Evaluation of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Clearinghouse Phase IV

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Evaluation Process

43 stakeholders participated
ECPA project manager and director, USOAS, and stakeholders

Evaluation Period
October 2017 - April 2018
Stakeholder interviews and document revision

Intended Evaluation Users
US Permanent Mission to the OAS, the OAS Department of Planning and Evaluation and Department of Sustainable Development, and project stakeholders

Evaluation Purpose
To evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Phase IV of the ECPA Clearinghouse

Evaluation Results

Relevance
- Aligned with and supported OAS's mandate and priorities, specifically poverty alleviation through economically inclusive development promoting energy efficiency for sound and sustainable economic development
- Aligned with the donor's priorities, as an important country in the hemisphere and one that actively engages in policy and dialogue on energy security
- Aligned with participating countries' priorities in advancing sustainable energy

Effectiveness
- Contributed to strengthening dialogue and technical cooperation around sustainable energy and climate change, meeting its target of four new actions undertaken by participating countries
- Formulation of the project was grounded in research on energy trends and concerns and incorporated a wide range of stakeholder feedback that provided a solid foundation of evidence
- Lacked a gender perspective

Efficiency
- Successful in its outreach to national and regional stakeholders, with increased interest in and attendance at preparatory meetings, and small financial and in-kind contributions
- Financial and human resources appear to have been used efficiently and in a way that promotes a saving culture and economic use of resources
- Monitoring framework could be enhanced by incorporating qualitative as well as quantitative indicators and including indicators at the outcome level

Sustainability
- Key success factors contributing to the sustainability of ECPA interventions include its ability to provide access to information, technical expertise and experience sharing
- Factors that could affect ECPA's sustainability include issues around project design, the project period, and funding limitations

Lessons Learned

ECPA has a comparative advantage as a broker of exchanges among a wide range of stakeholders in the Americas' energy sector.

ECPA's flexibility enables it to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

Policy dialogue is a long-term, participatory process that benefits from a longer-term, programmatic approach.
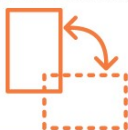
Policy dialogue and technical support can be mutually reinforcing if special care is taken to ensure that sensitization and capacity building is targeting both technical staff, policy planner and or decision makers.

ECPA is able to maximize its own resources for technical assistance by involving other actors.

Recommendations

1. The logical framework and supporting theory of change could be revisited to identify outcomes at the intermediate or immediate levels to define specific changes the project aims to influence.

2. The type of policy change ECPA aims to influence is only achieved over a sustained period of time. ECPA IV's two-year timeline puts the focus on outputs that can be achieved within that period but limits the project's ability to effect and track change at the outcome level.

3. Securing financial resources from OAS regular fund to support staff costs could be considered given the proven relevance and value added of ECPA platform to support policy dialogue in sustainable energy and climate change.

4. Improve the quality of project reporting and monitoring by linking information and data to project outputs and outcomes with matrices updated each quarter to show progress towards targets.

5. Strategies to increase respondent feedback on the quality of ECPA's fora and workshops could be enhanced by allocating time at the end of each session with a short paper-based questionnaire to be filled out on the spot before the participants leave the premises.

6. A future project may decide to adopt a gender-sensitive approach to energy reform or management in the Americas.

7. Capturing progress achieved in policy dialogue requires not only quantitative indicators, but also qualitative ones that can capture the perceptions of stakeholders.

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