

Including additional considerations on climate, gender and diversity, livelihoods and health into Transect Walk

The following are suggestions elaborated by VCA practitioners from different parts of the world to adapt or improve particular aspects of the VCA tools. While basic aspects of these sectors have been mainstreamed into the revised tools we recommend the following additions to the tools if you are looking to focus your VCA in one or several of the areas of:

- Gender and diversity
- Climate change adaptation
- Livelihoods
- Health

These should be read and used as a complementary note to the steps described in the [Transect Walk](#).



Gender & diversity¹

When identifying the ‘transect’ to take, ensure this has been identified in consultation with men, women, boys, girls and diverse groups to ensure a representative view of the village/community e.g. men and women will have different views on the key areas or routes in the community that should be looked at. People with disabilities may have to take different routes to access various services that other people in the community may not be aware of.

If the transect walk is being carried out after a mapping exercise, use the map to identify with different groups in the community which walks to take.

A representative team should be ensured to conduct the walk and the team should be gender balanced to facilitate discussions with men and women during the walk

The walk should be exercised with community members, who are representative of the community join the walk. The group could be a mix of groups, which can act as awareness raising among genders, age groups and different groups in the community, or conduct separate transect walked with different groups.

Provisions for people with disabilities should be made so they can participate in the transect walk

When recording what you found during the walk disaggregate information by sex especially when noting: types of livelihood, community centers (are these only used by men and/or

¹ [Gender and diversity sensitive Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment \(VCA\). IFRC.](#)

women); specific risks mentioned by men and women; land ownership etc. As well as highlighting information provided by specific groups in the community.



Climate change adaptation²

Based on the information you gathered when planning the VCA, you could use a baseline map to indicate places where changes are likely to take place in the future e.g. higher sea levels. This would indicate which locations are most vulnerable.



Livelihoods: Economic activities, assets and financial services

When taking the walk, ensure you walk through areas identified by your key informants as relevant for the community main livelihoods. Also keep in mind the 5 livelihoods assets mentioned in the mapping³, and related the observation to the main types of livelihoods identified for the community.

It is an opportunity to pay attention to:

- Ongoing livelihoods activities and who's involved in (men, women, elderly)
- Natural and physical assets: farming and grazing land, forests, rivers and streams (availability of water sources for livestock or farming): consider distance, access, and condition
- Condition of physical (productive) assets: farming tools and inputs, livestock (types, healthiness); backyard gardens/crop fields / equipment of micro and small enterprises (status, maintenance ...)
- Observation of markets, shops, etc.: number of retailers, what are they selling, what items may be missing?
- Availability of financial services (saving groups, banks, ATMs, microfinancing institutions, moneylenders...)

Additional info: [Rapid Market Assessments \(RAM\) Guidelines](#)

Tips:

- ✓ Consider the best moment for the walk, according to your objective, if you want to observe activities it should be during labour time, if not may be in other moments during day or weekends/ day off.
- ✓ Make sure you are accompanied by a local impartial representative that can guide you and facilitate extra information in case of doubts.
- ✓ Make sure you take the walk with representative from each livelihoods group or that you undertake different walks for each type of livelihoods (farmers, livestock

² [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. How can climate change be considered in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments? 2012.](#)

³ Human, Natural, Social, Physical and Financial

keepers, small entrepreneurs...) as they may try to raise your attention to different issues and constraints

- ✓ Take pictures/ video when possible as means of verification.



Health

Transect walks can be used to complement or verify the information of the mapping (see above)– it can entail observations of WASH facilities, HH level hygiene practices, schools, access for disabled, health facilities etc. or talks with community members and key informants on specific hazards observed