



# **Gender equality, disability and social inclusion: Reflections from Cambodia and Laos**

FishTech Conference - 6 February 2025

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# Why focus on women, people with disabilities and other less vocal groups?



ACIAR and DFAT policy priority

Funders are both committed to gender equality, inclusive development and local development.

FishTech Objective 6

To better integrate GEDSI considerations into all aspects of project design and implementation.

FishTech GEDSI Strategy

Modest in ambition – GEDSI scoping study + GEDSI masterclass



# Reflection: GEDSI has found a supportive home in FishTech

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Build the best fishway...for the best reasons.

With 'fishways', we are being an advocate for the fish, and for the people whose lives depend on the fish.

Fishways are not just sites, they are community spaces and assets.

How can we build a good fishway for the community?

The masterclasses started with engineers, then we invited the environmental officials, and now we have rural development and health.

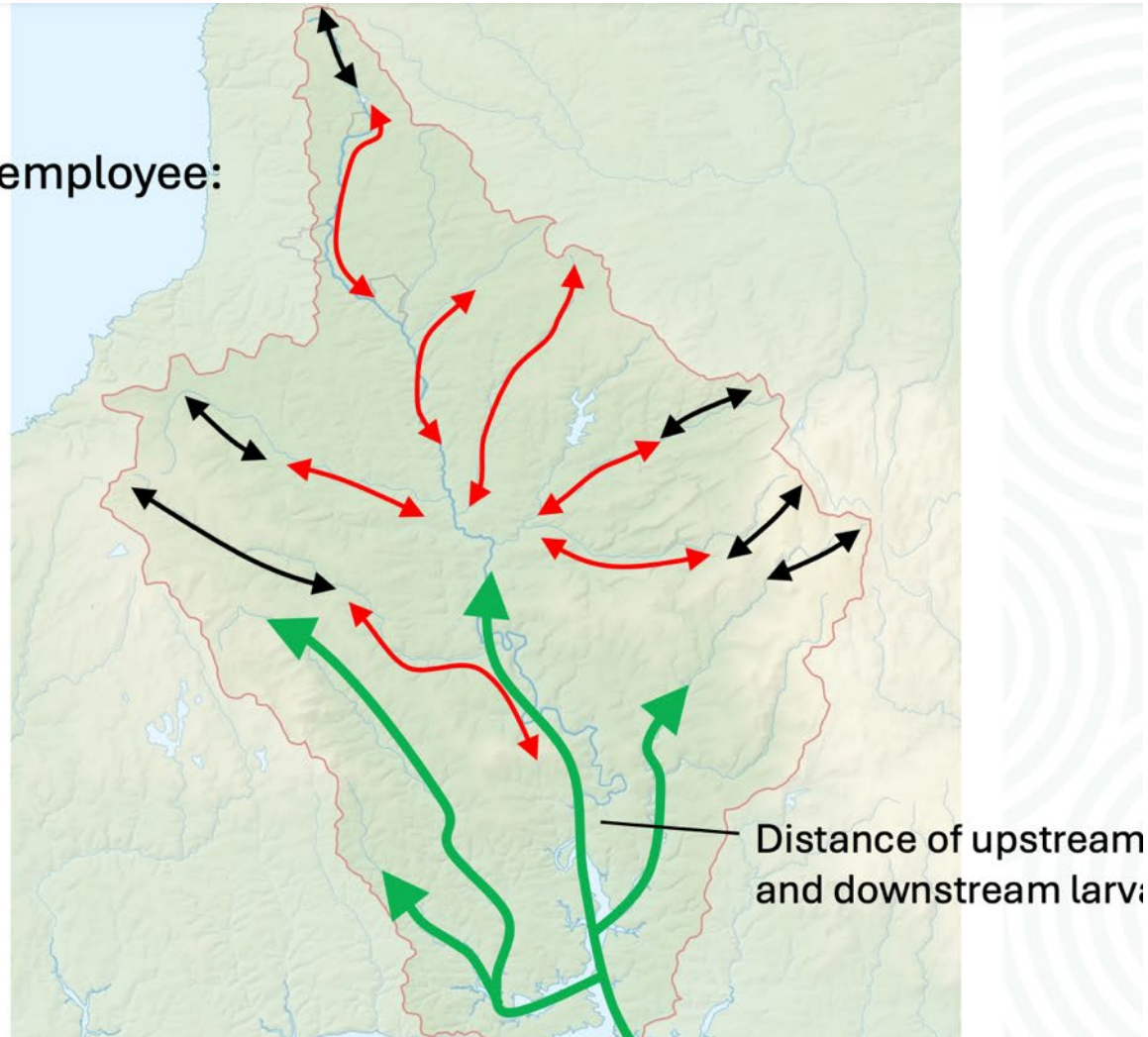
## Exercise 2.

You are a senior Government employee:

- planner
- fish scientist
- social scientist

### Fish Migration

- ↔ Major fishery
- ↔ Moderate fishery
- ↔ Local fishery







GEDSI scoping visit at Sleng Dam fishway





## GEDSI SCOPING VISIT OVERVIEW

**Dates:** 29 May – 3 June 2023

**Sites:** Kralanh District, WNW area of Siem Reap Province, near Tonle Sap

### Consultations:

- 14 consultations (focus group discussions, key informant interviews)
- 102 people consulted (58 women, 44 men), incl. 32 people with disabilities. One ethnic minority family identified and consulted.
- Upstream communes: Prey Chhrouk – 2,100 households; Rong Kor – 1,147 households
- Downstream commune: Sronal – 2,271 households
- Village and market sites visited



## Reflection: The community has knowledge that is relevant for fishway design

- **On community demographics:** area of high outmigration, so elderly were supervising children. Older people to be targeted for communication.
- **On Sleng Weir:** two children and an adult had drowned there recently, so both a dangerous pre-existing weir design, and worries about unsupervised children.
- **On women:** women paid less for labour, smaller fish important for gender roles and nutrition especially for children.
- **On people with disabilities:** overlooked for jobs and monitoring groups, not reached by information.

# Reflection: GEDSI can and should lead to practical action



Child and community safety and accessibility at Sleng fishway



# Replicated in other sites: Svay Chek, 2024

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# Reflection: A GEDSI lens considers who is engaged in the work

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Madame Bounsong Khammang - Thavisouk Group, Laos.



Team member from Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute, Cambodia



- **Jobs**
- Increased household **food security and nutrition**
- **Incomes** in upstream and downstream communities – earned by women and men
- New opportunities such as becoming a local **tourism** site
- Better connections to markets and community – as an all season **bridge** across a river which is also **accessible**





## GEDSI Power...



#SDG14  
#FishTech



ACIAR

...GEDSI Fail