

VLMAP: Nurturing Community-led Development



Guidelines, Sustainability, and Benefit Sharing for MegARISE Project

VLMAP Template and Guidelines

Template & Guidelines

Contingency Fund

Practical tips

Community Contributions

Operations & Maintenance

Why Beneficiaries Should Share

CROP-Q

VLMAP is a **participatory planning** tool under MegARISE Project.
Based on **FPIC**, Financial Participatory Approach (**FPA**) and **PRA**

Short and crisp template covers geography, socio-economy, resources, gender, SWOT, and action plan

Most of the information can be collected during preliminary visits

Finalized using PRA tools: Transect walks, mapping, FGDs, seasonal calendars, and prioritization (**2days**)

Prioritization of interventions
most important exercise; community vs individual benefit activities

Optimal ignorance
Don't forget "Optimal ignorance" while collecting information

Annual review
VLMAP revised annually to stay relevant

Contingency Fund in VLMAP

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- 10% of total estimated budget in VLMAP; to be included in the cost estimates/work orders
- Provides VPIC and CMU budget flexibility for interventions at village.

SL. No.	Activities	No. of sites	Total Plan	Unit	No of benefit-ting HHs	Estimated Cost [INR]*			
						Material	Wages	Total	Community contribution to O&M*
	Total of Activities					33,58,116	46,42,486	80,00,602	4,64,249
	Contingencies (10%)					3,35,812	4,64,249	8,00,060	
	Grand Total					36,93,928	51,06,734	88,00,662	4,64,249

What can this be used for

Minor cost over-runs for activities / interventions

New activity within the framework of the project

Any other unforeseen expenditure at the village level

Environmental Social, Health, and Safety (ESHS)

Some practical tips

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Budget

Keep VLMAP budget below INR 1 crore; larger villages, if performing well, may add more in the 3rd year.

Relevance & Feasibility

Do a quick assessment and site visit to see if proposed activity is doable, relevant and feasible

Community First

Prioritize interventions that benefit the whole community over those that help only a few individuals

Quality & Completion

Never compromise. If budget is short:

- First discuss with the community,
- Then reach out to supervisor for more resources,
- If still not possible, use contingency funds.

Capacity Building

Strengthen VPIC & VCFs through not just training, but also handholding and mentoring to ensure ownership and continuity

Community Decision

It's fine to give good ideas, but the final decision must be the community's.

Some practical tips

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10% of wage labour cost contributed by communities. Aim for more. If they own it, they will contribute.

Open separate bank account and transfer funds on quarterly basis. After one year, ask for matching contribution from KfW funds.

Funds deposited for O&M of project assets. Can be used from third year onwards.

Promotes accountability, ownership, and sustainability.

Includes voluntary labor, local materials, and funds

Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

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- Dedicated O&M fund from community contributions and matching grant
- VPIC responsible for monitoring and upkeep
- Covers infrastructure like check dams, plantations, water storage
- A general O&M plan and mechanism for the use of funds should be developed.

What should this be used for

Repair and maintenance of SWC and community infrastructure

Upkeep of community AR and ANR

ESHS, preventive measures

Why Beneficiaries Should 'SHARE' Benefits

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Why Beneficiaries Should Share

CROP-Q

Supports O&M
funds for
sustainability

Helps vulnerable
households

Aligns with
collective decision-
making

Reflects cultural values,
reciprocity & solidarity

Ensures equity and
fairness

CROP-Q: Cultivate Your VLMAP with Quality

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C

Community benefits (while prioritizing)

R

Resources from community (contribution during implementation)

O

Optimal ignorance (while collecting information)

P

Plan for O&M (before handover)

Q

Quality (before you call it complete)

Thank you

