



OCPP GEDSI Analysis: Senegal

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Acronyms and glossary

ALB	Arms' Length Bodies
CAPSEAH	Common Approach to Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science
CGE	Gender and Equity Units
CLPA	Local Artisanal Fishing Councils
COMFISH	Collaborative Management for a Sustainable Fisheries Future
COMNACC	National Committee on Climate Change
CRODT	Dakar-Thiaroye Oceanographic Research Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DAMCP	Directorate of Community Marine Protected Areas
DCC	Climate Change Division
DEEC	Environment and Classified Establishments Directorate
DEEG	Equity and Gender Equality Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	female genital mutilation
FISH4ACP	Fish for African, Caribbean and Pacific States
GBV	Gender based violence
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HASSMAR	High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety, Maritime Safety and Protection of the Marine Environment
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
KII	Key informant interviews
LGBTQI+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex
MEDDTE	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
MFFPE	Ministry of Women, Family, and Child Protection
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NEET	Not in Employment Education or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCPP	Ocean Country Partnership Programme
PNA	National Adaptation Plan
REFEPAS	Senegalese Artisanal Fishing Women's Network
SEAH	Sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment
SNEEG	National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity
VAC	Violence Against Children
WACA	West Africa Coastal Areas Programme
WRO	Women's Rights Organisations

1.

Executive Summary

This report presents a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis for the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in Senegal. Following an assessment by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact in 2023, which rated OCPP as "unaware" on the GEDSI Responsiveness Continuum, this analysis aims to enhance understanding of vulnerable groups in Senegal's coastal areas and identify opportunities for more GEDSI-sensitive programming. This research has been conducted over a period of two months and has carried out both primary and secondary qualitative research, including key informant interviews (KIIs) with relevant stakeholders and an in-depth literature review.

Key Findings

Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups: The analysis identifies several groups facing heightened vulnerability in Senegal's coastal communities. Women constitute a significant proportion of the fisheries workforce, primarily in post-harvest processing and marketing, but remain largely excluded from decision-making processes. Other vulnerable groups include persons with disabilities (8% of adults), LGBTQI+ individuals (who face legal criminalisation and social discrimination), people living with HIV, children involved in hazardous labour, and migrants.

Environmental Impacts on Vulnerable Communities: Coastal erosion, declining fish stocks, pollution, and climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable populations dependent on marine resources in Senegal. Women fish processors face particular challenges as fish supplies diminish or are redirected to exports, forcing many to diversify into non-marine activities. Young people increasingly migrate in search of economic opportunities, while children's education is disrupted by climate-related events.

GBV Risks, Sexual Harassment and Forced Labour: Women in fish processing may experience sexual harassment linked to access to fish supplies, while children in coastal communities face risks of child and forced labour and exploitation. Limited reporting mechanisms and cultural silence around sexual violence contribute to underreporting and stigma and have disproportionate impact on women and girls.

Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities: A number of stakeholders have been identified as potential partners for advancing GEDSI initiatives, including government entities (HASSMAR, DAMCP), women's networks (REFEPAS), local governance structures (CLPAs), and community-based organisations focused on marine resource management. Women-led organisations have demonstrated increased success in developing additional income generating economy initiatives and improving members' financial resilience through savings groups.

Data Availability and Gaps: While demographic and socio-economic data exist through national surveys and international databases, significant gaps remain in the availability of disaggregated data on vulnerable groups in coastal areas in Senegal. Information is

particularly limited regarding persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and informal economic activities predominantly undertaken by women.

The study makes a number of high-level recommendations that are likely to be applicable for the next phase of OCPP programming, regardless of the specific focus of the work (the latter being outside the scope of the assessment):

Recommendation 1: Continue to build GEDSI integration in the programme by reviewing existing governance structures to ensure diverse representation, deepening collaborations with women's organisations, advocating for GEDSI inclusion in marine planning frameworks for longer term sustainability as well as integrating GEDSI objectives into programme design and theory of change. A mapping of stakeholders and existing programming has been included as an annexe.

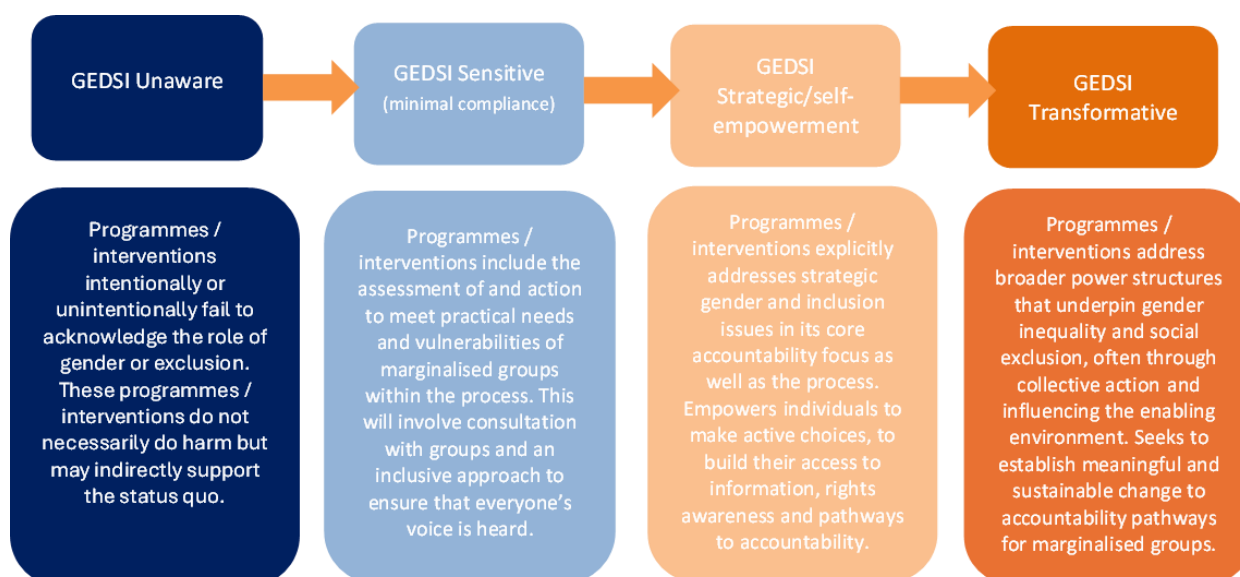
Recommendation 2: Address safeguarding risks by adopting a comprehensive safeguarding framework across partnerships, conducting risk assessments for high-risk activities, undertaking further training and awareness raising of sexual harassment across programme activities and endorsing the Common Approach to Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (CAPSEAH) commitment for the duration of the programme.

While Senegal has made progress in establishing legal frameworks for gender equality, significant challenges remain in implementation, particularly in the fisheries sector. This report examines the different stakeholders in the context of marine biodiversity, sustainable seafood and marine pollution who would be important to engage with on GEDSI, alongside providing a range of recommendations. Environmental degradation and climate change exacerbate vulnerabilities among marginalised groups, necessitating targeted interventions that address both ecological sustainability and social inclusion. By adopting a more GEDSI-sensitive approach, OCPP can contribute to more equitable and sustainable outcomes for Senegal's coastal communities.

1. Introduction and overview of the analysis

1.1. Purpose and objectives

Following an assessment by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact in November 2023, where the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) was assessed as unaware on the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Responsiveness Continuum,¹ the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) has contracted Social Development Direct to undertake a series of GEDSI analyses to support their ambition to become more GEDSI sensitive and empowering. This continuum is a framework used to assess and guide programmes, policies, and initiatives in terms of their approach to GEDSI, helping organisations and practitioners understand how their work either reinforces or challenges existing inequalities. Along the continuum, programmes or interventions can range from being GEDSI unaware, GEDSI sensitive, GEDSI strategic or self-empowering, or GEDSI transformative, as shown in diagram below².



In order to meet the objectives of the International Development Act, international commitments to 'do no harm' as part of the SDGs, and DEFRA's own minimum standards on gender and social inclusion, the OCPP must reduce poverty in places it is working and improve conditions for poor people and the most marginalised in this world. It must also

¹ The Independent Commission for Aid Impact review used the term Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) rather than Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), used by Social Development Direct, including in this assignment, as it promotes an intentional focus on disability inclusion.

² This framework has been adapted and updated by SDDirect from the Moser Framework. It aligns with the GESI Policy for DEFRA ODA Programmes, and while some of the language used varies, the concepts and approach are similar.

ensure this is done in a way that addresses GEDSI and substantially improves the wellbeing of these lives, alongside ensuring that programmes are free from risks associated with sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) which may be inherent in programming within fragile states characterised by high levels of poverty and inequality. As such, on behalf of all the arms' length bodies (ALB) involved in OCPP, CEFAS has contracted Social Development Direct (SDDirect) to undertake a series of GEDSI analyses to support the OCPP's ambition to becoming more GEDSI Sensitive, and where possible, GEDSI Empowering. These analyses have been undertaken in Ghana, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Belize. This report focuses on Senegal.

Objectives: This assignment is intended to further OCPP's understanding of the needs and risks of the most vulnerable groups in the locations where the programme is implemented in Senegal, enabling it to adapt interventions to become more GEDSI sensitive and address those needs and risks. It will achieve this by providing an intersectional assessment and analysis of the social and economic context in coastal areas of Senegal, and identifying key sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and GEDSI risks that can should be mitigated and addressed as high priority.

Scope: The analysis will focus on the key themes for the OCPP programme – pollution, seafood, and biodiversity.

Terminology

Gender equality is the absence of discrimination on the basis of gender in opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits or in the access to services, such that all individuals can enjoy equal standards of well-being. It is the full and equal exercise by women, men, boys, girls and people of other gender identities of their human rights: in this situation, women, men, girls and boys have equal rights and equal access to socially and economically valued goods, resources, opportunities and benefits; the different gender roles are valued equally and do not constitute an obstacle to their wellbeing and finally; the fulfilment of their potential as responsible members of society is possible.

Social inclusion is the removal of institutional barriers and the enhancement of incentives to increase the access of diverse individual and groups to development opportunities. These barriers may be formal (written laws on spousal property for instance), or they may be informal (e.g. time village girls spend carrying water instead of attending school). In short, social inclusion is about levelling the playing field by making the 'rules of the game' fairer.

Disability, according to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, "results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society, on an equal basis with others" ([UN CRPD](#), 2006)

Safeguarding means preventing harm abuse and neglect perpetrated by staff, contractors and as a result of programmes that are being implemented. An important component of that is SEAH being perpetrated by staff, consultants and contractors targeted. Because it is primarily perpetrated by people (usually men) in positions of power it often goes unreported. SEAH and other forms of safeguarding related misconduct is

often a form of **gender-based violence** (GBV) and tends to be targeted at either women or children.

1.2. Overview of the report

The first section of this report provides a brief overview of the assignment. Section 2 outlines the methodology employed, including the literature review, key informant interviews (KIIs), and data analysis processes, as well as the methodological limitations. Section 3 is predominantly structured around the six research questions, with the exception of research questions two and four which are presented together in section 3. This was as a result of significant overlaps between these research questions in the literature and the KIIs. Section 3 section also includes a stakeholder mapping, and lessons learned. Sections 4 and 5 present conclusions and recommendations respectively.

2. Methodology and methodological limitations

2.1. Methodology

The GEDSI analysis was conducted through a literature review and seven KIIs. Below we set out the detailed approach to each of these phases.

We reviewed a range of documents as part of the literature review, including peer-reviewed reports, and governmental and other grey literature available on Google scholar and relevant electronic databases. Literature was identified using key search terms in both English and French. A full explanation of the criteria used to identify relevant literature can be found in the inception report. We also reviewed a small selection of OCPD documents, such as the progress report, and the GESI self-assessment.

Primary data collection has been conducted through interviews with seven key informants³. These interviews were conducted with stakeholders from local and national governments, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) identified by OCPD. Data collection tools (including consent forms and the data storage protocol) were outlined in the Inception Report and have been slightly adapted to align with Senegal's national and operational context. These tools will be annexed and submitted within the final report. In addition to conducting KIIs, the research team engaged in informal conversations with inhabitants of coastal communities, where they shared their thoughts and perceptions of women in their own communities. No identifiable information was disclosed, and the research team explained to each individual that some of their views may be included in the report. Participants understood this and provided their agreement. Some of their reflections have been included in section 3.6.3. Documents and interview transcripts

³ A total of 5 KIIs have been conducted to date. An additional 5 KIIs will be finalised before the final report is submitted.

were coded in a coding matrix to highlight key findings and themes against the research questions.

2.2. Limitations

Limitations	Mitigations
There is limited academic literature available for some key areas of enquiry. Disaggregated data on the vulnerabilities of marginalised populations in coastal areas in Senegal, and the specific impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on these groups is also under researched.	The analysis presents findings from available literature, and we have identified evidence gaps where relevant. The research team has consulted global sources and reviewed grey literature in both French and English. This approach ensures the inclusion of a diverse range of relevant existing data to identify broader patterns and trends.
The analyses did not review the OCPP programme activities in detail due to the complexity of the programme and the desire from the programme to focus on the national GEDSI context. As a result, the analysis does not address programme specific interventions.	The analysis did instead focus on the high-level themes that are being addressed including marine biodiversity, pollution, and seafood. It highlighted relevant interventions being led by other actors, including government actors, in these domains of work to identify potential areas for synergy, or overlap with OCPP.
The examination of SEAH risks were based on our understanding of the GEDSI situation in each country and the broad thematic approach that the programme is taking in the country. The analysis does not include specific SEAH risks related to the individual programme activities due to not reviewing the programme, as specified by the scope of the review.	SEAH risks identified are <i>potential</i> risks, based on the document review, evidence from other countries, or international good practice and learning. They are intended to support the identification of areas for the programme to explore further rather than to provide a definitive set of risks for the programme to address.
All interviews were conducted remotely which meant that the type of organisations we were able to speak needed a stable internet and IT access, which may have excluded some smaller, more remote CBOs.	The research team conducted a stakeholder mapping based on the literature review and OCPP country documents. The team also leveraged the national consultant's professional relationships with stakeholders in coastal communities to help facilitate KIIs. Most of the interviews took place by phone. This was the preferred method indicated by the participant, reducing the need for internet access.
The budget did not include provision for reasonable accommodation for key informants who may have required additional support to participate in the	Flexible dates and times for phone interviews were provided to ensure maximum engagements of participants. With meetings held by phone,

interviews, which limited the involvement of some OPDs and WROs.	participants could remain in their own homes and engage in the interviews without the need to travel.
Due to Ramadan falling during the March, when data collection took place, some key stakeholders had limited availability to participate in the interviews.	We have made efforts to accommodate those who have expressed an interest in being interviewed. The research team will follow up any outstanding interviews in April.

3. Research findings

3.1. Country context

Senegal is a lower-middle income country with a total population of 18 million people. Poverty headcount ratio (at USD 2.15 a day) (2017 PPP) is 9.9 per cent, down from 41 per cent in 2011 ([World Bank](#), 2023). However, when using the Multidimensional Poverty Index which includes health, education and standard of living indicators, half of the population in Senegal is multidimensionally poor ([UNDP](#), 2024). After reaching a record high of 9.7 per cent in 2022, inflation declined to 5.9 per cent in 2023. Pressures from energy prices, including electricity, gas, and other fuels (which increased by an average 10 per cent in 2023) weighed heavily on inflation ([World Bank](#), 2024a). However, the fisheries and breeding sector demonstrated substantial recovery. Production in the fisheries sector increased by 4.5 percent year-on-year in 2023, driven by a 6.3 percent year-on-year upswing in artisanal fishery ([World Bank](#), 2024a).

According to the Climate Risk Index which covers the 1993-2022 period, Senegal is the 121st in the ranking of the most climate-vulnerable countries ([Germanwatch](#), 2025). The Global Gender Gap Index 2023 ranking sees Senegal placed at the 104th place out of 146 countries; in particular, Senegal does not fare well in terms of economic participation and opportunity, health and survival, educational attainment, while it fares quite well (37th) in terms of political empowerment ([World Economic Forum](#), 2023).

In terms of its coasts, Senegal's coastal zone is about 198,000 km², with various ecosystems (sandy and rocky coast, wetlands, mangroves, and sandy islands). This coastal zone is highly populated with 60 per cent of the coastal population engaged in economic activities such as fishing, tourism and gardening. Ninety percent of the country's industrial establishments are in the coastal zones contributing to 68 per cent of the country's gross domestic product ([WACA](#), n.d.). Senegal's fisheries and aquaculture sector are dominated by small-scale fleets and are a cornerstone of the economy, providing employment to approximately 630,000 people, (roughly 4 per cent of the population) ensuring food security by supplying 75 per cent of consumed animal protein, and serving as the country's top export sector ([Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy](#), 2016). However, estimates on people employed in the sector vary greatly from roughly 97,000 employed in fishing and processing

([ANSD](#), 2019), to 386,817 (IHH, 2023, in [Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023)⁴, to 600, 000 (representing about 15 per cent of the Senegalese active population) ([USAID/COMFISH Plus](#), 2018), to 825,000 relying on fisheries for some portion of their income (when all direct and indirect jobs are considered) ([Harper and Sumaila](#), 2019). However, IHH estimates approximately 1.75 million people depend, at least partly, on fisheries or subsistence fishing of which the great majority in small-scale fisheries (IHH, 2023, in [Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023)⁵. A 2021 report estimated 40,000 people — mostly women — in small-scale processing and trade ([Deme et. al](#), 2012), while another estimated almost 140,000 women working in the fisheries sector (IHH, 2023, in [Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023)⁶. Men dominate fishing activities, while women control much of the post-harvest side of the fish value chain: 98 per cent of small-scale fishers are men, and some 90 per cent of seafood processors are women ([Harper and Sumaila](#), 2019).

3.2. Institutional and legal framework on GEDSI themes, on climate change, and their integration

A Directorate for Equity and Gender Equality was created in 2008 to coordinate gender-related policies across ministries. In 2011, a National Parity Observatory, designed to monitor and promote gender parity in political and social spheres, was established. The General Delegation for Rapid Entrepreneurship of Women and Youth was created in 2017 to support women's and youth economic empowerment.

Senegal ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in 1985 and its optional protocol, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Maputo Protocol in 2005. The table below outlines a number of policies which promote women's rights and civic and political participation, including permitting married women to work without their husband's consent, women the right to own and manage property, and providing workplace social protection benefits for pregnant women).

1999 law prohibiting several forms of GBV, including female genital mutilation (FGM) (including sanctioning the ones performing it).
Law 2005-06 against human trafficking and related abuses, reinforcing victim protection.
2008 Law on Equal Tax Treatment.
Law 2010-11 on Parity instituting full gender parity in elected bodies. As of end of 2024, women held 41.2 per cent of seats in parliament (Inter-Parliamentary Union , 2025) ⁷ .
2010 Launch of the National Action Plan to Eliminate FGM.
2013 Nationality Law.

⁴ However, the data mentioned by the factsheet was not found in the original IHH report referenced.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Despite the parity law, the number of women in ministerial positions remains very limited (AICS, 2023).

2015 Ratification of the Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183), strengthening workplace protections for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity (SNEEG) (2016-2026), which followed a first SNEEG (2005-2015) that represented a major step in institutionalising gender equality across policies. The current SNEEG strengthened Senegal's commitment to promoting gender equality with a focus on integrating gender into development strategies.
Law 2020-05, criminalising rape and paedophilia, with penalties reaching life imprisonment.
National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2020-2023).
National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls (2020-2035), aimed at enhancing women's access to economic opportunities.
Decree 2021-146, improving protections for pregnant and breastfeeding women in the workplace and prohibiting dismissal or discrimination based on pregnancy (2021).

While many of Senegal's laws, such as the Senegalese Constitution, recognise the critical importance of adopting gender equity processes, the various implementing laws still lack gender equity considerations, and practical application. For example, the Family Code is the basis of serious discrimination against women, including in aspects related to their work, education, health, and security (for example: the husband exercises parental authority over the children, with women only exercising parental authority when the father cannot) ([Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023).

There is currently no law covering comprehensively violence against women, domestic violence, or sexual harassment in Senegal. There are clauses within the Penal Code used to criminalise various forms of violence, but with no recognition of the violence as being gender-based. In the absence of such a law, the Criminal Code addresses violence against a spouse with applicable criminal penalties, yet in some localities it is still seen as socially acceptable ([Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023).

Consensual same-sex acts remain criminalised under the 1966 law which imposes a prison sentence of 1 to 5 years and/or a substantial fine for individuals who engage in these activities. ([ILGA](#), 2025). In recent years lawmakers have tried to introduce legislation aimed at criminalising LGBTQI+ people, rather than just same-sex acts while also seeking to increase the maximum sentence to 10 years ([Human Dignity Trust](#), 2024). In 2010, Senegal ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and adopted the Social Orientation Act to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and remove barriers to their empowerment and inclusion ([International Budget Partnership](#), 2021).

Senegal is a signatory to the United Nations Rights of the Child and has committed to prioritising the rights of children and young people, including protection, education, health care, and freedom from exploitation. The Government introduced a National Strategy for the Protection of Children in 2013, which aims to reduce the risks faced by vulnerable children, particularly those involved in forced begging. The nation has made some progress in these areas through legislative reforms and community-based initiatives;

however, a number of challenges remain that hinder the full realisation of children's rights. Senegal also launched a national plan to fight child marriage in 2023 ([OHCHR](#), 2024) and developed a national strategy to eradicate FGM by 2030 ([WHO](#), 2024).

In terms of climate, Senegal ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. The National Committee on Climate Change (COMNACC), was established in 1994, and coordinates climate-related activities and ensures Senegal's adherence to climate conventions.

Senegal developed its first National Adaptation Programme of Action in 2006
Senegal began its National Adaptation Plan (PNA) process in 2015 to identify medium- and long-term adaptation priorities and develop strategies and programmes to address them. coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition (MEDDTE) (FAO , 2020).
A roadmap was developed in 2018 with priority sectors identified from the 2006 National Adaptation Programme of Action, the 2020 Nationally Determined Contributions and the priorities of the Senegal Emerging Plan 2014 – 2035 (FAO , 2020).

Senegal's institutional framework for climate policy and gender integration involves several key ministries, committees, and structures. These are outlined in the table below.

Nine sectoral PNAs were developed that have differing degrees of gender integration – but mostly weakly addressed or not addressed yet (MEDDTE , 2024).
The Equity and Gender Equality Division (DEEG) in the Ministry of Women, Family, and Child Protection (MFFPE) coordinates the gender strategy implementation across sectoral ministries. However, the DEEG's role in climate policy design and implementation remains limited (MEDDTE , 2024).
The Gender and Equity Units (CGE) are the “technical arms” of the MFFPE and are strategically positioned at the level of the general secretariats of all the ministries. Their role is to drive, coordinate, support programming and implementation, and monitor the institutionalisation of gender. Despite their institutional presence, some sectoral ministries lack awareness of gender and climate change issues, and as a consequence, gender and climate issues are not integrated in strategic planning documents, limiting their integration in sectoral policies (MEDDTE , 2024).
Despite the inclusion of gender-focused entities like the Ministry of Women and the Senegalese Women's Council, their participation remains limited. COMNACC lacks a dedicated gender commission, and only one woman holds a leadership position within its executive board (MEDDTE , 2024).
As part of the PNA, a gender analysis was developed in 2024 to examine the differences and inequalities between the roles, norms and status of women and men, social relationships, different levels of power, different needs, constraints and opportunities, , and the impact of these differences on access, control of resources and equitable decision-making in a climate policy and action context for community resilience and adaptation (MEDDTE , 2024).
Under the MEDDTE, within the Environment and Classified Establishments Directorate (DEEC), the Climate Change Division (DCC) is responsible for coordination in collaboration with the heads of the sectoral technical committees and the members of the COMNACC. The health sector committee is coordinated by a woman, who leads the development of the health sector's PNA. Capacity-building training courses on gender

have been held for participants in the various tasks of technical coordination of the PNA process. The sectoral PNA committees are based in the sectoral ministries and coordinated by climate focal points. They are set up and organised by the ministries responsible for the sectors concerned. Representatives of the Gender and Equity Units (CGE) occasionally participate in sectoral committee activities, but their involvement is not yet systematic or institutionalised ([MEDDTE](#), 2024).

3.3. Who are the most vulnerable, marginalised or disadvantaged people in coastal regions/communities in Senegal? (RQ1)

This section summarises who are the most marginalised and vulnerable groups living in coastal communities within Senegal, where that information is available. Vulnerability refers to the potential damage or losses resulting from environmental hazards such as droughts, floods, or pollution. This vulnerability reflects the fragility of a given territory and society's capacity to anticipate, respond to, and recover from crises ([Tine](#), 2019). Where we were unable to access data focusing on certain populations within coastal communities and regions specifically, we have relied on broader data available from the literature, which is still quite limited. Many of the groups identified through the literature review as being among the most vulnerable or marginalised in these coastal regions are likely to face similar structural barriers in other regions across the country. However environmental degradation in Senegal's fisheries and blue economy exacerbates the risks for these groups especially when traditional fishing livelihoods collapse, as there is a lack of access to alternative economic opportunities and social protection mechanisms.

Although this section attempts to set out some key vulnerabilities according to population group, it is fundamental to understand that intersectionality underpins all this data – meaning that whilst women and people with disability may both face different types of disadvantage, it is where those characteristics interact that the deepest marginalisation or disadvantage may arise. In fact, climate change has an unequal impact across social groups: in the context of climate change, vulnerable populations, particularly those with fragile health or limited financial means, are more exposed to risks ([Tine](#), 2019). Factors that contribute to vulnerability and marginalisation in a broad sense include:

- **Dependence on marine resources:** Communities that are heavily reliant on fishing and tourism related to marine resources are inherently vulnerable to environmental degradation.
- **Small-scale fishers:** These individuals often lack access to resources, technology, and alternative livelihood options, making them particularly susceptible to changes in fish stocks and regulations.
- **Low education levels:** Limited education can restrict access to diverse employment opportunities, increasing dependence on traditional, resource-based livelihoods.
- **Limited access to capital:** Lack of financial resources hinders the ability to invest in sustainable practices or alternative income-generating activities.

- **Geographic isolation:** Remote coastal communities may face challenges related to infrastructure, access to services, and market opportunities.

3.3.1. Women and girls

A national overview

Traditional harmful practices like FGM and child marriage continue, and polygamy and repudiation are customary, and in northern Senegal, forced marriages are still commonplace. Research by Human Rights Watch also points to inadequate progress in the retention of girls in school, lack of free basic education, exposure of girls to sexual and gender-based exploitation and violence by teachers and school staff ([Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023). Female literacy rate of 58 per cent ([World Bank](#), 2024) and 30.5 per cent of women having some level of secondary education ([UN Women](#), 2024). 30.5 per cent and 8.8 per cent of women aged 20–24 years old were married or in a union before age 18 and 15, respectively. 12.4 per cent of women aged 15–49 years had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Moreover, only half of women of reproductive age have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods ([UN Women](#), n.d.). The adolescent birth rate is 61 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 as of 2025 ([World Bank](#), 2025). Additionally, women have less access to financial services than men.

Women involvement in fishing in coastal regions/communities

In Senegalese fisheries, men predominantly operate in the capture sector and handle the physical aspects of fishing at sea, while women largely dominate the post-harvest value chain, including processing, preservation (this includes drying smoking, salting), and marketing of fish products ([Wabnitz and Harper](#), 2023). Women are also involved in oyster farming and shellfish harvesting ([Mbaye et al.](#), 2022). Women, particularly those aged 40–60 (72 per cent of practitioners), dominate this sector, while men are predominately at sea for extended periods. Despite 72 per cent of these women being illiterate, having learned fish processing from an early age, these women play a crucial role in sustaining their families and adapting to environmental challenges ([Tine](#), 2019). Their contributions are often overlooked, and many times results in inadequate compensation, increasing their economic vulnerability ([Onibon Doubogan et al.](#), 2022).

Structural challenges experienced by women in fisheries

Women working in fish processing experience structural difficulties such as restricted access to and control over vital resources such as credit, and insufficient access to suitable equipment like fishing docks ([MEDDTE](#), 2024) and fishing equipment (e.g. canoes). Additionally, as mentioned in KIIs with CSOs representatives, women entrepreneurs are still expected to manage the household and childcare responsibilities which can put additional pressure on their business activities. When they are required to relocate with their husbands, this may result in them losing their livelihoods. Key CSO and Government informants noted that limited transportation infrastructure and inadequate storage facilities hinder seafood processing, an activity largely led by women. These challenges increase fish spoilage, reducing incomes and contributing to food waste. As the Government

informant explained, this makes women more vulnerable, as their work involves complex logistics compared to fishing, which is predominantly done by men. The informant went on to explain that in processing, there are numerous logistical challenges from product preservation to market expansion. Processed products are not always consumed locally, which creates a very complex supply chain. Despite these challenges, women have managed to carve out their place in the sector. On the other hand, the activity dominated by men – going to sea and fishing – is less difficult and less complex in terms of logistics. This complexity makes women more vulnerable because their activity which is their primary source of income is more intricate. Additionally, they often lack the necessary infrastructure to support them in this line of work (KII participant, government).

Exclusion of women from decision-making in the fishing sector

While there is recognition of women's significant contributions to the fishing sector, key informant interviews noted that women are particularly excluded from decision-making spaces, with men dominating economic and institutional management especially around marine resource decisions (KII participant, CSO). A government informant noted that despite the major role women play in the local economy, particularly managing the *bolongs*⁸ and processing marine products, women have limited access to decision-making spaces (KII participant, government). In interviews they discussed entrenched social norms and cultural barriers that persist and where more progress is needed. They felt that too often, little attention is paid to the values, concerns, priorities, needs and interests of women working in the fisheries sector. In interviews, respondents highlighted cultural norms that confine women to domestic roles, limiting their participation in economic activities and decision-making spaces. They also noted that women's time constraints, linked to household duties and caregiving, further restrict their involvement in governance structures.

In addition, women are often excluded from debates around key issues related to the fishing industry and are not involved in decision making. At the local level, the Local Artisanal Fishing Councils (CLPA) is the decision-making body aimed at establishing the rules and regulations around marine resource management. CLPA comprises 18 colleges each representing a different element of the fishing profession. Each college, or division, is represented by two people in the CLPA. Out of those, only one represents women fisherfolk, the "processing college", which includes several sub-professions, such as scaling, piling, braised fish processing, salting, fish mongering etc. This lack of representation severely hampers women's ability to actively participate and contribute to the development and management of the fisheries industry ([Wabnitz and Harper, 2023](#)). A government key informant highlighted that there is strong cultural resistance to gender

⁸ *Bolongs* is a Mandinka term referring to a stream, moving water, a tributary, or a branch of the sea bordered by mangroves. This term is used to describe low-lying areas that contain water either permanently or semi-permanently, including lowlands, ponds, and channels found in mangrove forests. These *bolongs* form multiple islands in the saline estuaries of rivers and provide freshwater during the rainy season. They cover a large coastal area and are rich in fish resources ([IUCN](#), n.d.).

equality initiatives which is hampering the inclusion of different marginalised groups in these governance structures.

The rise of women-led organisations

The exclusion of Senegalese women from early government policies unexpectedly encouraged their self-reliance through informal, traditional organisations. These groups evolved from largely social organising to include economic organising and became vital during the 1980s economic crisis. As men faced job losses, women adopted new economic practices to support their families ([Ba](#), 2006). Although this research took place in 2006, the structural barriers to women's active economic empowerment remains highly relevant today. Women engaged in fish processing have continued to collectivise in the face of the challenges within the sector. Some of these formal groups are now able to receive public funding for their economic activities and training. ([Moreno-Maestro](#), 2023).

3.3.2. Persons with disabilities

In Senegal, the share of adults aged 15 and older experiencing any functional difficulty — such as difficulties seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, or communicating — stands at 8 per cent, with over one household out of four having a member with any functional difficulty ([Disability Data Initiative](#), n.d.). Over three out of four young persons (aged 15-29) living with disabilities are not in employment, education or training (NEET) compared to one in three people without disability in the same age bracket ([ILO](#), 2023). People with disabilities are subject to discrimination in Senegal – they are marginalised, highly vulnerable and face barriers on a daily basis when trying to access health, education and employment services ([Humanity and Inclusion](#), 2023). No evidence was found on the specific vulnerabilities, barriers and risks experienced by people with disability in coastal areas except anecdotal evidence from a government key informant who mentioned that while there has been a positive trend toward integrating people with disabilities into certain maritime sectors, many infrastructures remain ill-adapted to their needs, limiting their inclusion.

3.3.3. LGBTQI+ community

Members of the LGBTQI+ community in Senegal face widespread discrimination, social intolerance, and acts of violence by society. More than nine out of ten respondents to the Afrobarometer survey would not like to have homosexuals as neighbours ([Equaldex](#), n.d.). Homosexuality can be persecuted by the law, which is at times enforced by arresting (including without warrants) allegedly homosexual people/people allegedly engaging same-sex sexual activity, including in the last few years. In some cases, arrests led to convictions. There have been instances where LGBTQI+ people have been attacked and lynched by mobs ([Human Dignity Trust](#), 2024). This is an area that is under researched and little evidence was found on the specific vulnerabilities, barriers and risks experienced by LGBTQI+ people in coastal areas, nevertheless the evidence is clear that this populations experiences a high level of exclusion and marginalisation.

3.3.4. People living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

An estimated forty-four thousand people live with HIV in Senegal, a prevalence 0.3 per cent among people aged 15-49 ([UNAIDS](#), 2023). The prevalence is much higher for people who are marginalised and criminalised, such as men who have sex with men and sex workers. At 27.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively. It is 9 per cent among people who inject drugs. In addition, the number of women living with HIV is significantly higher than men ([Frontline AIDS](#), n.d.). People living with HIV continue to face discrimination and stigmatisation within the family, in healthcare institutions, at school, in the workplace and in the community. This stigma and discrimination contribute to hold back HIV prevention and treatment: 18 per cent of respondents in a recent study reported an experience of stigmatisation or discrimination because of their status. Additionally, for 65.3 per cent of respondents, disclosing their HIV status to people close to them was not a positive experience, with 9.4 per cent having heard discriminatory remarks from family members because of their HIV status ([Stigma Index](#), 2024). No evidence was found on the specific vulnerabilities, barriers and risks experienced by people living with HIV in coastal areas.

3.3.5. Children and young people

A government KII participant mentioned that in many coastal communities, children are traditionally involved in economic activities from a very young age. This restricts their access to education and reduces opportunities for future empowerment. Children's involvement in seafood harvesting, cleaning, and processing may expose them to physical risks and prevent them from participating fully in educational and social opportunities. A CSO key informant highlighted that young people in coastal communities are particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on informal economic activities and limited access to formal education and employment. The informant emphasised that school dropouts further exacerbate this vulnerability, posing risks to both children's health and economic future.

In Senegal, children engaged in begging is common practice. The *talibés* are children raised in a traditional Koranic school, a *daara* where they receive a religious education but are coerced into begging in order to provide for their own needs and those of the *daara*. Living conditions in traditional *daaras* are challenging, with limited hygiene, inadequate sanitation, and insufficient access to food ([Amnesty International Senegal](#), 2024). It is estimated that there are more than 2,000 *daaras* in Dakar, with a population of nearly 200,000 *talibés*, 25 per cent of whom are said to be forced into begging according to a 2018 study by the NGO Global Solidarity Initiative. ([Amnesty International](#), 2022). Research suggests that in 2017 and 2018, hundreds of *talibés* children were victims of human trafficking, which under Senegalese law includes harbouring children in a *daara* and exploiting them for money by forcing them to beg, as well as recruiting or transporting children for this purpose ([Human Rights Watch](#), 2019). There is little data available to determine the prevalence of child begging in fishing communities, but this is a key issue for children in Senegal. The research team will explore if any reflections on this are noted and any implications of this for children in coastal communities, or if any information is revealed in key informant interviews. Any additional findings will be included in the final report.

Two out of five (42.4 per cent) female youth aged 15-29 are 'not in education, employment or training (NEET)', almost the double of their male counterparts ([World Bank](#), 2024b). The female employment to population ratio is more than twenty-five percentage points below that of their male counterparts in this age bracket ([ILO](#), 2023).

3.3.6. Migrants

While migration affects both adults and children, the main concerns raised in Senegal relate to the situation of child migrants, particularly talibés from neighbouring countries such as Guinea, Mali, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. The United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families has expressed its concern about their alleged exploitation and the failure to reintegrate them into their families of origin. Some of these children are believed to have been trafficked or smuggled ([Human Rights Watch](#), 2019).

3.4. How are those most dependent on Senegal's marine and coastal resources at risk from future environmental degradation? (RQ2)

Due to environmental degradation, climate change and resource scarcity coastal communities face significant threat to their livelihoods. With limited opportunities for alternative employment, people affected by the environmental degradation are pushed into daily wage labour or into debt and poverty. Additionally, rising sea levels disrupt local livelihoods and destabilise community life ([MEDDTE](#), 2024).

3.4.1. Climate change and environmental degradation in coastal communities

Senegal's maritime fishing sector is highly vulnerable to climate change. Similar to other West African coastal zones, Senegal's sandy areas are retreating by 1.2 to 6 meters per year ([Thior et al.](#), 2019). Coastal erosion in Senegal has intensified due to climate change-induced sea level rise, compounded by population pressure and harmful and unsustainable urban development practices in coastal areas which are not formally/systematically planned (including building on the shore in areas within the 100m highest tide limit that by law is considered public domain) ([Fall](#), 2021). A CSO respondent noted that climate change accelerates the disappearance of habitat zones, directly impacting livelihoods that rely on marine resources. Rising water levels delay the unloading of small fish, like sardines, reducing fishing days and impacting incomes ([Ndiaye & Touré](#), 2023).

Environmental changes significantly impact fish stocks ([Diop and Niang](#), n.d.): rising sea levels, ocean acidification, coastal erosion, and declining fish stocks, further exacerbated by overexploitation (including due to overfishing⁹ by illegal vessels, and foreign vessels

⁹ Overfishing is typically understood as the depletion of fish stocks due to fishing at a rate that exceeds the population's natural ability to reproduce and replenish ([Sall](#), 2024).

through agreements with the European Union¹⁰) and habitat degradation, threaten Senegal's fisheries and aquaculture sectors, as well as the livelihoods of dependent communities ([MEDD and MPEM](#), 2016). In 2014, around 7.5 per cent of fish stocks in Senegalese waters were considered exploited, 15.8 per cent overexploited and 54.4 per cent collapsed ([Harper and Sumaila](#), 2019).

As highlighted in the literature and confirmed by a CSO respondent, mangroves and mangrove channels (*bolongs*) are vital ecosystems both ecologically for marine biodiversity and economically for livelihoods. However, the mangrove ecosystem, for example in Abéné Marine Protected Area (MPA), face increasing threats from coastal erosion, climate change, and human activities, including oil spills and mangrove wood being used for the fish smoking process ([Tine](#), 2019). This in turns leads to habitat degradation, reduced fish stocks, and increased coastal vulnerability ([Diedhiou, Sambou, & Sarr](#), 2021).

The coastline faces significant pollution challenges driven by coastal urbanisation, inadequate wastewater treatment, and waste disposal into the ocean and creates the proliferation of illegal garbage dumps ([Fall](#), 2021), contributing to the proliferation of algae on beaches ([MEDDTE](#), 2024), as seen in the case of Hann Bay in Dakar. In Senegal, people generate various forms of pollution as the environmental impacts are poorly understood by the general population. Pollution generated in Senegal is not well-documented in terms of its composition and volume. ([Machu](#) et al., 2023). This litter when combined with other environmental changes such as global warming, acidification, and ocean deoxygenation, pose significant yet largely unknown risks to marine ecosystems ([Machu](#) et al., 2023). Poor waste management and unchecked industrial discharge have degraded the marine environment, reduced fish stocks, and threatened the economic stability of fishing communities ([Lewis](#), 2016). Waste from fisheries and fish processing activities are leading to environmental and public health concerns ([Tine](#), 2019). However, the impacts on public health appear to be less of a priority for certain vulnerable groups. For example, waste pickers at the Mbeubeuss dump perceive health risks as secondary to their immediate economic needs, such as financial insecurity and social marginalisation ([Vasina](#), 2018). Similarly, despite significant pollution and overfishing, fishing remains a crucial economic activity in areas like Hann Bay, where communities continue to rely on marine resources for their livelihoods. While elevated levels of sulphates and phosphates in coastal waters contribute to algal blooms and reduce oxygen levels for fish populations, these environmental concerns are often overshadowed by economic survival strategies among affected communities ([Lewis](#), 2016). This highlights the complexity of balancing environmental risks with socio-economic realities in Senegal's coastal regions. In fact, a CSO key informant highlighted the significant impact of pollution, particularly plastic waste, on marine ecosystems, disrupting fish habitats and threatening coastal livelihoods. However, another CSO key informant noted that some women working along the

¹⁰ The European vessels have the capacity to catch between two and three times more than the sustainable levels ([Jönsson](#), 2019)

Senegalese coast collect materials washed ashore, such as plastic waste, fishing net remnants, or exploitable marine resources, to recycle or resell. While ocean waste is often viewed as harmful, it can also provide a secondary source of income for these women.

Salinisation of land, the process by which water-soluble salts accumulate in the soil is limiting agricultural alternatives for coastal populations, making it difficult for them to diversify their economic activities (KII participant, CSO).

Projections by academics at the Institute des Sciences de l'Environnement indicate that between 2020 and 2050, climate change impacts could reduce Senegal's gross domestic product by 2.3 per cent, resulting in financial losses exceeding 900 billion CFA franc ([Diop and Niang](#), n.d.).

3.4.2. Who is most dependent on marine and coastal resources in Senegal, and in what ways are these communities/ populations at risk from future environmental degradation?

On the one hand, most coastal communities are reliant on marine resources for both subsistence and income generation, therefore, as highlighted by government and CSO key informants, declining marine biodiversity and pollution have resulted in reduced income across these communities. As mentioned by a CSO key informant, coastal erosion and land salinisation are forcing communities to abandon traditional fishing grounds. Vulnerable groups often lack the technical skills and resources needed to adapt to environmental and economic changes (KII participant, government). Another example of how of environmental degradation impacts whole communities is flooding and coastal erosion, which has displaced over 800 families from the Langue of Barbarie coasts to temporary camps.

Displaced communities face poor living conditions, food insecurity, and limited healthcare, while those who remain continue to endure environmental risks despite protective dikes. ([Ndiaye and Touré](#), 2023). Already vulnerable populations, such as women or people living in poverty, are at highest risk from and more severely impacted by environmental degradation. Specific impacts are outlined below.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to several factors, including differences in access to information, control over resources (including land and capital), access to credit. These different challenges determine an individual, household or community's ability to adapt to climate change. As women are mainly engaged in fish processing and marketing, at the end of the production chain (KII participant, CSO), they are particularly affected by the depletion of fishery resources ([Onibon Doubogan et al.](#), 2022), as well as the increased sale of fish for exports, which are often made at a higher price than the local market can afford. This creates a declining share of fish destined for traditional processing, which removes economic opportunities for women ([Moreno-Maestro](#), 2023). According to two CSO key respondents, women are forced to diversify their livelihoods, including selling debris recovered from pollution clean-up campaigns and shifting to non-marine economic activities. This disruption of traditional value chains reduces work opportunities and income for women, whose income is more

correlated than men's with expenditure on children's education, food and health ([Harper and Sumaila](#), 2019), and who often bear the primary responsibility for childcare, especially during periods of economic instability or crisis ([MEDDTE](#), 2024). This, in turn, places a triple burden on women, who must manage both household responsibilities, childcare, and income-generating activities ([MEDDTE](#), 2024).

Artisanal fishery workers' livelihoods in coastal communities are increasingly threatened by the depletion of marine resources. Fishermen are forced to take longer and riskier trips into deeper waters, sometimes reaching Mauritanian waters, with limited returns despite increased efforts and costs ([Ndiaye & Touré](#), 2023). Fishermen face frequent pirogue accidents, resource depletion, and economic hardships that fuel conflicts, unemployment, and poverty ([Ndiaye and Touré](#), 2023).

Young people are impacted by declining marine resources and economic insecurity which pushes residents from coastal villages, in particular young men, to migrate to urban settings or even abroad to find alternative income sources. One CSO informant stated that with climate change, marine resources are declining, which is driving many young people to migrate to Spain in search of economic opportunities. This increases the responsibilities of women, who then become heads of household. Another CSO informant noted that the reduction in marine resources also intensified youth migration to other countries in search of economic opportunities.

Children and school aged young people are impacted when climate-induced floods and coastal erosion destroy school infrastructure and prevent children from attending school and completing their education ([Ndiaye and Touré](#), 2023).

Numerous groups with health needs are impacted by climate related health risks, which can exacerbate existing health conditions for persons with disabilities respiratory illnesses, people with HIV among others. Pregnant women and newborns and infants may also experience climate-related health risks. Limited medical facilities face challenges in being able to adequately respond to these emerging needs ([Ndiaye and Touré](#), 2023).

3.5. What are the key issues in terms of SEAH for OCPP to be aware of in Senegal that are flagged through GEDSI analysis? (RQ3)

3.5.1. Context

SEAH happens within organisations and can be perpetrated by staff, consultants and contractors. Because it is primarily perpetrated by people (usually men) in positions of power it often goes unreported. SEAH is often a form of GBV and tends to be targeted at either women or children.

Country specific literature on SEAH within a Senegalese context has proven challenging to find. To date there has been limited research conducted on SEAH, but despite this there is a wide acknowledgment in the sector that SEAH in Senegal is likely very common. Because of this, the GEDSI analysis will look more broadly at GBV and violence

against children (VAC) as an indicator of where SEAH and other forms of safeguarding related misconduct is likely to happen within OCPP in Senegal.

Gender based violence

GBV remains a significant issue in Senegal, the exact numbers are difficult to quantify due to lack of formal reporting and lack of national gender disaggregated data. UN Women notes that in Senegal “gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women’s access to assets (including land), and gender and the environment – lack comparable methodologies for regular monitoring” ([UN Women](#), Senegal) which makes prevalence and impact difficult to estimate, although as noted earlier in the report, there have been some efforts to adopt international treaties and instruments on the fair treatment of women and gender parity. An IUCN report documented that women in fish processing sites are at **risk of experiencing sexual harassment and economic coercion, and may experience unwanted sexual advances linked to access to fish supplies or market opportunities** ([IUCN](#), 2020). A CSO key informant reported that, while sexual harassment incidents are rarely reported openly, they do exist, and women working in fish markets or port areas are sometimes exposed to this type of violence. According to the same respondent and another CSO key informant, women often turn to women leaders to report cases of violence or harassment, as these issues are rarely discussed publicly, and formal reporting mechanisms remain limited. Progress in addressing these issues has been hampered by underreporting and social stigma. Research by the Senegalese organisation Association des Juristes Sénégalaises found that only about 5 per cent of gender-based violence cases are reported to authorities ([AJS](#), 2021). A significant barrier to addressing these issues is the cultural silence as it relates to sexual violence more broadly. Social pressure to preserve family honour often prevents survivors from seeking justice or support services, particularly in traditional communities where family mediation may be preferred over formal legal processes.

Gender-based violence in coastal communities manifests in various forms, often due to the unique dynamics of fishing economies. Women in these areas may be at a higher risk of economic exploitation. It has been noted female fish processors and vendors often face discriminatory practices in access to resources, credit, and market opportunities (ILO). Women fish processors often work in precarious conditions with limited bargaining power, making them vulnerable to sexual harassment and transactional sex demands from male fishers and middlemen in exchange for access to fish supplies ([Bene](#), 2008)¹¹. This economic reliance perpetuates cycles of exploitation that are a challenge for women to break, as they often have limited alternative livelihood opportunities within coastal economies. A CSO key informant mentioned that women are sometimes victims of psychological harm, particularly in households where men have migrated for fishing,

¹¹ This is an older article, yet the issues outlined are relevant and supported by KII information, so it has been included for reference.

leaving women to experience significant social pressure whilst managing their households alone.

Violence Against Children (VAC) and Child Labour

Violence against children in Senegalese coastal communities is underexplored in the literature, however there are published documents that discuss risks of child labour and economic exploitation in coastal communities in the global literature. Boys are particularly vulnerable to dangerous fishing practices, while girls face risks of sexual exploitation and or early marriage. Children may be trafficked from inland areas or neighbouring countries to work in the fishing sector in coastal regions, where they experience physical abuse, neglect, and denial of educational opportunities ([FAO and ILO](#), 2013).

Violence against children in coastal communities is often linked to practices of child labour and economic exploitation. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has documented how children in fishing communities are engaged in hazardous work, including deep-sea fishing, fish smoking, and processing activities. Children often lack documentation, making them particularly vulnerable to exploitation with limited recourse to protection services ([FAO and ILO](#), 2013). Although it is difficult to estimate the numbers of children in Senegal who are subject to child labour, a US Department of Labour report does indicate that fishing is one several industries within the country where children may be exposed to serious forms of child labour ([U.S. Department of Labor](#), 2023).

The intersection of poverty, environmental degradation, and traditional gender norms creates specific challenges for addressing gender-based violence in these communities. Declining fish stocks due to overfishing and climate change have intensified economic pressures on coastal households, often leading to increased domestic violence as families struggle with financial stress. **This economic strain can result in negative coping mechanisms, including child marriage and sexual exploitation of young girls.** Community-based protection mechanisms are often undermined by traditional power structures that prioritise family reputation over individual safety, particularly for women and children who experience violence. It also emphasised that survivors in isolated fishing villages face significant barriers to accessing justice and support services, with limited availability of shelters, legal aid, and healthcare facilities equipped to handle cases of gender-based violence ([Castañeda et al.](#), 2020)

OCPP stakeholders actions to address SEAH or GBV/VAC

The research team is still seeking information to determine what specific work OCPP partners are doing to address GBV, SEAH, or VAC. A detailed mapping of OCPP partners has been included in Annex 2. Senegal's National Adaptation Plan (PNA) presents opportunities for OCPP stakeholders to further engage and highlight the gender inequities inherent in the blue economy. Beyond the current involvement of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDDTE), the Environment and Classified Establishments Directorate (DEEC), and the Climate Change Division (DCC), there is likely considerable scope to engage and advocate for greater representation of more women's grassroots organisations in these initiatives.

OCPP is working with academic institutions and development partners so it would be important to raise awareness of the improvements needed on GEDSI and develop strong linkages between OCPP and the ongoing work of within Senegal's National Adaptation Plan process.

Safeguarding implications for OCPP

This GEDSI review has identified the following safeguarding considerations for OCPP:

- Unclear safeguarding arrangements across partner organisations
- The programme works with a range of diverse partners including both Government agencies, consultancy companies, CSOs, academia and NGOs. The OCPP documentation for Senegal notes that some of the partners are developing safeguarding policies and an initial round of training is planned or has already been provided to partners. This is a positive first step. It will be useful for the OCPP partnership to agree a safeguarding framework across its partnership, so all partner policies can be benchmarked with the OCPP standards contained within the framework to ensure they are robust and meet the needs of the programme. At present, is unclear what safeguarding procedures these organisations have in place and what timescales each partner has committed to ensure a policy is developed. Unless there are clear arrangements in place it is unlikely that OCPP will become aware of any safeguarding related misconduct reported within partners organisations and have an agreed process of response.
- It will be important for OCPP to take a different approach to safeguarding for the different partners and work with them to understand what arrangements they should have in place. For CSOs and small private sector initiatives, often due diligence can be used as an entry point to offer technical assistance on safeguarding as needed. For universities and Government institutions, OCPP will need to use a different approach. This may include understanding the existing safeguarding procedures within Universities and Government departments, and taking a collaborative and 'positive influencing' approach to mitigate risk.

3.5.2. Safeguarding risks within the programme

There is a risk that other forms of SEAH and safeguarding related misconduct may occur within OCPP funded activities.

- It is important for OCPP to understand that OCPP-funded personnel (including delivery partners) are regularly coming into contact with marginalised individuals due to their work in communities, for example, through data collection and site visits. This increases the risk of safeguarding-related misconduct including SEAH targeted at the most marginalised community members. It is thus important that safeguarding procedures (including mechanisms for community members to raise concerns) are in place to mitigate the risk of SEAH and other forms of harm).

- OCPP should work with partners to build understanding of sexual harassment as in many organisations this often goes unreported. Efforts should be made to ensure OCPP-funded staff are provided appropriate support if they have experienced sexual harassment and staff are trained to understand what constitutes sexual harassment and how to report any concerns.

There are a small number of OCPP-funded activities where there is a higher risk of SEAH and other forms of safeguarding related misconduct.

- Scholarship and 'studentship' programmes: The selection of students for scholarships and studentships poses risks of SEAH and other forms of harm due to inherent power dynamics between professors, students, and supervisors, especially for female students. When selecting applicants for these initiatives, it is crucial that clear procedures are in place including transparency in the application process and there are opportunities to raise concerns. There should be a training for all staff who will come into contact with the students.
- Ghana/Senegal student platform. Efforts should be made to ensure this programme is safely managed participating staff and students agree safe ways of interacting on the platform another especially if this will be an online platform.

OCPP is working in sectors where the risk of GBV and child labour is high

- OCPP is working in a few sectors where there is evidence of high levels of GBV. This is most notable in the fishing sector and higher education.
- Fishing sector: There is evidence of both high levels of GBV and to a limited extent child labour within the fishing sector that OCPP should be aware of. This increases the risk of safeguarding related misconduct amongst partners that the OCPP is working with including both in relation to women and children.

3.6. Who are the key stakeholders to engage on GEDSI and why? What work is already going on to address poverty and vulnerability and empower groups across OCPP areas (those interacting or dealing with pollution, seafood and biodiversity loss)? What lessons can be learned from this? (RQ5)

The table in 3.6.2 outlines key stakeholders that OCPP could consider engaging to advance GEDSI initiatives. These are a broad range of stakeholders mapped that include WROs, government agencies, and other organisations that integrates different perspective across Senegal's marine ecosystem. The integration of diverse perspectives would add legitimacy and community buy-in, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation and sustainable outcomes within the marine planning process.

3.6.1. Barriers and Gaps in Women's Integration in Decision-Making Bodies

Findings from the KIIs highlight significant barriers to women's integration in decision-making bodies within coastal communities. Cultural norms play a major role, with traditional

gender roles often restricting women to informal economic activities, limiting their access to leadership spaces. Institutional challenges are equally prevalent, as decision-making bodies, particularly those governing marine resource management, remain predominantly male-dominated. Structural obstacles, such as limited access to education, financial resources, and leadership training, further constrain women's ability to influence decisions.

Despite these challenges, positive practices are emerging. KIs have revealed particularly through the co-management of MPAs in some coastal communities, women have successfully joined local governance structures that manage MPAs, providing valuable contributions to conservation strategies and resource management. These initiatives demonstrate that when women are actively engaged, they bring critical knowledge on sustainable practices, including traditional conservation techniques and seafood processing skills. However, their participation often remains limited to supporting roles rather than leadership positions.

3.6.2. Stakeholder mapping

As part of understanding the system in which OCPP operates, a stakeholder diagram has been developed and included in Annex 1. There are a number of actors engaged in a range GEDSI issues at various levels who seek to represent and amplify the voices of the populations they serve. The table below lists some of the relevant stakeholders to GEDSI, the vulnerable and marginalised groups they work with (or not), and the rationale for OCPP engagement.

Stakeholder group	Vulnerable and marginalised groups they work with (or not)	Rationale for OCPP engagement
High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety, Maritime Safety and Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR) and Directorate of Community Marine Protected Areas (DAMCP)	Coastal fishing communities, including small-scale fishers and women involved in post-harvest activities.	Pivotal in formulating and enforcing policies that promote sustainable practices and protect vulnerable communities reliant on marine resources.
Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures		
Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Transition (MEDDTE)		
National Parks Directorate (MEDDTE)	Women from MPA communities and their representative organisations	Collaborating on MPAs from a forest management perspective
CGEs across Ministries	Women fishmongers and processors	Key in ensuring Line Ministries policies are gender responsive.
REFEPAS	Women fishmongers and processors	The Senegalese Artisanal Fishing Women's Network (REFEPAS) is a body that represents women fishmongers and processors.
Women's groups/women's collectives for biodiversity conservation/economic interest groups like Mboggo Yay	Women fishmongers and processors and women from coastal communities in MPAs	Women working at different processing sites (e.g., Khelcom at Bargny) have joined forces and submitted a number of demands to the government, including signing the Decree legally

		recognising the status of women processors; supporting better representation and working conditions; halting the expansion of fishmeal and fish oil factories as well as banning the use of whole fish in fishmeal production if they are fit for consumption; freezing the issuance of industrial fishing licenses targeting small pelagics; publicly posting the list of foreign vessels authorised to fish in Senegal's exclusive economic zone; and granting women's groups access to finance provided to the fisheries sector (Wabnitz and Harper, 2023).
CLPAs	Fisheries workers	Part of local decision-making processes regarding fisheries, including one college for processing.
NEBEDAY Association	Women from coastal communities	They advocate for the participation of women from coastal communities in national decision bodies (MPAs), provide them with training, fund their activities.
ENDA Pro Nat	Women working with natural resources	As above, but more generally on natural resources preservation.
Regional Associations for Fishery like ADEPA (West African Association for the Development of Artisanal fisheries)	Small-scale artisanal fishers and coastal communities	These groups play a critical role in promoting sustainable fisheries management, empowering vulnerable coastal communities, and ensuring inclusive governance by strengthening the capacity of local actors and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.
Community Management Organisations in MPAs	Women fishmongers and processors	They are at the nexus of both divisions of the Ministry Departments Environment and Ecological Transition. One of the strongest bodies for women to be represented within these forums.

Site-Specific Community-Based Organisations e.g., Regroupement des Femmes de Popenguine pour la Protection de la Nature	Women fishmongers and processors	These groups reflect grassroots local women in fisheries and worked to ensure they are able reflect their voices with senior leaders. These fora create more shared power for women in coastal communities and villages.
Dakar-Thiaroye Oceanographic Research Centre (CRODT)	Looking at environmental impact and focused on primarily on pollution.	Conducts research on marine and coastal resources to inform policy on and management of sustainable management of marine resources.

3.6.3. Lessons

The research findings, drawn from KIIs and informal discussions with stakeholders have revealed valuable perspectives on gender dynamics, economic inclusion, and social structures in Senegal's coastal communities. While women are active in seafood processing, trade, and resource management, this involvement has not translated into greater economic progress or representation in decision-making. Deeply rooted cultural norms, reliance on informal networks, and evolving household roles further shape these dynamics. Understanding these complexities will be crucial for OCPG to design effective and context-sensitive interventions that promote inclusive economic empowerment and social resilience for women.

Understanding exclusion and community perceptions

The concept of exclusion is not widely recognised in some coastal communities, where self-reliance and hard work are highly valued. Individuals tend to rely on their own efforts rather than seeking external support, which shapes social and economic dynamics. This mindset can inadvertently reinforce social exclusion, as these vulnerable groups may be reluctant to seek support or challenge existing inequalities. Understanding this perception is essential when designing inclusive interventions that respect and align with community norms and values.

Community networks and economic participation

In some instances, there are perceptions of women beginning to gain some recognition for their contributions within coastal economies even if these roles are less visible in formal decision-making spaces. These networks can serve as entry points for strengthening women's inclusion. A guide from the National Parks Directorate¹² noted that women's participation in economic activities, both directly and indirectly, is respected within the community. Informal networks are particularly significant as illustrated by this example given by a key informant of a disabled female fisher, who played a vital role as an informal fish supplier, purchasing directly from fisheries and reselling to households within her community, before her passing. There are examples of some women overcoming significant challenges to attain status within coastal communities. It is important to explore how these women have succeeded despite these barriers and identify ways to expand opportunities for greater gender and social inclusion.

Women as emerging household leaders

¹² In addition to formal KIIs the research team had informal discussions within coastal communities where individuals shared their reflections and observations of GEDSI issues. These conversations have not been counted as a formal KII, but the views have been captured and reflected.

As men increasingly leave coastal communities, often due to economic migration, women are taking on greater leadership roles within households. CSO Key informants have noted that this has driven women to diversify their income sources, expanding into trade and reinvesting in non-marine-related activities to sustain their families. While these activities may not appear directly linked to marine economies, they often rely on the same financial flows, underscoring the complex relationship between marine and non-marine sectors. Supporting women's economic diversification is key to building resilient coastal communities ([Wabnitz and Harper, 2023](#)).

Women's involvement in the circular economy, in initiatives such as transforming waste from fish processing into energy, are an important element of the resilience strategies of women involved in fishing in Senegal. These initiatives have enabled women to maintain their role in the industry despite increasing competition. Women have also formed associations that provide collective support and help them achieve tangible gains. These associations have enabled them to maintain their role in the fishing industry and resist growing competition from fishmongers. In parallel, many women have joined savings and credit mutuals, giving them access to revolving credit mechanisms better suited to their needs, while promoting savings habits and greater financial autonomy. As a result of these efforts, many women have improved their financial situation: they contribute more significantly to household expenses, better manage their households, and in some cases have acquired assets such as work equipment or housing ([Mbaye, 2022](#)).

Engaging Men as Allies Through Community-Based Structures

To strengthen the sustainability of women's economic initiatives in coastal communities, it is crucial to engage men as champions of gender integration. Existing local structures such as the Conseils Communautaires de Santé (CCS), Comités Villageois de Développement (CVD), and Conseils Locaux de Pêche Artisanale (CLPA) offer valuable entry points for action. Mobilising male leaders, fishers, and traders through these councils can support peer-to-peer education on women's contributions, gender equality, and inclusive growth. Specific strategies could include awareness sessions, endorsement campaigns by respected figures, and participatory dialogues to foster positive social norms and collective support.

Lessons from other marine programming

A selection of other large-scale programmes has been included below to enable OCPP to consider lessons learned from other programmes that have incorporated gender as an area of focus. Learning from these initiatives may support greater mainstreaming of gender considerations into existing marine programmes and inspire new GEDSI activities that OCPP may wish to further explore.

[The Natur'ELLES project](#), funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by SOCODEVI, demonstrates effective strategies for integrating climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and gender inclusion in Senegal's coastal regions. The programme focused on empowering women through leadership training, financial literacy, and collective entrepreneurship in mangrove conservation. The project highlights how strengthening women's roles in environmental restoration can drive both ecological protection and economic empowerment.

The United States Agency for International Development [Collaborative Management for a Sustainable Fisheries Future \(COMFISH\) project](#) (2011-2016) d particular emphasis on empowering women and strengthening their role across fisheries value chains primarily by adding value to fish processing roles most associated with women. A total of 19 women led fish processor organisations in 12 Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils developed a code of ethics to govern trade. Due to the high levels of illiteracy among women, the code was translated into songs, lyrics, dances and folklore. A women's declaration for the fisheries sector was developed which called for decision makers to acknowledge the roles that women play as well as a strategy and action plan to ensure the goals were achieved. This was handed over the local authority for ongoing management and oversight.

In Senegal, FAO's programme [Fish for African, Caribbean and Pacific States \(FISH4ACP\)](#) focus on oyster farming, mainly in the Sine Saloum and Casamance areas, and support development of higher value and longer shelf-life products to improve food security and contribute to women's economic empowerment. FISH4ACP is being implemented with the support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. This programme aims to conduct a fish value chain analysis looking specifically at the role of women in higher value and longer shelf-life products. To improve women's security and economic growth.

[West Africa Coastal Areas Programme \(WACA\) Interventions](#) provide support to the operationalise the existing geo-system in place to manage the coastal environment in the implementation, and to strengthening the country's early warning system to also cover the maritime phenomena. While the programme primarily focuses on environmental and coastal management, it also incorporates social dimensions, such as addressing GBV and promoting community engagement.

Additional initiatives

Listed below are additional activities that relate to marine planning processes and reflect efforts to support more community consultation. These initiatives do not have a specific GEDSI focus but contain elements of community-based consultation and engagement that could be leveraged to provide insight into GESDI priorities and supported to be more GEDSI sensitive and / or transformative in their approach. OCPP could explore if there is potential alignment of this work across its

programmes. These activities may offer further opportunities for dialogue, sharing learning and exploring linkages with the Senegalese National Adaptation Plan.

- The Joal-Fadiouth MPA, established in 2004, operates under a co-management model combining community leadership with administrative support. Its zoning system regulates fishing activities, contributing to improved fish stocks, enhanced biodiversity, and active community engagement, particularly among youth ([Garcia et al.](#), 2013).
- Coastal protection work is planned for eastern and western Corniches Road in Dakar as well as protection of the Island of Goree, a world heritage site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Saint-Louis on the Langue de Barbarie is also targeted for interventions focusing on citizen engagement and a local initiative to strengthen resilience and improve the livelihoods and well-being of people affected by coastal erosion ([WACA](#), 2024)
- MPAs in Senegal show positive ecological impacts, enhancing biodiversity, fish biomass, and ecosystem resilience. However, their success in improving fisheries management is limited without integrated strategies addressing socio-economic factors and vulnerable communities ([Garcia et al.](#), 2013).
- A CSO Key informant interviews informed the research team that there are plans for six Economic Interest Groups in the Joal MPA,¹³ involving nearly 700 women working towards financial autonomy. A key informant interview revealed the existence of six Economic Interest Groups within the Joal MPA, bringing together nearly 700 women working towards financial autonomy. The informant's own Economic Interest Groups collaborates regularly with the Joal CLPA and the MPA, but advocacy efforts with authorities are needed to strengthen the representation of other women's groups in decision-making bodies. A study conducted as part of the USAID/COMFISH PENCOO GEJ project highlights that 75 per cent of key stakeholders are unaware of how the MPA operates, largely due to insufficient awareness-raising efforts. The study also emphasises that since women are highly active in the fisheries value chain, they should hold more strategic positions to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable management of the MPA ([Sene](#), 2013).

¹³ Economic Interest Groups are collaborative organizations formed to promote economic activities and interests among their members. These groups often focus on sustainable practices and community-based resource management within the MPA.

3.7. What data is available in-country that can be used for GEDSI analysis and what are the data gaps? (RQ6)

Data source (including hyperlink where possible)	Institutional affiliation/ responsibility	What does it comprise/ why is it useful	Focus on any population or community?	Limitations
Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)	National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) & USAID	Standardised, gender-disaggregated data on health, education, and social inequalities, crucial for analysing gender disparities.	General population	
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)	National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) & UNICEF	Standardised, gender-disaggregated data on child well-being, nutrition, education, and disability, providing insights into marginalised groups	Children	Latest MICS for Senegal is very outdated (2000). A recent one is only available for Dakar (2015-2016)
General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH)	National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD)	comprehensive demographic data, including household structure, employment, and access to services	General population	
Harmonised Survey of Household Living Conditions (EHCVM)	National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) with World Bank and West African Economic and Monetary Union	Data to monitor and evaluate trends in poverty and household living conditions.	General population	
Gender Data Portal and Senegal Gender Landscape	World Bank	Gender statistics and analysis through data visualisations to inform policy making.	Women and girls	

Social Inclusion and Gender Index (SIGI)	OECD	The SIGI measures gender-based discrimination in social institutions across 180 countries. It is organised around 5 sub-indices: discriminatory family code, restricted physical integrity, son bias, restricted resources and assets, and restricted civil liberties.	Women and girls	
Minimum Set of Gender Indicators Database	UNDESA	Collection of 48 quantitative indicators and 11 qualitative indicators measuring and collecting information on issues relevant for gender equality and women's empowerment. The indicators are organised into five themes: Economic empowerment; Education; Health and related services; Public life and decision-making; and Human rights of women and girl children	Women and girls	
UN Women Country Fact Sheet	UN Women	Indicators and statistics	Women and girls	
Global Database on Violence against Women	UN Women	A one-stop source on the measures governments is taking to build a world free from violence against women and girls	Women and girls	
Human Development Reports	UNDP	Human Development Index (HDI) measures a country's health, education and standard of living	General population	
UN SDG Global Database	UNDESA	Data on over 200 SDG indicators reported by countries. It allows access to SDG data by indicator, country, region and time period.	General population	Significant gaps remain for many indicators

ILOSTAT	ILO	ILOSTAT is the ILO's central statistics database providing labour statistics for countries across the world. Key indicators cover employment, unemployment, labour force participation, hours of work,	Labour force	Focus is primarily formal employment – lacks data on informal labour Limited metrics on gender pay gap, unpaid work, and care roles
LGBT people & the law	Human Dignity Trust	LGBT people & the law	LGBTQI+ People	
LGBTQ+ Rights	EQUALDEX	LGBT Rights	LGBTQI+ People	
Disability Statistics	UNDESA	Disability statistics	People living with disabilities	

Despite available data sources, several gaps hinder comprehensive GEDSI analysis in Senegal:

- **Limited disaggregated data:** insufficient information is available on age, disability, and socio-economic status, particularly in coastal areas. Data on some vulnerable groups, such as LGBTQI+ populations, is extremely limited.
- **Gaps in informal sector data:** women's roles in informal economic activities, notably in artisanal fish processing and trade, are poorly documented.
- **Limited SEAH data:** there is minimal data on SEAH, especially in coastal regions and the fisheries sector.
- **Inadequate climate impact data:** there is limited analysis on how climate risks uniquely affect vulnerable groups like women, children, and people with disabilities.
- **Migration Data Gaps:** data on the impact of male migration from coastal regions limited.

4. Conclusion

This section presents conclusions in relation to six research questions.

There is some overlap between the groups of individuals that are vulnerable in coastal areas due to their role within the fisheries sector or due to climate change and environmental degradation. In Senegal there has been analysis of the role of women within the fishing value chain particularly in relation to their roles in harvesting and processing lower value pelagic fish where in Senegal women represent a significant percentage of labour. This is still an area where more research is needed to fully understand the informal activities, that women engage in which are vital to the fishing sector in Senegal. There is strong evidence that points to women's lack of voice in all areas of the blue economy, particularly when change occurs within the marine environment.

Persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ populations are underrepresented in the literature and therefore the full impacts of environmental degradation and the changing nature of the fisheries sector within these populations is largely unknown. These communities may experience additional forms of exclusion when marine ecosystems decline. This lack of research is also reflected at a global level where the evidence base is still developing and more research is needed to understanding not only the specific risks they experience, and how best to consider these risks within marine management planning processes. Any research initiatives involving these groups must be conducted with great care and rigorous ethical standards that respect cultural sensitivities, prioritise safety and well-being, and ensure confidentiality so as not to cause unintended harm.

This GEDSI assessment found there are risks for OCCP to consider, mainly due to the high level of gender inequality for women and girls as well as national picture on child labour and violence against children. It is therefore important to have an overall picture of the complex and varied delivery environment which could potentially lead to safeguarding breaches. It is imperative that OCCP takes this into account and works with partners across the programme to ensure preventative action is taken and safeguarding is embedded at the early stages of programme planning and development.

5. Recommendations

This section sets out draft recommendations for CEFAS to consider within both its current and future programming to ensure a robust GEDSI approach. The recommendations have been discussed and validated by the OCCP team during a validation meeting prior to finalising the report.

Recommendation 1: Demonstrate a strong commitment to GEDSI within the OCCP

Although the current phase of OCPG Senegal will conclude within 2026, there are some immediate steps that can be taken to embed a culture of GEDSI within the programme.

- **Consider reviewing the efficacy of existing steering committees, reference groups and partnership arrangements** to ensure there is meaningful consultation and dialogue with a sufficient representation of women, including organisations of persons with disabilities, GBV providers and civil society organisations. This will ensure a balance of perspectives can inform programme delivery. The research team has compiled information on a selection of existing marine programmes with GEDSI elements for OCPG to consider. A stakeholder mapping as well as a current mapping of OCPG partnerships (Annex 2) has also been included as there may be opportunities to align work with existing groups and initiatives to avoid silos and promote shared learning.
- **Consider how best to deepen and renew collaborations with organisations such as NEBEDAY.** Explore how best to participate in ongoing efforts to advocate for greater gender awareness within the Ministry of Fisheries, through MPAs, to scale up and improve GEDSI sensitive initiatives through the Senegalese National Adaptation Plan.
- **Continue to advocate for GEDSI inclusion in the MPA Implementation Framework.** From the documents shared by OCPG this appears to already be in progress, to ensure it is GEDSI transformative. This is an excellent way to engage in continued advocacy with a key government partner to embed gender at a strategic level within a major marine planning process.
- **Strengthen and expand partnership with ENDA Pro Nat** to enhance women's representation in co-management committees, and to explore how best to remove blockages to engagement and determine how best to sustain meaningful engagement over time.
- **OCPG to continue exploring ways that existing partnerships could be replicated and modelled with other large-scale fisheries programmes to build work already undertaken to mainstream GEDSI.** Continue to promote women's leadership in the co-management of MPAs. The collaboration already being done with REFEPAS is helpful and reflects a successful partnership to amplify the voices of women especially as it relates to reducing administrative processes for women seeking fishing permits. This could be done in collaboration with other stakeholders as noted in section 3.7.2.
- **Ensure gender mainstreaming is embedded at the project design stage for new programmes** and secure sufficient budget to resource GEDSI transformative activities across the programme life cycle.

- **Identify key GEDSI objectives and integrate this into the Theory of Change.** Agree gender disaggregated data to be collected, monitored, and embedded in the evaluation framework.
- **Consider how best to strengthen cultural awareness campaigns to challenge social norms that limit women's involvement in decision-making in marine management.** Consider supporting targeted work through partners to support education and awareness-raising to emphasise the importance of education as a tool for strengthening social inclusion and building resilience of women in coastal areas.

Recommendation 2: Address safeguarding and SEAH risks within the programme

OCPD is currently working with multiple partners. It is imperative that all partners have adequate safeguarding policies and procedures in place to prevent and respond to SEAH and other safeguarding related misconduct, and to ensure that programme activities have been suitably risk assessed. To do this OCPD should:

- **Consider adopting a safeguarding framework across its partnership,** so all partner policies can be benchmarked with the agreed standards contained within the framework to ensure they are robust and meet the needs of the programme.
- **Review or conduct risk assessments of high-risk activities for the programme.** This should include all activities that involve children, young adults, women and other vulnerable community members. The risk assessment process will ensure that OCPD is aware of activities where SEAH could occur if risk is not fully mitigated to ensure these activities are carried out safely. There should also be a clear plan for routine monitoring and oversight during programme delivery. These risks should be added to the programme risk register.
- **Endorse the CAPSEAH commitment and work towards compliance.** In 2024, The UK Government launched the Common Approach to Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (CAPSEAH, 2024) which aims to bring consistency of approach and promote shared values across the international aid sector to end SEAH. Other sectors are highly encouraged to adopt the principles this document endorses. CAPSEAH stresses the importance of zero tolerance to inaction toward SEAH, survivor support and strong preventative efforts reduce the prevalence of SEAH. OCPD should consider the principles contained within CAPSEAH and consider beginning to build small steps toward compliance over the duration of the programme. This document is a useful reference point to consider best practice standards toward SEAH that should inform future programming.

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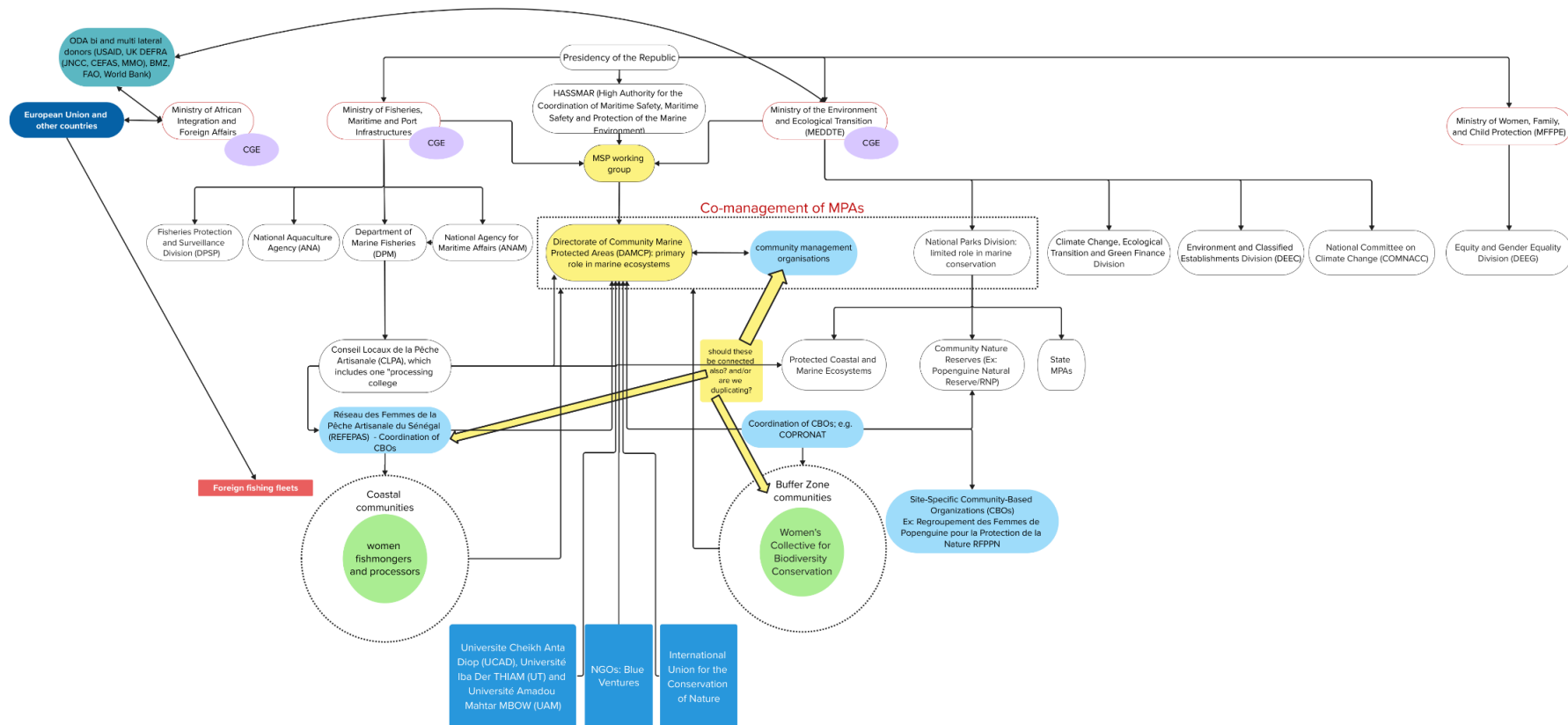
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Annexes

Annex 1: OCCP stakeholders' map



The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a bilateral technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. Funding is provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).



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