



Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees  
Washington D.C. (Virtual)  
Tuesday, June 22, 2021 – Wednesday June 23, 2021

EVALUATION AND LEARNING SPECIAL INITIATIVE:  
FY21 ANNUAL REPORT AND FY22 WORK PLAN  
SUMMARY

## PROPOSED DECISION

The joint meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees

- (i) Reviewed the document Joint CTF-SCF.TFC. 24/xx, *Evaluation and Learning Special Initiative FY21 Annual Report and FY22 Work Plan*, welcomes the progress on implementing the Evaluation and Learning (E&L) Initiative in FY21, and approves its plans for FY22 subject to approval of additional budget. The joint meeting provided feedback and comments on the document, which will be incorporated as the E&L FY22 Work Plan is implemented;
- (ii) Acknowledges its previous decisions in June 2019 to approve USD 3.0 million for the E&L FY20-22 Business Plan, including an initial allocation of USD 2.5 million for FY20 activities, and in June 2020 to approve an additional budget provision of USD 3.0 million to fulfill the remaining activities in the E&L FY20-22 Business Plan through FY22, including an allocation of USD 2.0 million for FY21 activities;
- (iii) Recognizes there is an unallocated funding balance of USD 1.5 million and notes the proposed funding allocation of USD 1.5 million to implement FY22 activities will be presented and considered in the context of the CIF Administrative Unit FY22 Business Plan and Budget.

## Summary

1. This document provides an annual report on the activities of the CIF Evaluation and Learning (E&L) Special Initiative from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (fiscal year 2021, FY21) and presents a new E&L work plan and budget for FY22 from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It builds on the [E&L FY20-22 Business Plan](#)<sup>1</sup>, approved by the Joint Meeting of CIF's Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committees (TFCs) in June 2019, and the [E&L FY21 Work Plan](#)<sup>2</sup> approved by the TFCs in June 2020.
2. The purpose of the [E&L Initiative](#) is to capture evidence and lessons on an ongoing basis from CIF activities to inform current and future climate finance investments. Its value has been underscored in recent years, with several landmark evaluations underpinning strategic discussions on the future of CIF and driving learning in countries and institutions. Evidence-based learning for more impactful climate investments remains critical in a global context that is increasingly defined by COVID-19 recovery needs alongside more pressing calls for transformative action to address the climate crisis. Consultations conducted during the development of the E&L FY20-22 Business Plan and ongoing over the past year have underscored the continued utility of the E&L Initiative, with strong demand to continue generating evidence and learning to inform strategic and operational decisions.
3. In FY21, the E&L Initiative made substantial progress on the implementation of activities through a wide variety of approaches and delivery modalities, capturing and sharing learning on critical and timely topics for CIF and the broader climate finance sector despite challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Key highlights include the following:
  - Pioneering new work on themes of green and inclusive [COVID-19 recoveries](#), [just transitions](#), [development impacts](#), and [transformational change](#), including guidance, tools, case studies, knowledge products, and multi-stakeholder learning exchange
  - Two major evaluations initiated on CIF's Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP) and on the development impacts of climate finance, as well as several smaller thematic or country-level case studies
  - More than 12 new studies and knowledge briefs completed, generating compelling evidence in areas relevant to new CIF programs and broader climate action
  - Over 40 virtual learning events held with more than 2,000 participants, along with broad communications and strategic learning engagements to reach new audiences
  - Various examples of application of E&L lessons and concepts, including integration in new CIF program investment criteria and uptake by CIF partners and stakeholders
4. Several lessons were produced, shared, and debated regarding critical challenges in climate finance. These include, for example, the need for just transitions to focus on both procedural justice and distributional impacts through policies, processes, tools, and investments; the importance of equity, speed, and adaptive capacity to advance transformational change; and the ability of climate finance to contribute to economic growth and jobs, to strengthen policies

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<sup>1</sup> Joint CTF-SCF TFC.21/4 [Evaluation and Learning Special Initiative: FY19 Annual Report and FY20-22 Business Plan](#). June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Joint CTF-SCF TFC.22/5 [Evaluation and Learning Special Initiative: FY20 Annual Report and FY21 Work Plan](#). June 2020

and institutions, and to bolster vulnerable populations and social inclusion in support of countries' COVID-19 recovery efforts.

5. In FY22, the E&L Initiative will scale up efforts to deliver even more concerted guidance, evidence, and facilitated learning opportunities in areas relevant to the new CIF programs and climate action globally. This includes the completion of several key studies and participatory learning engagements, as well as collaborative efforts to inform and develop the next E&L Business Plan. Highlights include the following:
  - Delivery of an SREP evaluation to inform future programming on low-carbon energy access in low-income countries
  - Guidance on application of transformational change and just transitions concepts in new programming areas, with examples, tools, and participatory learning
  - Implementation of an evaluation of development impacts in CIF programs
  - Completion of hydro-meteorological (hydromet) and climate services learning review in CIF's Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)
  - Initiation of study on CIF-supported technical assistance and capacity building
  - Development of a Key Lessons Synthesis relevant to new CIF programs
  - Expanded dissemination of E&L lessons to new audiences based on stakeholder mapping
  - Strategic learning engagements and partnerships with countries, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and others
  - Review and planning for next five-year E&L Business Plan within the new CIF context
6. The requested budget allocation for E&L activities in FY22, as consistent with the FY20-22 E&L Business Plan and previous TFC-approved funding allocations, is USD 1.5 million. The E&L Advisory Group will continue to strategically guide the implementation of E&L Initiative activities in FY22. An annual report on FY22 activities will be delivered to the TFC in line with standard CIF Administrative Unit Business Plan reporting practices and timelines.