

Established by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), the Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) is a multidisciplinary, multistakeholder learning community seeking to deepen, advance, and promote the understanding and operationalization of transformational change in climate action. This brief provides an overview of TCLP's work and highlights its evolution since TCLP's launch in 2017.

CIF manages a portfolio of innovative programs that enable climate-smart development planning and action through 325 projects in 72 low and middle-income countries worldwide. As part of CIF's mandate to serve as a learning laboratory for scaled-up climate finance, it established the [Evaluation & Learning \(E&L\) Initiative](#) in 2016 to generate knowledge on effective climate financing and action.

BUILDING A LEARNING PARTNERSHIP ON TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

In 2017, CIF launched the [Transformational Change Learning Partnership \(TCLP\)](#) to enable collaborative learning on transformational change. Its aim is to engage with a diverse set of CIF stakeholders from multilateral development banks, CIF donor and recipient countries, other climate finance institutions, and civil society organizations to address questions on what transformational change means and collectively clarify how contributions of international climate finance can drive transformational climate action.

TCLP's work has been evolving over the past few years. It began by focusing on advancing the understanding of transformational change concepts and conducting a preliminary analysis of the CIF portfolio. The following year, in 2018, TCLP's work became centered on two independent studies addressing the core questions of CIF's role in supporting transformational change since 2008: an [evaluation](#) conducted by Itad and an [evidence synthesis](#) conducted by the Overseas Development Institute. The study teams engaged with TCLP participants on their approach and findings through in-person workshops and webinars. The findings, recommendations, and insights on what it takes to support transformational change in climate action were shared widely in early 2019. They sparked many discussions on CIF's role and how all climate finance can be more transformational in the future.

TCLP completed its originally envisioned work in mid-2019. However, at that point, CIF's stakeholders and decision-makers expressed interest in continuing TCLP: they recognized that there

PROGRESSION OF THE CIF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (TCLP)

- **2017**
Launch of TCLP; work on concepts and frameworks
- **2018–2019**
Focus on evidence synthesis and evaluation of CIF's role in supporting transformational change since 2008; support for global learning on transformation in climate action
- **2020**
Next phase of TCLP:
 - Broadening global sharing and collaboration on transformational change
 - Small group learning on topics based on participants' interests
 - Further advancing the understanding of "transformational change" and what it takes to achieve transformational results
- **PRESENT**
Growing emphasis on operationalizing transformational change concepts to support more advanced transformational change practices in climate action; increasing focus on analytical activities and content development to provide guidance and tools relevant to project designers, implementers, and reviewers.

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was much more to understand about transformational change. In addition, with many others around the world doing related work, there were several opportunities to advance the work that the TCLP had begun, through broader collaboration and learning.

Since then, TCLP has supported a variety of participant-driven joint learning activities through virtual exchanges and in-person workshops, involving over 450 individuals from more than 150 institutions around the world. Such initiatives build on the collective experience of participants to advance the understanding of transformational change (concepts, theories, examples, and lessons); support improvements in program/project design and implementation; as well as deepen monitoring, evaluation, and learning approaches for enhancing transformational outcomes. These processes have allowed TCLP to strengthen global engagement, collaboration, and learning, while promoting the case for increased urgency, commitment, and action to realize the transformational change needed. This work is organized around smaller interest groups that focus on **Transformational Change Concepts, Methods, and Metrics (CMM); Clean Energy and Energy Transition; Resilience and Landscapes; and Just Transition.**

CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORKS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Building on its award-winning evaluation of CIF's engagement with transformational change and its contribution to this aim, TCLP developed [concepts](#) and frameworks of "transformational change", including a definition, dimensions, and signals of transformational change. In this section, TCLP's work in this area and its collaboration with CIF's stakeholders to delve into the concept of "transformational change", along with its relevant framework and experiences, are presented.

First, TCLP's working definition of "transformational change", within the context of climate action, is as follows—
A fundamental change in systems relevant to climate action with large-scale positive impacts that shift and accelerate the trajectory of progress toward climate-neutral, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development pathways.

Second, TCLP has identified five **dimensions** that must be attended to, or present, for there to be confidence that climate actions are transformational: relevance, systemic change, speed, scale, and adaptive sustainability (see Figure 1).

Third, **nine arenas of intervention**—entry points for action that could enable or catalyze transformational change—have been highlighted: financing, governance and engagement, institutions, knowledge and information, markets, natural capital, policies, practices/mindsets, and technologies and infrastructure.

Currently, TCLP is placing an increased emphasis on operationalizing transformational change concepts and focusing on developing helpful guidance and tools for

project designers, implementers, and evaluators, especially as relevant to new CIF programs. To advance and deepen the transformational impact of programs and projects, two key areas of work are being supported:

- 1 Clarification of how **guidance questions** can be used to support people working at various points in the program/project cycle.
- 2 Collaborative development of **signals** that help to extend the transformational intent of new program/project development.

A set of [guidance questions](#) has been developed for each new CIF program. These highlight the most important aspects of each transformational change dimension and guide stakeholders to reflect on these aspects in relation to program design and implementation. These questions have been included in the Program Design Documents of the new CIF programs ([Renewable Energy Integration](#); [Nature, People and Climate Investments](#); and [Accelerating Coal Transition](#)) and will thus shape the development of the programs for several years to come.

Under the signals work, there is a significant focus on disaggregating **outcome signals** (the points that we want to reach) and **process signals** (what is needed to achieve the outcomes). Both process and outcome signals may be evident at **emerging or advanced stages**. By using the dimensions and associated questions, it should be possible to identify and consolidate signals relevant to specific sectors and progressively adapt them during the processes of country investment plan/project development. Much of this work is being done through the sectoral interest groups.

Participation in TCLP is open to all who are working on climate change and grappling with understanding, implementing, and assessing transformational change. Involvement ranges from receiving periodic updates and new content launched by TCLP to actively taking part in the interest groups and co-creating content alongside several other eminent colleagues and experts.

Figure 1:
FIVE DIMENSIONS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

-  **Relevance:** Alignment with and attentiveness to goals and context over time
-  **Systemic change:** Fundamental shifts in system structures and functions
-  **Speed:** Accelerate impacts to achieve the appropriate speed of change
-  **Scale:** Contextually large transformational change processes and impacts
-  **Adaptive Sustainability:** Robustness, resilience, and adaptiveness of change