

# Livelihoods Indicator Bank

**Purpose:** To provide staff and partners with a set of suggested indicators and outputs for use in developing programmes and projects with Livelihoods outcomes.

It focuses on development indicators but there are also relief and rehabilitation indicators, as well as, policy/advocacy indicators (in Green). The list is not exhaustive but rather offers suggestions from which you can be inspired. It is not mandatory to use these indicators.

Deciding on which indicator to use depends on your programme design, what you want to measure and most importantly, what you have the capacity to monitor.

Remember:

- Align the language of your indicators with the language of the baseline surveys and general MEAL plan
- Include gender disaggregated data.

The bank is divided into five main intervention areas and their corresponding subthemes:

- climate resilient agriculture,
- local economic development
- livestock development
- water resource management
- resilience and sustainability

## Area of Intervention: **Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA)**

CRA is the terminology we are using under Match Fund III to talk about sustainable agricultural practices that respond to the challenges of climate change. There are many ways to talk about sustainable agriculture and some of them are politically charged and have negative connotations with CSOs, for instance Climate Smart Agriculture (which should be avoided). It is important that we have programming approaches that are coherent with our values and the terminology we use is important in that respect. CRA or Agroecology are terms which more aligned with our values.

<p><i>Diversification is a characteristic of resilience</i></p> <p><i>Soil conservation techniques include: using crop cover, mulching, composting, planting nitrogen fixing varieties...</i></p>	<p><b>Possible Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sustainable Production</li> <li>■ Agroforestry</li> <li>■ Provision of Inputs</li> <li>■ Seed Saving</li> <li>■ Trainings on agroecological/climate resilient techniques</li> <li>■ Improved post-harvest management for grains</li> <li>■ Food processing and preservation</li> <li>■ Access to Markets</li> <li>■ Others...</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of agro-ecological / CRA techniques: mulching, soil conservation, agroforestry, polycultures, integrating animal into cropping systems, water retention (bunds/ zai)...</p> <p>Sustainable agricultural production can yield multiple dividends, not only <u>food and nutritional security</u>, but also <u>income generation</u>, <u>environmental benefits</u> including the <u>regeneration of the natural resource base</u> (soil, water...), <u>social cohesion and conflict mitigation</u>.</p> <p><b>We could do more to shape or agricultural work so that it maximizes its full potential.</b></p>
<p><b>4 pillars of Food Security</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome: Small holder producers enjoy improved sustainable production and marketing</b></p>	

**Access** – refers to the ability to produce one’s own food or buy it, which implies having the purchasing power to do so.

**Availability** – still a problem in areas where food production does not meet population needs,

**Utilization** – from a nutritional, sanitary, sensory and socio-cultural point of view.

Food security integrates the notion of food safety.

**Stability** – in terms of availability, accessibility and quality. This fourth pillar incorporates issues of price stability and securing

Our indicators on food security should capture the breadth on which these pillars stand when possible

**CAFOD has defined its approach to nutrition as holistic, integrating resilience and diversification into small holder farming systems.**

**Diversity on the Farm = Diversity on the plate.** Hence a more diverse farm is a proxy for a more diverse diet and improved nutrition

It is useful to do soil testing, if possible, before the project starts and at different

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- # of HH using CRA/agro-ecological methods / techniques
- # of HH using organic compost
- # of HH saving seed

- Variety (# of types) of food produced on farm

- Amount of income / profit generated from crop sales (monthly, semester, bi-annual or annual)

- # of HH using secure/ventilated granaries after harvest
- Degree of community satisfaction with government extension service
- Land tenure secured

**Example Output Indicator**

- # of farmers trained in CRA/agro-ecological techniques
- # of HH trained in making organic compost
- # of HH trained in seed saving
- # of new varieties introduced

Note this indicator can be used both for soil improvements (hence improved production), income diversification, as well as nutritional benefit.

- # of people trained in participatory marketing
- # of markets accessed

- # of people receiving trainings on post-harvest storage
- # or frequency field visits made by agricultural extension staff to communities
- # of meetings with government officials to discuss tenure

**Outcome: Improved protection and conservation of productive resources**

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- # of HH using CRA/agroecological methods
- Hectares of land rehabilitated
- # of HH practicing soil conservation techniques

- # of people using improved cook stoves
- Hectares of land reforested / under agro-forestry

**Example Output Indicator**

- # of HHs trained in CRA/agroecological methods
- % share of cropland (ha) under integrated pest management
- Share of land under conservation/ composting/ soil rehabilitation efforts
- Land area (ha) under soil conservation techniques
- # of people receiving soil rehabilitation / conservation trainings
- # of improved cook stoves distributed
- # of people receiving environmental education or trained in forest conservation / agro-forestry

**Outcome: Improved Food and Nutritional Security**

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- Variety of food groups consumed in the last period (daily/ weekly)
- # of HH having improved knowledge about nutrition
- # and/or % of targeted individuals/households reporting increased quantity (size of meals) and/or improved quality

**Example Output Indicator**

- Variety of crops (types of crops) produced on farm
- # of HH who have established home gardens for diversified food production
- # of people receiving nutritional / food preparation training
- # of people trained on nutrition/ food preparation

*intervals in the project to notice any changes in composition, Ph, acidity...*

- # and/or % of targeted individuals/households reporting missed meals in given period (over the past week for instance – capture different times of the year)
- numbers of meal missed by women in the HH (weekly)
- # of HH reporting a decrease in length of the hungry period compared to last year in targeted communities
- # of meals consumed per day (immediately after harvest, 6 months after harvest).
- # of community members participating in local food councils
- # of community members participating in other types of food/nutritional fora
- # of people who received food aid
- # of people who received seeds (*also useful for relief interventions in refugee camps*)
- # of meetings with local authorities to discuss relevant food security policies
- # of food related policy issues influenced
- # of linkages made with food security policy stakeholders

**Area of Intervention:** *Local Economic Development*

*The wider economic benefits to the community as a result of the project. This is ultimately what we are striving for.*

*Important whenever possible to make linkages between our initiatives and the wider benefits they could bring to the community.*

**Possible Activities**

- Enterprise development /
- income generation
- community savings and loans schemes
- Marketing groups
- Vocational training

This level of intervention looks at projects which, even if focused on individuals, have a wider impact in the local economy and tries to make visible the links between the projects and the wider economic benefits

*At this level, the outcome is more macro. Advocacy initiatives will feature strongly*

**Outcome:** *Local economies are strengthened*

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- % of raw materials (ex. local fruit used in jam making) sourced from within the community
- # of jobs created
- Level of satisfaction with a service (e.g. from a public or private service provider)
- # of stakeholders actively engaged in marketing strategy implementation
- Change in volume of business

**Example Output Indicator**

- # of people trained in participatory marketing
- Numbers of local suppliers identified
- Number of buyers established
- Market analysis conducted
- # of service providers trained
- # of people receiving vocational training

*We assume that by investing in individuals and HH the whole community benefits, this is more explicit for some projects than others.*

- Communities using evidence to influence decision makers to
- # of meetings with local authorities to discuss local development plans

Our program guidelines on enterprise development include some useful indicators and can support programmes in improving intervention design

Means of verification for policy indicators can include: videos, testimony, newspaper clippings.

These indicators focus more on the micro benefits to individuals/ HH/ groups as a result of the intervention

- support local economic development
- Local authorities commit to procure x% directly from producer/processing groups
- Community members contribute to drafting local development plans
- Changes in policy or regulations as a result of the advocacy intervention

- # of position papers developed
- Participation in networks

**Outcome: Increased financial resources and other assets available to households**

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- # of household reporting an increase in income per week/month/year
- Net additional income for groups
- % of HH reporting increase in assets accumulated (livestock, tools, mobiles, transport...)
- # of people using new value addition skills learnt
- Profit margins for individually owned small businesses (quarterly, bi-annually or annually)
- # of children in the HH whose school expenses paid for by the family
- # of households reporting improved access to financial services

**Example Output Indicator**

- Monthly sales of produce by income generation /value addition groups (livestock, honey, vegetables, grains...)
- # of people trained in new value addition/ food processing skills
- # of people trained in vocational skills
- # of income generation groups formed
- # of people linked to financial services as a result of the project
- Co-op (or group) business plans in place

**Area of Intervention: Livestock Development**

**Possible Activities**

- Restocking/destocking
- Breeding improvements
- Fodder production
- Animal draught

LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards: <http://www.livestock-emergency.net/>) provides some standards and indicators for emergency livestock interventions.

**Outcome:**

Increased food security through availability of milk and meat  
 Increased income from sales of livestock and milk  
 Improved livestock production through improved animal husbandry (animal health,

cross breeding and herd management)  
 Improved agricultural production through the integration of the animals and holistic management

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- # of households reporting an increased level of milk/meat production (measured by no. of cups / litres of milk produced)
- # of households producing surplus milk/ meat for sale
- # of HH reporting an increase in livestock assets
- Percent increase in monthly/annual income from sales of livestock
- Increase in fodder production / # of families reporting self-sufficiency in fodder production

**Example Output Indicator**

- People trained in animal husbandry
- # of people trained in improved breeding
- # of people trained in improved feeding (ex moringa cakes)
- # of people trained in holistic management

**Area of Intervention: Water Resource Management**

*In an effort to address the interconnectedness between water and livelihoods – particularly relevant in agriculture*

*Water retention techniques include half-moon/ zai, mulching, swales, subterranean damns ...*

**Possible Activities**

- Catchment management approach
- Soil rehabilitation and fixing
- Terracing
- Multiple Uses of water services
- Community based monitoring of water quality and quantity

**Outcome:** Groundwater and surface water recharging and reduction in soil erosion

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- % increase in length of growing seasons

**Example Output Indicator**

- # of people trained in water retention techniques

**Area of Intervention: Resilience and sustainability**

*Resilience (of the transformation kind) is difficult to measure. The transformational view of resilience is particularly useful for understanding how a community can respond positively to change. The view of resilience as transformation embraces the dynamic character of communities and human-ecosystem. Deterministic views of resilience which see resilience as a community simply returning to a pre-existing state do not incorporate this level of transformational complexity. Resilience can be seen in terms of ecological, social and economic.*

**Possible Activities**

*Integration of projects interventions is one pathway to increase resilience.*

- Trainings on other livelihoods options
- Linking participants to other local initiatives

Resilience is increasingly becoming and important area in development and for CAFOD. We have the Resilience and Sustainability Cluster which can help answer any questions on how to have a

*Diversification of income streams is a proxy for economic resilience*

- Facilitation of linkages with local government services
- Trainings on environmental management
- Group building

more **integrated approach to programmes.**

**Outcome: Economic Resilience** and Diversification of income

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- # of HH reporting more than one income source (after the intervention)
- Share of income dependent on livestock (we expect to see a decrease in this as people diversify livelihoods)
- # of HH reporting assets (including livestock) reconstituted after shock

**Example Output Indicator**

- # people trained on vocational skills
- # of linkages made to job centres / vocational centres

**Outcome: Social Resilience** strengthened

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- Numbers of groups still functioning after x years

**Example Output Indicator**

- # producers/farmers/processors organized to work collectively
- # of producer/ processor groups/ savings & loans groups formed

**Outcome: Environmental Resilience**

**Example Outcome Indicator**

- % of HH reporting increased levels of environmental awareness and responsible use of natural resources
- # of families reporting reduced wood consumption due to the use of improved stoves.
- # ha of rangeland reclaimed
- # of water sources rehabilitated / built
- # and % of households reporting increased/improved natural assets (productive land, sustainable management of forests and water sources)

**Example Output Indicator**

- # of water sources rehabilitated / built
- # of CMDRR groups trained and supported
- # of people trained in environmental management
- # of ha reforested

*The indicators contained here are just references and suggestions related to the interface between livelihoods and environment.*

*Our environmental work is under development.*

- Local land use plans developed with community engagement

- # of community leaders/ Local government authorities receiving trainings in natural resource management and/ or land use
- # of community delegates participating in local land use plans
- Participation in networks
- Number of community meetings held

