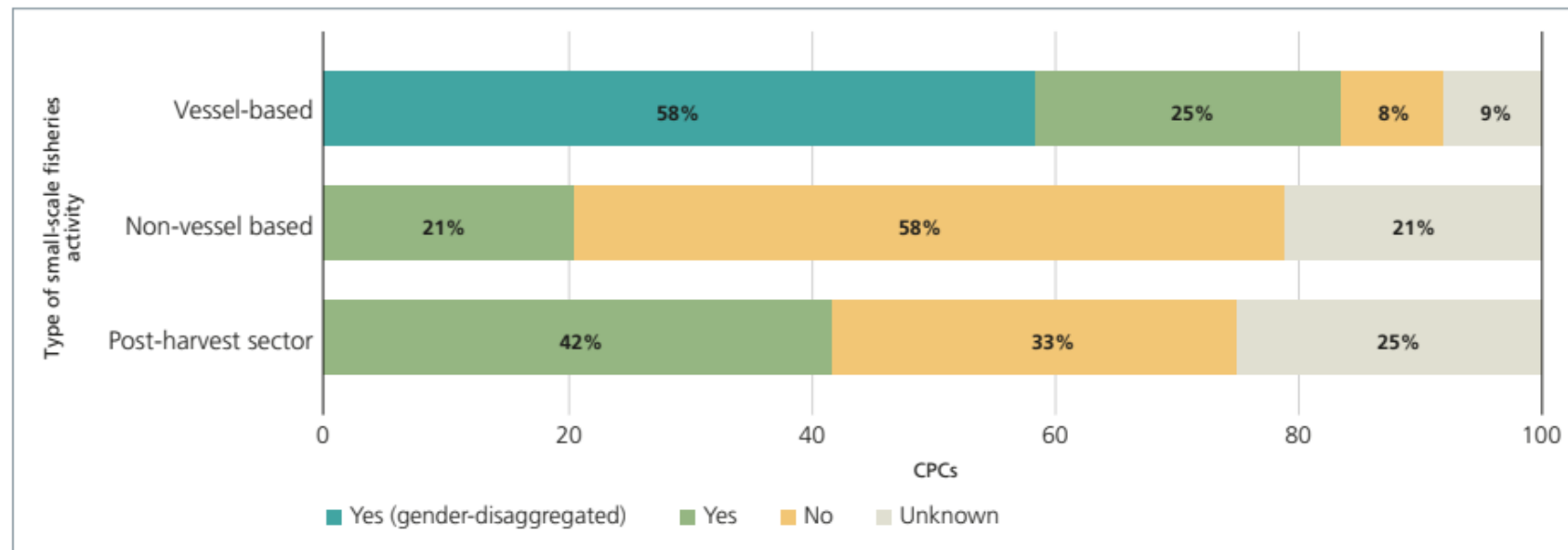
- Facilitate the **collection of gender-disaggregated data**, particularly for fisheries-based employment along the value chain, as well as other socioeconomic indicators.
- Provide an option for CPCs to submit gender-disaggregated data via the **DCRF**, when available.
- Ensure that data are collected for all fishing activities (including **non-vessel-based fishing** where women may be most active) and that they capture fisheries-based employment in **the pre- and post-harvest sectors**.



Recommendations: Improve data

Provide an option for CPCs to submit gender-disaggregated data via the DCRF, when available.

FIGURE 81. Percentage of GFCM contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties collecting employment data on small-scale fishing activities



DCRF Task VI.2 *Mandatory data*

Employment – the number of persons working on the active fishing vessels, both on a part-time and full-time basis (by GSA and fleet segment)

DCRF Task VI.4 *Optional data*

Full Time equivalent – FTE employment, which equals the number of full-time equivalent jobs, is defined as total hours worked divided by the average annual number of hours worked in full-time jobs

Number of persons in the crew:

< 25 years-old

25-40 years-old

> 40 years-old



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Thank you for your attention

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