



Put Your Money Where Your Evidence Is

1–4 September | ADB Headquarters, Manila



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Independent
Evaluation
Unit



Is Climate Finance Delivering? Lessons from Independent Evaluation





**ASIAN
EVALUATION
WEEK 2026**

**Put Your Money
Where Your Evidence Is**

**3 September
Parallel Session 15**

**Is climate finance
delivering? Lessons from
independent evaluation
(GCF)**



JEEHYUN YOON

*Evaluation Specialist (Legal and Administration)
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From Evidence to Policy: Evaluation of GCF's Country Ownership Approach



Presented by **Jeehyun Yoon**
Evaluation Specialist, GCF-IEU



What is country ownership?

- A founding principle of the GCF
- Increasing global emphasis on country ownership
- Widely supported, but subjective and difficult to measure its implementation

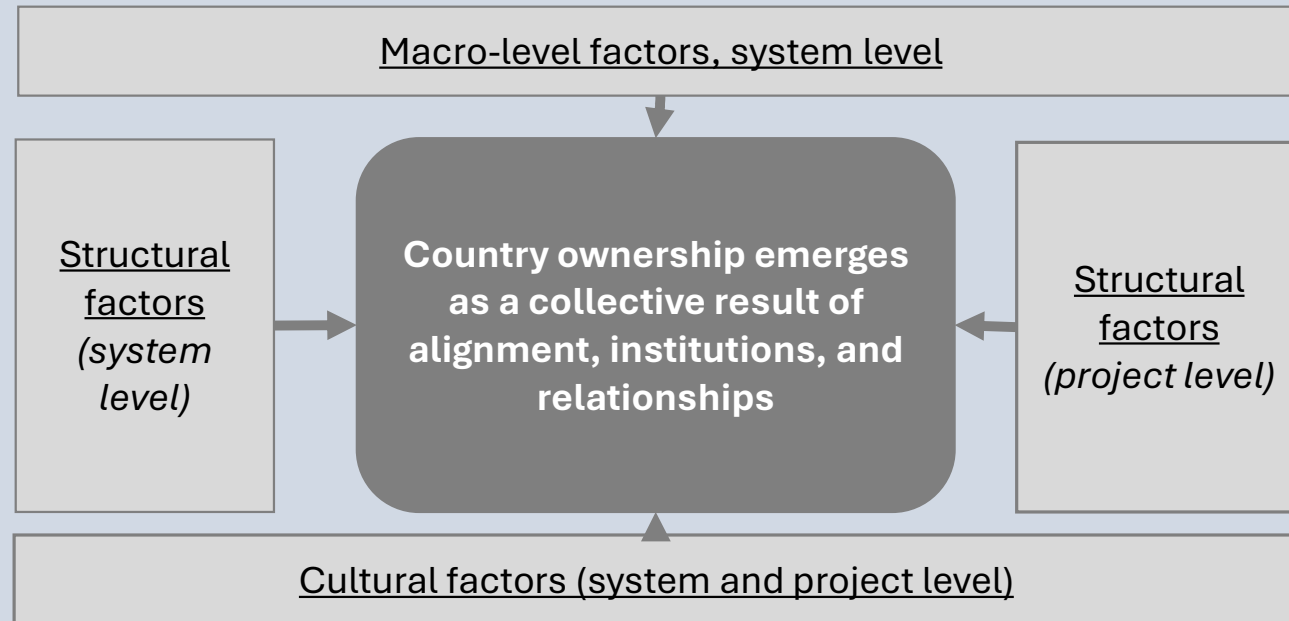


Rethinking country ownership @ GCF

Multiple mechanisms



Evaluation's conceptual contribution:
Country ownership as system-level property



Key Findings

Where GCF can make changes; structural factors of country ownership

- **NDA:** cornerstone of GCF approach, with discretion in their own approach. NDAs vary in capacities and leadership.
- **Direct access:** an important tool; not a silver bullet.
- **No Objection Letter:** does not guarantee a whole-of-government or whole-of-society endorsement. Does not guarantee effective NDA engagement.

Country ownership is a continuum, not a checkbox

- Ownership weakens during implementation, dependent on AE
- Context is key
- Stakeholder engagement and accountability to NDA: the challenge for private sector and multi-country projects

From Evaluation Evidence to an Evolving Policy Discussion



2025

- IEU evaluation completed
- Evidence intended to inform updated guidelines



Jan-July 2026

- Drafted revised Country Ownership Guidelines
 - *Country-driven prioritization*
 - *Inclusive engagement*
 - *Capacity and institutional development*



Next stage (~ 2026)

- No final agreement on differentiated no-objection requirements
- Further refinement and Board consideration planned

When Evaluation Meets Policy: Timely, Independent and Useful

Close engagement

- Continuous dialogue with the Secretariat
- Engagement with NDAs, AEs and other stakeholders
- Ongoing feedback throughout the evaluation process

Timely sequencing

- Evidence available before policy options were finalized
- Findings entered the discussion when choices were still open

Independence and credibility

- Independent assessment of strengths and weaknesses
- Credibility with both the Secretariat and the Board



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Thank you!

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Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Gender Approach



Presented by **Genta Konci**
Evaluation Specialist, GCF-IEU



GCF's Mandate on Gender



Updated Gender Policy established:

- Gender-responsiveness
- Cleared accountability
- Context flexibility

Evaluation Framework

Two-lens assessment

- Institutional architecture
- Project-level and results

- ✓ Building on the 2025 Gender Synthesis
- ✓ Desk review, including literature review and benchmarking study
- ✓ Portfolio review (all projects, 20 sampled projects, 6 deep dives)
- ✓ Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions
- ✓ Online survey

Are We Delivering Gender Results?



Policy foundation strong but not fully operationalized



Institutional fragmentation created accountability gaps



Gender capacity increased but siloed and uneven across ecosystem

Are We Delivering Gender Results?



Gender-focused stakeholders marginalized, thus ownership constrained and depth of gender integration limited



M&E and knowledge management architecture not well-suited for learning. GA & GAP system as approval mechanism



GCF supports gender-responsive outcomes, however results are underdeveloped



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Climate Finance: Implementation Insights from Evaluation at ADB



Presented by **Sumeet Manchanda**
Principal Evaluation Specialist, ADB

Project Validations and Evaluations

Project-specific lessons that have wider climate finance delivery implications

Biomass power project, Thailand

- Use of circular economy solution
 - Dissemination and replication
- Physical climate risk – flooding
 - Project lessons
 - Portfolio-level risk assessments
- Market prospects

Solar Projects, Vietnam

- Implications of retroactive PPA changes and MDB role
- MDB project structuring for climate mobilization

Synthesis lessons highlighting a trend

Consistently lower rating on sustainability for power distribution projects, several countries

- Acknowledgement of restructuring and policy needs rather than more funding



Country and Sector Evaluations

Country – level evaluations

Bangladesh CAPE (2021): Climate resilience should be central to project development

Pakistan SAPE (2017): Continued support needed to address circular debt in energy transmission and distribution

Kazakhstan CAPE (2025): Substantial emphasis and effort but only 5% climate financing

Sector evaluation – Energy (2019)

- Conduct Critical **Energy Policy updates**
- Help DMCs prepare **long-term sector plans**
- **Do more cross-sector work** e.g. e-mobility-water supply; energy efficiency



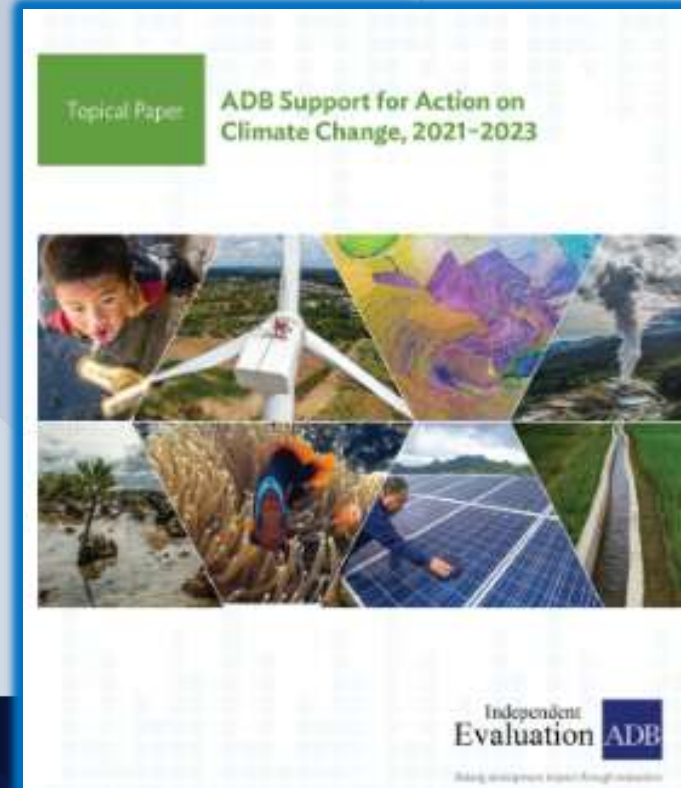
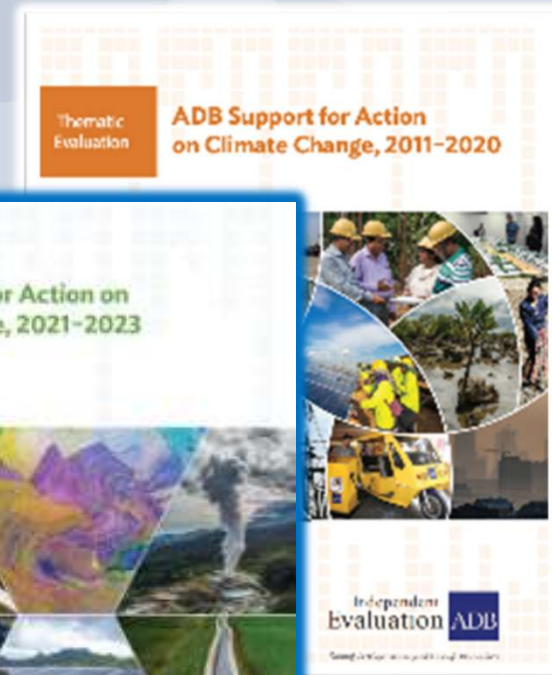
Thematic Evaluations and Topical Papers

Thematic Evaluation on ADB Support for Action on Climate Change, 2011-2020

- Articulate a path to Paris alignment
- Use climate diagnostics to inform CPSs
- Increase focus on climate outcomes, finance and GHG accounting
- Enhance support for NDC development
- Strengthen ADB climate change and DRM capacity

Topical Paper: ADB Support for Action on Climate Change, 2021-2023

Assessed progress against recommendations from the 2021 thematic evaluation.

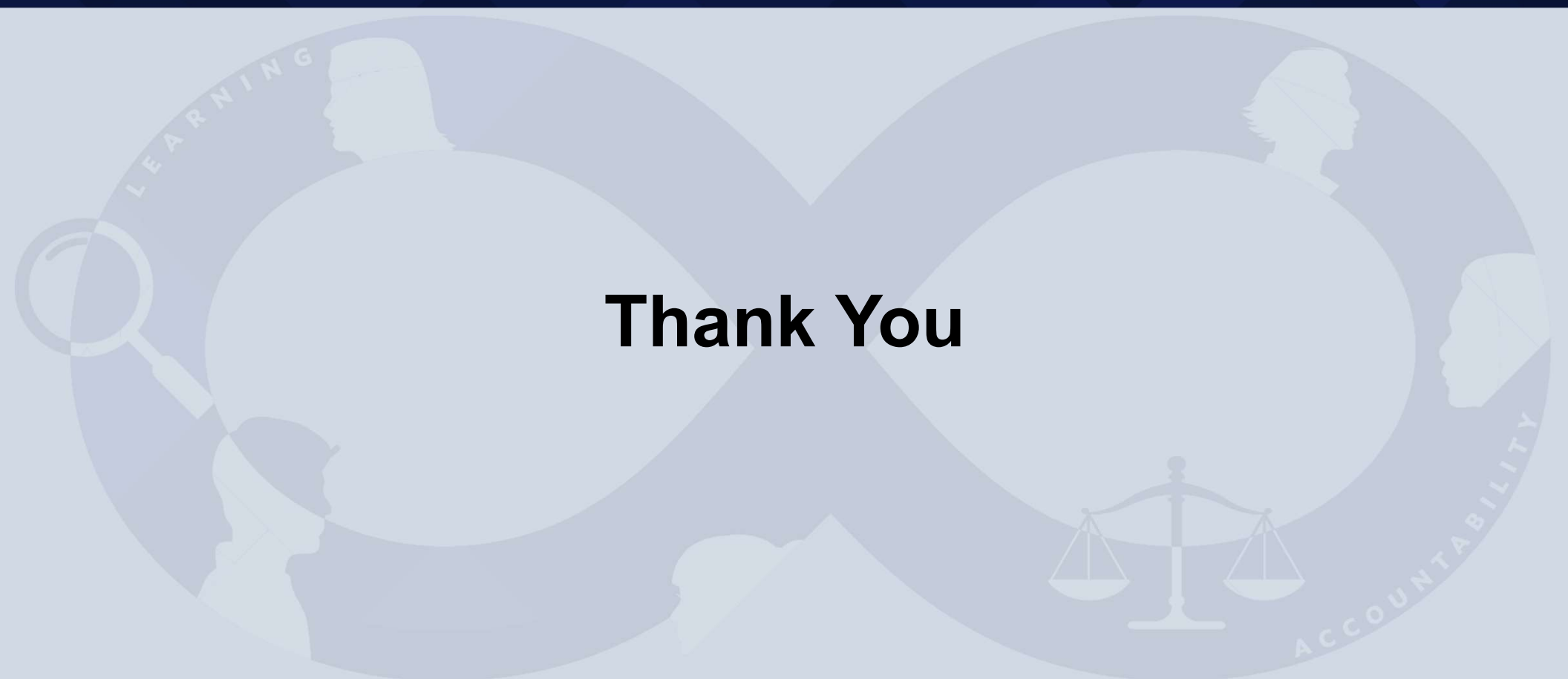


Layered Complementarity

- All projects validated (about 200 annually), creating a strong evidence base
- Lessons from project validations and evaluations feed into higher-level evaluations
- Climate issues cut across country, sector and thematic work

Building of Evidence Chain

Validations → Pakistan SAPE → Energy Sector Evaluation 2019 → Climate Evaluation 2021 → Topical Paper 2024 → Disaster Risk Management Evaluation 2027



Thank You



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Evaluation of the GEF Sustainable Cities Program



Neeraj Kumar Negi
Program Manager Corporate and Climate Evaluations Senior
Evaluation Officer

33

Countries

\$480M

GEF financing

90

Cities

\$6B

Cofinancing

PROGRAM SCALE AND REACH

Systems based approach to urban sustainability

RELEVANT TO URBAN SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES



Alignment with
UNFCCC, CBD, and
UNCCD



Integrated urban planning
and policy reform



Green infrastructure
and biodiversity



Land restoration and
socio-economic benefits



GLOBAL PLATFORM ADDS VALUE, WITH SCOPE TO BETTER SUPPORT COUNTRY PROJECTS

PROGRESS

More practical, contextualized guidance

Stronger engagement with cities, NGOs, academia, private sector

FURTHER SCOPE

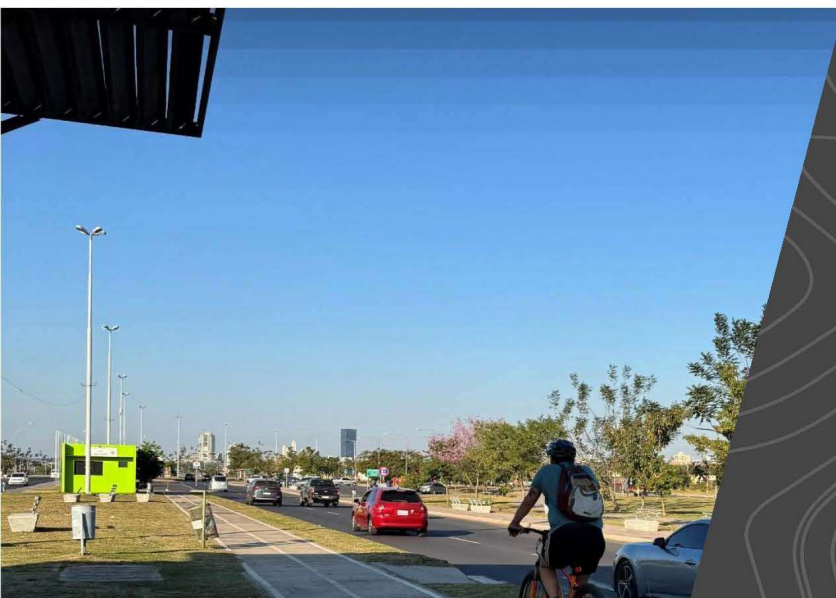
Better alignment with country project needs/timelines

Stronger translation of knowledge into action



EVALUATION OF THE GEF SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM

CATALYTIC INTENT AND RESULTS



TRANSIT
ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT
APPROACHES
SCALED IN CHINA
AND PERU



USE OF EV
FOR WASTE
COLLECTION
EXPANDED
STATEWIDE IN
ANDHRA
PRADESH,
INDIA



FOLLOW-ON
FINANCING
MOBILIZED
FROM MDBS
AND CLIMATE
FUNDS

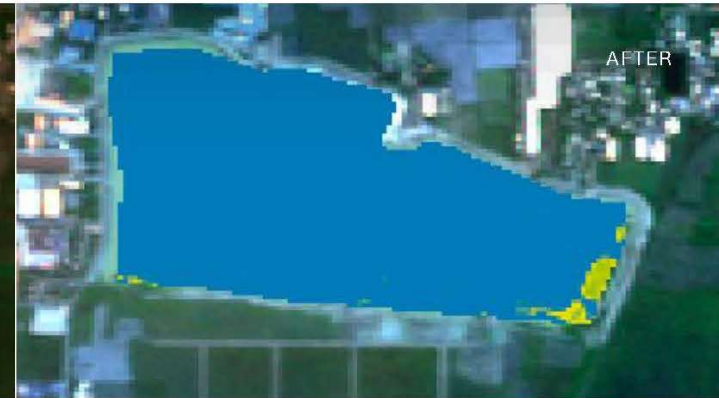
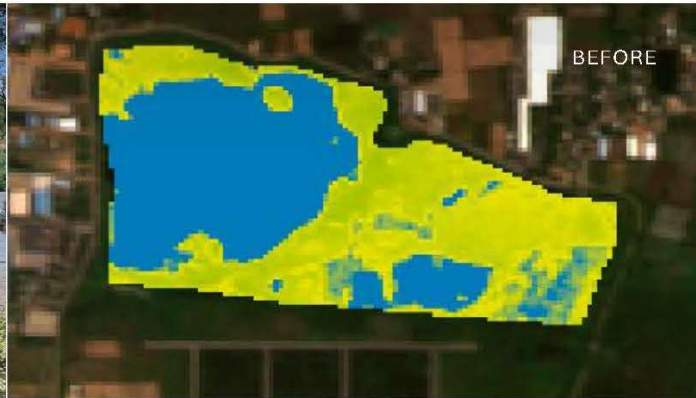


NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS
ATTRACTING
REPLICATION
INTEREST

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES EMERGING



01 FILTERING GARDEN
Recife, Brazil



02 NDVI CHANGE: KADAPAKKAM LAKE
Chennai, India

Legend: NDVI Values

	<0.2		0.2-0.4		>0.4
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NOT YET FULLY TRANSFORMATIONAL

01 Strong entry point
for integrated
planning

02 Demonstration
pilots generating
momentum

03 Cross-sector
synergies remain
uneven

04 Transformation at
scale still emerging



EVALUATION OF THE GEF SUSTAINABLE CITIES
PROGRAM

WHAT IS WORKING WELL

STRONG
ALIGNMENT
WITH GLOBAL
AGENDAS

PILOT
INVESTMENTS
WITH TANGIBLE
RESULTS

HIGH
COFINANCING
LEVERAGE

GROWING
FOCUS ON
INCLUSION AND
LIVELIHOODS



EVALUATION OF THE GEF SUSTAINABLE CITIES
PROGRAM

**BRAZIL**

SDG Observatory across 5,500+ municipalities

**PIKINE & GUÉDIAWAYE, SENEGAL**

Flood management committees sustained capacity

**CHINA**

TOD tools institutionalized

**INDIA**

Waste Management IT platform further developed

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORING IS CRITICAL



EVALUATION OF THE GEF SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM

Thank You

Evaluation Conducted By: Neeraj Kumar Negi, Mariana Calderon and Fatima Mumtaz

Presented to GEF Council: June 2026

Available at: <https://www.gefio.org/content/dam/partners/ieo/docs/mgr/cncl/GEF-EN-Evaluation-Sustainable-Cities-Report-Final.pdf>



Is Climate Finance Delivering?

The Third Performance Review of the GCF

Presented by **Archi Rastogi, Ph.D**



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ELEVEN YEARS LATER

359

PROJECTS

\$20.4bn

GCF FINANCE

\$60.0bn

CO-FINANCING

\$80.4bn

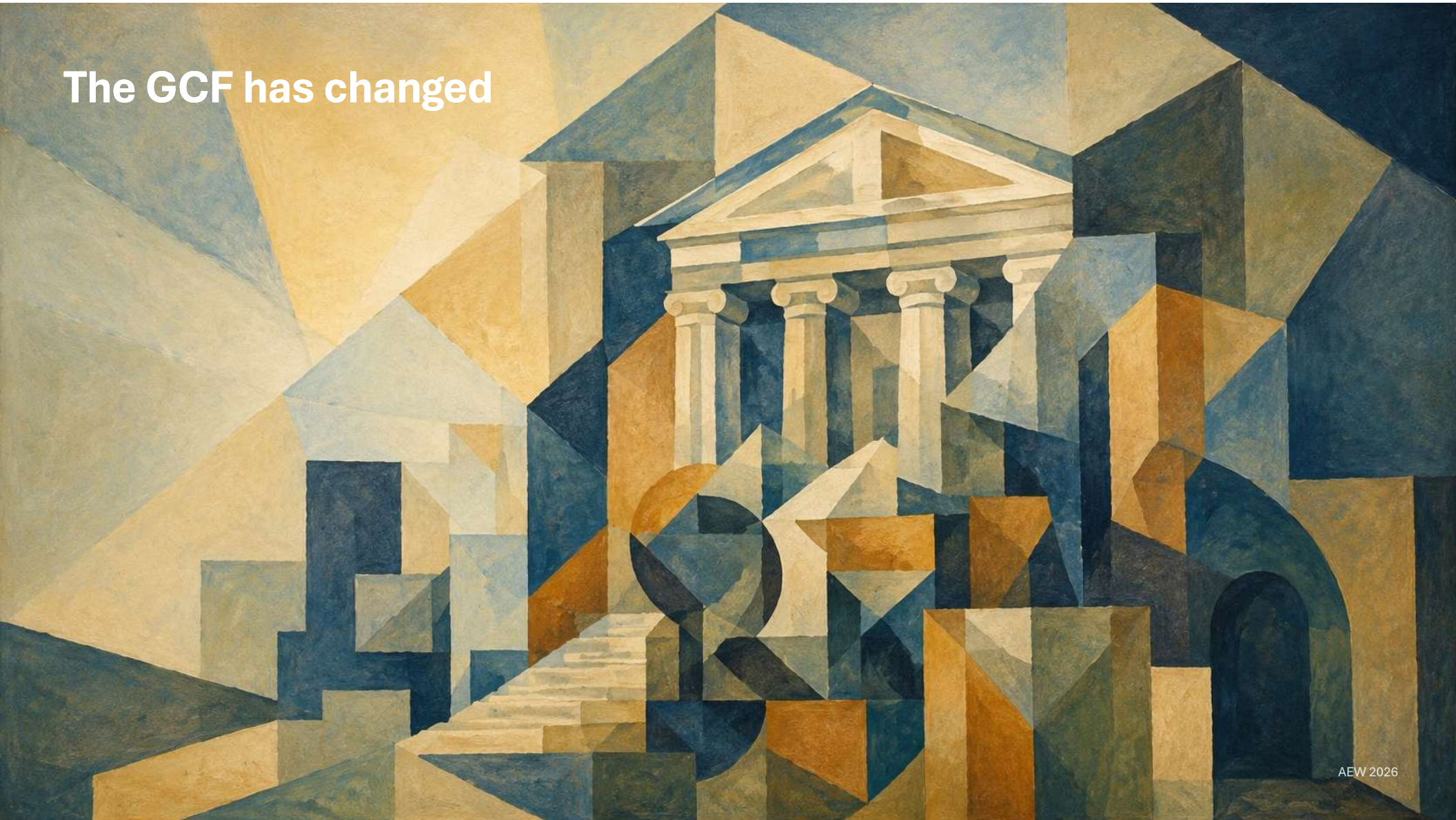
TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

\$7.0bn

DISBURSED

Current GCF portfolio dashboard

The GCF has changed



The bottleneck has moved



What is the GCF for?



Two questions for evaluators



Can evidence be weaponized?





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Moderated Q&A Discussion





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