

Evaluation Of Climate Change And Development

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges in human history. The global consequences of climate change threaten the preservation and development of natural and human systems and are already causing enormous ecological, social and economic costs. As countries increasingly respond to the demanding impacts of climate change, evidence-based decision making for climate change adaptation and mitigation has become ever more urgent. Effective monitoring, evaluation and learning is key for better and timely climate policies and resilience strengthening.

However, evaluating climate mitigation and adaptation interventions faces a number of particular technical challenges. Key among them is an incomplete understanding of future changes in climate, socio-economic and ecological systems as well as the interactions between those changes. This is augmented by other challenges such as difficulties in attributing outcomes to specific interventions, shifting baselines and objectives on climate resilience, and long time periods for outcomes and impacts of adaptation and mitigation interventions to unfold.

In order to cope with these challenges and to provide useful and up-to-date information for better policies and decision-making processes, evaluation increasingly needs more systematic and rigorous approaches to synthesize existing knowledge and to fill evidence gaps. The workshop refers to this responsibility drawing upon comprehensive experiences by experienced instructors gained in cooperation with international partners including multilateral and bilateral evaluation units as well as global evidence providers, partner countries and universities. A more comprehensive and very highly evaluated 2-day-version of the workshop is currently part of the International Program for Development Evaluation's (IPDET) annual on-site program on "green evaluations".

The workshop is interactive, using a sequence of lectures and case studies, practical group work and exchange among instructors and participants. Topics addressed in this course include the implications for evaluation of climate-relevant concepts such as resilience, vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation, loss and damage and transformational change. Based on the introduction of relevant evaluation questions with regard to relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and equity the instructors will introduce cutting-edge and climate-responsive approaches, methods and tools, including different forms of evidence syntheses, advanced case studies analysis including survey methodology, climate risk mapping and analysis, vulnerability assessments and geospatial evaluation. The instructors will also take a brief detour and look at relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation of climate change interventions.

Objectives: The workshop aims to increase participants' knowledge and skills in the evaluation of complex climate change and development interventions. After the workshop the participants 1) are aware of key climate-relevant concepts, types of interventions (projects) as well as their implications when commissioning or conducting (complex) evaluations; 2) understand the basics of climate politics, especially through a lens of the role of evaluation in the UNFCCC CoP negotiations; 3) know how to commission, design and conduct climate evaluations; 4) have a good overview of intermediate and advanced data collection tools and analysis; and 5) are familiar with applying concepts and approaches for the evaluation of transformative and just climate interventions.

Level: This is an intermediate level workshop. It is intended for evaluators and commissioners who aim to expand their foundational understanding of evaluation of both climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions or development evaluations in context of increasing vulnerability or climate-related risks.

Prerequisites: The workshop requires foundational knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods and designs for complex evaluations. For the interactive group work, some first experiences in development project and program evaluation and/or thematic evaluations are advantageous.

Target number: 15-25 participants

Technical support: No specific requirements, but sufficient space for interaction among instructors and participants and especially group work would be very welcome.

Materials: A list of selected reading materials will be provided at least two weeks prior to the workshop, digital handouts throughout the day and final presentations immediately after workshop completion.