



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Independent
Evaluation
Unit



EQA Highlights Report
September 2025

Highlights Report:

Evaluation Quality Assessment of AE- led-Project Evaluations



Highlights Report: Evaluation Quality Assessment of AE-led- Project Evaluations

09/2025

© 2025 Green Climate Fund Independent Evaluation Unit
175, Art center-daero
Yeonsu-gu, Incheon 22004
Republic of Korea
Tel. (+82) 032-458-6450
Email: ieu@gcfund.org
<https://ieu.greenclimate.fund>

All rights reserved.

First Edition

This paper is a product of the Independent Evaluation Unit at the Green Climate Fund (GCF/IEU). It is part of a larger effort to provide open access to its research and work and to make a contribution to climate change discussions around the world.

While the IEU has undertaken every effort to ensure the data in this report is accurate, it is the reader's responsibility to determine if any and all information provided by the IEU is correct and verified. Neither the author(s) of this document nor anyone connected with the IEU or the GCF can be held responsible for how the information herein is used.

Rights and permissions

The material in this work is copyrighted. Copying or transmitting portions all or part of this report without permission may be a violation of applicable law. The IEU encourages dissemination of its work and will normally grant permission promptly. Please send requests to ieu@gcfund.org.

Citation

The suggested citation for this paper is:

Independent Evaluation Unit (2025). *Highlights report: Evaluation Quality Assessment of AE-led project evaluations*. Septemember. Songdo, South Korea: Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund.

Credits

Head of the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit: Andreas Reumann

Evaluation task lead: Genta Konci

Editing: Greg Clough

Layout and design: Ewnetu Kefale and Josephine Wambui Ngala

A FREE PUBLICATION

Printed on eco-friendly paper

Table of Contents

Abbreviations.....	d
A. Background.....	1
B. Quality Assessment Tool.....	2
C. Quality Assessment Process.....	3
D. Quality Assessment Results.....	4
1. Results for Overall Quality.....	4
2. Results for alignment with GCF standards.....	6
3. Coverage of GCF Evaluation Criteria.....	7
4. Alignment Across Dimensions.....	8
E. Most Identified Challenges and Gaps in Project Evaluations.....	8
F. AE-led Project evaluations impacts.....	10
G. Areas of Consideration.....	17
ANNEX Scoring Metrics and Ratings.....	18
REFERENCES.....	20

List of Tables

Table 1.	Current Portfolio of Received AE-led Evaluations.....	3
Table 2.	Detailed results around impact.....	12
Table 3.	List of Project Evaluation Reports Considered by the IEU.....	18

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Characteristics of Sample.....	4
Figure 2.	Overall Results of the Quality Assessment Ratings (# of reports).....	5
Figure 3.	Average Scores for each Section of the Assessment Tool23F (percent)	5
Figure 4.	Distribution of Assessment Results Rating the Alignment to the GCF Standards (# of reports).....	6
Figure 5.	Average Score by GCF Standards (percent)	7
Figure 6.	Coverage of GCF Evaluation Criteria (# of reports).....	8

Abbreviations

AE	Accredited Entity
AES	Accredited Entity-led Evaluation
EQAA	Evaluation Quality Assurance and Assessment
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EQA	Evaluation Quality Assessment
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IEU	Independent Evaluation Unit
LDC	Least Developed Country
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

A. Background

In line with the *Evaluation Policy for the GCF*, the IEU is requested to "perform quality assurance upon request by the board"¹ to ensure that evaluations led by accredited entities (AEs) effectively implement the GCF Evaluation Policy, including the evaluation criteria and standards of the GCF. As part of these efforts, IEU has introduced a process for the independent assessment² of the quality of AE-led project evaluations to enhance credibility, consistency, and overall quality.

The assessment process is designed for both accountability and learning purposes. Project evaluations are individually and collectively assessed on the extent to which they meet *Green Climate Fund Evaluation Standards*³ and relevant expectations set out in the *Evaluation Policy for the GCF, including the GCF's Evaluation Criteria* and guidance documents,⁴ as well as by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). Ratings are accompanied by narrative feedback on key strengths and areas for improvement of individual evaluations and the portfolio as a whole.

Results of this quality assessment will support the IEU to further tailor its guidance and support to AEs and the Secretariat of the GCF. The assessment tool will be made public. Results will also be shared with the AEs to inform their evaluation managers and evaluators. The overall aim is to inform about and subsequently improve the overall quality of evaluations of GCF-financed projects, as seen in other United Nations entities that have adopted independent assessment practices.

The EQA framework and assessment tool were developed by the IEU supported by external experts of DeftEdge.⁵ The framework is based on GCF evaluation requirements and the Secretariat's quality assurance procedures while incorporating good practices and lessons learned from other international organizations.

This highlights report provides information on the quality assessment tool, pilot of 18 interim and final project evaluations, and the lessons learnt from the application of the tool to-date. This quality assessment will be conducted periodically by the Independent Evaluation Unit to inform about the quality of the project evaluation portfolio of the GCF and progress with the implementation of the Evaluation Policy of the GCF.

Key findings of this first assessment phase: As detailed below, the assessments revealed considerable variations in how well evaluations met UNEG and GCF-specific expectations. Fewer

¹ Green Climate Fund (2021). *Evaluation Policy for the GCF*, p. 7. Songdo, South Korea.

<https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/evaluation-policy-gcf.pdf>.

² Evaluation quality assurance differs from evaluation quality assessment. As per UNFPA's Evaluation Quality Assurance and Assessment system, "Quality assurance takes place throughout each phase of the evaluation, and quality assessment occurs after an evaluation is completed. An external independent reviewer assesses the final evaluation report against established quality standards and criteria".

³ Independent Evaluation Unit (2022). *Green Climate Fund Evaluation Standards*. Songdo, South Korea.

<https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/220428-gcf-evaluation-standards-web.pdf>.

⁴ Including the GCF Monitoring and Accountability Framework for Accredited Entities, the Evaluation Policy for the GCF (2021), the GCF Integrated Results Management Framework (2020), the GCF Results Handbook for IRMF (draft, 2022), and the GCF Evaluation Guidelines (2023).

⁵ DeftEdge is contracted under a Long-Term Agreement with GCF to provide evaluation support services.

than 20% of the reviewed reports were rated as meeting or exceeding expectations, and 50% as needing significant improvement. In many cases, missing information may have led to lower ratings. Most evaluators adequately addressed whether projects were meeting intended results. However, many evaluations fell short in other important areas set out in the GCF Standards. These included ensuring participatory processes, applying and documenting ethical practices, and clearly explaining the methods used. While most reports addressed the required GCF evaluation criteria, their approach was often inconsistent, with significant variation in depth of coverage.

B. Quality Assessment Tool

The EQA tool is a structured rubric that provides quantitative ratings and qualitative feedback to assess the standard of the evaluation report and identify areas for improvement. The tool is organized around three dimensions:

- 1. Adherence to UNEG standards and GCF-specific expectations:** This includes aspects such as coverage of environmental and social safeguards, and reporting on climate adaptation and resilience results. This part of the tool comprises nine sections, each with a series of questions rated on a four-point scale. Sections are weighted according to their relative importance, with greatest emphasis placed on findings and methodology. The final scores yield an overall report rating of Exceptional (96-100%), Very Good (90-95%), Good (75-89%), Fair (50-74%) or Unsatisfactory (<50%).
- 2. Coverage of GCF's evaluation criteria:** The tool assesses the extent to which GCF criteria are addressed. This is supplemented by a checklist that provides a visual depiction of the extent to which each criterion is covered. The checklist has four rating options: *(i) Yes, (ii) Partial, (iii) No, and (iv) Not Applicable (N/A)*. 'Yes' is used when reviewers consider the level of analysis to be adequate, and 'Partial' is used when the respective criterion is briefly addressed.
- 3. Alignment with GCF evaluation standards:** This dimension examines adherence to the Evaluation Policy of the Green Climate Fund's 15 standards, using questions from the GCF Evaluation Standards⁶ and GCF evaluation guidelines for AEs.⁷ These questions reflect requirements that can reasonably be expected in an evaluation report or its terms of reference (ToR). Since many elements in the Standards are principles not typically detailed in reports, this tool does not comprehensively assess AE compliance with GCF's Standards. It is particularly limited in the absence of ToR. In such cases, Cannot Rate is used, as none of the four rating options apply. Despite these limitations, this assessment still provides useful

⁶ Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund Evaluation Standards (Songdo, South Korea, 2022). Available at <https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/220428-gcf-evaluation-standards-web.pdf>.

⁷ Green Climate Fund, Evaluation: Operational procedures and guidelines for Accredited Entity-led evaluations (Songdo, South Korea, 2022). Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/evaluation-operational-procedures-and-guidelines-accredited-entity-led-evaluations>.

insights into the emphasis AEs and evaluators place on different aspects of the Standards and supports the identification of good practices that can be shared.

C. Quality Assessment Process

To confirm the applicability of the EQA tool to the range of GCF investments, a sampling process was used to select AE-led project evaluations to be assessed during this first phase. From the total pool of project evaluations submitted to GCF, 122 evaluations were recorded, including 110 interim and 12 final reports as of 01 March 2025. The sampling applied a clear inclusion criterion: only reports marked “Review Completed” by the GCF Secretariat were eligible for IEU assessment process, ensuring only finalized documents appeared in the sampling. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the current portfolio of AE-led evaluations.

Table 1. Current Portfolio of Received AE-led Evaluations

	INTERIM EVALUATIONS	FINAL EVALUATIONS	TOTAL
Total reports	110	12	122
Review completed (eligible for inclusion)	53	7	60
In review	55	4	59
Sent back to AE	2	1	3

Source: IEU

Note: This table provides an overview of the project evaluation portfolio available to the GCF Secretariat as of 1 March 2025. The Secretariat reviews interim and final project evaluation reports submitted by the AEs. Once the Secretariat found a project evaluation report compliant and accurate, it will be considered “complete”. The IEU only considered such reports for the sampling.

A purposive sample of 18 reports (14 interim and four final project evaluations) was selected from the 60 eligible reports that had completed reviews.

The selection of evaluation reports was conducted in a stepwise approach. Firstly, the IEU evaluation team checked for completeness of the project evaluation report and supporting documentation. Only project evaluation reports with sufficient supporting documentation and appendices were considered. Secondly, the IEU evaluation team considered (a) the report type, (b) entity type and (c) thematic area of the underlying projects.

As shown in Figure 1, the purposive sampling method ensured that the selected reports reflected various factors, including project size, geographic region, implementing entity type, environmental and social safeguards (ESS) category, and thematic focus (Adaptation, Mitigation, or Cross-cutting).

Figure 1. Characteristics of Sample

Entity Type	Report Type	Theme	Vulnerability Groups ⁸
12 International 1 Regional 5 National	12 Interim 6 Final	8 Mitigation 8 Adaptation 2 Cross-cutting	6 Africa 5 LDCs 3 SIDS
Project Size	Sector	ESS Category	Report Year
2 Large 7 Medium 6 Small 3 Micro	12 Public 6 Private	3 Cat A 7 Cat B 6 Cat C 2 Intermediation	3 from 2021 5 from 2022 5 from 2023 5 from 2024

Source: IEU

Each report in the sample was assessed by a select team of experienced evaluators, with quality assurance provided by the project manager to ensure consistency. The tool is flexible and can address the requirements of final evaluations not expected in the interim, such as verification of higher-level outcomes and the use of paradigm-shift scorecards adopted for recently approved projects. Reviewers are also instructed to consider characteristics such as project size and ESS category when assigning scores.

D. Quality Assessment Results

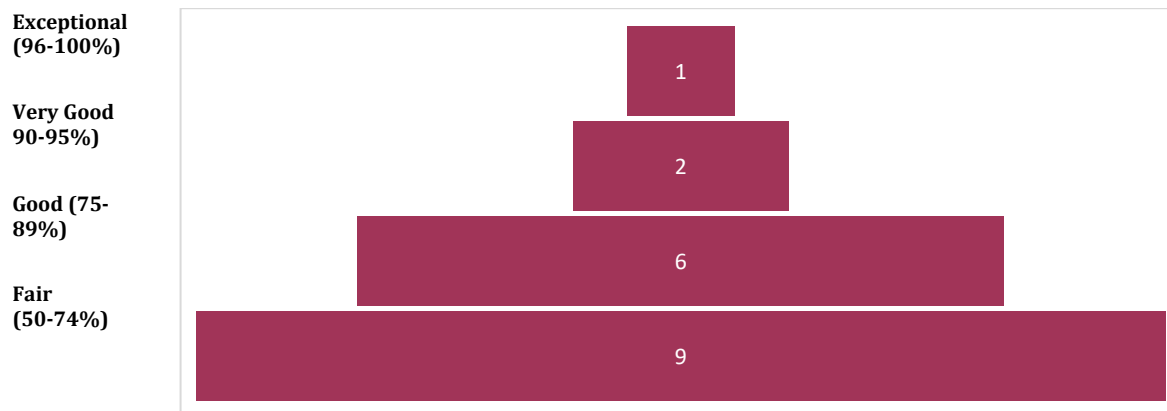
1. Results for Overall Quality

The 18 project evaluations varied widely in how well they met UNEG and GCF-specific expectations. Three were rated as *Exceptional* or *Very Good*, six received an overall rating of *Good*, and nine were assessed as *Fair*, as seen in Figure 2. The evaluation team found that none were rated as *Unsatisfactory*. The sole report rated as *Exceptional* was a thorough and well-presented UNDP evaluation of a medium-sized adaptation project in Timor-Leste.

With only 17% of the sample assessed as better than *Good*, the evaluation team found that there is an opportunity for improvement in the alignment of AE-led project evaluations. However, as Figure 3 demonstrates early indications that the overall quality of reports increased each year, with the overall average rating moving from *Fair* to *Good* for those completed in 2023. The evaluation team also recognized that the Evaluation Policy of the GCF also only came into effect in 2021.

⁸ These categories are not mutually exclusive; therefore, the total does not sum to 18.

Figure 2. Overall Results of the Quality Assessment Ratings (# of reports)

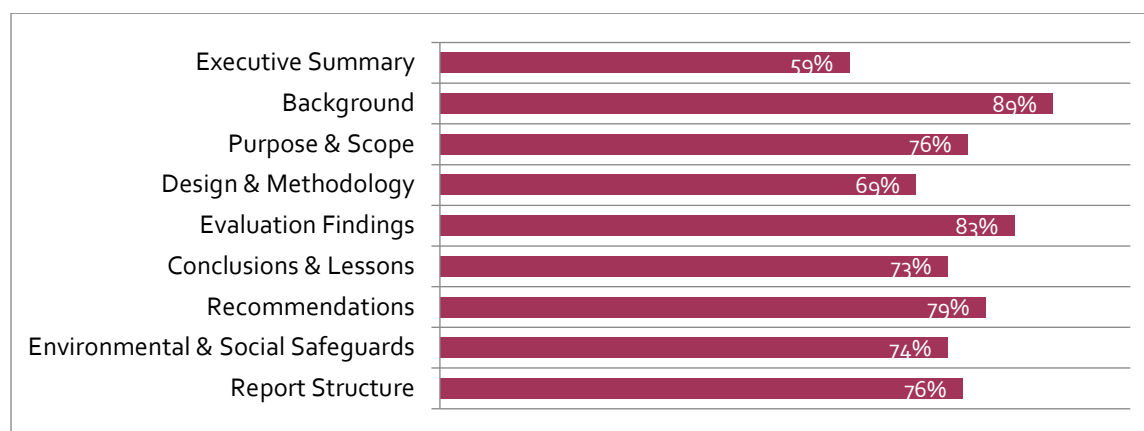


Source: EQA team

Note: The evaluation team combined the average score of the assessment of 18 purposively selected project evaluations of GCF-funded activities.

Figure 4 shows the average scores across the sample for each of the nine sections of the review tool. The highest-scoring section was “*Background*”, which is assessed for how adequately it describes the project, context and stakeholders. This was followed by “*Findings*”, which are assessed for completeness, clarity and strength of analysis. The lowest-scoring section was “*Executive Summary*”, followed by “*Design and Methodology*”, “*Conclusions and Lessons*”, and “*Coverage of ESS*”. Notably, evaluations of ESS category A projects received an average score of 60%, significantly lower than the rest of the sample’s average of 73%.

Figure 3. Average Scores for each Section of the Assessment Tool⁹ (percent)



Source: EQA team

Note: The assessment tool provides feedback on each section of standard project evaluation reports. The assessment tool is based on nine sections. The scores are provided as percentages, organized by each section.

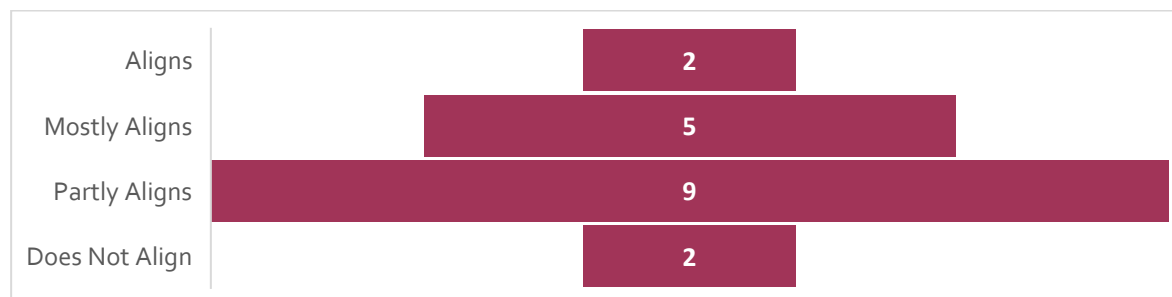
⁹ Percentages reflect the rating under each of them.

2. Results for alignment with GCF standards

The ratings for the GCF Standards revealed more significant shortcomings in the alignment to the GCF Evaluation Policy and Standards, than other assessment areas. As shown in Figure 5, 61% of the reports (11 of 18) were rated as *only Partly Aligning or Not Aligning* with the indicators selected for the 15 GCF Evaluation Standards. Only two reports were in full alignment. While this finding points at a significant shortcoming, the individual project evaluation may align with the AE's Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Standards.

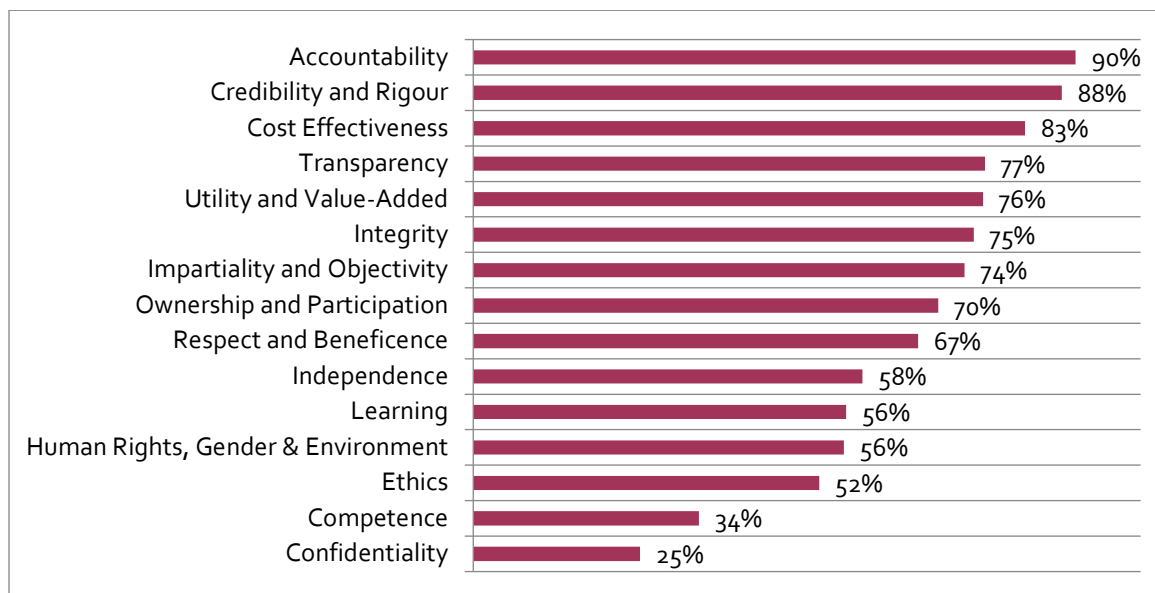
Figure 6 shows that most evaluations demonstrated some evidence of alignment with standards related to “*Accountability, Credibility and Rigor*”, and “*Cost Effectiveness*”. However, the evidence regarding “*Confidentiality, Competence, and Ethics*” was weak. Importantly, a lack of documented alignment does not necessarily indicate non-compliance. Required elements, such as adherence to ethical practices, may have been fulfilled but not explicitly documented in the ToR or in the evaluation report itself. A significant shortcoming in this sample was the lack of ToRs for nearly 40% of the reports, which further constrained assessment. Full list of scoring results in Table 2.

Figure 4. Distribution of Assessment Results Rating the Alignment to the GCF Standards (# of reports)



Source: EQA team

Figure 5. Average Score by GCF Standards (percent)

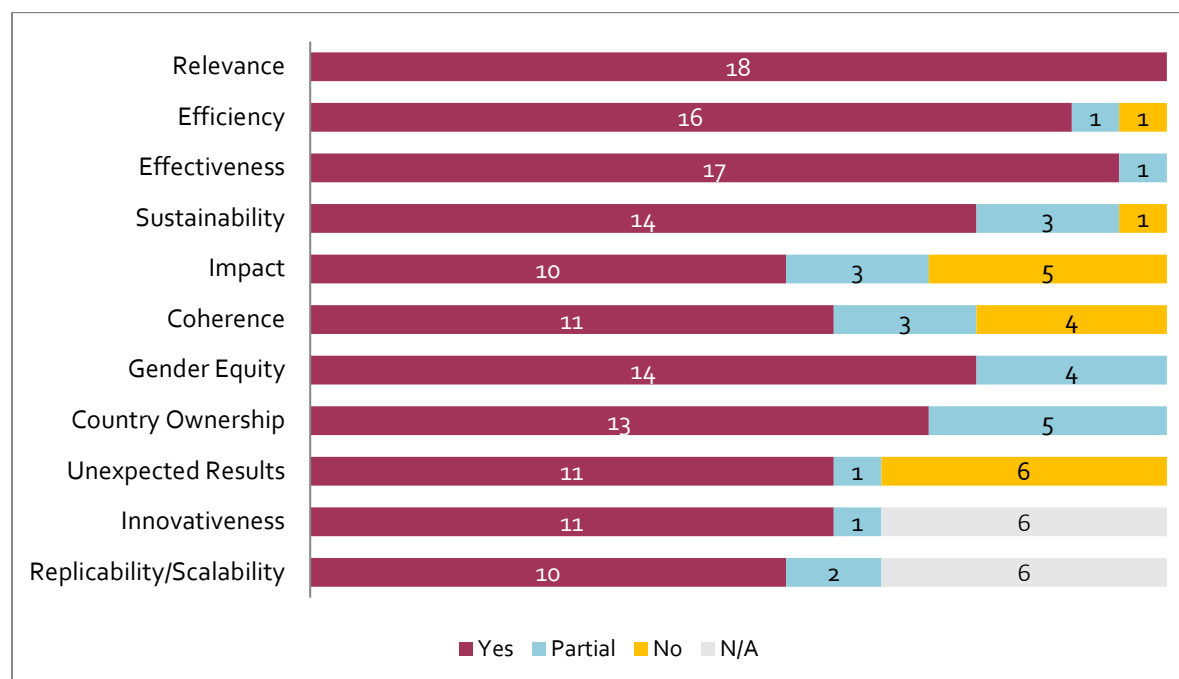


Source: EQA team

3. Coverage of GCF Evaluation Criteria

All reports covered *Relevance*, *Effectiveness*, *Gender Equity*, and *Country Ownership*. *Innovativeness* and *Replicability* or *Scalability* were covered when applicable, although the depth of the analysis varied. The evaluation criteria most frequently omitted were *Unexpected Results*, *Impact* and *Coherence*. Figure 6 shows the number of reports rated as adequately covering (Yes), briefly mentioning (Partial), or not mentioning (No) each one. Full list of scoring results in Table 2.

Figure 6. Coverage of GCF Evaluation Criteria (# of reports)



Source: EQA team

Note: The evaluation team assessed the 18 project evaluation reports and their coverage of the GCF Evaluation Criteria described in the GCF Evaluation Policy. The following rubric was used; *Yes*, *Partial*, *No*, or *N/A*. The category *No* represents reports for which the parameters for each Standard are not met. The category *N/A* represents reports for which no information was available to rate the individual Standard.

4. Alignment Across Dimensions

Overall quality assessment ratings aligned with the Standards scores and the extent of the Evaluation Criteria coverage in only half of the reports (see Table 2). This included the one exceptional report, which covered all GCF Evaluation Criteria and demonstrated sufficient alignment with GCF Evaluation Standards. The relationship between overall ratings and criteria coverage was stronger, although several of the reports rated *Fair* still performed well in the Evaluation Criteria covered. A more detailed assessment of the correlation between dimensions will require a larger sample of evaluations. Such a report with results from a larger portfolio is currently planned for 2026.

E. Most Identified Challenges and Gaps in Project Evaluations

1. **Executive Summaries:** This section of project evaluations was considered the weakest-performing across this sample. No project evaluation report fully satisfied the requirements for clarity, completeness, and conciseness, and two project evaluation reports did not include an executive summary. As this section is often the only part of an evaluation report read in full, it

is expected to serve as a stand-alone synopsis. It should provide a concise overview of the project and its intended results, the evaluation methodology, key findings across all criteria, as well as lessons and recommendations. Incomplete and overly lengthy executive summaries reduce the accessibility and usefulness of evaluations for organizational learning and informed decision-making.

2. **Methodology:** Expectations for clarity and rigour in how project evaluations were conducted were not consistently met. Only six of the 18 project evaluation reports scored over 80% for this section. Common shortcomings included a lack of information on sampling and analysis processes, a lack of detail on the number and type of respondents per data-collection method, and the absence of attached evaluation matrices.
3. **Ethical Considerations:** Only six project evaluation reports (33%) provided adequate explanations of how ethical practices were upheld, while eight evaluation reports (44%) did not address this topic at all. Higher-scoring evaluation reports are attached with signed codes of conduct. However, few reports addressed the avoidance of conflicts of interest or the safe storage and destruction of respondent data. Maintaining confidentiality was highlighted in the reports that discussed ethical considerations. Nevertheless, this commitment was undermined in two cases where respondent contact information, including for community respondents, was shown in the list of stakeholders consulted.
4. **Findings:** Most AE-led project evaluations provided adequate analysis, particularly progress towards intended results. However, in about one-third of the project evaluation reports, the presentation of findings lacked clarity, and information sources were not consistently cited. Several included lengthy tables extending over several pages that would have been better placed in annexes.
5. **Recommendations:** While most recommendations appeared useful, fewer than half clearly articulated them or identified the party or parties responsible for their implementation.
6. **Supplementary Information:** Only three project evaluation reports (17%) included the Management Response, and only 11 (61%) attached the ToR.
7. **Terms of Reference:** Some ToRs lacked clear instructions or set unrealistic expectations given the time frame and resources. Several included an excessive number of evaluation questions – over 60 in some cases, and one with 98. Only two ToRs specified the number of evaluator days, and both appeared inadequate for project evaluations of the size and complexity of GCF-supported projects.
8. **Report Presentation:** While several project evaluation reports were well designed and clearly presented, many were poorly formatted, used minimal visual aids, or were too long. One project evaluation report reached 100 pages, excluding annexes. In three cases, the final project evaluation report submitted to the IEU were draft versions that still included reviewer comments. Such evaluation reports would not meet the standard of completion.

F. AE-led Project evaluations impacts

Following the quality assessment, the IEU conducted an additional assessment to consider the impact potential and realised project impacts of nine project evaluations undertaken by the AEs. These nine project evaluation reports were rated ‘Good’ in identifying key patterns in how impact was assessed and covered.

Across these project evaluations, the quality assessment shows uneven rigor. The project evaluations for FP013, FP046, FP109, FP117, and SAP011 cover the assessment of the project impact well, often aligned with the GCF’s Integrated Results Management Framework, and, in some cases, explicitly probing paradigm shift. Other evaluation reports for FP002, FP015, and FP019 treat the project impact assessment mainly in the analysis section, lack an explicit paradigm-shift framing, against the GCF evaluation criteria. Furthermore, the project FP081 addresses impact in its evaluation but omits detailed evaluation questions and an evaluation matrix.

Overall, the key gaps identified are: missing or implicit impact potential questions, inconsistent use of and alignment with evaluation criteria, and reliance on narrative analysis rather than impact indicators. Out of the nine project evaluations, three reports are overperforming or ‘on track’, three reports have mixed progress, and three reports have poor data or off track.

Key patterns around impact results:

The evaluation team observed several trends with regards to the description and analysis of impact potential and impact realized in the nine selected project evaluation reports.

- 1) Emissions reduction and clean energy
 - Rooftop solar and supplier programmes show mitigation and measured generation and some projects also expand household energy access with lower costs.
- 2) Disaster risk reduction and early warning
 - Hydro met networks, lightning alerts, river gauges, and flood-warning buildouts reduced losses.
 - Evidence is mostly outputs and early outcomes (coverage, use, behaviour change), with limited quantified loss avoidance.
- 3) Livelihoods and food security
 - Reported improvements in farming decisions (seed choice, scheduling, feed preparation) and food security gains in some projects and farmer/fisher reach
 - Attribution and income/yield verification remain partial or uneven.
- 4) Energy access and service reliability
 - Clean power projects demonstrate household connections and sustained generation.
 - Reliability/affordability benefits but cost savings not always quantified.
- 5) Institutional and market transformation
 - Signals of policy uptake, downscaled forecast use, and private investment catalysed
 - Paradigm-shift narratives are present, but indicators of systemic change are limited.



6) Ecosystems and land use

- Signs of afforestation/restoration and deforestation reduction are too early to be captured or are under-measured (areas planted, survival rates pending)

Table 2. *Detailed results around impact*

PROJECT	QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT CRITERIA IN THE EVALUATION REPORT	IMPACT DEFINITION IN THE PROJECT	INDICATORS & TARGETS	RESULTS (TO DATE)	STATUS IMPACT	IEU CONCLUSIONS
FP002 (interim)	Impact assessment incomplete; GCF-specific elements integrated into OECD-DAC criteria. Paradigm shift not explicit; Impact framed as 'reduced environmental stress / improved ecological status'.	Timely, actionable hydro-met forecasts and warnings reduce disaster mortality and asset losses and stabilize smallholder productivity and incomes.	Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods (beneficiaries, % female). Targets: 500,000 (direct), 1,000,000 (indirect). Target coverage: 18% of the national population.	Beneficiaries: 421,702 direct; 1,256,850 indirect. Coverage achieved: 10.3% vs 18% target. Counts include indirect users of improved forecasting and direct PICSA/awareness reach.	On track	Strong outputs/early outcomes; credible impact still largely anecdotal or prospective; attribution not established.
FP013 (final)	Impact soundly addressed across the framework; covered by evaluation questions.	Strengthened housing and land-use practices lower climate-related damages to households while reducing GHG emissions.	1) Resilience of infrastructure: Target 4,000 houses (USD 8.0m). 2) Emissions reduction from land use: Target 565,180 tCO ₂ e.	1) 4,966 houses valued at USD 9.932m. 2) 1.12 million tCO ₂ e achieved.	On track	Significant milestones suggest strong trajectory toward intended impact. While the full extent of long-term impacts will emerge in the coming years, current achievements indicate strong

PROJECT	QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT CRITERIA IN THE EVALUATION REPORT	IMPACT DEFINITION IN THE PROJECT	INDICATORS & TARGETS	RESULTS (TO DATE)	STATUS IMPACT	IEU CONCLUSIONS
						progress in enhancing resilience, reducing environmental stress, and improving social outcomes.
FP015 (interim)	Evaluation questions not explicitly structured around GCF criteria; Impact partially addressed via guides/analysis; paradigm shift considered.	Coastal protection reduces inundation and erosion losses, avoiding displacement and safeguarding local economies and services.	Resilient physical assets (human benefits): Baseline 0; Target 3 coastal protection measures across 3 islands (USD 2.28m).	No significant progress reported.	Insufficient data	Designs/plans in place to achieve end-of-project targets; verification pending.
FP019 (final)	Impact not covered in questions but addressed in analysis. Multidimensional effort toward sustainable development.	Reduced deforestation and associated GHG emissions while expanding sustainable, deforestation-free livelihoods for forest communities.	Government-led paradigm shift toward sustainability, with ministries adopting practices that embed long-term environmental stewardship into development policy across the Amazon	Tangible progress suggested; insufficient data to quantify impact.	Insufficient data	PROAmazonía has been a multidimensional effort aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Amazon region. Although it is premature to

PROJECT	QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT CRITERIA IN THE EVALUATION REPORT	IMPACT DEFINITION IN THE PROJECT	INDICATORS & TARGETS	RESULTS (TO DATE)	STATUS IMPACT	IEU CONCLUSIONS
			region. An integrated, programmatic design has created strong synergies among components, optimizing resources and yielding multiplier effects			fully determine its total impact, several key advancements suggest tangible progress towards the desired objectives.
FP046 (final)	Framework covers impact; comprehensive matrix and results framework align with indicators.	Clean power displaces fossil generation, cutting GHG emissions while improving reliability and affordability of energy for households.	Reduced emissions via low-emission energy access and power generation; increased number of low-emission power suppliers.	29,722 tCO ₂ e reduced over two years; 34,124 MWh generated; ~20,000 households connected.	On track	Programme-level outcomes delivered in line with FAA; independent energy data corroborate generation volumes
SAP011 (interim)	Comprehensive design with impact criteria; explicit probes on paradigm shift, coherence, and alignment with GCF IRMF.	Households sustain food security and livelihoods through climate-informed practices, reducing negative coping and income volatility.	1) Livelihoods: Target 32,000 people (50% women/men). Baseline 1,427 people) Food security: Target 4,800 households (33% female-headed). Baseline 1,641 people.	1) 8,777 people (27.4% of target). 2) 8,610 households (180% of target). Note: Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a percentage metric and should be reported as such;	Partially	Measurement alignment (FCS %) should be standardized across reports

PROJECT	QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT CRITERIA IN THE EVALUATION REPORT	IMPACT DEFINITION IN THE PROJECT	INDICATORS & TARGETS	RESULTS (TO DATE)	STATUS IMPACT	IEU CONCLUSIONS
				baseline ~45%.		
FP109 (interim)	Strong coverage of impact across methodology/findings/matrix.	Risk-informed infrastructure and ecosystems lower mortality and economic losses from floods and storms while protecting livelihoods.	1) % reduction in disaster losses (life/economic). 2) 130 climate-resilient infrastructure assets; 175,840 direct beneficiaries. 3) 300 ha of land re/afforested.	12 infrastructure units completed (~39% of mid-term target); 9,228 beneficiaries (12% of target). 16 ha planted; survival rate pending.	Not on track	Targets appear overly ambitious relative to delivery pace; ecosystem outcomes uncertain.
FP117 (interim)	Impact comprehensively covered with an explicit paradigm-shift lens.	Institutional and market reforms shift land-use toward sustainable production, reducing emissions and lifting rural incomes.	Hypotheses: institutional/market solutions improve land management, reduce deforestation/emissions, and improve livelihoods.	Narrative suggests partial confirmation; insufficient data for quantitative verification.	Insufficient data	High uncertainty due to early implementation stage.
FP081 (interim)	Impact criteria addressed; questions absent (general lines of enquiry provided); no evaluation matrix.	Distributed rooftop solar decarbonizes power supply, reduces	Mitigation: 204,768 tCO ₂ e (mid-term). Cost-effectiveness: USD 23.44/tCO ₂ e. Capacity: Target 250	Mitigation: 204,768 tCO ₂ e (228% of mid-term target). Cost-effectiveness 50% better than	Partially	A low speed of implementation and of loan disbursement remains a



PROJECT	QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT CRITERIA IN THE EVALUATION REPORT	IMPACT DEFINITION IN THE PROJECT	INDICATORS & TARGETS	RESULTS (TO DATE)	STATUS IMPACT	IEU CONCLUSIONS
		electricity costs for consumers, and catalyses private investment in clean energy.	MW.	final target. Capacity: 267.33 MW sanctioned; 152.25 MW commissioned (vs 100 MW mid-term target). Disbursement: 28% of US\$ 100m by Dec 2021.		concern despite over-performance on some indicators.

G. Areas of Consideration

1. **Issuing Concise Guidance:** To improve the quality of evaluation reports, a concise set of directions on GCF expectations for project evaluation reports should be developed and shared with AEs. This guidance should include key questions for addressing each Evaluation criterion, as per Evaluation Policy. Emphasis should be placed on the areas identified for improvement in this quality assessment, specifically the need to explain adherence to GCF Evaluation Standards and to attach the ToR and Management Response to all evaluation reports. Such clear instructions will provide AEs and other partners with a better understanding of evaluation requirements.
2. **Providing Targeted and Tiered Support:** The GCF should consider providing further capacity-strengthening support, beyond written guidance, to strengthen AEs' understanding of GCF evaluation practices and reporting, particularly for those outside of the United Nations system. This support should include orientation meetings, coaching sessions with AE evaluation managers and evaluators, short online modules, instructional videos similar to the kind UNEP produces, or enhanced quality assurance of ToRs and draft evaluation reports. Quality assurance could be strengthened through improved Secretariat checklists or by engaging external reviewers, as practised by the WFP and UNICEF. Importantly, this support could be tiered based on the AE's existing evaluation capacity and familiarity with UNEG standards. Considering the often-lengthy nature of project evaluations and feedback processes, emphasizing front-end support could ensure improved quality from the outset.
3. **Further Review of Alignment with GCF Evaluation Standards:** To support effective implementation of the Evaluation Policy of the GCF, the IEU should undertake a separate review to better understand how well evaluation practices of AEs align with GCF Evaluation Standards – including resources allocated to interim and final project evaluations – and the challenges faced in meeting these standards, given the limitations of project evaluation reports serving as a proxy for an Evaluation Standards assessment. This could be done through interviews and document reviews with a representative sample of AEs.
4. **Reviewing Evaluation Resources:** The GCF should consider examining more closely whether the resources and time frames allocated by AEs are commensurate with the size, complexity and scope of the projects being assessed. Insufficient resourcing can limit the ability to recruit qualified subject matter and evaluation experts and constrain the level and quality of the evaluation process, particularly for in-depth and participatory evaluations.

ANNEX Scoring Metrics and Ratings

Table 3. *List of Project Evaluation Reports Considered by the IEU*

#	PROJECT NAME
FP002	Scaling up the use of Modernized Climate information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi
FP013	Improving the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change related impacts in Viet Nam
FP015	Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP)
FP017	Climate action and solar energy development programme in the Tarapacá Region in Chile
FP019	Priming Financial and Land Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestations
FP021	Senegal Integrated Urban Flood Management Project
FP024	Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Namibia
FP039	Egypt Renewable Energy Financing Framework
FP046	Renewable Energy Program #1 - Solar
FP047	Kazakhstan Renewables Framework
FP064	Promoting risk mitigation instruments and finance for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments
FP109	Safeguarding rural communities and their physical and economic assets from climate induced disasters in Timor-Leste
FP117	Implementation of the Lao PDR Emission Reductions Programme through improved governance and sustainable forest landscape management
FP147	Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean
FP081	Line of Credit for Solar rooftop segment for commercial, industrial and residential housing sectors
SAP008	Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)
SAP011	Climate-resilient food security for women and men smallholders in Mozambique through integrated risk management
SAP023	River Restoration for Climate Change Adaptation (RIOS)

Table 4. Rating scales and weights for Evaluation Standards

SCORE RANGE	EVALUATION STANDARDS RATING DESCRIPTIONS
≥ 85%	Aligns with GCF Evaluation Standards
70–84%	Mostly aligns with GCF Evaluation Standards
50–69%	Needs substantial improvements to align with GCF Evaluation Standards
< 50%	Does not align with GCF Evaluation Standards

#Yes	If parameters for each standard are met	Score of 1
#Partial	No relevant information, and there are no red flags.	Score of .5
#No	Parameters for each standard are not met	Score of 0
# Cannot rate	Not sufficient information to rate a standard	
# N/A	No available information to rate the standards	

Table 5. Rating scales and weights for EQA

REPORT RATING SUMMARY			
Overall Rating		Value	Explanation
★★★★★	Exceptional (96-100%)	5	Exceeds expectations for GCF evaluation quality
★★★★☆	Very Good (90-95%)	4	Effectively upholds expectations for GCF evaluation quality
★★★☆☆	Good (75-89%)	3	Generally meets expectations for GCF evaluation quality
★★☆☆☆	Fair (50-74%)	2	Needs improvements to meet expectations for GCF evaluation quality
★☆☆☆☆	Unsatisfactory (<50%)	1	Does not meet GCF standards for evaluation quality

REFERENCES

- Green Climate Fund (2021). Evaluation Policy for the GCF. Songdo, South Korea. Available at: <https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/evaluation-policy-gcf.pdf>
- Green Climate Fund (2022). Evaluation: Operational Procedures and Guidelines for Accredited Entity-led Evaluations. Songdo, South Korea. Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/evaluation-operational-procedures-and-guidelines-accredited-entity-led-evaluations>
- Independent Evaluation Unit (2022). Green Climate Fund Evaluation Standards. Songdo, South Korea. Available at: <https://ieu.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/220428-gcf-evaluation-standards-web.pdf>
- United Nations Population Fund (2021). Guidance for Evaluation Quality Assurance and Assessment (EQAA). New York, NY. Available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/guidance-evaluation-quality-assurance-and-assessment>
-