

Including additional considerations in Historical Profiles and Visualizations

The following are suggestions elaborated by VCA practitioners from different parts of the world to adapt or improve particular aspects of the EVCA 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 EVCA 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 [Historical Profile](#).



Gender & diversity¹

It is important that both women and men from different age groups are consulted. FGDs should be done in single-sex groups to provide a safe environment for reflection of different experiences. Even within a same sex group, younger members may defer to the opinions of the older members. Consider splitting the single-sex groups into smaller age groups.

In order to acquire a realistic picture of past events, great care must be taken in forming groups and in assessing whether they are representative of the community or not. It is critical to ensure that consultation involves full representation of the community, including those from marginalised groups.

When conducting an EVCA in an urban context, consider that many of the people in the community might be newcomers to the city and might have differing past experiences. Finding a common ground among the community members is important.

Consider organizing meetings at different times so that parents, youth and workers can attend (taking into account their differing responsibilities and the seasonal calendar).

Given that different groups might have conflicting experiences, it is important to ensure that the Facilitator captures disagreements or differing opinions within the group.

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

Facilitators should prompt feedback in the following areas:

- How have past events affected gender roles?
- Have any elderly women or men and minority groups been affected differently?
- Based on past events, what capacities do men, women, boys and girls have for coping with, responding to, recovering from and preparing for future crises?



Climate change adaptation²

List major extreme events. Have weather & climate-related events such as floods, drought and cyclones changed in frequency or severity? What about health problems? Have there been new emerging ones (vector- or waterborne, which could potentially be affected by changes in climate)? Observations from the community can be cross-compared with trends measured by meteorological and disaster management offices.

Memory bias is a potential challenge here, so it is important to triangulate information and try to ask clarifying questions to help avoid misinterpreting apparent drastic changes.

For more resources on how to incorporate climate change considerations into this tool, see:

- [Integrating Climate Change and Urban Risk into VCA pages 98](#)
- [3CA toolkit developed by CADRIM page 82](#)



Livelihoods

Through a historical profile, we can trace back the line of events that occurred in the past, observe possible change in the environment and in population behaviours and understand the inter-relations between all these factors.

Recommended Steps:

Clearly determine the issues about which you want to collect information and the period of time we refer to (from XXX to now): food security, threats, land distribution, industry, agriculture evolution, etc.

Plan a focus group discussion and invite participants able to contribute with historical information regarding the community.

Make sure the participants know in advance what will be the process of the focus group and that they understand that the information will be only used for analysis.

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

At municipal level, interview key actors and plan in advance the meetings.

Facilitators should prompt feedback in the following areas (Remember that the questions have to focus on identified key actors (community leaders, municipal civil servant, private sector stakeholders, etc.)):

- How did they react when difficult times happened before?
- What livelihoods strategies were implemented by the people? Which ones worked? Which ones did not work? Did they have any consequences (positive or negative)?
- Try to identify and understand the changes in the livelihoods activities along the analysed period of time.
- Identify trends in livelihoods (migrations, droughts, etc.) - when did they start?
- Try to identify and understand the changes in gender access to livelihoods activities.
- How did they earn their daily living before?
- What were the main basic services they were able to access before and how have they evolved?
- What type of companies and shops arrived in the community? When?
- What are the main livelihoods in the community nowadays?
- Looking back, can we find any differences between activities traditionally done by men and women? Any changes?

At the municipal level, consider data on delinquency trends from the Justice Department or Police records and ensure representation from the statistics department so we can better understand these trends.

At the urban level, consider whether there has been an increase of demand on free trade zones and trends in similar macroeconomic variables. Try to find the direct relation between variables such as diseases and increase of expenses or analyse how gender issues might affect both. Finally, consider issues of socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable groups (people living with disabilities, elderly, ...)



Health

Have there been any changes/trends in extreme and new disease/health risk patterns i.e. high levels of NCDs, epidemic outbreaks, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, violence in the community, etc?