

Supplementary Material for Country Fact Sheets

METADATA / DEFINITIONS DOCUMENT¹

Fisheries production and employment data

The country fact sheets present national level estimates of fisheries production and employment across the sector's value chain, drawing on locally and regionally specific data. In addition, data from two global initiatives, the **Sea Around Us** and **Illuminating Hidden Harvests**, are utilized as common reference points across all fact sheets to support consistency and cross-country comparability.

Fisheries production estimates: the Sea Around Us approach

The Sea Around Us initiative provides harmonized estimates of national marine fisheries production through a catch reconstruction approach. This approach builds on national statistics and accounts for discards as well as sectoral catch data that is not often included in official datasets (e.g., artisanal or recreational catches).

Sea Around Us catch data are classified into large-scale (i.e., industrial) and small-scale (i.e., artisanal, subsistence and recreational) fisheries. In the fact sheets, subsistence data is highlighted separately from industrial and artisanal catches which are listed under commercial catches. "Marine subsistence" therefore refers to the annual volume of marine capture production landed by non-commercial fishers - including women - for household consumption, and may include portions of commercial catch shared with crew or the community (mainly from small-scale fisheries). "Marine commercial" refers to the annual volume of marine capture production landed for sale (as opposed to being consumed and/or given away to the crew) and encompasses both industrial (large-scale) and artisanal (small-scale) sectors.¹ Although recreational catches are included in Sea Around Us data, they are not considered in the fact sheets.

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Fisheries employment estimates: the Illuminating Hidden Harvests approach

The Illuminating Hidden Harvests study offers comprehensive estimates of total number of people employed in small- and large-scale fisheries and engaged in subsistence activities.²

These estimates were generated using individual-level data collected through population censuses, labour force surveys, or household income and expenditure surveys for 78 countries. Surveys are conducted periodically by governments' national statistics agencies and are publicly available upon request. In a few surveys, where it was not possible to disaggregate employment data on small- and large-scale fisheries by sub-sector and value chain, employment estimates by sub-sector and value chain were imputed by calculating ratios from the mean of available data from other countries having similar labour market structures. For better comparison across countries, estimates from the 78 national surveys were adjusted to the study year 2016 using International Labour Organisation (ILO) data on employment trends in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Finally, econometric techniques were implemented to estimate employment and subsistence workers in small- and large-scale fisheries, including by gender, for countries where survey instruments were not publicly available.

Gender Indices

The **Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)**, developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), measures discrimination and obstacles faced by women and girls in social institutions across 179 countries.³ The index assesses formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' rights, and access to empowerment opportunities and resources. The importance of the SIGI lies in its ability to highlight the often invisible social barriers that perpetuate gender inequality, with the aim to provide better understanding of the root causes of gender disparities and the data necessary for transformative policy-change.⁴

The SIGI was first launched in 2009, and has since been updated in 2012, 2014, 2019 and 2023. The SIGI 2014 assessed gender-based discrimination across five dimensions: restricted family code; restricted physical integrity; son bias; restricted resources and assets; and restricted civil liberties. The SIGI 2019 and 2023 cover four key dimensions (Figure 1): discrimination in the family; restricted physical integrity; restricted access to productive and financial resources; and restricted civil liberties.⁵ Each dimension is measured using a set of indicators (Figure 1). The SIGI scores reflect levels of gender inequality in social institutions, with higher scores indicating greater discrimination and inequality. Earlier versions of the index used a 0 to 1 scale, while more recent versions use a scale from 0 to 100. Across all fact sheets scores are presented on a scale from 0 to 100. Due to data gaps in one or more of the

25 variables used to compute the index, overall SIGI scores were calculated for 140 countries and territories in the 2023 edition.⁶

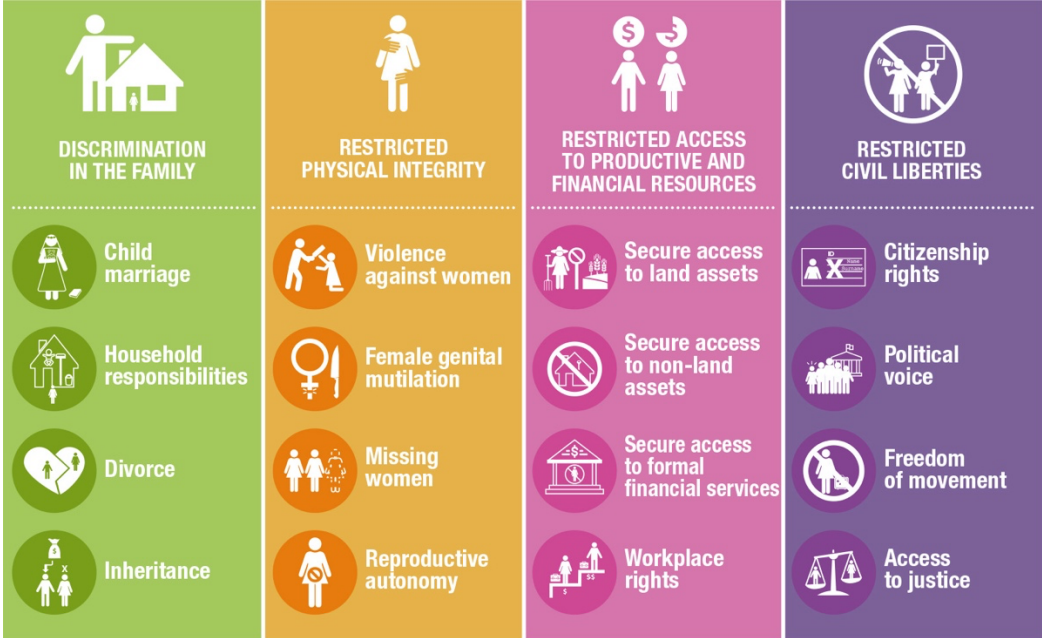


Figure 1 - Four dimensions of discriminatory social institutions affecting women’s and girls’ lives, as measured by the SIGI - reproduced from <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/social-institutions-and-gender-index-sigi.html>

The SIGI is one of the official data sources for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 5.1.1 “Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and women’s empowerment”, together with UN Women and the World Bank Group’s Women Business and the Law.

The **Gender Inequality Index** (GII), introduced by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 2010, assesses gender-based disparities across 162 countries “in three important aspects of human development—*reproductive health*, measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; *empowerment*, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; and *economic status*, expressed as labour market participation and measured by labour force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older.”⁷ (Figure 2). The GII reflects the loss in human development due to inequality between women and men in these areas. It can help governments and others understand the extent of gender inequalities in empowerment and identify where targeted interventions are needed to support equitable development.

The index assigns scores ranging from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates women and men fare equally and 1 reflects the highest level of disadvantage experienced by one gender across all measured dimensions. Higher GII values therefore reflect greater gender disparities and correspond to greater losses in human development.

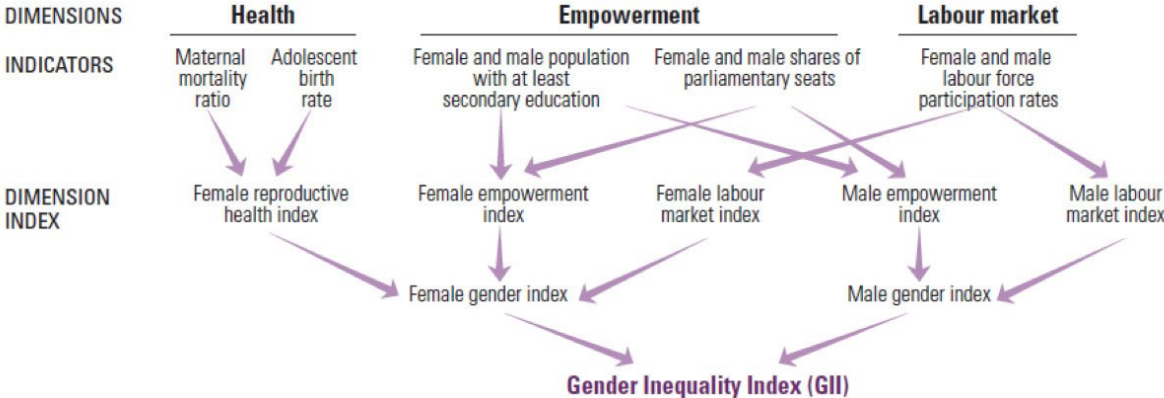


Figure 2 - Dimensions and indicators that are part of the Gender Inequality Index - reproduced from <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>

The **Africa Gender Index** (AGI) is a composite index jointly developed by the African Development Bank Group (the Bank) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). It evaluates gender disparities between women and men in three key dimensions of human wellbeing - economic and business, social, and empowerment (i.e., political and institutional representation).⁸ The economic dimension considers indicators such as labor market participation, wage equality, and access to financial resources. The social dimension focuses on education and health indicators, assessing access and outcomes for both genders. The empowerment and representation dimension measures women's participation in political and decision-making processes, including their representation in government and leadership positions. The AGI assigns scores to countries on a scale from 0 to 1, with scores closer to 1 indicating greater gender equality.

The AGI brings together and builds on two previous gender equality indices developed for the African continent - the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) and the African Gender Equality Index (AGEI). Introduced in 2004 by UNECA, the AGDI was applied across 40 African countries to measure gaps between the status of African men and women and monitor government progress in implementing gender policies.⁹ It consisted of two components: a Gender Status Index (GSI) and the African Women's Progress Scoreboard (AWPS). The AGEI, developed in 2015 by the African Development Bank, was used to track progress on gender equality in 52 African countries,¹⁰ aiming to inform African decision-makers and help address persistent barriers to women equality across the continent.

OECD Gender Equality Policy Marker

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) **gender equality policy marker**, developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is a tool used to track and analyse development **financing in support of gender equality and women's rights**. "The marker is a qualitative statistical tool to record development activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. [...]" The marker uses a three-point scoring system: ¹¹

- *Principal* (scored as 2) - gender equality is the main objective of the project or programme and central to its design and expected results. In other words, the initiative would not have been undertaken without this objective.
- *Significant* (scored as 1) - gender equality is an important and deliberate goal, but not the primary reason for undertaking the project. This category typically applies when gender equality is being mainstreamed across activities within a programme.
- *Not targeted* (scored as 0) - the project has been screened against the gender marker and found not to have a gender equality objective.

Projects that have not been screened are not assigned a score. Importantly, the marker reflects intent to promote gender equality at the time of project design; it does not measure actual implementation or impact and is not updated over the project's lifecycle.

Key Conventions and Regional Frameworks

Global

The **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women**

(CEDAW) is a foundational international human rights treaty often referred to as the international bill of rights for women. CEDAW reaffirms non-discrimination as a core human rights principle. It was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Convention commits States that have ratified or acceded to it to eliminate discrimination against women in all forms, by incorporating gender equality into national legislation, repealing discriminatory laws, and establishing institutions to uphold women's rights. Countries that have ratified or acceded to it are legally bound to implement the Convention's provisions and to submit national reports every four years.

CEDAW consists of a preamble and 30 articles that outline the rights of women and the actions that States should undertake to ensure these rights are protected. It addresses a wide range of issues including political participation, education, employment, healthcare, and family life. The Convention calls for equal access to political and public life, education at all levels, employment opportunities, and healthcare services. The Convention also pays special attention to the specific challenges women face in rural areas and emphasizes the importance of eliminating discrimination in marriage and family relations. Furthermore, CEDAW is unique among human rights treaties in affirming women's reproductive rights and

acknowledging the roles of culture and tradition in shaping gender norms, urging States to address these influences in the pursuit of equality.¹²

The CEDAW Committee - a group responsible for reviewing the progress of implementing the Convention - has urged States to ensure rural development, agricultural and water policies, including for fisheries, are gender-responsive and adequately budgeted.¹³

The Convention currently has 189 State Parties, with only six non-participating countries - The Holy Sea, Somalia, Sudan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Niue and Tonga. Several State Parties have entered reservations to specific articles or dimensions of the Convention, often citing religious or cultural grounds. Mauritania, for instance, indicated it approved the Convention "in each and every one of its parts which are not contrary to Islamic sharia."¹⁴ Despite these challenges, CEDAW has played a significant role in promoting gender equality globally. Many countries have used its framework to inform legal and policy reform, contributing to meaningful improvements in the rights and well-being of women and girls in diverse contexts.

The **Optional Protocol** to CEDAW, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 and effective from December 2000, strengthens the Convention by establishing two key accountability mechanisms: a communications procedure, which allows individuals or groups to submit complaints directly to the CEDAW Committee when they believe their rights under the Convention have been violated; and an inquiry procedure, which empowers the Committee to investigate grave or systematic violations of women's rights in countries that have accepted this provision.¹⁵

The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (BPfA), adopted by 189 countries at the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, remains one of the most comprehensive and progressive global frameworks for advancing gender equality. The conference also marked a historic moment when then-First Lady Hillary Clinton's declared "women's rights are human rights", a phrase that was unanimously embraced as a core principle. The BPfA identifies 12 critical areas of concern, with specific attention to gender equality in fisheries and the intersection of gender equality and climate change. While most nations participate in periodic national reviews of BPfA implementation, several coastal States, Small Island Developing States, and Least Developed Countries - including Eritrea and Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati and Yemen - did not submit national reviews for the 25th anniversary assessment in 2020. The 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action was marked at the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from March 10-21, 2025. The session led a comprehensive review of global progress and remaining challenges in achieving the BPfA's objectives,¹⁶ with particular focus on emerging issues such as digital transformation, climate change, and post-pandemic recovery.

Regional - Africa

The **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women** - commonly known as the **Maputo Protocol** - is a landmark human rights instrument dedicated to protecting the rights of women and girls in Africa. It was adopted by the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003 and entered into force in 2005. The Protocol supplements the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights by explicitly affirming women's rights and fundamental freedoms. It is widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive and progressive frameworks for women's rights globally. The Protocol encompasses civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. Notable provisions include the right to participate in political processes, social and political equality with men, improved autonomy in reproductive health decisions, economic empowerment, and an end to gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.¹⁷

As of mid-2025, 44 countries out of the 55 Member States of the African Union have ratified the Maputo Protocol,¹⁸ making them legally bound by its provisions. Across the continent, the Maputo Protocol has proven critical to national and regional courts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls.¹⁹ Despite broad ratification, significant challenges remain in ensuring full and effective implementation in many countries.

The **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development** was adopted in 2008 and updated in 2016 to align with the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Beijing Plus 20 Review Report. The Protocol supports "the empowerment of women; the elimination of discrimination and the achievement of gender equality by encouraging and harmonising the development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies, and programmes and projects by signatory Member States."²⁰ It sets measurable targets across multiple domains, including economic rights, prevention of gender-based violence, access to education and healthcare, and political representation. A key provision calls for achieving 50% representation of women in decision-making positions in both public and private sectors. The Protocol also requires the adoption of specific measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

As of mid-2025, fourteen Member States are party to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, but only twelve Member States have signed the Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.²¹

Regional - Caribbean & Americas

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, commonly known as the **Convention of Belém do Pará**, was adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1994 and entered into force in 1995. This landmark treaty was the first legally binding international instrument to define and criminalize

all forms of violence against women, affirming such violence as a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.²² The Convention requires States to adopt comprehensive measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. Its implementation is monitored by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Follow-up Mechanism (MESECVI), which provides capacity strengthening, as well as technical support and oversight.²³

As of mid-2025, 32 of the 34 OAS member States have ratified the Convention, with Canada and the United States as notable exceptions. The Convention has been instrumental in shaping national legislation against domestic violence, femicide and gender-based violence throughout the Americas. However, implementation remains uneven, with ongoing challenges related to enforcement, resourcing, and structural barriers in many countries.

Regional - Asia

The **ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children** (2004) was adopted by the ten ASEAN Member States²⁴ as a high-level political commitment to address violence against women and children in the region. While not legally binding, the Declaration affirms States' obligations under international law, including CEDAW, and encourages the development of national legislation, strengthening of law enforcement, and provisioning of support services to protect survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.²⁵ The Declaration acknowledges the need to address both domestic and public forms of violence and highlights the importance of prevention, access to justice, and support for survivors. However, its impact has been limited by the absence of enforcement mechanisms and variable implementation across ASEAN countries.

Regional - Pacific

The **Pacific Platform for Action** (PPA) was first adopted in 1994 and significantly updated in 2017 into the *Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2018-2030*.²⁶ The PPA serves as the regional roadmap for advancing gender equality and the rights of women and girls across Pacific Island countries and territories. While the PPA is not legally binding, it offers a comprehensive framework that aligns with global commitments, including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals. All 22 Pacific Island countries and territories participate in the PPA, with progress reviews conducted every three years to assess achievements and address emerging challenges.

The PPA outlines 13 critical areas for action, including eliminating violence against women and girls, gender mainstreaming in climate change action, supporting women's economic empowerment, and achieving gender parity in leadership and decision-making. A defining strength of the PPA is its grounding in Pacific-specific realities, recognising the role of culture

and tradition, the region's vulnerability to climate change, and the unique development challenges faced by small island States.

The **Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration** (PLGED) was adopted by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in August 2012, reaffirmed in 2015 and revitalized in 2023.²⁷ As a high-level political commitment the PLGED represents a significant milestone in regional efforts to achieve gender equality. Unlike legally binding instruments such as CEDAW or the Maputo Protocol, the PLGED is a political declaration, reflecting collective intent rather than a legal obligation.

The PLGED focuses on five key areas: gender-responsive government policies and programs; women's leadership and decision-making; women's economic empowerment; ending violence against women; and improving health and education outcomes for women and girls. Pacific Leaders committed to implementing concrete actions within these areas, including temporary special measures to increase women's participation in parliament and local government, enacting legislation to protect women from violence, and improving access to education and reproductive health services.

While the PLGED has led to some notable achievements, particularly in areas of legislation and policy development, implementation challenges persist. These include limited resources, entrenched social-cultural norms, and competing development priorities.

Approach to analyze gender in fisheries governance documents

Approach used for the first iteration (published in 2023) of fact sheets - Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and The Gambia

National fisheries governance documents were found through the legislative and policy database FAOLEX, the environmental law database ECOLEX, and Google search. The search method involved conducting multiple focused queries, each combining the name of a specific country with various terms related to fisheries governance. Search terms included: ("*[country name]*" AND "fisheries policy"), ("*[country name]*" AND "fisheries plan"), ("*[country name]*" AND "fisheries act"), ("*[country name]*" AND "fisheries regulation"), ("*[country name]*" AND "fisheries strategy"). In each search, exact phrases (e.g., "fisheries policy", "fisheries act") were enclosed in quotation marks to ensure precision in retrieving documents that included these terms. A brief supplementary search without quotation marks (e.g., fisheries policy, fisheries act), was also conducted to capture broader terms that may be used, like 'fisheries management' or 'fisheries approach' and may not have been captured in the initial queries.

These searches were designed to capture a range of fisheries governance documents in each country.

Search results were assessed for relevance based on the following criteria: the document must (1) be produced by the national government of interest (as opposed to external civil society organisations or intergovernmental bodies), (2) outline proposed or adopted principles of governmental action (rather than being a report or academic study), and (3) relate directly to fisheries (rather than focusing primarily on gender, agriculture, or other sectors).

When a document had been updated or amended, the latest version was included. Relevant documents were then searched for keywords in the language of the document. Keywords searched included: "woman", "women", "girl", "girls", "female", "mother", "gender", "agency", "gender equality", "gender equity", "freedom of expression", "gender assessment", "inclusive", "inclusivity", "ownership", "participation", "participatory", "representation", "social norms", "tenure", "voice" and "women empowerment". The presence, absence, frequency, and context of these keywords were recorded. Findings were then synthesized to assess how women and gender were (or not) addressed in the document.

Changes to the approach implemented for the second iteration of fact sheets (published in 2025) - Bangladesh, Belize, Cambodia, Ghana, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Maldives, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam

Funding supported development of a governance document database and in-depth analysis for these additional countries.²⁸ The same method as above was employed, with an additional search for fisheries governance documents via the small-scale fisheries policy database, SSF-LEX, and with an added search term ("[country name]" AND "fisheries law").

The document selection criteria were reassessed with input from expert interviews. While the criteria remained largely unchanged from the first iteration, the scope of the third criterion—direct relevance to fisheries—was further refined, as it played a particularly important role in guiding the inclusion or exclusion of governance documents. For example, Ghana's *Co-Management Policy for the Fisheries Sector* (2020) and Vanuatu's *Fisheries (Coconut Crabs) Regulations* (1991) meet all three criteria. In contrast, while Ghana's *Maritime Authority Act* (2002) and Vanuatu's *Sustainable Development Plan* (2016–2020) are both nationally produced and outline principles of governmental action, they were excluded due to their broader sectoral focus. Though they mention fisheries and may impact the sector indirectly, they are not specifically targeted at fisheries governance and thus fall outside the scope of this study.

When a document had been updated or amended, both the original and the updated drafts were included, to consider change over time in the analysis. The list of keywords regarding

gender dimensions was updated based on learnings from the first iteration, and input from consulted experts. The full list of keywords searched included: “gender”, “sex”, “intersectional”, “intersectionality”, “diversity”, “norms”, “equality”, “equal”, “equity”, “equitable”, “empower”, “empowerment”, “inclusion”, “inequality”, “inequity”, “women”, “woman”, “feminine”, “femininity”, “female”, “mother”, “maternal”, “maternity”, “she”, “her”, “men”, “man”, “masculine”, “masculinity”, “male”, “father”, “paternal”, “paternity”, “he”, “him”, “adolescent”, “adolescence”, “youth”, “child”, “children”, “childhood”, “boy”, “boys”, “girl”, “girls”, “family”, “families”, “gender norms”, “gender blind”, “gender neutral”, “gender specific”, “gender sensitive”, “gender responsive”, “gender transformative”, “gender-based violence”. For the purpose of the country fact sheets, the analysis focused on the inclusion of gender- and women-related terms (e.g., less attention to children or equality broadly) and the use of feminine pronouns (e.g., she, her) to synthesize the frequency and context of gender references within each document. Findings were then summarized to assess how women and gender were—or were not—addressed.

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