

Building better from the beginning: developing theories of change in the context of climate change and ensuring quality at entry for climate change and environment programmes

Facilitators: **Dr. Jyotsna Puri (Jo)** is currently the Head of the Independent Evaluation Unit of the Green Climate Fund. She is also adjunct associate professor at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York. Dr. Puri's areas of work include policy impact analysis on poverty reduction, environment, agriculture, health and climate change, etc. She has more than 22 years of experience in policy research and development evaluation at several organizations including the World Bank, Columbia University and the UN. Also, she has led evaluation-related work



for UNDP, UNICEF, GEF and the MacArthur Foundation. Dr. Puri also has extensive policy experience and provides advice on evidence-based climate change and environmental policy, evidence-based advocacy for behaviour change, community-based engagements for improving health, and methods for evaluating humanitarian action. Her expertise is using mixed methods that use rigorous quantitative methods informed by high quality qualitative approaches. Dr. Puri's academic qualifications include a Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Resource Economics and a Masters in Development Economics.

Nilesh Chatterjee has a PhD in public health (major in Behavioral Science) from the University of Texas School of Public Health; a Masters' degree in Medical Sociology from University of Maryland Baltimore County; and MBBS (medicine) degree from Mumbai University. Nilesh has more than 20 years of experience in designing, implementing, evaluating strategic health communication and behavior change interventions; conducting quantitative and qualitative research and situational assessments; intervention pilots and community trials; and providing technical assistance for strategic planning, organizational development and capacity development at state and national level on projects conducted in USA, Mexico, India, Mauritius, Bangladesh, among other countries in the South Asian region.

Summary: The workshop will focus on providing the rationale for why it's especially important to think about building for evidence, right from the beginning and why environment and climate change programmes have special challenges that make it more important to think about this, right from the beginning. The first challenge in this process is recognizing how good data and designs can help inform good policy and strategy for climate change and environment programmes. The second challenge is recognizing where theories of change can play a critical role in helping not just with project/program design but also in evaluability. The third is understanding that in climate change and environment related programmes, thinking about the 'last mile' is especially critical: Cook stoves may be excellently well designed and the supply chain may have been set up very well but what are the factors that lead to households 'adopting' new and efficient cook stoves? What are we learning from other sectors and what can we do to close this last mile gap? The workshop will close with discussing biases that may enter in our assessments of how effective programs have been, unless these are well thought out.

The program will be a mix of theory and practice.

Tentative Agenda

9 – 9.15 am: Introduction

9.15 – 9.45 am: Building better:

A short presentation on

- where good data and designs have helped inform policies – the importance of building better at the beginning.
- What makes climate change and environment programmes more interesting
- Some components of what we need to build good programmes.

9.45 – 10.15 am: Exercise

Divide into groups and think about things that are required for ONE program that the group is interested in.

10.15 – 10.30 am: Coffee break.

10.30 – 11.00 am: How to build a good theory of change and some things that are a sine qua non

11.00 – 11.30: Exercise

Groups pick a program and design a TOC.

11:30 – 12.:00: Discussion

Two randomly chosen groups discuss TOC and discuss in class

12.00 – 1 LUNCH

1 – 1:30 pm: What are we learning about evidence in adopting new behavior

1:30 – 2 pm: Thinking about the last mile – exercise

2 – 2:30 pm Discussion with two groups

2.30 – 3.00 Tea

3 – 3:30 pm: Bias and Benchmarking

3:30 – 4 pm: Exercise

Group work: Thinking and identifying biases

4 – 4:30 pm Discussion

4:30 – 5:00: Close.