# Additional questions on climate and gender and diversity for Focus Group Discussion and Semi-Structured Interview

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 you also look into the following proposed additions related to the following areas:

* Climate change adaptation
* Gender and diversity
* Health

These should be read and used as a complementary note to the steps described in [the focus group discussion](file:///C:\Users\ysabe\Dropbox\CRF-EVCA\Developed%20tools\EVCA%20Tools%20revision\All%20tools\ifrcvca.org\focus-group-discussion) tool or the [semi-structured interview](file:///C:\Users\ysabe\Dropbox\CRF-EVCA\Developed%20tools\EVCA%20Tools%20revision\All%20tools\ifrcvca.org\interview).

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## Climate change adaptation[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Climate change related questions to consider in interviews for focus group discussions during a VCA**

**Early Warning Early Action**

As our climate changes, it becomes more important than ever to ensure communities have access to disaster related early warnings. Questions focus around:

* Where do communities get their early warnings from?
* Who receives the warnings?
* Is it only short-term warnings of immediate dangers (1-5 days), or also more long term seasonal forecasts?
* Is anyone in the community responsible for sending out early warnings? What happens if the person isn’t there?
* How do they currently use weather information e.g. forecasts broadcast on radio?
* Are the forecasts understood?
* Identify whether any organisations that the community and households have access to are responsible for disseminating early warnings. If not, could they be?
* Are there organisations that could be conduits for early warning information e.g. schools, religious institutions?
* Are there weaknesses in the system that could be addressed?

**Traditional/historical knowledge**

* What traditional signs warn of bad weather or a change of season? Who holds this knowledge?
* What seasons does the community typically plant crops by? Has this changed?
* Is the knowledge still relevant?
* When do certain problems occur? Has this changed over time (decades) at all?
* Have there been occupations, buildings or services which have been abandoned /
* moved due to changes in the surrounding environment or climate?
* Has the temperature/rainfall patterns changed?
* Have you noticed any changes in wildlife and fish stocks/ time of year of the catch?
* Has the level of the sea changed?

**Livelihoods**

* What are the changes you noticed which are resulting in positive outcomes for the economic activities in your community? (Eg. crops that can now be planted, improvement of animal health, development of trading centres with increased business opportunities…)
* What are the changes you noticed that are resulting in negative outcomes on the economic activities in your community (deforestation, crops and livestock (e.g crops failure, livestock health, increased prevalence of pests and diseases…) or other economic activities?
* In what ways are the crops you plant dependent on the weather? Which weather warnings do you use to know when to sow or harvest crops? Or what type crops and varieties to use according to forecast? If none, what is the reason?
* What changes have occurred over time in your family’s way of earning income?
* What if people have livelihoods that are seasonal and the seasons change in duration?
* How has the seasonality of your livelihoods / economic activity been modified over time?
* What are coping strategies used by people in relation to the hazards identified?
* Describe how have the changes in the number and severity of extreme events modified coping strategies? (Eg. How long/often do men have to move away to find work)? What impact does this have on the family?

**Questions that can be used during the analysis stage of the information given by a community**

* How do weather and climate extremes affect the community? Are numbers of them increasing? Are they becoming more severe?
* Are there longer term, slower changes such as flowering, harvesting times that are affecting the community?
* Are some groups (men, women, children, farmers etc) in the community more vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events? In what ways?
* What capacity does the community have to address problems they face? How can these be used to work on the problems you have identified?

For more resources on how to incorporate climate change considerations into these tools see:

* [Integrating Climate Change and Urban Risk into VCA pages 82-91](http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/reducing_risks/VCA/1260200-VCA-EN-LR2.pdf)
* [3CA toolkit developed by CADRIM pages 67-81](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dr1ghyxsycap0u7/3CA.FacilitatorsGuide.FINAL.pdf?dl=0)



## Gender & diversity[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Gender and diversity related questions to consider in interviews for focus**

**group discussions during a VCA**

* What are the biggest needs/risks for women in your community? And what are these for men, girls, boys, adolescents people with disabilities and different groups?
* Are there some groups in the community that have special challenges and needs? Who are these groups and what are their challenges / what are their needs?
* Does the community know organisations or individuals in the community who can provide services specific to their needs/risks?
* Do those services meet the needs/risks discussed (for men/women and for distinct groups)?
* How does information reach female community members, how does information reach male community members?
* Does the community know about the National Society and do they prepare and respond to the different needs and capacity within the community, based on priorities?
* Do women, men, adolescents, people from different groups feel able and welcome to participate in community activities? Specifically related to risk reduction?
* Do men in the community see benefit of women’s participation?
* What has been done so far to increase the participation of women and marginalised or specific at-risk groups?
* Who is deemed most at-risk in the community? Do those groups identified agree with this?
* What are the traditional roles of women and of men in the community? Are these changing?



## Health

To integrate health into eVCA Focus Group Discussion, it is essential to include[[3]](#footnote-3):

* doctors and nurses, other health care providers, such as community health workers, midwives, traditional healers and midwives
  + regional/local health ministry staff (especially those dealing with community health)
  + local and international NGO staff who work in community health programmes in the vicinity
  + community health committee leaders

**Health**

* Where do health risks, safety issues or first aid needs exist in the community (for example, rubbish dumps, lakes or ponds, dangerous roads)?
* What are the common emergencies and priority health problems among the more vulnerable people?
* Which epidemic and disease outbreaks have occurred in recent years in the community?
* Which factors do community members think are causing health problems? For example, is diarrhoea caused by poor hygiene and sanitation or lack of health education and poverty?
* Are there some diseases that are more common during certain times of the year?
* Have you found that some diseases have been increasing or decreasing in the last 5-15 years?
* Are there some diseases that are more common when it rains?
* Are there some diseases that are more common when it is dry?
* If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of the above, ask these questions:
  + Which ones?
  + Why do you think that is?
  + Who is most affected?
  + What actions are people / the community taking?
  + If you know that it will rain / be dry / a certain season is approaching when a disease is more common – what do you do?
  + What could you do differently?
  + From which source do you receive most of your information about health problems?

1. [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. How can climate change be considered in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments? 2012.](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7baf5b_ea7bdbb5fa454ec59dc69ed30e1d3265.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Gender and diversity sensitive Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA). IFRC.](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7baf5b_ece27859d67347539a37a75c700cb484.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source - eCBHFA [↑](#footnote-ref-3)