

# Climate Resilience Marker

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## 1. About the Climate Resilience Marker

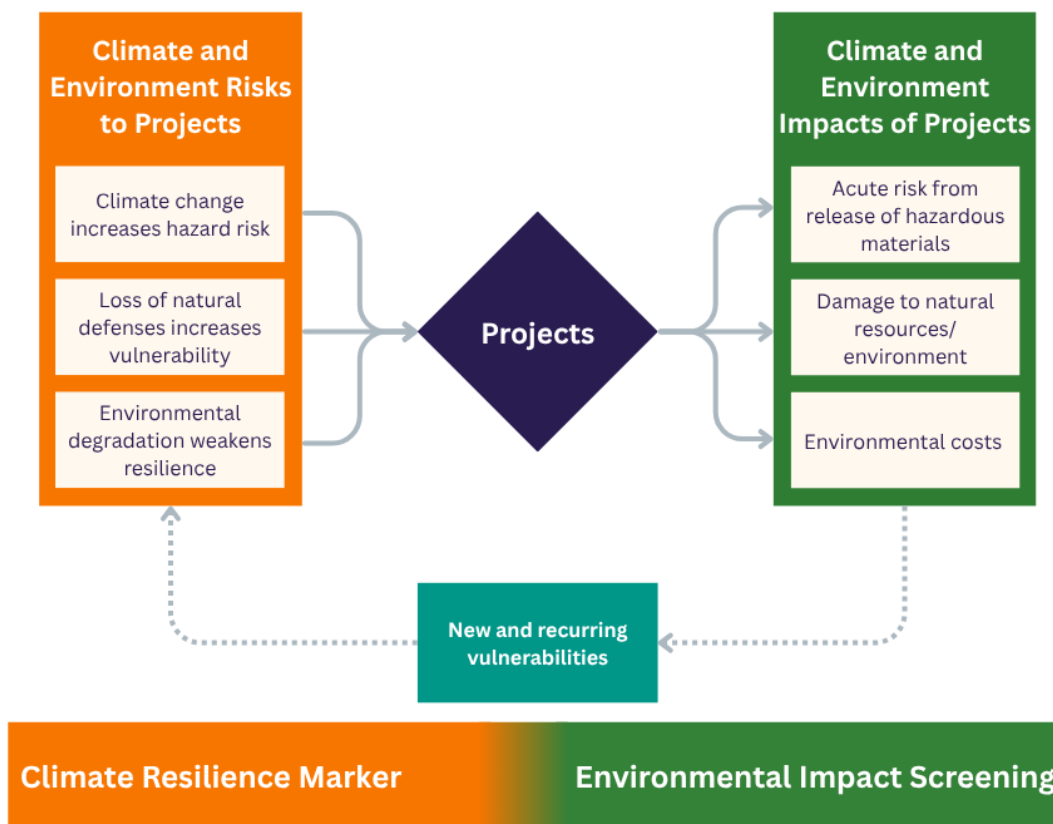
### 1.1. Why use the Climate Resilience Marker?

The Climate Resilience Marker serves three key goals:

1. Enhancing Understanding: Promotes awareness of climate change's impact on projects and identifies associated risks.
2. Integrating Climate Actions: Supports the inclusion of necessary climate measures into the project/initiative.
3. Assessing Climate Resilience: Evaluates the project/initiative's climate resilience, identifying improvement opportunities for reporting.

### 1.2. What is the difference between the Climate Resilience Marker and the Environmental Impact Assessment 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](#))*

### 1.3. What is the difference between the Climate Marker and the Climate Resilience Marker?

There is no difference – Climate Marker is the shortened version of the Climate Resilience Marker.

### 1.4. What type of projects/initiatives are the Climate Resilience Marker used for?

It is used for all of CARE's projects/initiatives including climate change "stand-alone" projects and projects where climate change is mainstreamed – spanning the humanitarian to development continuum – as a learning and accountability tool.

### 1.5. Are Climate Marker and Resilience Marker compatible? E.g., we have used the Resilience Marker at the conception of the project and now we use the Climate Marker. Can we compare the two results?

If you initially used the Resilience Marker in your project, you would have to do the Climate Resilience Marker from the beginning. The design of the Climate Resilience Marker is not compatible with the Resilience Marker and therefore, it is not recommended to compare the two results. We would recommend using only the Climate Marker.

### **1.6. What purposes can the Climate Resilience Marker be used for?**

The Climate Resilience Marker is a project-based evaluation tool that is primarily used for evaluating project performance. Its focus is on identifying climate risks and integrating climate resilience in all CARE's projects.

### **1.7. Where can I find resources on the Climate Resilience Marker?**

You can access resources on the Climate Resilience Marker at the Climate Justice Hub [here](#). You can also contact Thuy-Binh Nguyen ([Nguyen@carefrance.org](mailto:Nguyen@carefrance.org)) or Robert Otim ([Robert.Otim@care.org](mailto:Robert.Otim@care.org)).

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities in Applying the Marker**

### **2.1. Who should be involved in applying the Climate Resilience Marker?**

At least three Country Office staff should be involved: preferably a project coordinator (manager), a MEAL officer who is recommended to be a facilitator of the process, and a climate technical officer. The process should be led by CO but relevant CMPs and other key partners are encouraged to participate. If you do not have a climate technical officer, reach out Thuy-Binh Nguyen ([Nguyen@carefrance.org](mailto:Nguyen@carefrance.org)) or Robert Otim ([Robert.Otim@care.org](mailto:Robert.Otim@care.org)).

Regional CARE staff, CO resource mobilization teams, and CMPs can use the Climate Resilience Marker for both active and proposed projects. It is beneficial to engage a facilitator familiar with the Climate Resilience Marker preferably a MEL or a PQ lead and to verify information with colleagues or external agencies.

### **2.2. Who should be listed as the Climate Marker reviewer in the vetting form?**

Ideally everyone participating in the review process should be listed. If this is not possible then it should be the project manager and the person responsible for MEAL.

### **2.3. What is the CMP's role in applying the Climate Resilience Marker?**

The CMP responsible for a project ensures that a Climate Resilience Marker is applied during the project design phase.

During project implementation and close-out, the CMP responsible for a project is encouraged to engage in the vetting process. This includes sending reminders, collaborating with the country team, and reviewing the completed marker before entering the data into the PIIRS.

## **3. Timing and Process of Applying the Marker**

### **3.1. When a project/ initiative is still at concept note stage, should we apply the Climate Resilience Marker?**

The Climate Resilience Marker should be applied at the proposal phase. At the concept note stage, it is not a mandatory but the development of the concept note should take into account how climate can impact the project's objectives and how such impacts can be mitigated.

### **3.2. When a project or an initiative is still a proposal, it does not yet have a Project ID. What should I fill in the vetting form?**

If a project is in a proposal phase, then it does not need a code because it does not have a Project ID yet. Please leave this blank and in the next reporting cycle fill in the appropriate code.

### **3.3. When do you apply the Climate Resilience Marker?**

The Climate Resilience Marker is applied at multiple stages in the project/program cycle: during design, implementation (mid-term reviews), close-out (final evaluations), and annually in the PIIRS reporting cycle.

### **3.4. Should the Climate Resilience Marker be applied to all projects or just those that start in FY26?**

The Climate Resilience Marker should be applied to ALL CARE projects. In case the project team deems it not fit to apply the marker; clear reasons should be provided. Check question 3.9 for the criteria.

### **3.5. How long does it take to complete the Climate Resilience Marker Vetting Form?**

Completing the Climate Resilience Marker Vetting Form takes at least half a day, but the overall process can last several days depending on the project's complexity, composition and number of reviewers and data availability, allowing time for discussions, partner consultations, field visits, and secondary data collection.

### **3.6. Where do I report the Climate Resilience Marker after completion?**

The Climate Resilience Marker should be reported in PIIRS every July (Annual PIIRS reporting cycle).

### **3.7. Which documents should be uploaded to PIIRS [Document Repository Site](#) to support the validation and justification of the Climate Resilience Marker scores?**

The following documents should be uploaded to PIIRS Document Repository Site to support the justification and validation of the Climate Resilience Marker: project concept note, project proposal, project log frame or results framework, project workplan, CVA reports, and any documents which can provide necessary information to verify the answers provided in the Vetting Form (e.g., project baseline reports, mid-term reviews, final evaluations, etc.).

### **3.8. Can we do the vetting form mid-way through the project?**

Yes. If your project already started and has more than three months in duration, apply the Climate Resilience Marker by completing the vetting form. Likewise if your project started before the Climate Resilience Marker was implemented you need to apply the CRM to your project so long as it is implemented for more than 3 months in the FY.

### 3.9. How can we apply the marker for PIIRS reporting during the fiscal year?

Moments of the project/initiative	How the marker can be applied
<b>The project/initiative was just designed</b> (we have a proposal.	Apply marker and no need to report the score to PIIRS (PIIRS doesn't collect proposal data).
<b>The project/initiative had LESS than 3 months of implementation in the fiscal year.</b>	<b>It just started:</b> No need to reapply the marker yet. For PIIRS: report the score from the proposal <b>It just ended:</b> No need to apply the marker once more. For PIIRS: report most recent score from implementation.
<b>The project/initiative had MORE than 3 months of implementation in the fiscal year.</b>	Apply marker and report the score to PIIRS.

## 4. Applying the Climate Resilience Marker

### 4.1. Is the Climate Resilience Marker applied at the program or project level?

The Climate Resilience Marker is designed to be applied at the project level.

### 4.2. How should the Climate Resilience Marker be applied if a project or an initiative does not aim to mainstream climate resilience or address climate change, but the populations involved are still impacted by climate-related issues?

As the populations involved are impacted by climate change, the project will also be impacted. In order to mitigate such impacts to the project, the Climate Resilience Marker should be applied. The Mainstreaming of Climate Resilience should be applied in this situation.

### 4.3. In my country, we have a national Resilience/Climate Justice program strategy, with various projects contributing to this overall goal. Can I apply the Climate Resilience Marker once at the program level and then use the same scores for all individual project forms in PIIRS, given that they are part of the same program?

It is only possible if the entire program is implemented in the same location. Otherwise, it should not be the case. Based on experience, applying the marker at the program level is not feasible because different communities and projects face varying climate risks, which require context-specific assessments.

### 4.4. Can the Analysis component of the Climate Resilience Marker be assessed and scored at the program level, and then applied consistently across all related projects?

It is only possible if the entire program is implemented in the same location. If a Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) is conducted at the program level, the findings can be applied across the projects in the program. However, CVCA is a resource-intensive process, requiring 3–5 days per community plus preparation, making it costly and impractical to conduct at the program level.

For programs where climate change is cross-cutting, a cost-effective, desk-based analysis like the [2](#) can be used, as in humanitarian programs in Gaza. However, standalone climate resilience projects require community participation, making this approach unsuitable

**4.5. Can the Structural Change component be assessed and scored at the program level and applied across all projects? Since structural changes often extend beyond the scope of a single project, would this approach be appropriate?**

A single structural change can be applied across multiple projects if it covers all of them, such as a contingency plan at the CO level. However, most structural changes, like contingency plans, crisis modifiers, and advocacy activities, are project specific.

**4.6. If a project or an initiative is implemented as part of a consortium in which CARE runs only a small part of the wider project or initiative do we still need to complete the climate marker? If so, do we need to apply the Climate Resilience Marker to the whole project or just the part that CARE was part of?**

Yes, the Climate Resilience Marker is still applied. The Climate Resilience Marker should be applied to the whole project, not just the part(s) that CARE was involved in. It is therefore important to involve all consortium partners in the Vetting process for their endorsement and support.

**4.7. How should I determine whether my project or initiative is mainstreaming or building climate resilience?**

This is determined by the overall/primary objective/goal of the project, not sub- or specific objectives.

Mainstreaming Climate Resilience	Building Climate Resilience
CARE Ethiopia's Water programs in Amhara State Region with the objective of improving the food security and resilience of chronically food insecure households, especially rural women living in Belesa woredas of central Gondar.	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.
A CARE Yemen project with the objective of contributing to strengthening the EU's partnership with Yemini 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.	CARE Germany's CBA expected impact is to improve the resilience of people of all genders and social groups in Southern Africa to the impacts of climate change.

**4.8. If we do not have a crisis modifier in our project proposal but think it would be good to include. Should we tick the crisis modifier box?**

No. You should only tick boxes for which there is information in your project proposal. If there is no information in your project proposal, then please leave the boxes unticked.

**4.9. What if the (maladaptation) activities were not specifically outlined in the project proposal but were still implemented. Can we tick the maladaptation box then?**

Yes. Please upload necessary document to support the implementation of these measures to mitigate maladaptation.

**4.10. If we conducted a risk assessment as part of donor requirements, can I use this in the Climate Resilience Marker form?**

Yes.

## **5. Risk and Vulnerability Analyses in the Climate Resilience Marker**

**5.1. What is the maximum age for a risk assessment and participatory Climate and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) to remain valid for use?**

The risk assessment and participatory CVA must be less than 5 years old and should ideally have been conducted prior to the project implementation or at the first 6 months of project implementation. Various tools can be used such as the online tool [CEDRIG](#) (registration needed), [NEAT+](#), or [CARE's Climate and Vulnerability Analysis](#).

**5.2. Can the climate risk analysis be integrated into other studies like needs assessment, action research, baseline/mid-term and final evaluations?**

Yes, as long as you are able to identify key climate risks in the community and feasible measures to address the risks. It does not necessarily need to be an independent exercise.

**5.3. What if the project includes a climate vulnerability analysis but it was not participatory?**

In case climate resilience is mainstreamed in the project, the Climate vulnerability analysis can be desk study. But in case climate resilience is the main project objectives, it is strongly recommended to use a participatory approach.

**5.4. Do we have to use CVCA?**

No. Depending on the project you are doing. If your project is a climate resilience building one (climate stand-alone project), CVCA or similar tools such as Red Cross Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis is highly recommended. However, if climate resilience is mainstreamed, lighter tools such as NEAT+ or [CEDRIG](#) can be used.

## **6. Improving the Climate Resilience Marker Score**

**6.1. How do I know that my score is correct?**

In Section 4 - **Please describe the reasons that support your answers above** - At least one action must be taken in each section (ANALYSIS, ACTIVITY, STRUCTURAL CHANGE, MALADAPTATION) for the section to be considered complete and for the score to be confirmed.

**6.2. If my marker score is low, how can I improve it? Without additional budget?**

Climate change can be integrated into existing projects/initiatives. If you have agricultural projects, consider looking into climate resilient crops, VSLAs, or think about having contingency plans. For guidance and support, you can use the Catalogue of Best Practices to get some inspiration (**in development**), reach out to a climate technical expert, or CJC Program Quality Lead Thuy-Binh Nguyen ([nguyen@carefrance.org](mailto:nguyen@carefrance.org)) or CJC MEAL Lead Robert Otim ([robert.otim@care.org](mailto:robert.otim@care.org)), or visit the [Climate Resilience Marker page](#) on CARE Shares.

### 6.3. How do I know that my marker has improved over time?

We can see after the review of the PIIRS data.

### 6.4. What if my project or initiative score below 2 Fair?

According to [Program Quality Standards](#), a project should score a minimum 2 Fair. If this is not the case for your project, please see Question 6.1 for ways to improve your score or the Catalogue of Best Practices (in development).

## 7. Special Cases and Exceptions

### 7.1. If, in Section 1, the project is “NA (not applicable)” or “NR (not rated)”, what should we do? Does this mean my project won’t pass the go/no go phase?

If your choice is NA or NR, your project scores 0 which means no climate resilience integration. You should provide the justification for the choice, and you can stop the vetting process here but please contact CJC Program Quality Lead Thuy-Binh Nguyen ([nguyen@carefrance.org](mailto:nguyen@carefrance.org)) or CJC MEAL Lead Robert Otim ([robert.otim@care.org](mailto:robert.otim@care.org)).

### 7.2. In which cases will the Climate Resilience Marker not be applied?

There are three situations in which the CRM will not be applied.

- **Time situation:** if the months of implementation for the project is less than three months the CRM is not applied.
- **Topic situation:** if your project has nothing to do with communities because it is a pure research project, the Climate Resilience Marker is not applied.
- **No information:** you work in a very highly secured situation and no/ limited data is available to understand the climate risk situation

Please make sure to justify for your choice not using the Climate Resilience Marker while reporting in PIIRS.

## 8. Resources

### 8.1. What should I do if I need help?

You can reach out to Robert Otim ([Robert.Otim@care.org](mailto:Robert.Otim@care.org)) or Thuy-Binh Nguyen ([tbnguyen@carefrance.org](mailto:tbnguyen@carefrance.org)), visit the Climate Resilience Marker page on CARE Shares (internal: [Climate Marker](#)) or attend one of the annual orientation sessions that take place in June/July.