



Gender Sensitive Value Chain Analysis (GSVCA) Guide

I. WHAT IS VCA?

A value chain describes the sequence of inputs required to develop a product, i.e. land, raw materials, capital, labour, information, and the value of each. Value Chain Analysis (VCA) seeks to identify what value is being added where, and how the final market price is distributed through the chain.

VCA is used to elucidate why many of the potential benefits of globalisation fail to reach the very poor; and why particular countries and particular types of enterprise find it difficult to enter certain sectors. Within the ILO, VCA is now increasingly used as a methodology for identifying appropriate points of intervention for a 'Decent Work' agenda to provide opportunities for all people to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of equity, freedom, security and dignity.

II. WHAT IS THE GSVCA GUIDE?

Current VCA methodologies should focus more on how gender relations impact on different parts of a value chain. The GSVCA guide takes an explicitly gendered approach and applies principles of participatory approaches to VCA. The GSVCA highlights the complex socio-cultural and economic factors involved in value chains, for example:

- Large parts of the value chain, which are essential to upgrading, are ignored - particularly home working, out-sourcing, and temporary work.
- Enterprises are arbitrarily assumed to be mal- owned even when women and other family workers may be very important to their management and operation.
- Gender inequalities are often central to explaining why different parts of the chain are resistant to growth.
- Gender inequalities are often key causes of poverty for both women and men, and hence important in explaining how different parts of the chain interact.

III. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the guide is to improve the effectiveness, equity and outreach of development interventions in the SME sector that use value chain analysis, through the inclusion of gender dimensions in mapping, analysis and subsequent interventions. The principal objectives of the guide are:

- Improved participation in, and quality of, outcomes for women in SME development interventions.
- Improved capacity among value chain practitioners to see gender equality in VCA as an essential component of poverty reduction and economic growth.

IV. TARGET GROUP

The guide is aimed at SME development practitioners working on value chain analysis, namely:

- Those involved in VCA who are looking for ways to improve the accuracy, relevance and usefulness of their work and subsequent policy recommendations;
- Those involved in VCA who want to ensure that their work leads to recommendations which empower, rather than disadvantage women - and hence boost employment creation, economic growth and poverty reduction;
- Those working in VCA who wish to make the transition from external academic mapping and analysis to promoting an effective and sustainable strategic learning process.

V. METHOD OF INTERVENTION

The guide can be used to train and support VCA practitioners to carry out ‘gender inclusive’ VCA. The Guide promotes gender analysis as part of a new, participatory approach for practitioners in VCA, i.e. action learning through participatory VCA can be used as part of a sustainable participatory process for strategic planning and ongoing development of value chains.

VI. CONTACT PERSONS

ILO Geneva	Joni Simpson	simpson@ilo.org
Eastern Africa	Jealous Chirove	chirove@ilo.org
Southern Africa	Grania Mackie	mackie@ilo.org
South East Asia	Anna Engblom	engblom@ilo.org
Arab States	Simel Esim	esim@ilo.org
Russia and Central Asia	Irina Melekh	melekh@ilo.org