# Including additional considerations on climate, gender and diversity, livelihoods and health into Historical Profile and Visualization

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 [Historical Profile.](https://www.ifrcvca.org/historicalprofile)

## Gender & diversity[[1]](#footnote-1)

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

In order to acquire realistic picture of the 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.

Participation of diverse stakeholders allowing for meeting times to be arranged so that parents, youth and workers can attend based on responsibilities and 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.

Facilitators should prompt feedback in the following areas:

* How have the past events affected gender roles?
* Have any women or men of certain age 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?

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## Climate change adaptation[[2]](#footnote-2)

List major extreme events. Have weather & climate related events such as flood, 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 misinterpret 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](http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/reducing_risks/VCA/1260200-VCA-EN-LR2.pdf)
* [3CA toolkit developed by CADRIM page 82](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dr1ghyxsycap0u7/3CA.FacilitatorsGuide.FINAL.pdf?dl=0)

## Livelihoods

Through a historical profile, we can trace back the line of events 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 you want to collect information about 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.

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

Consider relevant components such as:

* How did they react when difficult times happened before?
* What livelihoods strategies were implemented by the people? Which ones did work? Which ones did not work? Did they have any consequences (positive or negatives)?
* 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 started?
* Try to identify and understand the changes in gender access to livelihoods activities

**Tips:**

* Before starting prepare a list of questions that makes easier the analysis: Remember that the questions have to focus on identified key actors (community leaders, municipal civil servant, private sector stakeholders, etc):
* How did they earn their daily living before?
* What were the main basic services they were able to access before and how they have evolved?
* What type of companies and shops did arrive to the community? When?
* What are the main Livelihoods existing in the community nowadays?
* Looking back, can we find any differences between activities traditionally done by men and women? Any changes?
* Any other relevant question
* At municipal level we have to consider data on delinquency trends from Justice Department or Police records and we have to ensure that as key actors we have some representatives from the statistics department so we can better understand these trends.
* At urban level we have to consider: 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 in group and individually. Finally, consider issues of socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable groups (people living with disabilities, elderly, …)



## Health

This is not one of the tools included in the CBHFA guideline. Facilitator could have the same discussion as above in regards to an extreme and new disease/health risk pattern i.e. high levels of NCDs, epidemic outbreaks, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, violence in the community, etc.

In identifying the area of interest, timeframe and participants (step 1 and 2), ensure for health and epidemic related risk participants with health background are identified and participating actively into the discussion. It is better to have in the team a facilitator with health background.

When identifying the health and epidemic problems, ensure to be as precise as possible in term of dates, number of people impacted, etc. If epidemic is identify as major risk, this might be relevant to go through the key terminology to clarify the terms.

Ensure what is recorded is in line with existing secondary information and MoH data on the geographic area you are working on. Do not raise fears and be clear with information shared and collected.

1. [Gender and diversity sensitive Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA). IFRC](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7baf5b_ece27859d67347539a37a75c700cb484.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [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-2)