



THE CIF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP: Pioneering Joint Learning to Catalyze Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Development

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE STORY

✓ The Challenge

The goal of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is to catalyze transformational change toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development. All major climate funds and practitioners are struggling with a basic yet essential question: How do we leverage scarce public resources for maximum impact over time, the kind that can really change systems beyond one-off projects? CIF created the Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) to support systematic learning on this critical question.

✓ The Solution—Who Did What?

The CIF pioneered the Evaluation and Learning (E&L) Initiative in 2016 to identify strategic lessons from CIF portfolio implementation and enable learning that is timely, relevant to real-world needs, and applied to projects and programs. The TCLP is the largest of the E&L Initiative's 30 evidence-based learning activities. Convened in early 2017, the TCLP aims to answer four overarching questions:

1. How is transformational change conceptualized in the international field of climate finance?

2. How is the CIF enacting transformational change in the design, approval, implementation, and evaluation of CIF-supported investments?

3. How have CIF-supported investments contributed to transformational change toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development?

4. How can the CIF and others increase their contributions to transformational change toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development?

Intended TCLP users include CIF donors, recipient countries, multilateral development banks, civil society organizations, the CIF Administrative Unit, and all other climate finance institutions that can learn from the CIF experience.

In 2017, the TCLP began by commissioning independent research and learning facilitation support and convening over 50 CIF stakeholders to begin exploring the TCLP questions. The work started by focusing on the concept of transformational change. Building on work done by the World Bank's Independent

Evaluation Group and others, the TCLP reached a working definition of transformational change in climate action: *"Strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development."*

The TCLP also identified four dimensions of transformational change underlying this definition (relevance, scale, systemic change, and sustainability) and conducted a preliminary desk review. The work then advanced to a three-pronged approach: (i) an independent evaluation of transformational change in the CIF context, involving primary data collection on CIF's role; (ii) an independent evidence synthesis of secondary data sources; and (iii) facilitated learning with TCLP members including workshops, Webinars, and learning exchanges. Early thematic findings and lessons about the learning process have emerged.

