



CARE Ethiopia

A Decade of Program Learning Series

Gender Sensitive Climate Vulnerability And Capacity Analysis

Livelihoods in Ethiopia can be broadly divided into pastoral, agro-pastoral and crop production zones. Within these zones there is considerable diversity in terms of the types of livestock raised and crops produced, and significant movement of households and communities along the continuum of livelihood systems from settled crop production to mobile livestock herding. There is also wide variation in terms of culture, ethnicity and access to information, resources, services and markets; all relevant factors in determining climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity. For Ethiopia, where the impacts of climate change have significant bearing on efforts to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development, adaptation is the priority. Chronically food-insecure households are highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks and stresses; climate change represents a significant threat to their ability to move out of poverty and graduate from the Government's PSNP.

Both women and men have an important role to play in building a resilient household and adaptation efforts need to enable both, while redressing inequalities. Women in particular, as stewards of agro-biodiversity, managers of household resources and caregivers are particularly impacted by climate-related shocks and stresses due to social and gender norms that exacerbate their vulnerabilities. CARE Ethiopia knows that investing in women means providing them with equitable access to information, opportunities, resources and services. It also

requires challenging the social and gender norms that prevent women from realizing their full potential and achieving equality - and ultimately resilience.

CARE Ethiopia is supporting Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) - focused actions that build resilience to climatic shocks while also improving capacity to adapt to longer-term changes in climate.

Gender Sensitive Community Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA): a methodology that provides a framework for analysing vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change at the community level. Recognizing that local actors must drive their own future, the CVCA prioritizes local knowledge on climate risks and adaptation strategies during data gathering and analysis. Gender sensitive CVCA encourages analysis of vulnerability to climate impacts from a gender and diversity perspective. It recognizes that people experience vulnerability differently and that this is exacerbated by gender and social inequalities, barriers in access to information and services and governance of natural resources and community affairs. Recognizing that some women and men and even particular social groups are more vulnerable to climate related shocks and stresses for these reasons allows for more meaningful and appropriate actions for redress.

The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Handbook

CARE's Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Handbook was first developed in 2009, at a time when humanitarian and development actors were beginning to think more seriously about climate change and how it would affect their efforts to support communities in realizing their aspirations to get out of poverty. Recognizing the context-specificity of climate impacts, as well as the socioeconomic dimensions of climate change adaptation, the CVCA Handbook was developed to guide practitioners in analyzing vulnerability to climate change and adaptive capacity at the community level. Since then, the CVCA Handbook has been applied by CARE and its partners, as well as other NGOs, governments and researchers, in communities around the world. CARE Ethiopia adapted and simplified the CVCA process to fit within complex project designs, focusing on understanding how hazards, particularly climate-related hazards, affect the livelihoods of women and men, explore how people respond to these impacts and what changes in the climate and their environment have been observed. Using this information, CARE staff and partners work with communities to identify opportunities and barriers for climate change adaptation.

To download the CVCA Handbook Version 2.0 (updated 2019), please visit: <https://careclimatechange.org/cvca/>

How we have been applying and adapting CVCA

Recognizing the importance of resilience for food security and sustainable livelihoods, promoting CCA was an essential part of CARE Ethiopia's GRAD Project strategy. To better understand the needs and priorities related to climate change in target communities, GRAD adapted the CVCA methodology and used a simplified process for participatory analysis of climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity at Woreda level. Central to the process were focus group discussions with VESA groups and separate groups of women and men; these discussions used tools including Hazard Mapping, Historical Timelines, Seasonal Calendars and a Vulnerability Matrix to gather community knowledge on climate and livelihood linkages. Impact chains were then developed to analyze the direct and indirect impacts of hazards on livelihoods and examine how people currently respond to different impacts. Building on the impact chains, adaptation pathways were developed, which identified appropriate interventions to help households manage identified risks. The results of these analyses were validated with the community groups. VESAs were supported to create action plans for household and community activities. Finally, project teams created their own action plans, incorporating the promotion of appropriate CCA strategies in GRAD communities.

This analysis provided valuable learning, but more importantly served as a participatory and inclusive tool that helped local institutions, communities and households better understand the nature of changing climate in their areas and helped with planning for appropriate adaptations. For example, CVCA analysis proved very important in identifying and evaluating livelihood options for GRAD and yielded a better understanding of the potential risks associated with the types of livelihood activities it was promoting (engaging poor women and men in agriculture-based value chains and promoting alternative income generating activities (IGAs)). This led the GRAD team to conduct climate screenings on the value chains being promoted in order to deepen awareness and understanding of the associated risks.

CARE's Climate Smart Initiative (CSI) was designed to strengthen two important food security programs in Ethiopia: the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and the Household Asset Building Program (HABP) to ensure that these programs were 'climate-smart' through the systematic integration of the implications of climate





change in program activities. A simplified version of the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) methodology was piloted as a means of informing the PSNP/HABP joint planning processes. Discussions were held with focus groups of women and men in targeted Kebeles, using participatory tools to gather information on community perspectives and experiences - community mapping, historical timeline, seasonal calendar and vulnerability matrix. CSI's pilot CVCA processes yielded significant benefits in terms of developing local awareness of climate change, facilitating participatory planning for PSNP and HABP activities, having more responsive and 'climate smart' plans and generating buy-in by government actors for the process and for integrating climate change into PSNP and HABP activities.

CARE's PRIME Project also took an integrated approach to resilience, providing training to local and regional government staff, community members, NRM committees (50% of whom were women) on CCA and Natural Resource Management (NRM), along with facilitating CVCA and Hazard Mapping (all contributing the Participatory Planning Process (PSP). These tools and approaches were complementary in building capacity to anticipate and respond to the impacts of climate change and help key stakeholders make timely informed joint climate decisions, such as supporting sustainable land and water management and adaptation. Undertaking the analysis at the level of rangeland systems for example, enabled the team to better understand the complex linkages between natural resource quality and availability, climate change impacts and pastoral people's responses to those impacts, including mobility. It also found that adaptation interventions tend to focus on information, financial and technological components,

which are comparatively easier to address than issues around decision-making, behavior and social and cultural norms. PRIME adapted CARE's Social Analysis and Action (SAA) Approach, to address the underlying drivers of vulnerability to climate change and the socio-cultural and behavioral factors that limit adaptive capacity. The SAA dialogues allowed for dialogue around social and cultural norms that determine acceptable behavior, and how these norms establish restrictions on adaptive action by certain groups based on gender, age, disability and/or ethnicity. By bringing together different community members in dialogue and reflection, inequalities were exposed that limit the adaptive capacity of some community members and to identify actions to redress them. This type of iterative tool is compatible with the process-oriented nature of adaptation, enabling participants to strengthen their analytical skills and incorporate new information and knowledge throughout the series of dialogues.

CARE's Water for Food Security, Women Empowerment and Environment Protection Project (SWEEP) applied CVCA with communities to inform project design and by way of recommendations make it more climate resilient. Due to frequency of the drought, communities living in East and West Belesa are challenged to access water and as a result women and girls especially travel long distance in search of water for domestic use as well as productive use. In addition to this, agricultural productivity has become a decreasing trend, due to severe land degradation. Analysis revealed that communities were adopting both positive adaptive strategies (e.g. planting drought-resistant and quick-maturing crops; improving the water holding capacity of the soil; implement local level integrated crop pest management), along with negative coping

strategies (e.g. skipping meals, selling assets and taking loans to cover food needs). The project was able to adjust its strategies to better support community's existing adaptive strategies and ensure their sustainability, and also lobby woreda level food security and disaster risk reduction department to increase community support by continuously providing weather information and early warnings.

The Spotlight: What we have learned

- Incorporating climate change into development programming adds a considerable layer of complexity to already complicated processes. CVCA allows for the integration of climate change considerations into programming in a manageable, equitable and empowering way.
- Applying and adapting CVCA into CARE Ethiopia's programming has made a difference in the resilience and adaptive capacity of people and for the sustainability of its program investments. Participatory climate change analysis with communities provides important insights and awareness for planning adaptation actions and for helping communities to manage risks.
- Through a gendered and participatory approach, CVCA ensures that ALL voices and concerns and ideas are heard and fosters understanding on how women and men and girls and boys are affected and have different vulnerabilities – leading to appropriate adaptation planning.
- Combining CVCA with Social Norms Change approaches such as SAA helps address socio-cultural and behavioral barriers to adaptation. The adjustment of the SAA tool is an important step in the evolution of CARE Ethiopia's thinking on climate change adaptation. Issues around decision-making, behavior and social and cultural norms - and how these influence reactions to shocks, stresses and change over time - are fundamental to adaptation, yet they are often neglected in adaptation initiatives and debates.



CVCA reports have served as an important reference for the program teams, as well as for local stakeholders involved in development planning. The results of the analysis have been used in a variety of ways as a basis for action on adaptation in communities, including development of community visions for resilience, identification of adaptation options and planning for their implementation.

The CSI helped strengthen the analysis and planning processes that lead to identification and prioritization of PSNP interventions, and to maximize the contribution of those interventions in terms of reducing vulnerability to climate change.

- The value of CVCA is not just the process itself but also how it informs what comes after – the shift in thinking on the part of the project and the community members.
- The process is adaptable to the time, resources and capacities available. The process for GRAD was simplified for VESAs, while PRIME took a more comprehensive approach; even with a very 'simple' analysis is helpful in understanding the climate context. The actual costs involved are reasonable and the process is within the capacity of NGO or government field staff.

Want more information?

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To learn more about CARE's CVCA© visit: <https://careclimatechange.org/cvca/>

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