

## DEFINITIONS & DISTINCTIONS<sup>1</sup>

**Monitoring** (performance monitoring) is the ongoing and routine collection of performance indicator data to reveal whether desired results are being achieved and whether implementation is on track. *Monitoring of Global Climate Change (GCC) programs* measures results of climate change *interventions*, which is different from *monitoring climate change* itself. While GCC program monitoring may incorporate some measures of climate changes, for the purpose of this training, we are referring to monitoring GCC programs and projects.

**Evaluation** is the systematic collection and analysis of information about the characteristics and outcomes of programs and projects as a basis for judgments to improve effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about current and future programming. *In GCC programs, evaluations address whether (and ideally, with what confidence) observed changes in emissions reductions or adaptive behavior can be attributed to USAID interventions and why those observed changes may or may not have occurred.*

**Attribution** is ascribing a causal link between observed changes (results) and a specific intervention. A result is attributable to the USAID, or USAID can claim credit for a result, even when other partners are involved in achieving the result, if USAID can claim that without USAID intervention the outcome would not have taken place.

**Indicators** describe particular individual characteristics or dimensions of the intended results that are intended to change through project implementation. Whatever type of indicators are used, the indicator be constructed in a way that permits consistent measurement over time.

**PERFORMANCE  
MONITORING AND  
EVALUATION ARE  
DISTINCT BUT  
COMPLIMENTARY.**

### TYPES OF INDICATORS

- **Performance indicators** measure progress towards intended results; **context indicators** measure relevant conditions, usually factors that are beyond the management control of the Mission.
- **Output indicators** measure specific immediate results of program activities (*e.g. Number of people trained to collect, manage, develop and/or evaluate LEDS-relevant data as a result of U.S. assistance*). **Outcome indicators** measure higher level results (*e.g., Increase in IPCC Tier level of GHG inventory as a result of USG assistance*).
- **Quantitative** indicators are numerical with clearly *objective* measurability: an example is a person's height or weight. **Qualitative** indicators require *subjective* measurement; these are sometimes reported in numerical form, but those numbers do not have arithmetic meaning on their own (*e.g., score on an institutional capacity index or progress along a milestone scale*).
- **"Standard Foreign Assistance" indicators** were jointly developed by State and USAID to measure both what is being accomplished with USG foreign assistance funds, and the collective impact of foreign and host-government efforts to advance country development. **Custom indicators** complement standard indicators, and may be developed to fit a specific project or activity. **Required** or **mandatory indicators** are the standard indicators required to be reported on by all direct GCC programs, as well as all Missions including a climate change attribution of non-GCCI funded programs ("indirect" funding) in their Operational Plans.

<sup>1</sup> Most definitions on this page are taken from USAID's ADS Chapters 200-203

## SELECTED RESOURCES & LINKS

E3/GCC Intranet	USAID/E3/GCC's site includes information, tools and resources for GCC M&E: <a href="https://pages.usaid.gov/E3/GCC/what-we-provide">https://pages.usaid.gov/E3/GCC/what-we-provide</a> (internal USAID)
USAID M&E Resources	Great sources for templates, guidance and resources overall: <a href="http://usaidelearninglab.org">http://usaidelearninglab.org</a> , <a href="http://usaidprojectstarter.org/">http://usaidprojectstarter.org/</a> (if links below don't work, it's probably on one these two sites)
USAID official guidance	ADS is the primary source on policies and procedures that guide the Agency's programs and operations; Chapters 200, 201 and 203) contain relevant chapters on USAID's Programming. <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/agency-policy">http://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are/agency-policy</a>
USAID Programming & Planning resources	See ADS 200.3; also <a href="http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/usaid-program-cycle-101">http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/usaid-program-cycle-101</a>
Evaluation Policy	USAID's Evaluation Policy (January 2011): <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/policy">http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/policy</a>
USAID Climate Change Policy	USAID's Climate Change and Development Strategy (2012-2016). <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/climate/strategy">http://www.usaid.gov/climate/strategy</a>
Overview of M&R & M&R Requirements	Key Principles for Effective Performance Monitoring: ADS 200.3.5.5 Budgeting for Performance Monitoring: ADS 203.3.2.3 Further details on monitoring at the project level: ADS 203.3.4.3
Roles	Performance Monitoring Roles and Responsibilities: ADS 203.3.2.1, ADS200.3.5;
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategies: ADS 200.3.5.2, 201.3.2-4, 203.3.2.4
Frameworks	Results Framework: ADS 200.3.5.3; Logical Frameworks: ADS 200.3.5.4, 201.3.9.1 c) Technical Note on Results Frameworks: <a href="http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/technical-note-developing-results-frameworks">http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/technical-note-developing-results-frameworks</a> Technical Note on Logical Frameworks: <a href="http://usaidelearninglab.org/working-group/group-resource/logical-framework-logframe-technical-note">http://usaidelearninglab.org/working-group/group-resource/logical-framework-logframe-technical-note</a>
PMPs	ADS 203.3 and the Performance Management Plan (PMP) Toolkit on USAID Learning Lab: <a href="http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/performance-management-plan-toolkit-guide-missions">http://usaidelearninglab.org/library/performance-management-plan-toolkit-guide-missions</a>
Linking with Evaluation	For more on Evaluation at USAID, USAID's Evaluation website ( <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation">http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation</a> ). Additional documents are on USAID Learning Lab.
Reporting	Operating Unit Annual Performance Plan and Report: ADS 203.3.14
Indicators	Standards and Criteria for Performance Monitoring and Reporting: ADS 203.3.6&7 Master List of Standard Indicators, Handbooks: <a href="http://www.state.gov/f/indicators/index.htm">http://www.state.gov/f/indicators/index.htm</a> Selecting Performance Indicators: See the chapter on selecting indicators in the PMP Toolkit
GCC indicators	Contact USAID/E3/GCC for the latest list of GCC indicators
Change	Changing Performance Indicators: ADS 203.3.10
Data Quality	Data Quality and Data Quality Assessments: ADS 203.3.11; Also, see the chapter on DQAs in the PMP Toolkit
Baselines & Targets	Setting Performance Baselines and Targets: ADS 203.3.9; Also, see the chapter on baselines and targets in the PMP Toolkit
Data Sources	<a href="http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/information-resources">http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/information-resources</a>