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Evaluations for Climate: experience of the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit on standard setting and capacity needs assessment

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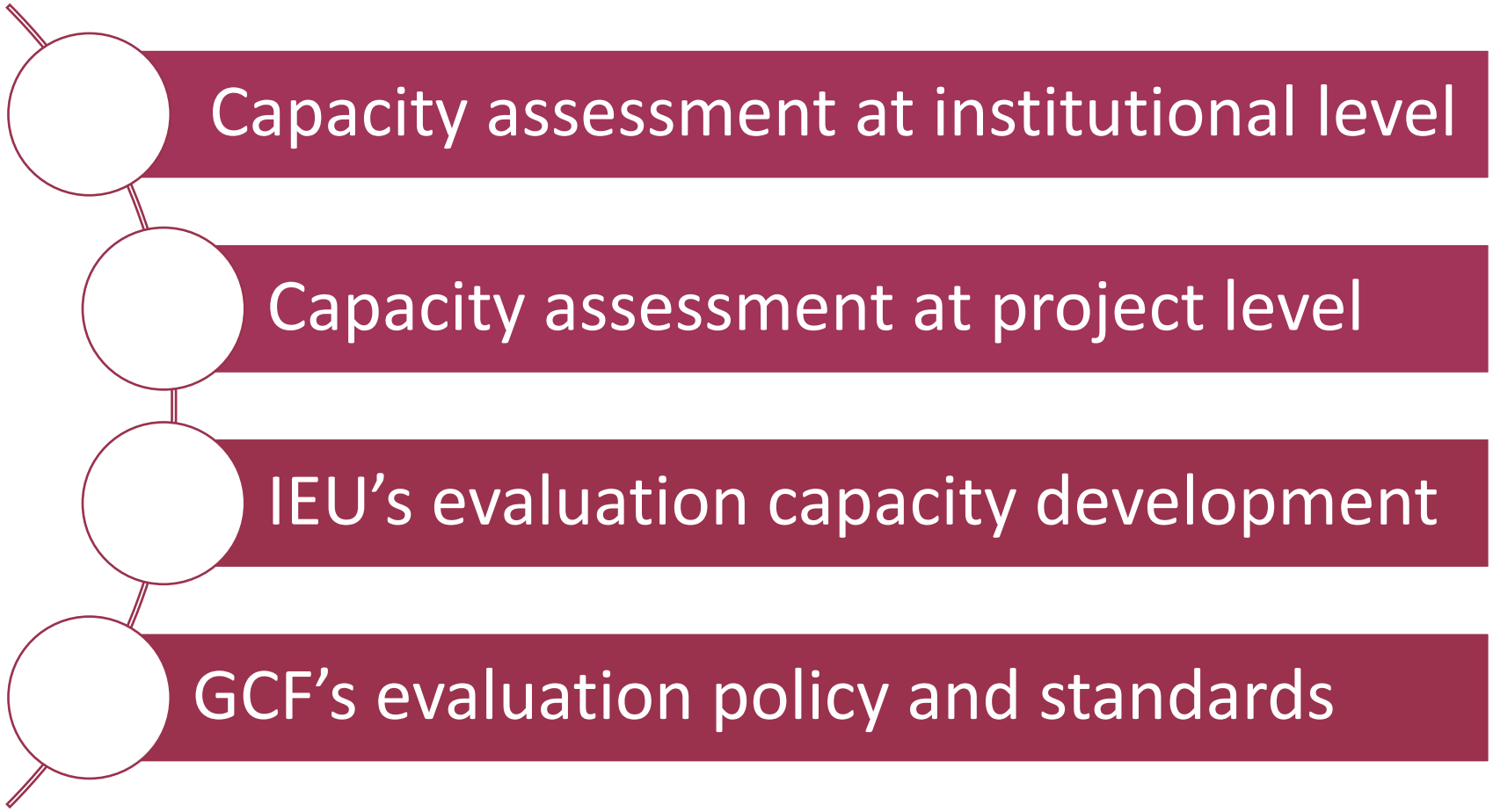
STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION



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CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT EFFORTS

- Capacity needs assessment at two levels:
  - **Institutional level** – Desk based review of existing evaluation capacities of Direct Access Entities.
  - **Project level** – Understanding to what extent are programmes and projects that the GCF is supporting, capable of *credibly* reporting their (own) impacts, efficiency and effectiveness, in an evidence-based and robust way?

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INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

INDICATOR NAME	DESCRIPTION
Evaluation Office	It is a part of the structure of an entity, and it shapes the way to assess and understand the program under implementation, and its impact. Evaluation office also enables the entity to create a crucial link between implementers and beneficiaries on the ground and decision-makers.
Evaluation Staff	They help the entity design, coordinate and implement its own monitoring, evaluation, research and learning activities. They also help their organizations develop evaluation methods, frameworks and tools.
Evaluation Experience	This indicates that whether the entity has previously conducted evaluations or not.
Project implementation experience with international actors (such as GCF, GEF, AF, MDBs and the UN agencies)	This indicator helps to identify whether the entity is familiar with working with certain international actors, and also familiar with the several stages of project implementation.

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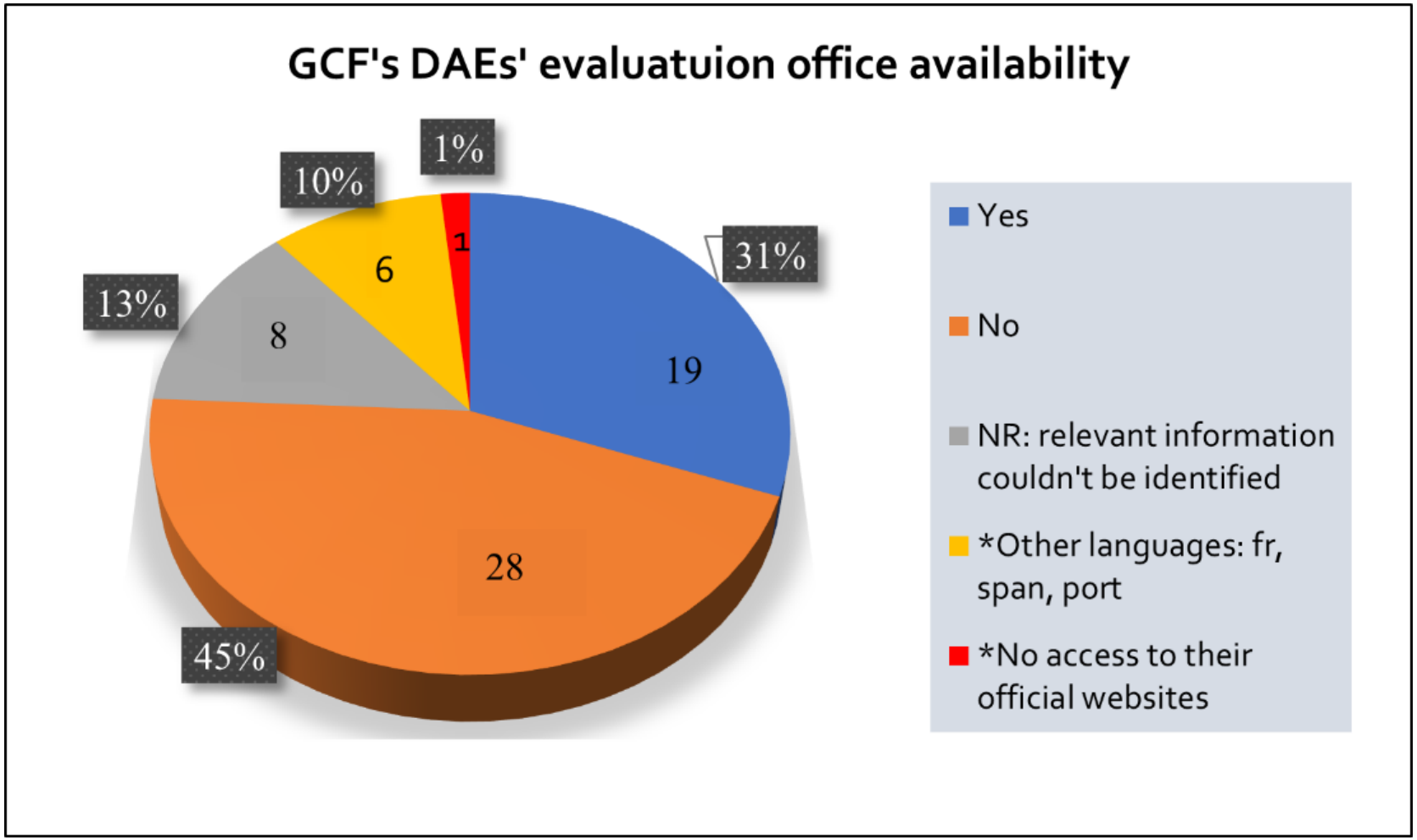
SAMPLE OF RESULTS



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PROJECT LEVEL

Theory of change

- What is the quality of the (implicit or explicit) theories of change and programme logic?
- Are unintended consequences referred to and identified robustly in the programme theory of change and/or in the surrounding literature reviews?
- Are causal pathways clearly identified and discussed? (This is discussed in the context of the theory of change and the credibility and feasibility of the pathways.)
- How robust are the causal linkages (implicit or explicit) and are they well informed by high-quality evidence?
- Is good-quality evidence cited to discuss the efficacy of causal linkages?

Potential for measurement of causal change and evaluability

- Does the proposal design allow for credible reporting of causal change?
- To what extent are included requirements for monitoring and evaluation adequate and able to cover costs of undertaking high-quality impact evaluations?
- Activities are included in the proposal that focus on “economic analyses” and “overall monitoring and evaluation” and these are sufficient for high-quality credible evaluations?
- Are methods for measuring attributable causal changes (outcomes or impact or other) discussed?
- Are there potential areas of bias that are likely to creep in?

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PROJECT LEVEL (CONTD..)

Implementation fidelity and performance against investment criteria

- Are eligibility and targeting criteria well articulated in submitted documents?
- Is there adequate and reliable information included in the proposal regarding implementation fidelity?
- To what extent is impact potential identifiable and measurable in the proposal?
- To what extent is paradigm shift potential identifiable and measurable in the proposal?
- How well are other GCF investment criteria informed and are these measurable and verifiable with high credibility and quality?

Data collection and reporting credibility

- Are current reporting requirements sufficient for regular M&E?
- How likely is it that progress on investment criteria can be measured and reported on credibly, given M&E plans, budget and indicators for investment criteria?
- To what extent did the proposal provide additional impact indicators beyond those proposed by the GCF? Can the proposal's indicators be used to measure the magnitude of causal change?
- Have baseline data been collected and/or is there a requirement for this?
- What is the potential quality of data and are they suitable for impact evaluations?

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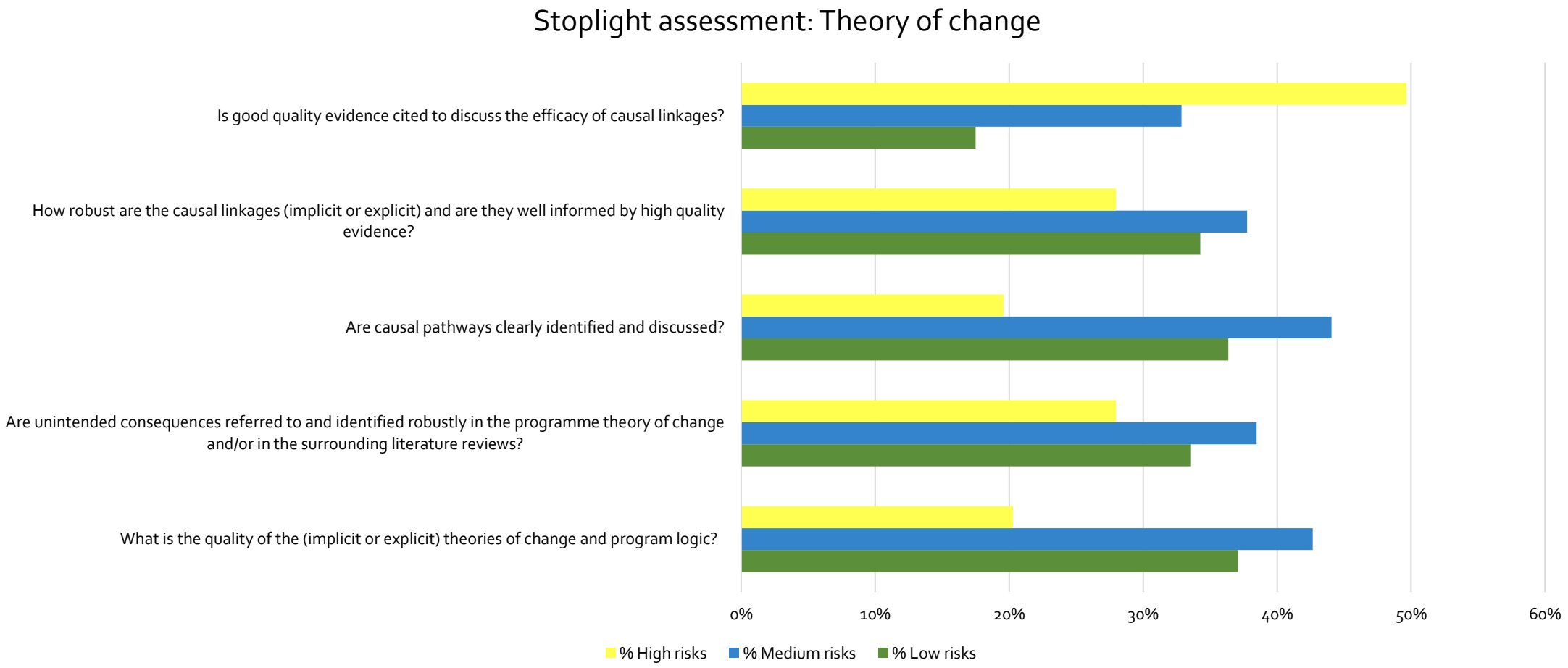
SAMPLE OF RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS



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IEU'S CURRENT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA)
- Internal learning workshops and events
- Custodian of evaluation function and setting methodological and strategic direction for evaluation function of GCF (Evaluation Policy and Standards)

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WHAT IS LORTA?

- Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA)
- Started in 2018
- LORTA stands on three pillars:

Learning-Oriented	Real-Time	Impact Assessment
Provide lessons for the GCF, stakeholders, and the international community about what works and how in climate change adaptation and mitigation	Learn the project impact in real-time by integrating implementation tracking into impact assessment	Impact assessment/evaluation captures the extent to which changes in outcome indicators can be attributed to a particular intervention

Evaluation Policy

- Evaluation policy lays out:
  - **Principles of evaluation** (impartial, objective and unbiased; Relevance, use and participation; Credibility and robustness; and Measurability)
  - **Evaluation criteria** (Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of projects and programmes; (ii) coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities; (iii) gender equity; (iv) country ownership of projects and programmes; (v) innovativeness in result areas; (vi) replication and scalability; and (vii) unexpected results, both positive and negative)
  - **Types of evaluations**: Accredited Entity led project interim and final evaluations that must be submitted to the GCF, IEU led evaluations and Secretariat led evaluation.

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EVALUATION STANDARDS

- Independence
- Impartiality and objectivity
- Utility and value added
- Ownership and participation
- Credibility and rigour
- Transparency
- Learning
- Human rights, Gender equality and Environmental considerations
- Confidentiality
- Cost-effectiveness
- Ethics
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Competence
- Respect and Beneficence

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Thank you!

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