



Climate Resilience Marker

Guidance Note

I – Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

The **climate crisis** is having extensive detrimental impacts on the poorest and most marginalized people in developing countries. Women and girls experience these impacts disproportionately. Climate change jeopardizes the benefits and progress already made in addressing the injustice of poverty and gender inequalities in communities worldwide while increasing the demand to respond to urgent humanitarian needs. The climate crisis is therefore compromising CARE's efforts to overcome poverty and social injustice.

For CARE, **Climate Justice** is about a future in which the poorest and most marginalized people have improved their wellbeing significantly and can enjoy their human rights due to increased resilience to climate change, increased equality and a global temperature rise that is limited to 1.5°C.

To achieve this, CARE works on three interconnected **pathways of change**:

- 1) Increased capacities and assets for people of all genders
- 2) Improved enabling environment through policies and actions by powerholders in the Global North and the Global South
- 3) Strengthened collective voice and action of Civil Society, including Social Movements.

To achieve **CARE's 2030 Vision Climate Justice Goal** where 25 million poor and marginalized people, particularly women and girls, have strengthened their resilience and adaptive capacities to the effects of climate change, it is crucial to step up the integration of climate resilience into CARE projects and programs worldwide. The **Climate Resilience Marker** is a project-based tool that allows teams to self-assess how well climate resilience is integrated into their project and provides a starting point for further reflection and action on promoting climate resilience throughout the project cycle. The marker aims to support **mainstreaming climate resilience**, and/or to support **building climate resilience**.

The **Climate Resilience Marker** (the Climate Marker for short) replaces CARE's Resilience Marker with the objective to focus on addressing **climate and environmental risks**. One of the key reasons for replacing the Resilience Marker by the Climate Resilience Marker is the fact that climate-related disasters have increased over the past 50 years, causing more damages. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), from 1970 to 2019, these hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% of all reported deaths and 74% of all reported economic losses¹. By targeting climate-related shocks and stresses, the Climate Resilience Marker will enable project teams to address the most impactful hazards and increase climate resilience. This addresses the root causes of

¹ Zhongming, Z., Linong, L., Xiaona, Y., Wangqiang, Z., & Wei, L. (2021). Atlas of mortality and economic losses from weather, climate and water extremes (1970–2019). World Meteorological Organization (WMO): Geneva, Switzerland

vulnerability and thus contributes to enhancing the capacity and assets to cope with other risks and increases the overall community resilience.

To facilitate the use of the Climate Resilience Marker, a **Climate Resilience Marker package** is created composing of the following core documents:

- Climate Resilience Marker Guidance Note (this document)
- Climate Resilience Marker Vetting Form
- Catalogue of climate resilience practices (being developed, expected by FY26)

Other supporting materials include:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Climate Resilience Marker
- Online self-paced course on the Climate Resilience Marker (to be developed, expected by FY26)
- Training materials on the [Climate Resilience Marker](#)

1.2 Purpose of this Guidance Note

This Guidance Note provides additional information and explanation on how to use the Climate Resilience Marker Vetting Form. The Climate Resilience Marker is designed for different purposes. First and foremost it is designed as a tool for all of CARE's projects or initiatives to facilitate the identification of climate risks and identification of climate resilience in the projects/initiatives. In the proposal writing phase, we encourage all CARE members (CMPs) and country offices (COs) to use the Climate Resilience Marker as a quality threshold to assess the integration of climate resilience in the project design. During implementation, at the mid-term review or final evaluation stage, the Marker provides an opportunity for project teams to facilitate reflection and learning and it allows possible adjustments to project implementation to enhance the level of climate resilience integration. Secondly, the Marker serves as an accountability tool, allowing CARE to collect data on the level of climate resilience integration in the project portfolio.

II – How to apply the Climate Resilience Marker

STEP 0 PLANNING

This first step is to make sure the project team is well prepared for the application of the Climate Resilience Marker:

Why should we use the Climate Marker?

Applying the Climate Marker helps to achieve three complementary goals:

- Creation of a shared understanding of the relevance of climate change and its impacts on projects/initiatives, and identification of possible climate and environmental risks which may affect the targeted achievements of the project objectives or goal.
- Integration of necessary climate risk mitigation measures and/or climate adaptation action options into the project or initiative.
- Identification of the level of climate resilience of the project or initiative., with the opportunity to improve this and for reporting purposes.

Who should be involved?

The application of the Climate Resilience Marker should involve ideally at least **3 Country Office staff** including a project coordinator/ officer/ manager, a MEAL officer and a climate officer(if available). Where possible, it would be useful to involve key partners. In addition, CARE staff at the regional level and CMPs can use the Climate Resilience Marker to assess active projects they are directly managing and/or supporting, as well as projects that are being designed (e.g. during the proposal writing phase). Regional or CMP staff may include Deputy Regional Directors of Program Quality, Climate Advisors, Project Directors and Officers as well as MEL Advisors and Officers. It is recommended to benefit from a facilitator familiar with the Climate Resilience Marker. It is also recommended to cross-check the information with relevant colleagues or agencies/sources.

When should the Climate Resilience Marker be applied?

At multiple stages in the project/program cycle: during the design, implementation (e.g. mid-term review) and evaluation as well as yearly PIIRS reporting.

How long does it take to apply the Climate Resilience Marker?

A minimum of ½ day is required for discussion and completion of the Climate Resilience Marker Vetting Form. Depending on the complexity of the context and project's activities as well as the availability of data, the process to fill out the Climate Resilience Marker can last for several days, allowing time for discussion among key staff, consultation with partners, field visits or collection of secondary data.

STEP 1

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date	Project Title:	Country:
Reviewer:	Project ID:	
Stage of project:	<input type="checkbox"/> Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Final Evaluation

The project information section requires the reviewers to complete a variety of questions concerning basic project information. In case the Climate Resilience Marker is applied at the concept/ proposal stage and no project ID is available, this information can be filled at later stages.

STEP**2****IDENTIFY THE OBJECTIVES OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION**

This step encourages the reviewers to reflect upon the key climate and environmental risks relevant to the project or initiative's context. The reviewers should discuss and identify whether the project or initiative aims to **MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENCE** or **BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE**.

**COLUMN A
MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

The project **SEEKS** to **MAINSTREAM** climate resilience in the project's activities but building climate resilience **is not the PRIMARY objective of the project**.

In such projects, climate change is often considered as "cross-cutting".

CARE's example: CARE Ethiopia's Water programs in Amhara State Region have the objective of improving the food security and resiliency of chronically food-insecure households, especially rural women living in Belesa woredas of central Gondar.

**COLUMN B
BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

The project **AIMS** to **BUILD** the resilience to climate change as **the PRIMARY objective of the project**.

Sometimes, such projects are called as "climate change stand-alone project".

CARE's example: Climate Learning and Advocacy for Resilience (CLAR) program which aims to strengthen learning, evidence, and knowledge brokering among programs and policy processes that are integrating climate resilience.

Select the option that aligns best with the overall objectives or goals project, rather than with sub-objectives or specific objectives.

For example:

- CARE Germany's CBA project's expected impact: People of all genders and social groups in Southern Africa are resilient to the impacts of climate change ➔ **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE**
- CARE Yemen project's objective: "To contribute to strengthening the EU's partnership with Yemeni Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as independent actors of good governance and development in their own right, with focus on positioning them as champions for innovative, gender responsive, and inclusive climate action" ➔ **MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENCE** as it focuses on building the capacity of CSOs.

Once the choice is made, the project reviewers will stay with the same column until the end of the grading process.

In case your project or initiative does not aim either to mainstream climate resilience or build climate resilience, you can choose one of the options below:

☐ **NA (Not Applicable):** The project or initiative is not exposed to climate risks, or a resilience rating is not relevant, based on the nature of project activities or types of outcomes, e.g. research projects without a field dimension, certain advocacy or digital communication projects.

☐ **NR (Not Rated):** The project or initiative is possibly exposed to climate change and climate risks, but no information is available.

If your choice is NA or NR, your project will score 0, which means No Climate Resilience Integration. You should justify your choice and stop the vetting process here. But please note that in this case climate and

environmental risks are NOT taken into account in your project. This will put the project at high risk of disruption of activities, failing to achieve the set-out objectives and generating potential negative effects on communities and environment. In general, given the climate change impacts across the world and across sectors, all CARE projects should either aim to “build the climate resilience” or “mainstream climate resilience” except for the NA and NR mentioned above.

If your choice is either column A or column B above, **please proceed with question 2.**



Concepts and Definitions

Climate resilience: For CARE, building climate resilience involves all actors (governments, communities and institutions) having the capacity to anticipate climate risks, absorb climate shocks, adapt to evolving climate change and transform systems and structures.

Climate mainstreaming: The general purpose of mainstreaming climate resilience is to address climate change throughout project planning, implementation, budget, monitoring and evaluation rather than as stand-alone measures or projects.

Climate resilience VS Resilience: While both concepts refer to capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt and transform, Climate Resilience refers to climate related risks and impacts such as floods, droughts, sea level rise, biodiversity loss, etc. while Resilience refers to all kinds of risks, shocks and stresses including those climate-related but also others such as conflicts, epidemics, geological risk (earthquakes, tsunamis, etc.). Climate resilience can be viewed as a subset of resilience.

STEP 3

MARKER QUESTIONS

Depending on your response for Step 2, proceed to either **Column A – Mainstreaming climate resilience** or **Column B – Building climate resilience (only choose ONE!)**. Assess whether climate resilience is integrated into the analysis, activities, facilitating structural change or whether maladaptation is considered. If the project or initiative sufficiently meets the criteria, tick the box.

Each box-tick requires explanation and justification via different questions and answer choices under Section 3 in the Vetting Form.



TIPS

Be aware of your bias! The aim of the Climate Resilience Marker is not to get the highest score possible. It is designed to look at the current level of climate resilience integration and to learn and plan how CARE could improve climate resilience within the project or program.

COLUMN A MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENCE	COLUMN B BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE
<p>Question 1: ANALYSIS Does the project include a climate and environment risk assessment?</p> <p>This question verifies whether or not the project design is informed by a climate and environment risk assessment. As the first step in climate integration, the project should conduct a basic climate and environment risk assessment. This assessment identifies relevant short and long-term climate and environmental risks over the project's lifetime, and potential impacts of these risks on the project. The climate and environment risk assessment needs to be conducted ideally prior to the project conception, within the last 5 years. Depending on the context and projects, this assessment can be done by the project team as a desk study or with partners and community's participation. Various tools can be used for climate and environment risk assessment such as NEAT+, or CARE's Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis and its adapted versions.</p>	<p>Question 1: ANALYSIS Does the project include a participatory climate vulnerability analysis?</p> <p>This question verifies whether or not the project design is informed by a PARTICIPATORY climate vulnerability analysis. Ideally, the project should include a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (or other adapted versions such as Conflict sensitive CVCA, etc.) either in the designing phase or at the beginning of the project or prior to the project conception, but within 5 years before the start. Other participatory climate vulnerability analysis that can be used are Red Cross Red Crescent's Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment/Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment or similar VCA tools developed by other organizations, or CEDRIG Operational. In any case, this analysis should be conducted in a participatory manner with the participation of community members and key partners.</p>

TOOLS



CVCA The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) is a CARE tool used to gather and analyze information on community-level vulnerabilities to and capacities for climate change. It informs the identification of actions, at the community level or more broadly, that support communities in increasing their resilience to climate change. Other adapted versions of CVCA such as Gender CVCA or similar tools developed by other organizations such as Red Cross, Save the Children, Oxfam, etc. can also be used. CARE CVCA can also be adapted to different contexts and situations, such as conflict-sensitive CVCA.

CEDRIG: The Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) is a practical and user-friendly tool developed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is meant to systematically integrate climate, environment and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development cooperation and humanitarian aid in order to enhance the overall resilience of systems and communities. CEDRIG helps to reflect whether existing and planned strategies, programs and projects are at risk from climate change, environmental degradation and natural hazards, as well as whether these interventions could further exacerbate GHG emissions, environmental degradation or risks of natural hazards. **CEDRIG Operational:** This participatory module, taking approximately two to three days without the preparation time, allows to systematically integrate climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction into an existing or planned project.

NEAT+: Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool has been specifically designed for humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern to make emergency and recovery interventions more sustainable.

Note: CVCA and CEDRIG are often more time consuming and are more commonly used in development programming whereas NEAT+ is more relevant to humanitarian interventions.

Question 2: ACTIVITY Does the project include/foresee risk mitigation measures or adaptation solutions for risks identified?	Question 2: ACTIVITY Does the project include activities that are designed to build the adaptive capacity of program participants and the broader community?
<p>This question looks at actions taken against the risks identified in Question 1 above. Once risks are identified, risk mitigation and/or adaptation measures should be foreseen to protect the project's assets, outcomes and beneficiaries.</p> <p>Risk mitigation measures can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>adjusting existing components</i>: For example, in a water supply project, if landslide is identified as one of the major risks in the project, the design of water pipes is improved to resist landslides. Or in an agriculture project, if drought and flood are identified as the major risks in the project, fast maturing/drought resistant crops are selected to harvest before expected climate extremes such as droughts or floods. - <i>adding a new component</i>: For example, in a water supply project, landslide is identified as one of the major risks in the project, the project adds slope stabilization element or protection for the water pipes. Or in an agriculture project, in addition to promoting farming activities, the project encourages livelihood diversification to compensate failing agriculture production as result from climate extremes (e.g. opening a shop, seasonal labor, become motor taxi driver). <p>Adaptation measures can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to climate-resilient livelihoods including sustainable agriculture - Improvement of climate knowledge and information services for adaptation - Facilitation of access to formal and informal financial services for climate resilience 	<p>This question verifies whether the project includes activities that build the capacity of program participants and the broader community to adapt to the climate change's impacts identified in the participatory climate vulnerability analysis mentioned in Question 1 above. Example of adaptive capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to climate-resilient livelihoods including sustainable agriculture - Improvement of climate knowledge and information services for adaptation - Facilitation of access to formal and informal financial services for climate resilience - Building or renovation of climate resilient housing - Increase of the access to and use of affordable, sustainable and clean energy - Facilitation of meaningful participation of all household members in climate-relevant decision-making at household level - Protection, management or restoration of ecosystems in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change. - Building/ enhancement of climate resilient water system - Improvement of climate risks management structures to ensure effective preparedness to climate related disaster



Concepts and definitions

Please note that climate change mitigation and disaster risk mitigation are different concepts. The mitigation concept mentioned in this question refers to disaster risk mitigation.

Climate change mitigation involves actions that reduce the rate of climate change. Climate change mitigation is achieved by limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions and by enhancing activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere (IPCC). Examples of climate change mitigation activities are using solar/renewable energy instead of fossil fuels, tree planting for sequestration, etc.

Disaster risk mitigation is defined as the lessening or minimizing of the adverse impacts of a hazardous event. The adverse impacts of hazards, in particular natural hazards, often cannot be prevented fully, but their scale or severity can be substantially lessened by various strategies and actions. Mitigation measures include engineering techniques and hazard-resistant construction as well as improved environmental and social policies and public awareness (UNDRR). Examples of disaster risk mitigation measures are dykes reinforcement to prevent river flooding, enforcing building codes and standards that require structures to be designed, constructed, and maintained to withstand the impacts of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.



Concepts and definitions

Adaptive capacity: Within CARE's resilience framework, Adaptive capacity can be understood as the capacity to adapt to evolving conditions, which is the capacity of individuals and communities to change behaviours, practices, lifestyles and livelihood strategies in response to changed circumstances and conditions under multiple, complex, and at times changing risks and uncertainties.

Question 3: STRUCTURAL CHANGE Does the project include adaptability or flexibility in case of climate related disasters or contingency planning?	Question 3: STRUCTURAL CHANGE Does the project include activities to transform systems and structures to support climate change adaptation?
<p>Regardless of the efforts to mitigate the risks or adapt to changes mentioned in Question 2 above, climate related disasters still happen. This question is to explore whether the project is prepared for such disasters to reduce their impacts on the project assets/outcomes in a structural manner. It is expected that the project should include activities to anticipate, prepare for and respond to a likely or potential climate-related disaster. This can be achieved through the inclusion of contingency plans/anticipatory action/crisis modifiers or other anticipatory tools to respond to climate-related disasters occurring during the project's timeframe.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drought anticipatory action foreseen in an agriculture project - VSLA-related welfare fund to support members in case of drought. 	<p>This question explores whether the project includes transformative objectives in building climate resilience. Incremental adaptation and coping strategies do provide communities with short-term solutions to climate risks. However, this is not sufficient to protect communities from greater risks in the future. Therefore, climate resilience building projects should explore the possibility of transformative adaptation. Transformative adaptation has been characterized as restructuring, path-shifting, innovative, multi-scale, system-wide, and persistent². An example of incremental adaptation is the improvement of irrigation systems to improve drought. An example of transformative adaptation is when women are supported and empowered to be part of a natural resource committee that discusses how to prevent erosion and restore rangelands to reduce drought's impacts; or youth who are supported and involved in a community-based adaptation process and participate in decision-making about adaptation options that will affect their future livelihoods.</p>



Concepts and definitions

Contingency planning: A management process that analyses disaster risks and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses. Contingency planning results in organized and coordinated courses of action with clearly identified institutional roles and resources, information processes and operational arrangements for specific actors at times of need. Based on scenarios of possible emergency conditions or hazardous events, it allows key actors to envision, anticipate and solve problems that can arise during disasters. Contingency planning is an important part of overall preparedness. Contingency plans need to be regularly updated and exercised (UNDRR).



Concepts and definitions

Transformative adaptation: actions aiming at adapting to climate change resulting in significant changes in structure or function that go beyond adjusting existing practice; can be adopted at a large scale, can lead to new strategies in a region or resource system, transform places and potentially shift locations deep and long-term societal changes that influence sustainable development (include values, worldviews) (IPCC).

² Schreuder, W., Horlings, L.G. Transforming places together: transformative community strategies responding to climate change and sustainability challenges. *Clim Action* 1, 24 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44168-022-00024-3>

Anticipatory Action: is defined as actions taken in anticipation of a crisis, either before the shock or at least before substantial humanitarian needs have [fully] manifested themselves, which are intended to mitigate the impact of the crisis or improve the response (OCHA). Anticipatory action is a proactive intervention, which takes place upon issuance of a warning or activation of a pre-agreed trigger. Effective anticipatory action requires robust forecasting and triggers/parameters linked to pre-agreed financing, along with risk monitoring and analysis, and ground truthing capabilities (CERF, 2019).

Crisis modifier: In a resilience framework, the Crisis Modifier is used to protect development gains when the beneficiaries of the development program are affected by a shock, for example through the protection of productive livelihood assets. In humanitarian contexts, the Crisis Modifier is solely used to provide essential life-saving assistance to those who are most vulnerable and affected by a crisis within a crisis. A crisis modifier allows development and humanitarian agencies to respond quickly to anticipated crises, while continuing to invest in programs that address the root causes of people's vulnerability to shocks and stresses 3.

Transforming systems and structures: Within CARE's Resilience Framework, Transforming systems and structures refers to the capacity of individuals and communities to influence formal or informal rules, plans, policies and legislations to create systemic and lasting change in behaviors, governance and decision-making structures policies and legislation.

Incremental Adaptation: Adaptation that maintains the essence and integrity of a system or process at a given scale. In some cases, incremental adaptation can accrue to result in transformational adaptation (IPPC)

Question 4: MALADAPTATION

Does the project incorporate activities and/or indicators to monitor and address any potential negative impacts it may have on communities, climate, and the environment?

This question applies to **both projects** that mainstream climate resilience and those specifically focused on building climate resilience. It aims to address potential negative unintended consequences generated by the project, commonly referred to as "maladaptation". Maladaptation occurs when an intervention targeting one group in one location or sector which results in the increase in the vulnerability of another group or in another location or sector, or the increase in the vulnerability of the target group to future climate change.

To mitigate maladaptation, it is important to ensure that:

- the project interventions do not create new vulnerability or increase existing vulnerabilities of any social groups. For example, a study in Bangladesh examining flood control measures noted that due to these measures, landless, poor women could no longer find food and resources to sell when these flooded areas disappeared, reducing their livelihood security³. This risk of maladaptation can be mitigated by ensuring participation, voice and inclusion of all groups in the climate vulnerability analysis and in the overall project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

³ Sultana, F. (2010). Living in hazardous waterscapes: Gendered vulnerabilities and experiences of floods and disasters. *Environmental Hazards*, 9(1), 43-53.

- the project interventions do not generate negative effects on other sectors or geographical areas. In most cases, the (positive and negative) impacts of adaptation are not restricted to the targeted sector or geographical area. For example, when people upstream develop irrigation to address water insecurity resulting from climate change, and take more water out of the river, this leaves less water available for the people downstream. This risk of maladaptation can be mitigated via adoption of a [landscape/ ecosystem-based approach](#) and ensuring coordination across sectors and across different governance levels.
- the project interventions do not increase the vulnerability of the target group to future climate change. This refers to the fact that the project interventions should not further exacerbate climate change via generating excessive use of greenhouse gases, generating any detrimental effects on ecosystems (e.g. pollution of air, water, and soil, destruction of ecosystems), or support energy-intensive and/or polluting extraction methods in the use of natural resources (e.g. charcoal, mining activities, overextraction of groundwater, etc.). An environmental impact screening/assessment will be helpful to detect the above risk of maladaptation.

Similar to the principle of DO NO HARM, avoiding maladaptation should be considered throughout the project management cycle via assessment, monitoring and dedicated activities and budget to address any potential negative effects generated by the project. An Environment Impact Screening should be conducted at the beginning of the project and where necessary a more in-depth Environment Impact Assessment or NEAT+ can be conducted to evaluate potential negative impacts generated by the project to the climate and environment. An impact mitigation plan should be developed and implemented should any risks be identified in these assessment. A monitoring system including a feedback mechanism will be helpful to detect potential maladaptation which might not have been identified at the project designing phase.

CONCEPTS & TOOLS



Maladaptation: Any changes in natural human systems that inadvertently increase vulnerability to climatic stimuli; an adaptation that does not succeed in reducing vulnerability but increases it instead (IPCC).

- Maladaptation can lead to **Rebounding Vulnerability**, the situation when an adaptation strategy aimed at a group of people actually makes them more vulnerable to climate change than they were before. For example, a livelihood diversification strategy that encourages farmers to reduce farming activities to take on another income generating activity which is equally sensitive to climate change impacts but gives a better income in the short term. But it can be maladaptive as it leaves farmers no option to return to farming when the other livelihood is affected, and income is cut.
- Maladaptation can lead to **Shifting Vulnerability**, the situation when an adaptation strategy redistributes vulnerability so that others who were not beneficiaries of an adaptation strategy instead become more vulnerable to climate change than they were before the strategy was implemented. For example, when people upstream develop irrigation to address water insecurity resulting from climate change, and take more water out of the river, this leaves less water available for the people downstream.
- Maladaptation can lead to eroding sustainable development if an outcome of an adaptation action increases GHG emissions, negatively impacts environmental conditions and/or social and economic values. For example, the use of air conditioners in cities, while these systems are essential for certain vulnerable populations, they also increase energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions.
- [The Resilience Self-Assessment Tool to spot risks of maladaptation](#): can be a reference document to assist the discussion within the project team for potential maladaptation risks.
- [CARE Environmental Screening Tool](#) can be a good tool for environment impact assessment.

STEP**4**

JUSTIFY YOUR GRADES

After the grading section, the reviewers will need to justify their choices by answering 6 questions corresponding to the 4 grading questions in the Grading section. These questions aim to give more insights into the project/initiative and how concretely climate resilience is integrated in the project or initiative and thus help the reviewers to have a better understanding of the implications of these grading questions. It can happen that after answering all these justifying questions, the reviewers will go back and alter their choice in the grading section. This justification section also aims to stimulate the brainstorming and discussion within the project teams of potential climate actions/considerations which may have been omitted.

STEP**5**

DEFINE YOUR LEVEL OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION

Once you think that you have your definitive answers in the grading section, count the number of boxes that have been ticked, and use the grading guidance to calculate your project score and the level of climate change integration in your project .

Your project or initiative will be graded against 4 levels of integration:

SCORE Column A or B	- 0 - NO CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION	- 1 - POOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION	- 2 - FAIR CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION	- 3 - GOOD CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION	- 4 - EXCELLENT CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTEGRATION
COLUMN A Mainstreaming Climate Resilience	<p>Climate and environmental risks are not taken into account in this project. This will put the project in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high risk of disruption of activities. failing to achieve set-out objectives. generating potential negative effects on communities and the environment. 	<p>The project is considered as poor in climate change mainstreaming due to EITHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action taken upon the findings of the basic climate and environmental risk screening, which might put the project at risk of disruption of activities, failing to achieve the set-out objectives and generating potential negative effects on communities and the environment; <p>OR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change mainstreaming activities are conducted without any climate and environment risk screening, which might lead to maladaptation. 	<p>The project adopted at least two complementary interventions for climate and environment risk analysis, risk mitigations, preparedness and/or adaptation.</p>	<p>The design of project activities is based on the analysis of potential impact of climate change, risk mitigation, adaptation and contingency measures are foreseen to reduce and respond to such impacts.</p>	<p>The design of project activities is based on the analysis of potential impact of climate change, risk mitigation, adaptation and contingency measures are foreseen to reduce and respond to such impacts. Arrangements are in place to monitor and mitigate the potential maladaptive effects generated by the project.</p>

COLUMN B
Building
Climate
Resilience

Climate and environmental risks are not taken into account in this project. This will put the project in:

- high risk of disruption of activities.
- failing to achieve its adaptation objectives.
- generating potential negative effects on communities and the environment.

Score 0

The project is considered as poor in building climate resilience due to **EITHER**:

- No action taken upon the findings of the **participatory** climate vulnerability analysis, which might put the project at risk of disruption of activities, failing to achieve the set-out objectives of building climate resilience and generating potential negative effects on communities and the environment;
- OR**
- Climate change adaptation activities are conducted without any climate and environment risk screening, which might lead to maladaptation.

Score 1

The project adopted at least two complementary interventions for climate vulnerability analysis, building adaptative capacity and/or transforming systems and structures that support climate change adaptation.

Score 2

The project is transformative in improving resilience, with impacts beyond direct outputs through improved institutions, policies, systems and structures.

Score 3

The project is transformative in building resilience, with impacts beyond direct outputs through improved institutions, policies, systems, and structures. Arrangements are in place to monitor and mitigate the potential maladaptive effects generated by the project.

Score 4



Don't finish the Climate Resilience Marker exercise here!

For CARE projects and programs, it is expected that they should reach Good or Excellent climate resilience integration! Fair integration is the minimum standard! Ask the team (or yourself), based on lessons learned through this exercise, what could be changed or improved in current or future programming to improve climate resilience integration? Create an action plan and designate responsibility for action points. Include a timeline and resources required to implement this action plan. Set a date to review how changes have been implemented, and how that has improved your programming.

III – Linking the Climate Resilience Marker with other CARE Tools

3.1 Linking with CARE's tools

Together with the Women and Girls Impact Assessment Tool, the Climate Resilience Marker is one of the two obligatory tools that need to be applied to all CARE's projects and initiatives and included in the PIIRS system.

Linkages with Program Quality Drivers

The Climate Resilience Marker contributes to CARE's Programme Quality Drivers (PQD). It is the key tool to respond to CARE Programme Quality Standard #6. Climate and environmental responsibility: We seek to build people's resilience, particularly women and girls, helping them to reduce and adapt to the risks they face including climate change. We will reduce the contributions of our programs and offices to greenhouse gas emissions or other negative environmental impacts.

The PQ Minimum Standard for project design and implementation requires a Climate Resilience Marker score of at least 2, indicating fair integration of climate resilience.

In addition, the Climate Resilience Marker can help the project to contribute to the following PQD:

- **#1. Gender equality and inclusion:** The Climate Resilience Marker verifies whether the project includes a climate and environmental risk assessment where differing needs and vulnerabilities of people of all genders as well as different socio-economic groups should be taken into account.
- **#2. Accountability:** As part of maladaptation mitigation, the Climate Resilience Marker suggests a cross-sectoral and cross-level approach as well as the set-up of feedback mechanisms.
- **#3. Do No Harm:** There is a clear link between DO NO HARM and mitigating maladaptation. Both principles aim to identify and mitigate potential negative effects that arise from the project interventions.
- **#5. Relevance and Coherence:** Via the climate and environmental risk assessment suggested in the Climate Resilience Marker, a participatory approach is highly recommended to ensure the relevance and coherence of the project's interventions.
- **#8. Adapting and Learning:** The Climate Resilience Marker suggests flexibility and adaptability in project design and budget in order to prepare and respond to climate related crises and maladaptation incidents that can occur during the project timeframe.

Linkages with CARE's Climate Justice Impact Indicators

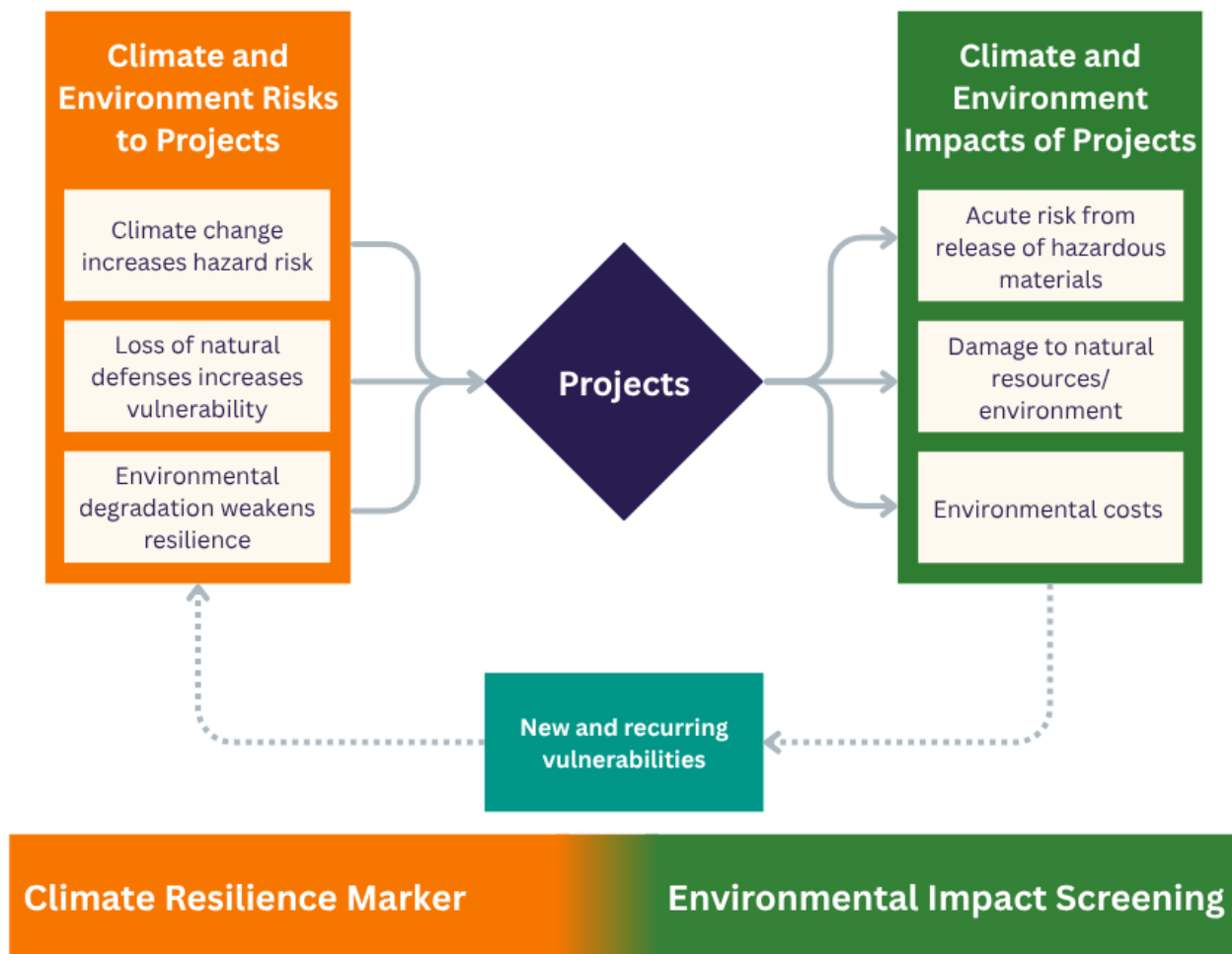
The Climate Resilience Marker also enables the reporting against Climate Justice Impact Indicators. The answer choices under **Section 3** of the vetting form were designed to correspond to Climate Justice Indicators, more specifically;

Climate Marker questions and answer options	Climate Justice Impact Indicators
<p>Building Climate Resilience – Question 4: What activities have been designed to build the adaptive capacity of program participants and the broader community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote to climate-resilient livelihoods including sustainable agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Improve access to climate knowledge and information services to support adaptation efforts. <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate access to both formal and informal financial services that enhance climate resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Building or renovation of climate resilient housing <input type="checkbox"/> Increase of the access to and use of sustainable and clean energy <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitation of meaningful participation of all household members in climate-relevant decision-making at household level <input type="checkbox"/> Protection, management or restoration of ecosystems in order to adapt to the impacts of climate change. <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of climate risks management structural measure to ensure effective preparedness to climate related disaster. 	<p>Indicator 28.1. Climate-resilient livelihoods: # and % of people of all genders that have applied at least 3 practices to protect or adapt their livelihoods in response to climate change related shocks and stresses (SADD)</p> <p>Indicator 28.2. Climate information: # and % of people of all genders that have applied climate knowledge and/or information services to inform their climate adaptation strategies (SADD)</p> <p>Indicator 28.3. Financial services: # and % of people of all genders that have used formal and/or informal financial services in ways that actively support climate resilience (SADD)</p> <p>Indicator 28.4. Resilience Housing: # and % of people of all genders that took at least 3 actions to protect their housing and direct surroundings from the negative impacts of climate related shocks and stresses (SADD)</p> <p>Indicator 28.5. Sustainable energy: # and % of people of all genders that have used affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services (SADD)</p> <p>Indicator 28.7. # and % of people of all genders who have actively participated in climate-relevant decision-making at household level.</p> <p>Indicator 28.8: # and % of people of all genders that have taken action to protect, manage or restore ecosystems, in support of adaptation the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Indicator 28.9 Climate disaster risk reduction: # and % of people of all genders reporting preparedness for climate related disasters resulting from functional climate risk management structural measures</p>
<p>Building Climate resilience – Question 5: What are the activities to transform systems and structures foreseen in the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support of formal and informal groups, organizations and/or movements that can influence formal and informal climate-relevant decision-making by channelling or amplifying the priorities of the poorest and most marginalized people vulnerable to climate change. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase of local participation in formal and informal climate-relevant decision-making spaces. <input type="checkbox"/> Support new/amended or better implemented ambitious climate-relevant policies, legislation, multilateral agreements, programs, and/or budgets which increase people of all genders' ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, foster climate resilience and/or low greenhouse gas emissions development 	<p>Indicator 28.6: Formal/informal decision-making: # and % of people of all genders who have actively participated in formal and/or informal climate-relevant decision-making spaces or processes.</p> <p>Indicator 17: # of formal and informal groups, organizations and/or movements that have influenced formal and informal climate-relevant decision-making processes by channelling or amplifying the priorities of the poorest and most marginalized people vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>Indicator 29: # of new/amended or better implemented ambitious climate-relevant policies, legislation, multilateral agreements, programs, and/or budgets which increase people of all genders' ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, foster climate resilience and/or low greenhouse gas emissions development.</p>

<p>Mainstreaming Climate Resilience – Question 3: Which climate and environmental risk mitigation measures are foreseen/ implemented in the project?</p> <p>The question above refers to disaster risk mitigation and preparedness structural measures (evacuation shelter, flood control measures etc.) which can be reported under Indicator 28.9</p>	<p>Indicator 28.9 Climate disaster risk reduction: # and % of people of all genders reporting preparedness for climate related disasters resulting from functional climate risk management structural measures</p>
--	---

Linkages with CARE Environment Screening Tool

The Climate Resilience Marker helps to identify, mitigate and adapt to climate and environment risks **to the community and projects** while the Environment Impact Screening helps identify and mitigate the potential negative impacts generated **by the projects to the climate and environment**. See the diagram below for better illustration:



Connection between the Climate Resilience Marker and Environmental Impact Screening (adapted from [GDRC, 2022](#))

IV – More Information?

See more information at the Climate Resilience Marker site at the Climate Justice Hub:

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please send an email to:

- **Thuy-Binh Nguyen**, Program Quality Lead, CARE Climate Justice Centre, nguyen@carefrance.org
- **Robert Otim**, MEAL Lead, CARE Climate Justice Centre, robert.otim@care.org