



Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees  
Washington D.C. (Virtual)  
Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – Wednesday January 26, 2022

CIF MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL) POLICY AND GUIDANCE  
SUMMARY



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Joint CTF-SCF/TFC.25/4.1  
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## PROPOSED DECISION

The joint meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees has reviewed the document Joint CTF-SCF/TFC.25/4.1, *CIF Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Policy and Guidance*, and welcomes the contribution it will make towards unifying the monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach of existing CTF and SCF programs with new CIF programming areas under a single policy.

The Committee acknowledges the importance of MEL within the CIF business model and appreciates the guidance offered to MDBs, recipient countries, contributor countries, and other CIF stakeholders to clarify and strengthen the role of MEL within CIF programs and projects.

1. The Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Policy intends to define, guide, and strengthen the coherence of CIF's approach toward results management, accountability, and learning across all programs and activities. The policy directly builds on the experience of implementing MEL for CIF's four initial programs and provides cohesive guidance on the systems in place. At the same time, the policy provides a framework for designing and incorporating MEL into CIF's new programming and activities, enhancing common elements across programs, and strengthening the synergies and complementarities of MEL as functions.<sup>1</sup>
2. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning are distinct yet interrelated functions within CIF, each with its own set of activities but each supportive of programmatic accountability and learning. MEL is also a shared responsibility within CIF, since it is implemented by several CIF units in coordination with MDB partners and other stakeholder groups. The key MEL-related roles and responsibilities of CIF's main stakeholder groups are described in the policy.
3. CIF's MEL approach is guided by a set of principles that inform how activities should be carried out. These principles include a focus on: an integrated MEL approach; programmatic MEL with country ownership; MDB harmonization; multi-stakeholder engagement; applied learning; inclusive transformational change; gender and social inclusion; climate and development alignment; innovation; timeliness and cost-effectiveness; ethical execution; and transparency.
4. **Monitoring function:** The heart of CIF's monitoring approach relies on annual results updates reported through CIF's programmatic M&R systems. Based on their respective integrated results frameworks—the core programmatic MEL document—and their respective program design, each CIF program deploys its own M&R system fit for purpose. This approach is intended to reinforce CIF's overall programmatic approach, while providing distinct mechanisms for reporting on country progress, investment plans, and core project outcomes.
5. In addition to having some program-specific features, CIF's programmatic M&R systems are united by a common framework comprising several key elements: integrated results frameworks; M&R toolkits; core indicators; expected results; co-benefit indicators; optional project-specific indicators; MDB project reports; CIF Collaboration Hub; operational and results reports; and qualitative/narrative reporting.
6. The policy stipulates additional dimensions of CIF monitoring that complement the programmatic M&R systems. Four new CIF-level impact indicators are established to cover mitigation, adaptation, beneficiaries reached, and co-financing. Strategic enhancements of results analysis and learning are conducted at the portfolio, program, and project levels (e.g., SDGs, social and economic development modeling, real-time monitoring). CIF also deploys tailored monitoring solutions to capture results from non-programmatic areas and conducts monitoring-related capacity-building activities with CIF recipient countries.

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<sup>1</sup> This policy emphasizes MEL as *functions*, rather than as specific teams or organizational units within the CIF. This underscores that various CIF teams and stakeholders are involved in different and overlapping MEL activities. Specific organizational arrangements may shift over time, but CIF's MEL functions will remain a collaborative enterprise.

7. **Evaluation function:** CIF approaches evaluation as the systematic and rigorous assessment of an ongoing or completed program, project, or policy, including its design, implementation, and results. This means evaluating both processes and results, as well as why or how they have occurred, and what this means for stakeholders.
8. CIF's approach to this function is unique amongst climate funds, as it strikes a balance between applied learning undertaken in close partnership with the programs and the use of strategic independent evaluations to synthesize broader lessons from programs and projects, including for accountability and the provision of open information to stakeholders and the public. Its activities are guided by an Advisory Group that helps to ensure its independence and wider strategic relevance.
9. CIF complements the evaluative activities of MDBs with programmatic and thematic evaluations and studies. Evaluative work can include diagnostics assessments; design evaluations; implementation evaluations; economic evaluation approaches; outcome/impact evaluations; experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations; thematic/synthesis evaluations; and real-time evaluations.
10. In response to user needs, recognizing the complexity of climate action, CIF favors a mixed-methods approach to evaluative work, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data and using a range of data collection techniques.
11. **Learning function:** CIF was established as a learning laboratory for transformative climate action. This learning takes place at multiple levels and with a range of stakeholders to support the broader objectives of climate finance, including improved program and project design, management and impact.
12. CIF supported learning uses a range of learning approaches and methods, which are responsive to the needs of users and designed to enhance learning and the uptake of insights at the country and institutional levels. Learning is supported through a variety of tools, mechanisms and functions including: South-South learning platforms; targeted studies; delivery case studies; facilitated learning partnerships; real-time learning; learning resources; workshops; webinars; training modules; joint working groups; knowledge newsletters; and participation in partner events.
13. CIF, including the CIF communications team, produce a range of dissemination and outreach tools and materials to ensure that both broad and targeted audiences are able to easily access, and benefit from, the outputs from CIF's MEL work.
14. **Minimum Requirements and Quality Standards:** CIF strives to both exemplify and enhance international norms and standards in climate finance MEL. Minimum requirements and quality standards for monitoring, evaluation and learning have been developed in line with internal requirements and international best practice and are formalized in the policy.
15. **Data Governance:** Data are the essential building blocks of all CIF MEL activities. As such, the policy sets out CIF's standards and ethics related to MEL data security, data usage, data access and transparency, data integrity, and citation considerations.

16. This policy enters into force upon approval from the CIF Joint CTF-SCF TFC. While the policy seeks to define and guide the common principles, roles, functions, and other considerations for undertaking CIF MEL, more specific MEL approaches and activities may evolve over time.



## THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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## The Climate Investment Funds

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were established in 2008 to mobilize resources and trigger investments for low carbon, climate resilient development in select middle and low income countries. To date, 14 contributor countries have pledged funds to CIF that have been channeled for mitigation and adaptation interventions at an unprecedented scale in 72 recipient countries. The CIF is the largest active climate finance mechanism in the world.



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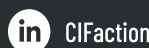
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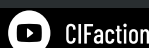
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