



Independent Synthesis of Direct Access in the Green Climate Fund

1. Context

The 2022 workplan of the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) was approved at the 30th meeting of the Board, held virtually from 4 to 7 October 2021. The approved workplan includes an independent synthesis of direct access in the GCF.

2. Purpose and objectives

The Independent Synthesis of Direct Access in the GCF will adopt a utilization-focused framework, with an objective of being beneficial to its intended users in terms of providing learning, informing decision-making, and assessing and improving the GCF's overall performance. The IEU, the GCF Board, the Secretariat, other independent units, national designated authorities/focal points, civil society organizations, private sector organizations, accredited entities, direct access entities (DAEs), and other delivery partners are identified as key and potential users of this synthesis. In line with the overall utilization-focused framework, the team will work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure the synthesis is appropriately participatory, consultative and engaging.

3. Scope

The Independent Synthesis will look at the following questions and sub-questions:

1. Does direct access fit in with the GCF's mandate and business model and respond to the needs of its partner countries?
 - Is the direct access theory of change (ToC) clear, focused and fit-for-purpose relative to the GCF mandate?
 - Is the direct access ToC clear, focused and fit-for-purpose relative to developing countries' priorities?
 - To what extent have the GCF's business model and processes (e.g., fast-tracked accreditation, Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, Project Preparation Facility) been relevant to the specific needs of the direct access modality and DAEs?
 - Has the GCF learned from the experiences of other entities regarding direct access, and applied lessons learned?
2. What are the results of direct access?
 - Has the GCF effectively met its mandate on delivering financing through DAEs to countries?



- How efficient is direct access within the GCF, and has this evolved over time? How effective have the GCF's DAEs been in submitting funding proposals?
 - Are DAEs addressing the needs of vulnerable and indigenous groups, and gender aspects?
 - Has the implementation of direct access within the GCF led to unexpected results and/or lessons learned?
3. How does direct access contribute to the paradigm shift necessary to deal with the climate emergency?
- Does direct access help national strategic long-term climate thinking and action, contributing to a sustained paradigm shift at the country level?
 - How does direct access contribute to the GCF's targets at portfolio level and its objective to promote a paradigm shift towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways in countries?
 - What are the scenarios that can lead to increased direct access in the GCF portfolio? What benefits, downsides and tensions do these scenarios imply?

4. Methods

The Independent Synthesis will use the following methods:

- Literature review of GCF documents and IEU evaluations
- Theory of change analysis
- Analysis of quantitative data harvested through IEU and GCF datasets
- Stakeholder consultations and interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Entity deep dives

5. Deep dives

Deep dives are learning-oriented exercises, which will involve looking closely at DAEs, portfolios and themes of interest through desk-based data collection, document review and interviews. The Independent Synthesis will undertake four deep dives of different entities representing DAEs of different stages of operational maturity, diverse geographic areas, representation of private sector DAEs. In addition, attempts will be made to ensure the inclusion of DAEs based in the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States and a regional DAE. The evaluation team will also build on country case studies carried out by other ongoing IEU evaluations: namely, the Second Performance Review of the GCF, and the Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of the GCF's Investments in the African States.

CONTACT THE IEU

Independent Evaluation Unit
Green Climate Fund
175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu
Incheon 22004
Republic of Korea

☎ (+82) 032-458-6450
✉ ieu@gcfund.org
🌐 ieu.greenclimate.fund



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