

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Urban Climate Action Programme (UCAP)

Management Response to the Independent Evaluation of the Climate Action Implementation (CAI) Component

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) welcomes the independent evaluation of the Urban Climate Action Programme (UCAP) Climate Action Implementation (CAI) component, conducted by Tropical Health and DevLearn. EQUALS rated the evaluation as Excellent, meaning the report is comprehensive and of a high standard. It provides a credible assessment of programme performance and useful lessons for future urban climate action programming.

Overall response to findings

FCDO welcomes the evaluation's conclusion that CAI has been highly relevant to city needs, effective in helping translate climate plans into implementation, and strong on value for money, with credible potential for wider transformational impact.

We also recognise the evaluation's finding that sustainability and scale depend on a range of factors, including finance mobilisation, political commitment and institutional capacity. This aligns with FCDO's experience that long-term impact in urban climate programmes depends not only on technical assistance, but also on local ownership, financing and the extent to which approaches are embedded in local systems.

Response to recommendations

FCDO has considered each recommendation in light of the evidence, feasibility and strategic alignment. Our response is summarised below.

A. Recommendations on CAI and potential future programming

FCDO:

- **Partially accepts** the recommendation to continue a future phase of CAI, recognising that any further programming will depend on alignment with FCDO priorities and available funding.
- **Accepts** recommendations to strengthen links with climate finance, continue peer learning and knowledge exchange, and ensure sufficient programme management capacity in future programmes.

- **Partially accepts** the recommendation on retaining existing City Advisors, recognising the value of embedded support while noting that retaining specific individuals is not always feasible within programme design.

These responses reflect the evaluation's finding that strong technical assistance, embedded support and peer learning have been central to CAI's effectiveness and value for money.

B. Recommendations on wider urban climate programming

FCDO accepts the recommendations on wider urban development and climate action programming, including maintaining a balance between pilot interventions and systems reform, replicating effective delivery approaches, evidencing climate co-benefits, and strengthening engagement with national governments to support scale and replication.

This reflects the evaluation's finding that systemic change depends on institutional embedding, national policy alignment, and continued learning and dissemination.

Actions

In response to the evaluation, FCDO will work with delivery partners to capture key lessons and agreed actions through a structured lessons learned process, apply relevant learning to the design and delivery of CAI's second phase, and share the most relevant insights across FCDO and HMG. Lessons with implications for future urban climate programming will be documented through appropriate programme closure and learning products to inform future planning.

Conclusion

FCDO welcomes this evaluation as a robust and useful assessment of CAI. It confirms that the programme has made a strong contribution to urban climate action in partner cities and offers practical recommendations for future programming.

FCDO remains committed to supporting climate action in cities, and the findings of this evaluation will help shape the design and delivery of future investments.

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