Social analysis – training outline and coaching trajectory

VCA4D social experts' workshop, Brussels, 31st March-4th April 2025

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Content

1. Introduction

The present document outlines the structure for trainings or coaching to be held on the social analysis. Training material such as slides or videos will be completed once there is agreement on the structure of the training. The training content in any case will be mostly based on the 'Training Guidelines to the VCA4D Social Profile' and on the VCA4D Social Profile, as well as on the additional material provided in the bibliography.

2. Social analysis Training objective

The training aims to equip participants - particularly social experts and agrifood value chain (VC) professionals - with the skills to analyse social inclusiveness and sustainability within agrifood VCs through the use of the Social Profile tool and other components of the VCA4D methodology.

2.1 Learning Objectives:

- To gain a broad understanding of the overall VCA4D programme.
- To apply the VCA4D social analysis framework and tools, including the Social Profile, to assess the social sustainability and inclusiveness of VCs.
- To be able to formulate final recommendations for policymakers.
- To gain a deeper understanding of how to integrate the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of VC analysis.

2.2 Targeted beneficiaries

Social experts specialized in rural sociology, anthropology, geography, economics or development studies, and agrifood VC experts, preferably with experience in the country of interest.

2.3 Training calendar

Eight sessions (online or in-person) of 2hs each 2*8 = 16 hours.

Two follow-up sessions, if needed:

- Refresher sessions: on-line mentoring.
- On the job coaching is also a possibility.

2.4 Training formats

A combination of formats may be adapted to different training contexts:
- Online classes for setting the scene and introducing the Social Profile.
- Online interactive workshops including participatory sessions.
- In-person workshops: trainees working in groups to conduct social analyses of specific agrifood VCs, then presenting findings and recommendations.
- On the job coaching incorporating field visits.

3. Training and coaching trajectory

For both training and coaching activities on the social analysis, a logical series of steps is envisaged, which cover all the work to be carried out by the social expert. These steps are grouped into three distinct stages (Figure 1):

1. The social expert's contribution to the functional analysis: setting the scene for the VC and building the blocks of the functional analysis.
2. The social analysis itself: background of the social analysis; approaching the six domains of the social analysis; analysing the qualitative and quantitative data; using the Excel tool of the Social Profile.
3. The social expert's contribution to cross-cutting issues and to general risk assessment, conclusions and recommendations of the VC study as a whole: responding to "Is the VC's economic growth inclusive?"
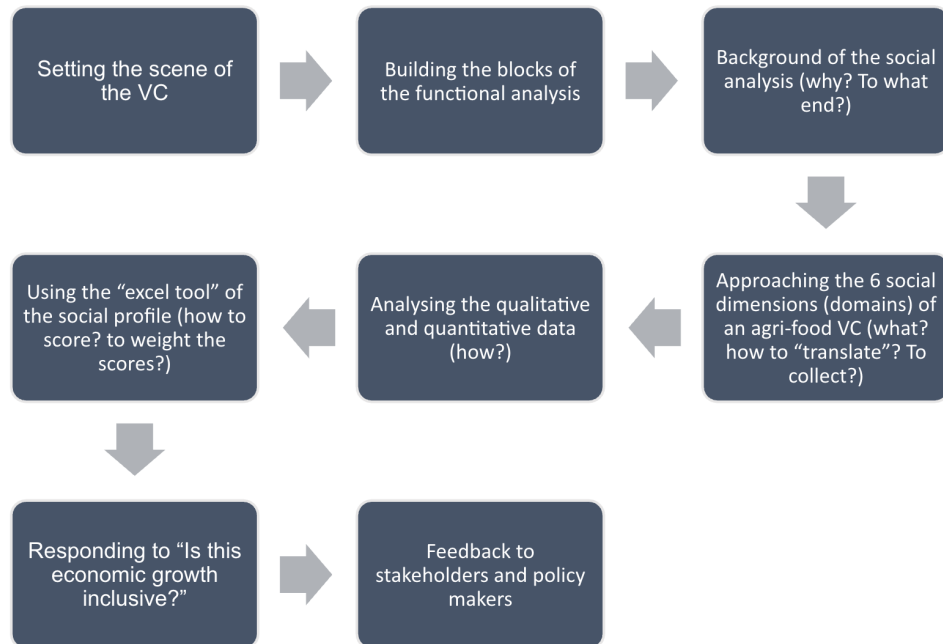
Figure 1. Steps of the training and coaching trajectory

3.1 Main features of each step and support resources

According to the experience of the persons trained or coached, the first two steps can be a relatively brief recap on previous training (e.g. briefings with the VCA4D Project Management Unit), with the support of the VCA4D Methodological brief.

Step 1: Setting the scene for the VC

To be able to set the scene and identify key issues and opportunities of the VC, the trainees need to have a good understanding of the local context and recent history of the VC (through literature review and open interviews with key persons). In the case of training for preparation of a specific VC study in a given country, there is a need to provide some concrete material from the local context and VC to prepare the first mission. The idea is NOT to produce an overview report of a country or its agriculture sector.

Step 2: Building the blocks of the functional analysis

To be able to define a common basis to develop the specific analysis, the trainees will need to know how to delimit the boundaries of the VC, agreeing on its scope (location of activities, definition of the different operations along the VC, identification of the agents involved) and also on the sub-chains to be studied. It is important to consider social criteria in the design of the typology of actors, particularly working conditions (like formality of employment), land rights, gender and social capital. The typology of actors is a synthesis of the work of the

economic, environmental and social experts, thus there is a need to consider criteria relevant also to the economic and environmental analyses and reach a compromise.

The trainees will also have to master the elements of governance analysis, particularly concerning the strategies of actors and the characterisation of horizontal and vertical coordination, so that they can discuss the functioning of governance structures and the functional relations between actors per sub-chain and therefore lay the foundations for the analysis of social capital and power relations within the VC.

See the section on "How should the social expert contribute to the general cross-sectional and risk assessment analysis? In the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Analysis.

Step 3: Background of the social analysis

See the section on " Being the social expert in the VCA4D team" in the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Profile.

Step 4: Approaching the six domains of the social analysis

See the section on "The Questionnaire" in the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Profile.

Step 5: Analysing the qualitative and quantitative data

See the section on "How should the social expert respond to the framing question: 'Is the value chain socially sustainable?'", in the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Profile.

Step 6: Use the Excel tool of the Social Profile

See the section on "How should the social expert respond to the framing question: 'Is the value chain socially sustainable?'", in the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Profile.

Step 7: Responding to: Is the VC economic growth inclusive?"

See the section on "How should the social expert respond to the framing question: 'Is the VC economic growth inclusive?', in the Training Guidelines for the VCA4D Social Profile.

Step 8: Feedback to stakeholders and policy makers

Once the trainees are equipped to answer the framing question on the social sustainability of the VC, after completing the first six steps, and to contribute to the general cross-sectional and risk assessment analysis, the trainees can prepare their feedback to stakeholders and policy makers.

Evaluation tools will be designed to assess the training effectiveness