LORTA
Portfolio Brief

GREEN CLIMATE FUND | Independent Evaluation Unit

LEARNING-ORIENTED REAL-TIME IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME: PORTFOLIO UPDATE

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) started the multi-year Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) programme that aims to provide capacity building and advisory services for AEs in impact evaluations (IEs) and real-time measurements of GCF-funded activities. Through rigorous empirical evidence on climate adaptation and mitigation activities, this programme generates evidence about what works and enhances learnings about the design, implementation and management of real-time measurement systems and impact evaluations within the GCF ecosystem.

PORTFOLIO BY IE PHASE

The LORTA programme has engaged with more than 50 GCF-funded project teams, all of whom have benefited from capacity-building sessions and technical assistance in conducting IEs. 25 of these projects have been onboarded to the programme, equivalent to around 10 per cent of all approved GCF projects. LORTA currently has seven IEs in the engagement and design stage (Phase 1), seven in baseline (Phase 2), eight IEs in post-baseline stages (Phase 3), and one completed IE (Phase 4).[1]

LEARNINGS IN 2022

The following key lessons in operations of LORTA have emerged from in 2022:[2]

- **In-person interaction** is a must for some of LORTA's activities. Grounding the findings in the context of the project is key.
- Timely **mid-course correction** or restructuring is key to effective project implementation and impact assessment.
- **Early engagement** with new projects has some advantages but some drawbacks too. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for impact assessments.

LORTA portfolio by phases

1 Engagement & Design
2 Baseline
3 Post-baseline
4 Completed

Figure 1: Latin America & the Caribbean

Figure 2: Africa & Eastern Europe

Figure 3: Asia

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1 Two projects were dropped due to implementation challenges.
2 Independent Evaluation Unit, LORTA Synthesis Report 2022. (July) (Songdo, South Korea, Green Climate Fund, 2023).
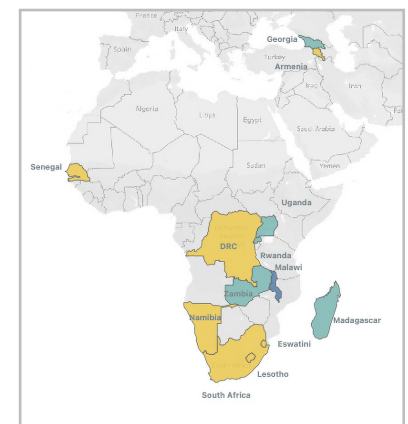
The first **impact evaluation** study reveals the following:[3]

- Participatory decision-making and access to historical and forecasted climate information in Malawi is effective for **agricultural adaptation** and benefits the most vulnerable, i.e., female farmers that work less on other people farms (ganyu labor) as a result of the project.

Baseline results highlight the following:

- **Relevance:** Projects are highly relevant and meet the needs of targeted populations, particularly among those that are highly dependent on agriculture.
- **Targeting:** Projects are targeted towards the most vulnerable (with some exceptions).
- **Awareness:** There is a limited understanding of climate change and its consequences, as well as possible responses to climatic impacts.

Baseline data collection training in Bangladesh - October 2022

Workshops

In 2022 the LORTA team conducted its 5th annual impact evaluation design workshop in which the team onboarded two project teams from Brazil and Armenia. The participants learnt about how to design an impact evaluation "from scratch": how to construct a theory of change that captures the project's impacts on beneficiaries, how and what data to collect, what experimental and quasi-experimental methods are, how to implement these in practice, among other topics. In December, the team organized a more tailored in-person workshop in Ethiopia on data and collection methods for the project teams.

Field visit to project site in Paraguay - November 2022

Visits to project sites

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the LORTA team re-started travels and conducted two field visits to project sites in 2022. The visits allowed LORTA members to meet project teams in-person and provide support for designing impact evaluations. The trips were conducted in Paraguay and Madagascar.

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Design Workshop in Ethiopia - December 2022

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3   *Independent Evaluation Unit (2022). Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment Programme (LORTA): Impact evaluation report for FP002 - Scaling Up the Use of Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi. (April). Songdo, South Korea: Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund.*

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