



CARE Climate Change & Resilience Platform's orientation guide on gender equality and adaptation



Photo: Farmers in Malawi © Amanda Gawne / CARE 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 2008, CARE has developed a wide range of tools, guidance and research on gender equality and adaptation, especially around agriculture and natural resource management. This document brings together CARE's work over the past eleven years and draws from programming across CARE's approach and global outcome areas. This resource is primarily aimed at an internal CARE audience seeking orientation in CARE's gender transformative adaptation work. It could however also be of interest to practitioners outside CARE, especially those wanting to learn more about gender equality and adaptation.

For CARE, Gender Transformative Adaptation means designing and implementing programmes that consider the differential impacts of climate change on women and men. We want to tackle poverty, inequality and food insecurity simultaneously, while continually addressing gender as one defining institution in the context of small-scale agriculture and natural resource management. We do this by collective transformation of fundamental gender-related power relations.

The paper will be structured as follows: a) Frameworks and principles; b) Tools models and manuals; c) Wider technical guidance; d) Good practice and learning; e) Research & policy advocacy; f) Trends

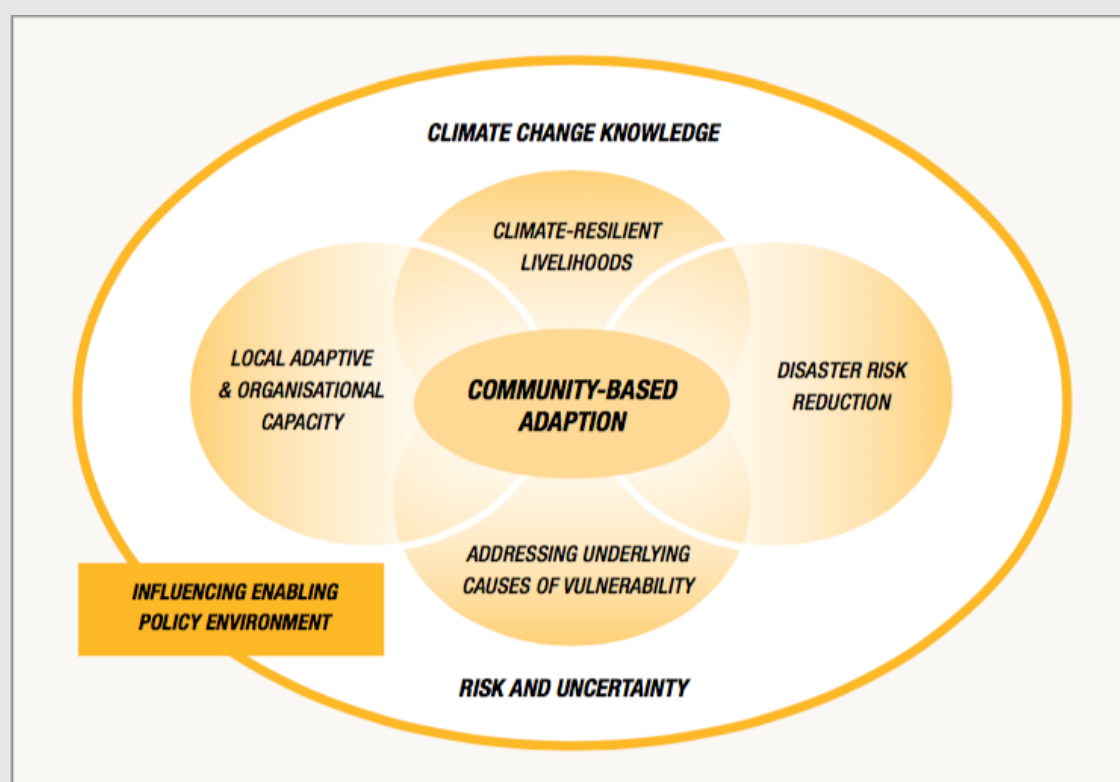
2. FRAMEWORKS AND PRINCIPLES

CARE Community-Based Adaptation Framework

CARE's [community-based adaptation \(CBA\) framework](#) describes a range of *enabling factors* (climate-resilient livelihoods, disaster risk reduction (DRR), local adaptive and organizational capacity development, attention to the uncertain nature of climate risk, an enabling national policy environment, a good knowledge of climate change, and the addressing of underlying causes of vulnerability) that need to be in place for effective community-based adaptation to occur.

BOX 1: COMMUNITY- BASED ADPATATION (CBA) FRAMEWORK

The CBA enabling factors are represented in the diagram below:



Full framework: https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CBA_Framework.pdf

SuPER - Four Principles for Sustainable, Productive, Equitable and Resilient Agriculture

The SuPER Principles guide our work in small-scale agriculture in a changing climate. This short document, [available here](#), presents briefly what is behind these 4 principles. They specify that food systems must be **S**ustainable, **P**roductive (including Profitable and Nutritious), **E**quitable, and **R**esilient if we are to achieve food and nutrition security and resilience to climate change¹. In

¹ This outcome is one of four in the CARE International Programme Strategy (2020). The SuPER Principles also contribute to the outcome of women's economic empowerment and are consistent with CARE's humanitarian action and sexual and reproductive health and rights work.

applying these principles, CARE pays particular attention to women and girls, who face additional barriers to access and food and nutrition security.

3. TOOLS, MODELS and MANUALS

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A Practitioner's Manual to Support Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change

This manual, [available here](#) (2015), provides clear and detailed step-by-step guidance on how to undertake participatory, gender responsive community-based adaptation planning. It also provides a range of up-to-date participatory tools and resources that will help in conducting the CBA planning process. It includes information on the following key components of the planning process: community climate risk analysis and planning, investment in on-going capacity strengthening, political buy-in, mainstreaming into government plans, gender integration. This reading could be complemented by the Practitioner Brief produced by the Adaptation Learning Programme: [adaptation planning with the communities](#) (2015). This brief explains how to conduct community adaptation action planning, a process that enables communities to determine their own priorities and communicate these for consideration in local development planning processes.

ANALYSIS

CARE's popular climate change practitioner tool: Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis

This tool, [available here](#) (2019), integrates climate change and gender into a wider participatory vulnerability analysis. By combining local knowledge with scientific data, the CVCA process builds people's understanding about climate risks and adaptation strategies. It provides a framework for dialogue within communities, as well as between communities and other stakeholders (e.g. local and national government agencies). The results provide a solid foundation for the identification of practical strategies to facilitate community-based adaptation to climate change.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection & Learning Manual

The PMERL Manual, [available here](#) (2012), helps practitioners to measure, monitor and evaluate changes in local adaptive capacity, for better decision-making in community-based adaptation (CBA) activities. The approach provides an on-going platform for local stakeholders to articulate their own needs and preferences, beyond the lifetime of a project. This document has been developed by CARE in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). CARE has also developed a [Framework of Milestones and Indicators](#) to support the evaluation of CBA.

4. WIDER TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

How to Do Note (HTDN) for design of gender transformative smallholder agriculture adaptation programmes

[This guide](#) (2018) was developed by CARE in collaboration with CCAFS and IFAD and it considers the differential impacts of climate change on women and men farmers. This includes recognizing that programme interventions – from design to staffing to capacity development of beneficiaries and local organizations – need to consider how gender will affect sustainability and impact. It is a useful resource for anyone designing, implementing and monitoring and evaluating gender transformative smallholder agriculture adaptation programmes. For the shorter 4-page information note see [here](#).

Gender Equality, Women's Voice and Resilience: Guidance note for practitioners

The purpose of [this guidance note](#) (2016) is to provide CARE and partners with direction for integrating gender equality and women's voice into their resilience-related work. This guidance note gives practical examples of gender considerations in resilience-related projects; and different tools and resources to support gender equality and women's voice within resilience projects.

Win-Win Results: Gender Equality within Climate Change Programming

[This learning series publication](#) (2015) draws on CARE Vietnam's work with women and men to both promote gender equality and increase communities' resilience to climate change. It compiles key issues, lessons learned and case studies that have emerged from this work and gives examples and recommendations on how the intersecting challenges of gender inequality and climate change can be addressed. Its key message is that efforts to address climate change must seek to transform gender inequality to achieve win-win results. Based on practical experience reflected in this learning series, CARE has developed a [Framework for Gender Transformative Adaptation in Vietnam](#) (page 18-19). This guide is intended for future gender and resilience programming and a contribution to discussions about gender and climate change.

The Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP) Adaptation Strategies Compendium

[This publication](#) (2015), presents the range of different community-based adaptation (CBA) strategies supported by ALP in communities across the four countries² where the programme is working. For each strategy evidence and lessons are provided from successful implementation and impacts in reducing vulnerability and building adaptive capacity in different contexts in Africa. The material is relevant to practitioners, policy makers and local government officers in promoting the future adoption of CBA approaches and adaptation strategies that enable more sustainable adaptation.

Making It Count: Integrating Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

[This practical how-to guide](#) (2015) offers practical questions, actions, tools and resources for integrating gender into climate change and disaster risk reduction interventions. It is designed to be an easily accessible entry point for practitioners, and was created through several consultations with multiple stakeholders, including members of Vietnam's Climate Change Working Group, and other experts with experience in climate change and gender. Whilst it is Vietnam focused, most elements can also be useful for both government and non-government actors around the world.

Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture

The objective of the [Toolbox](#) (2014) is to support programme designers and field practitioners in doing gender sensitive and socially inclusive research. The Toolbox is in modular format, and each activity can be used on its own or sequentially according to the user's needs. The toolbox includes a) an overview of concepts in gender, climate change, participation, qualitative research, and gender and social analysis; b) team-based learning and reflection activities to support gender and inclusion concepts; c) a logistics and planning guide supporting sampling strategy, sex-disaggregation, and field work best practices; and d) participatory research tools covering co-production of knowledge, climate resilient agriculture, climate information, and mitigation for socially differentiated data collection and analysis.

² Northern Ghana, southern Niger, eastern Kenya and northern coastal Mozambique

5. GOOD PRACTICE AND LEARNING

Gender- Transformative Adaptation: From Good Practice to Better Policy

This [good practice paper](#) (2019) developed by CARE in close collaboration with CCAFS, ICRAF, IFAD, FANRPAN, FAO, UN Women and WGC investigates the concept of gender transformation within adaptation to climate change focusing explicitly on adaptation within the agriculture sector. It describes various cases where gender equality outcomes have been sought and secured – and how this has been achieved. It concludes with practical and policy oriented recommendations for both practitioners, policy makers and investors.

Good practices for integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in climate-smart agriculture programmes

This [publication](#) (2019) was developed by CARE in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). It provides guidance, tools and examples of the successful integration of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in climate-smart agriculture work. It demonstrates the necessity and benefits of incorporating a GEWE approach; describes strategies for enhancing the engagement of women and particularly vulnerable groups; and provides practical examples and tools on gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture.

Understanding Gender in Community Based Adaptation: Practitioner Brief

CARE's good practice paper (2015), [available here](#) documents ALP learning on community-based adaptation. It describes why gender matters in community-based adaptation (CBA), how integrating gender analysis into CBA works and practical steps for doing so, key resources and next steps. It details the three key practices required when 'integrating gender'³. This brief is useful across a wide range of programmes and sectors where gender equality is a critical outcome. It will be of value to project or programme teams, local and national government staff and civil society practitioners who are designing or starting up programmes which aim for resilience to climate change and sustainable outcomes for climate vulnerable men and women in Africa.

Bringing Innovation to Scale: Resilience to Climate Change

This [report](#) (2015) synthesises key findings and lessons and recommendations from four CARE community-based adaptation projects in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam. It considers where and how approaches have been effective; how these are linked to project impacts; and provides examples of good practice, lessons learned, and recommendations to inform future programming by CARE, its partners and other agencies. It draws on a number of case studies, where gender equality has been addressed.

6. RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Community-based adaptation to climate change: lessons from Tanna Island, Vanuatu

This [journal article](#) was published by the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada (2019). This study focuses on the adaptation initiatives implemented by CARE International, in partnership with Save the Children, throughout 2016 and 2017. The research seeks to close the knowledge gap around the efficacy of community-based adaptation in reducing vulnerability within communities. It does this by undertaking an in-depth evaluation of multiple

³ gender analysis and integrating gender into participatory analysis of climate vulnerability and adaptive management.

community-based adaptation projects in Tanna Island, Vanuatu and exploring community attitudes and behavioural changes. This study found that future community-based adaptation should integrate contextual specificities and gender equality frameworks into community-based adaptation design and implementation, as well as recognise and complement characteristics of local resilience and innovation.

Gender equality and climate resilience in Asia and The Pacific – From policy to practice

This [issue paper](#) (2018) by CARE Australia outlines trends in addressing climate resilience within the development sector over the last decade, including the integration of gender and social inclusion as key policy considerations, and highlights some of the gaps that still need to be addressed. It shares CARE's approach in responding to some of these gaps, for example, through community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Gender dynamics in a changing climate: how gender and adaptive capacity affect resilience

This [research publication](#) (2015) is based on CARE's evidence and practical experience implementing community-based adaptation (CBA). It identifies the factors shaping gender dynamics and the ways in which CBA can increase adaptive capacity and promote gender equality. It also outlines knowledge gaps and recommendations for policy and practice. This learning brief is a useful resource for anyone developing programmes aimed at reducing climate vulnerability as well as government plans, policies and fundraising for CBA.

Changing the climate: Why gender matters to achieving equitable sustainable development

This [gender climate brief](#) (2015) by CARE International and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) reviews lessons from practical approaches to integrating gender into community-based adaptation and food and nutrition security in Ghana and Bangladesh. It establishes that achieving sustainable development and food and nutrition security in a changing climate requires addressing the fundamental issue of gender inequality whilst building the adaptive capacity of both men and women. It is part of a series of briefs on gender and climate change that highlights how CIFOR and partner organizations are addressing current and emerging policy issues, with insights and recommendations based on experience. For the full set of CIFOR gender and climate change briefs: [see here](#).

Cultivating equality: Delivering just and sustainable food systems in a changing climate

This [report](#) (2015) by CARE International, Food Tank, and the CGIAR Research program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) demonstrates how inequality determines who eats first and who eats worst, and how this shapes people's ability to adapt to climate change. The report argues that solutions around food production are not enough, and demands more dialogue and action to address inequality in food systems. Amongst other things, it recommends the prioritisation of women's empowerment and ensuring small-scale food producers and women have a seat at the table when policies and budgets are decided.

See linked as follows for the two-page summary and key recommendations policy brief produced from the cultivating equality report for the [Committee on World Food Security's 42nd meeting](#), [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP21\)](#), [UNFCCC climate change conference in Bonn](#)

Tackling the Double Injustice of Climate Change and Gender Inequality

This report (2014) explains why we cannot deliver sustainable development without tackling climate change and why we cannot tackle climate change without tackling the root causes of poverty – one of which is gender inequality. The report focuses on these issues in the context of food and nutrition security, women's economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive rights, and disasters and emergencies. The report includes a range of case studies from CARE's climate change work in Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

7. TRENDS

Through CARE's gender adaptation experience CARE has identified the following emerging issues:

- **Highly gendered roles and responsibilities mean higher workloads and lower recognition of women for their work:** Men and women have distinct gendered roles in agricultural production, income generation, management of natural resources and household activities, and men tend to have more authority and control of power and resources within the household and community. This leads to inequality for women in terms of division of labour, decision-making power, and access to resources. Women will often take on the burden of household activities in addition to agricultural production but without control over decisions or money generated through their activities.
- **Generalised assumptions made that women are more vulnerable than men and simply addressing with 'special' separate activities.** This approach is cosmetic and will most likely fail to address underlying power imbalances and social or legal rules leading to gender differences in vulnerability. Special women's activities have been seen to multiply work burden of women whose time is already overstretched and they can trigger backlashes such as conflict at home resulting in gender based violence (GBV).
- **Gender equity gap exists in agriculture and this gap shapes how men and women contribute, respond and adapt to climate change.** Rural women in particular head one out of five farms and make up 40% of agricultural labour across the developing world (FAO, 2011). However, they produce less than their male counterparts because of the persistent inequalities that frame their experiences. Women's insecurity over land access and tenure also increases their vulnerability and reduces their ability to adapt in a changing climate.
- **Women's restricted access to information and technology including communication technology, mobile phones and radio:** Women's lower literacy levels and/or their restricted access to information (including financial), technology which is seen as a man's area of control and higher workloads, limit their ability to make use of these new sources of information.

In summary, CARE's experience and learning around gender and climate change has been around the issue of women's position in society, lack of access to resources and the burden they face.

For further information contact Hayley Capp: capp@careinternational.org or email to: info@careclimatechange.org

