



GREEN
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Independent
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Unit



IEU Newsletter

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Principal Evaluation
Officer

Dear IEU friends, my name is Andreas Reumann, and I am the Principal Evaluation Officer at the IEU.

As announced in our

previous letter, Dr. Jyotsna Puri (Jo) has now formally resigned as the Head of IEU to take up a new career challenge at the International Fund for Agricultural Development. For this reason, I am stepping in to greet you all and with a short introduction to this edition of the IEU newsletter.

During her time at the IEU, Jo would often say she is **standing on the shoulders of giants** in delivering state of the art, data-driven evaluations that could help make the GCF faster, smarter and better.

As Jo rightfully noted, the IEU has evaluation officers and specialists with extensive climate change experience, an impressive range of evaluation skills and impressive publications records.

Enabling and supporting the IEU evaluations is a team of dedicated data specialists who

work in data collection, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, geographic information systems and behavioural science analysis.

The IEU also has a proactive communications and uptake workstream skilled in a range of tools to ensure that the IEU's key messages reach and inform GCF stakeholders and policymakers.

We are also very well supported by colleagues working assiduously to keep the team operating – those who handle the administration, organize the meetings, keep the broader team informed and handle procurement.

Together, the IEU has **performed at its most productive level ever** despite the various external and internal challenges this year, and I am deeply thankful for all IEU members' hard work and dedication that made this possible. We have completed key evaluations, with several of these due for the Board's consideration in the near future. Similarly, we are finalizing work on four evidence reviews. Details of our various activities are captured in this newsletter.

With the recent **Board's approval of the IEU's 2021 work plan at B.27**, the IEU team is eager and fully ready to deliver an even more productive year next year. Major

activities for 2021 will include submitting to the Board the evaluation of the GCF's adaptation portfolio and approach and commencing new evaluations that examine the GCF's request for proposals pilot programme, its approach to the private sector, and its investments in the least developed countries. The IEU will also continue its learning-oriented real-time impact assessment programme, which will enter into its fourth year and launch the GCF's second performance review.

As we gear up for another busy year with several important evaluations included in the workplan, we kindly ask our stakeholders and colleagues from the Secretariat to continue engaging, communicating, and collaborating with us.

In closing, the IEU thanks the Board members, the Secretariat, representatives from accredited entities and civil society and private sector organizations who recognize the need for strengthening the GCF's accountability and learning function. *Fulfilling all your expectations and delivering on the IEU mandate will continue to be our highest priority in 2021. On behalf of the IEU team, I wish you a safe and a less climate variable 2021!*

Thank you.

*Andreas Reumann,
Principal Evaluation Officer, IEU*

IEU at B.27

As with B.26, the twenty-seventh meeting of the Board (B.27) was conducted online due to COVID-19. B.27's original agenda included four IEU items, but two were not tabled due to time constraints: namely, the *IEU's Evaluation of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach* and the *Evaluation of the GCF's Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Environmental and Social Management System*. The Board noted the *report on the IEU's activities* and approved the IEU's proposed *2021 Work Plan and Budget and Update of its Three-year Objectives and Work Plan*.

The 2021 work plan of the IEU includes the following key evaluations: a) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the GCF's investments in least developed countries, b) an evaluation of the GCF's request for proposals pilot programmes, c) an evaluation of the GCF's approach to the private sector, d) a continuation of the learning-oriented real-time impact assessment programme, and e) the launch of the GCF's second performance review. The Board approved the IEU's request for a 2021 budget of USD 5.9 million. It also requested the IEU to submit a schedule and multi-year budget at B.28 for a second GCF performance review.

B.27 virtual side events

The IEU hosted and recorded *two B.27 virtual side events*. The *first side event* looked at the critical role data plays in supporting evaluations and was presented to an audience of Board members, Secretariat staff and representatives from accredited entities and civil and private sector organizations. The presentation shone a light on

how the DataLab provided the evidence that validated the findings of the IEU's Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of the GCF's Investments in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



DataLab members present how they collected and validated the data for the SIDS evaluation during a B27 virtual side event.

The *second event* featured a panel of experts from in and outside the GCF. Delivered to Board members, advisors and GCF stakeholders, the presentation provided participants an opportunity to learn more about the climate challenges SIDS face and discuss the SIDS evaluation's findings.

Learning and Evidence Evidence reviews

The IEU's study on *Climate Change Mitigation Interventions in the Private Sector in Developing Countries* has enhanced its commitment to producing evidence reviews. Using an evidence gap map, intervention heat map and meta-analysis, the study examines private sector mitigation interventions in developing countries. The study will help the GCF make informed decisions on mitigation projects. The review's *approach paper and summary brief* provide more information.

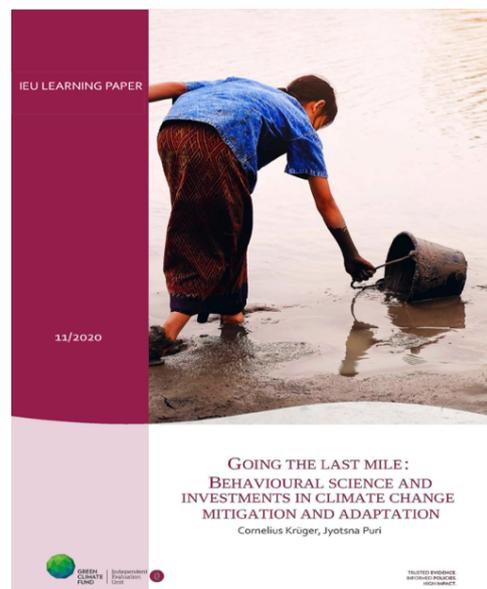
The IEU is also working on an evidence review looking at *Results Based Payments (RBPs)*. RBP interventions involve a funding source that agrees to make payments for achieving agreed results. The study examines the

effectiveness of these interventions across all sectors where RBPs are used, such as agriculture, education and health. It also looks at multiple stakeholders, including beneficiaries, service providers and investors. The *RBP approach paper* provides more information about the review.

The IEU and the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) jointly produced the *Evidence Gap and Intervention Heat Maps of Climate Change Adaptation*. This work analyses evidence on the effectiveness of adaptation measures and offers a thematic overview of global evidence. It is a valuable resource for policymakers and researchers as it highlights where evidence on adaptation is available and where further research is needed. An interactive tool is available on the *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation* website. An *IEU-DEval press release* provides more information.

Learning papers

New paper on behavioural science



The IEU recently added to its collection of learning papers *Going the last mile: Behavioural science and investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation*.

Authored by Cornelius Krüger and Dr. Jyotsna Puri, the paper makes the case for including behavioural science analysis and interventions in GCF project design. They contend that the GCF's portfolio's approach to behaviour change potentially ignores key psychological barriers. Portfolio-level data and 11 case studies of GCF projects provide the basis for the paper's analysis and recommendations.

Capacity Building

The GCF evaluation policy

The IEU is mandated to develop and update the *Evaluation Policy of the GCF*. At the time of writing this newsletter, the IEU and the GCF Secretariat had jointly clarified their roles and responsibilities and jointly shared the resulting draft with the Board. The draft policy covers the GCF's evaluation function and defines the evaluation criteria and main types of evaluations.

Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) – online training

In its third year, the *LORTA programme* continues to embed real-time impact evaluations into GCF funded projects so the GCF can access accurate data on project quality. The LORTA team recently designed and delivered an online design workshop for 16 GCF projects. The virtual workshop supported accredited entities and project managers in measuring the impact of their GCF-funded projects. The course of eight modules and webinars attracted more than 80 participants. Of the three online courses currently available on the GCF's *iLearn Online training platform*, only the LORTA course was produced in-house completely. With its recorded lectures, slideshows, readings and quizzes, course participants rated their learning experience highly.



LORTA design workshop participants and IEU members during one of the live webinars

IEU Evaluations – an update

Since its previous Newsletter in August, the IEU has focused on two evaluations, as described below.

Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of the Green Climate Fund's Investments in SIDS

The recently completed *evaluation of the GCF's investments in SIDS* has been

shared with the Board. Its recommendations include improving the GCF's readiness programme's assistance to regional entities for SIDS, improving the project cycle, especially the

simplified approval process, and ensuring a coordinated Private Sector approach at GCF. The evaluation's communication strategy included *webinars to encourage discussion* of the report's findings among various stakeholders. An online *SIDS GEvalNote* summarizes the evaluation.

Independent Evaluation of the Adaptation Portfolio and Approach of the Green Climate Fund

The *IEU's evaluation of the Green Climate Fund's adaptation related investments* is well on track to meet its March, B.28 deadline. By studying the climate finance landscape, the evaluation aims to illustrate how frontier innovation can help us adapt to climate change and demonstrate how transformational adaptation can be conceived, supported and shared to enhance climate security in developing countries. The findings will assist the GCF in its aim to become the global leader in funding developing countries' adaptation needs.

DataLab and BaDLab

DataLab: The IEU DataLab provides high-quality data to ensure IEU evaluations have a strong evidence base. The DataLab played a pivotal role in ensuring the recommendations in the IEU's SIDS evaluation are backed up by high-quality evidence. It is also providing quantitative and qualitative data for the IEU's ongoing evaluation of the GCF's adaptation portfolio. A major initiative by the DataLab has been the dissemination of its data findings through its new *microsite page*.



BaDLab: The IEU's Behaviour and Design Lab applies insights from behavioural science to the IEU's evaluation work. It has recently collaborated with the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics in supporting the integration of impact evaluation designs in the virtual LORTA design workshop and assisted the IEU's adaptation evaluation. The BaDLab's learning papers and other resources are now available on the [BaDLab's new microsite page](#).

Communications and Uptake

New IEU microsite

In close collaboration with the Secretariat's communications team, the IEU has developed a new, attractive and more intuitive *microsite*. Its new structure and search engine makes it easier for visitors to navigate and find evaluation reports, evidence reviews, learning papers and other IEU information. Visitors can also access *interactive versions of the data* that underpin the IEU's evidence-based recommendations. Since its launch in November, the microsite has attracted almost 3,000 new users. A video showcasing the microsite is available on the IEU's popular [Linked-In page](#).

Blogs

The IEU microsite continues to host topical and informative blogs. The most recent include: *Environmental and social governance commitments are useful. But have they translated into action?* by Dr. Jyotsna Puri, first published in the *Economic Times*; *Designing a monitoring and evaluation system for impact evaluation: Tips for program designers and evaluators*, by Dr. Jyotsna Puri and Athena Infonomics' Dr. Francis Rathinam; and, *Does access to credit help the decision to adapt to climate change in developing countries?* by Luis Sánchez Torrente from Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico.

The IEU's Dr. Martin Prowse also contributed to *The Development Impacts of COVID-19 at Home and Abroad: Politics and Implications of Government Action*, a paper freely available through Springer publications.

Videos

The IEU has produced 10 videos since September. Recent examples include videos explaining the outcomes of evaluations into the GCF's environmental and social safeguards, the independent synthesis of the GCF's accreditation function, and the independent assessment of the GCF's simplified approval process. The full suite of IEU videos is available via [the IEU's microsite](#) and its [YouTube channel](#).



The IEU's Head of Communications and Uptake workstream, Ms. Yeonji Kim, presents a video on the IEU's evaluation of the GCF's environmental and social safeguards.

Podcasts

The IEU's *The Evaluator podcast* is increasingly popular, with episodes played more than 713 times since its inception. Topics include the importance of trusted evidence; COVID-19, governance and the new normal; and behavioural science and climate change, among others.

Social media

The audience tuning in to the IEU's vibrant social media presence increases almost daily. Its [Linked-In page](#) is regularly updated and its number of followers is rapidly approaching 900. Meanwhile, with 80 tweets predicted between September and January, the number of *IEU's Twitter* followers will soon pass 1,000. The IEU's [YouTube channel](#) has 89 videos and attracted 3,125 views in the past 90 days.

Mainstream media

Mainstream media is an essential tool in promoting the IEU's work. In November, the IEU's *Andreas Reumann* appeared on *South Korea's Arirang TV* where he discussed COVID-19 and climate change, including protecting ourselves from illness while saving the environment, and handling the waste that accompanies the pandemic.



The IEU's Principal Evaluation Officer Mr. Andreas Reumann discusses COVID-19 and climate change on Arirang TV.