

IEO

Independent Evaluation Office
of the International Monetary Fund

IEO
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of the International Monetary Fund

EVALUATION POLICY
OF THE INDEPENDENT
EVALUATION OFFICE
AUGUST 2025

IEO
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THE IMF'S
EXCEPTIONAL
ACCESS POLICY
EVALUATION REPORT DEC 2024

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THE EVOLVING
APPLICATION OF
THE IMF'S MANDATE
EVALUATION REPORT 2024

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DRAFT ISSUES PAPER
IMF ADVICE ON
FISCAL POLICY
MAY 2024

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DRAFT ISSUES PAPER
THE IMF AND
CLIMATE CHANGE
SEPTEMBER 2024

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DRAFT ISSUES PAPER
IMF ENGAGEMENT
ON DEBT ISSUES
IN LOW-INCOME
COUNTRIES
May 2025

IEO
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THE IMF AND
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT THE IEO

Established in 2001, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) conducts independent and objective evaluations of the IMF's policies, activities, and products. In accordance with its terms of reference, it pursues three interrelated objectives:

- ▶ To support the Executive Board's institutional governance and oversight responsibilities, thus contributing to accountability.
- ▶ To enhance the learning culture within the Fund by increasing the ability to draw lessons from experience.
- ▶ To strengthen the Fund's external credibility by enhancing transparency and improving understanding of the work of the IMF.

Independence is the fundamental anchor of the IEO's work. The IEO is independent from the IMF's management team and staff and operates at arm's length from the Executive Board. Its budget, which has been flat in real terms since 2010, is separate from the Fund's, but subject to the same control procedures. The IEO is entitled to access any internal information and documents with very limited exceptions and the office's work is evaluated periodically by external experts.

For further information on the IEO and its ongoing and completed evaluations, please visit our website IEO.IMF.org or contact the IEO at +(1) 202.623.8623 or at IEO@IMF.org.

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IEO Team in September 2025.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This Annual Report provides an overview of the recent activities for the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from October 2024 through end-September 2025, outlining the work program for the year ahead. The report highlights the completion of evaluation of *The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy*, the final stages of the evaluation of IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy, the ongoing progress of the evaluation of The IMF and Climate Change, and the launching in May 2025 of a new evaluation of IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in Low-Income Countries (LICs). This year, the IEO has also developed its first Evaluation Policy.

The evaluation of *The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy* (EAP) examines the Fund's EAP since its adoption in 2002 until 2023, analyzing its objectives, design, reforms, and implementation. The evaluation finds that, while the EAP represents an improvement over the previous ad hoc approach, better balancing rules with flexibility in assisting members with their financing needs, there are still gaps in both its design and implementation. We are encouraged by the Executive Board's endorsement of the IEO recommendations, including conducting regular EAP reviews, clarifying the fundamental role of sound program design, addressing technical gaps in the criteria, strengthening the application of the EAP's enhanced procedures and better leveraging ex post evaluations, and establishing greater coherence between the EAP and the Fund's enterprise risk management policy.

Looking forward, we are at different stages in three ongoing evaluations: (i) IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy, which is expected to be discussed by the Executive Board at the end of 2025, assesses the adaptation of the Fund's multilateral and bilateral fiscal advice since the global financial crisis in the context of a shock-prone global economy and shifting global economic landscapes and policy priorities; (ii) the early-stage evaluation of The IMF and Climate Change, which will be completed in mid-2026, will assess how the Fund has adapted its surveillance, lending, and capacity development (CD) activities to help countries address the challenges created by climate change, focusing on the period since 2021 when the Fund approved its climate change strategy; and (iii) IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in LICs, which will be completed in the second half of 2026, will focus on Fund engagement on debt-related issues in LICs through surveillance, lending, and CD for the period 2005 to April 2025.

An important development this year has been the completion of our first Evaluation Policy. The policy is based on the IEO's terms of reference, clarifying their implementation and updating our main operating procedures, including: our governance purpose, and principles; the evaluation outputs processes, and methodologies; and our internal and external engagements. The policy also incorporates the recommendations of the Fourth External Evaluation of the IEO (García-Silva, Sembene, and Jin, 2024). I am confident that the Evaluation Policy will provide a useful framework to guide the scope and timeliness of our evaluations while preserving high-quality analytical standards and independent analysis. In this regard, the highly skilled and diverse staff will continue to be the IEO's most important asset.

PABLO MORENO

Director, Independent Evaluation Office



OVERVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

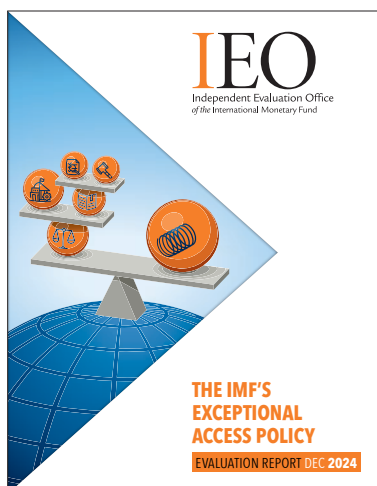
This report provides an overview of the IEO's activities from the 2024 Annual Report through end-September 2025. The main evaluation activities during this past year include the completion of the evaluation of *The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy*, the ongoing progress of the evaluations on IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy and The IMF and Climate Change, and the launching of a new evaluation on IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in Low-Income Countries.

The evaluation of *The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy* (EAP) was discussed by the Executive Board in December 2024 (IEO, 2024d). The evaluation finds that the EAP marks an improvement over the previous ad hoc approach by requiring staff, management, and the Executive Board to systematically consider essential elements of exceptional access (EA) programs. It represents a further step in the Fund's efforts to better balance rules with flexibility in assisting members with their financing needs. However, the evaluation also identifies shortcomings in the policy's design and implementation. Certain criteria need clearer guidance on their implementation and the enhanced safeguards they can offer compared to normal access (NA) programs. Moreover, there is potential for improvement in the implementation of the enhanced EAP decision-making procedures, the content and use of ex post evaluations, and the alignment between the EAP and the Fund's enterprise risk management (ERM) policy.

The evaluation of IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy (IEO, 2024a) is nearing completion and will be discussed by the Board in late 2025. It aims to assess the Fund's fiscal policy advice in addressing members' macroeconomic challenges and whether Fund advice appropriately flagged fiscal risks at the multilateral and bilateral level in advanced economies (AEs), emerging markets and middle-income economies (EMMIEs), and low-income countries (LICs), focusing on the period between 2008 and 2023. The draft issues paper is available on the IEO website (<https://ieo.imf.org/en/our-work/Evaluations>).

The early-stage evaluation of The IMF and Climate Change (IEO, 2024b) will assess how the Fund has incorporated climate change-related considerations to its surveillance, lending, and capacity development (CD) activities, how the institution adapted internally to this challenge, and the role of the Fund within the global climate architecture. It focuses mainly on the period since the adoption of the 2021 Climate Strategy and will cover the experience with the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) until April 2025. The evaluation is targeted for discussion by mid-2026 and the draft issues paper is available on the IEO website (<https://ieo.imf.org/en/our-work/Evaluations>).

Following consultations with the Executive Board of the IMF, Fund management and staff, and external stakeholders, the IEO launched a new evaluation of IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in Low-Income Countries in May 2025 (IEO, 2025a). The evaluation will focus on debt-related issues in LICs through surveillance,



Evaluation team: Vivek Arora (project leader), Miguel de Las Casas (lead evaluator), Yasemin Bal Gündüz, Jérémie Cohen-Setton, Kelsie Gentle, Jiakun Li, Carmen Rollins, and Sandra Saveikyte.

The EAP tries to find a balance between rules and flexibility in assisting members with large balance of payments needs, while adopting adequate financing safeguards.

lending, and CD. It will assess the quality and effectiveness of IMF engagement, including the timely identification of debt vulnerabilities, the provision of advice, and the role of the Debt Sustainability Framework for LICs (LIC-DSF). The evaluation is targeted for discussion in the second half of 2026 and the draft issues paper is available on the IEO website ([evaluations](#) in progress).

THE IMF'S EXCEPTIONAL ACCESS POLICY

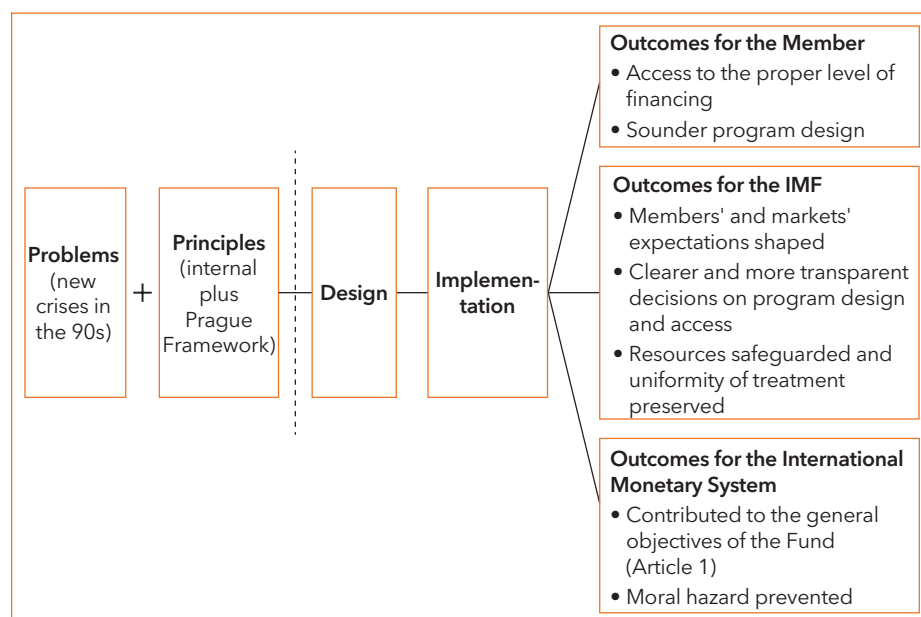
The IEO's evaluation of The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy (EAP) (IEO, 2024d) was discussed by the Executive Board in December 2024. The evaluation assessed the design, evolution, and implementation of the EAP from its inception in 2002 through mid-2023, drawing on the experience of 38 exceptional access (EA) arrangements. It examined whether the EAP has fulfilled its intended objectives to provide a structured and transparent framework for IMF lending above normal access (NA) limits; enhance safeguards for Fund resources; and ensure uniformity of treatment among members.

The evaluation found that the EAP improved the Fund's previous ad hoc approach to EA, by introducing a structured framework based on four exceptional access criteria (EACs), enhanced decision-making procedures, and mandatory ex post evaluations, which aimed to ensure that higher access was accompanied by stronger safeguards. However, the evaluation concluded that the EAP has fallen short on its intended objectives (Figure 1). While it has provided a more systematic basis for decision-making and facilitated greater Board engagement, it has not consistently resulted in a higher standard for EA programs relative to NA programs, nor has it fully addressed concerns about the Fund's assumption of risk or uniformity of treatment.

Key findings highlighted that the EACs—particularly those related to debt sustainability and market access—have not always been applied consistently or transparently. In some cases, assessments were perceived to be overly optimistic or insufficiently grounded in analytical frameworks, raising concerns about evenhandedness and credibility. The evaluation also noted that EA programs have often failed to catalyze private capital inflows or resolve members' Balance of Payment problems, with many programs followed by successor arrangements and continued debt vulnerabilities.

Evenhandedness and Transparency: The evaluation found that the absence of regular, comprehensive reviews of the EAP since 2004 limited the Fund's ability to assess the policy's coherence and effectiveness, contributing to perceptions of lack of evenhandedness due to ad hoc adjustments in response to specific country cases. Tensions between the EAP's rules-based criteria and the need for flexibility to address diverse member circumstances have sometimes led to unclear judgments and concerns about consistency. While the evaluation did not find direct evidence of "reverse engineering," persistent perceptions of biased assessments have questioned the credibility of the EAP. The evaluation suggested the need for more transparent and evenhanded application of the policy, suggesting that regular reviews, interim policy updates, or the reintroduction of an exceptional circumstances clause (if used transparently and with safeguards) could help balance flexibility with credibility and mitigate reputational risks.

FIGURE 1. EAP RATIONAL LOGFRAME



Source: IEO staff.

EA Program Design and Outcomes: The evaluation found that policy choices in EA programs did not differ significantly from those in NA programs, with broadly similar frameworks focused on fiscal adjustment, monetary tightening, and structural reforms, while largely avoiding debt restructuring and capital flow management measures. The EACs appeared to have limited influence on program design, and justifications often relied on restoring investor confidence without detailed analytical support. Program outcomes were also comparable with those of NA programs, with only about one-third of EA programs deemed successful, and many followed by successor arrangements, suggesting unresolved BOP problems and persistent vulnerabilities. The evaluation noted that high implementation rates did not translate into high success rates, pointing to potential design issues, including overoptimistic forecasts and weak catalytic effects. It also raised concerns about program phasing, particularly in non-capital account crises, where frontloaded disbursements were not always matched by timely adjustment. The evaluation emphasized the need for clearer articulation of trade-offs and risks in program design, including justification for policy choices and how debt sustainability would be achieved, to strengthen ex ante safeguards and program credibility.

EAP Criteria¹ and Procedures: The evaluation found that while the EACs have helped structure decision-making, their effectiveness has been undermined by gaps in both design

¹ The Exceptional Access Criteria (EAC) main elements are: i) EAC1: The member is experiencing, or has the potential to experience, exceptional BOP pressures on the current account or the capital account, resulting in a need for Fund financing that cannot be met within the normal limits; ii) EAC2: A rigorous and systematic analysis indicates that there is high probability that the member's public debt is sustainable in the medium term; iii) EAC3: The member has prospects of gaining or regaining access to private capital markets within a timeframe and on a scale that would enable the member to meet its obligations falling due to the Fund; and iv) EAC4: The policy program of the member country provides a reasonably strong prospect of success, including not only the member's adjustment plans but also its institutional and political capacity to deliver that adjustment.

and application. These include limited scrutiny of access levels under EAC1, ambiguity and inconsistent interpretation of the “gray zone” under EAC2, insufficient linkage between EAC2 and EAC3, and a lack of clear frameworks for assessing EAC3 and EAC4. Once programs are underway, EAC assessments have rarely changed, raising questions about whether they continue to provide a higher standard. Enhanced decision-making procedures have improved information flow to the Board but have not consistently enabled meaningful engagement, and the timing and clearance of financial risk assessments have limited their impact. The evaluation also highlighted the importance of effective communication for program credibility and noted that Ex Post Evaluations (EPEs), while sometimes strong, have not been used to their full potential due to limited independence, follow-up, and influence on future program design and policy development.

Enterprise Risk Management: The evaluation found that while the EAP and the IMF’s Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) policy are conceptually complementary, they were developed at different times and are not yet fully coherent or aligned. Although, the EAP incorporates elements of risk mitigation, such as financial safeguards and efforts to ensure uniformity of treatment, these are not consistently articulated with the ERM, which was adopted in 2022. The evaluation emphasized the need to clarify and quantify the link between risk tolerance statements and risk assessments in EA cases, and to ensure that the policies also reflect the risks associated with the Fund not providing support when there are doubts about whether the EACs are met.

Based on these main findings, the evaluation made five recommendations, all of which received broad support from Executive Directors (see Box 1).

BOX 1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMF’S EXCEPTIONAL ACCESS POLICY

- ▶ **Exceptional Access Policy Review:** The Fund should conduct a dedicated review of the EAP and schedule subsequent reviews on a regular basis. EAP reviews should take due account of strategic considerations, including the adequacy of existing access limits and the balance between rules and flexibility within the policy.
- ▶ **Program Design:** The Fund should clarify the fundamental role of sound program design in providing higher safeguards in EA cases relative to NA. Program staff reports should provide justification for the policy choices and trade-offs embedded in program design and how they support reasonably strong prospects for program success, including the authorities’ political and institutional capacity to implement the program. Related risks should be clearly disclosed to the Board.
- ▶ **Exceptional Access Criteria 1–3:** To address technical gaps in the EACs, facilitate better alignment with the policy’s objectives, and enhance evenhandedness, the Fund should (i) increase the level of scrutiny for access decisions; (ii) clarify expectations when debt is in the “gray zone,” revisit its terminology to strengthen signaling, and clarify the distinct roles of the different types of debt and creditors for debt sustainability; and (iii) develop consistent analytical guidance to assess market access prospects.
- ▶ **Exceptional Access Policy Procedures and Ex Post Evaluations:** The Fund should strengthen the application of the EAP’s enhanced procedures and adopt measures to better leverage EPEs for risk mitigation, accountability, and learning.
- ▶ **Enterprise Risk Management:** The Fund should establish greater coherence between the EAP and the IMF’s ERM policy. It should seek to ensure a common institutional understanding of how the EAP serves to mitigate enterprise risks consistently with the Fund’s risk tolerance in lending.

The Managing Director welcomed the evaluation and committed to preparing a Management Implementation Plan (MIP) to address the endorsed recommendations. The full evaluation report, the statement by the Managing Director, and the Chair's Summing Up of the Executive Board meeting, along with supporting documents, are available on the IEO website at [IEO.IMF.org](https://www.imo.org).

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

In 2025, the IEO continued with its active outreach activities with the aim of both promoting public awareness and debate about the IEO's work and, at the same time, receiving feedback to bring in external perspectives from a broad range of stakeholders.

As part of this outreach strategy, the IEO hosted a series of public seminars and webinars, reflecting diverse topics. These included an event presenting the IEO's evaluation of the IMF's EAP, as well as seminars on financial stability and crisis predictability, the economics of AI, fiscal consolidation, the dominant role of the U.S. dollar as a reserve currency, and the macroeconomic consequences of populism and central bank pressures. These events featured prominent voices from academia, policy institutions, and the Fund itself and provided valuable forums for exchanging perspectives on key issues relevant to the Fund's work.



IEO seminar series events.

The IEO actively updates information on and solicits public comments about its evaluations, webinars, and other initiatives through its website ([IEO.IMF.org](https://ieo.imf.org)), along with email communication to subscribers and its [LinkedIn page](#). Through its outreach approach, the IEO aims to ensure that its work remains accessible and engaging to a global audience.

2

THE IEO EVALUATION POLICY

Over the course of 2025, the IEO has developed its first [Evaluation Policy](#) (IEO, 2025b). The policy is based on the IEO's terms of reference, clarifying their implementation and updating the IEO's main operating procedures. The policy outlines the purpose and principles guiding the IEO's evaluations, emphasizing independence, transparency, and effectiveness, its independent governance from management and staff, and its operating status at arm's length from the Executive Board. This foundational framework is designed to enhance accountability and promote a learning culture within the IMF.

The Evaluation Policy also incorporates the recommendations of the fourth external evaluation of the IEO, "[Managing Risks through Transparent Accountability](#)" (García-Silva, Sembene, and Jin, 2024). The Executive Board expressed strong support for the panel's recommendations, and the evaluation policy addresses them (Box 2). Notably, the policy updates the evaluation outputs, including ex post, early-stage, and stock-taking evaluations, and the process of topic selection. The fourth external evaluation of the IEO, the summing up of the Executive Board discussion, and the responses by management and the IEO are available on the [IEO webpage](#).

In an effort to increase the transparency of the IEO, the Evaluation Policy also reflects the main stages and elements of the evaluation processes, and the evaluation principles and methodologies, outlining the importance of wide engagement with internal and external stakeholders and the collaborative nature of the evaluation process. The policy includes a clause that mandates a review at least every six years to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

BOX 2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTH EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE IEO INCORPORATED IN THE IEO EVALUATION POLICY

- ▶ **On evaluation topics:** The Evaluation Policy has responded to the recommendation for an improved topic selection, by proposing a more structured, transparent, and informed process. In this regard, the IEO, maintains its independence in making the final decisions on the topics to be pursued.
- ▶ **On interactions:** The Evaluation Policy outlines how the IEO intends to strengthen its recommendations through early engagement with the Executive Board, management, and staff, highlighting the importance for these interactions to remain flexible and informal.
- ▶ **On focus and format of reports:** To enhance the relevance and timeliness of evaluations, there was substantial support for the IEO to conduct early-stage evaluations and streamline its product offerings. The Evaluation Policy confirms that early-stage evaluations will be part of the IEO's evaluation types and establishes the goal of completing evaluations within an average closer to 18 months, depending on the topic's scope and complexity.
- ▶ **On traction and implementation:** The Evaluation Policy further enhances and clarifies the follow-up process, including the IEO's role when significant elements of the Management Implementation Plan are postponed to future policy reviews.
- ▶ **On collaboration:** The Evaluation Policy gives guidance for collaboration with other partners, including other evaluation offices, focusing on information and knowledge sharing.



FOLLOW-UP ON IEO EVALUATIONS

PERIODIC MONITORING REPORT

In November 2024, the Executive Board broadly endorsed the [Fourteenth Periodic Monitoring Report](#) (PMR) on the Status of Management Implementation Plans (MIPs) in Response to Board-Endorsed IEO Recommendations (IMF, 2024). Prepared by the IMF's Office of Internal Audit (OIA), the report encompassed 11 MIPs with a total of 91 actions, which included one new MIP addressing the IEO evaluation of *The IMF's Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic* (IEO, 2023), which was issued after the [Thirteenth PMR](#).

The Fourteenth PMR also marked the start of the implementation of the slippages framework. Prior to this report, OIA deemed actions overdue if they were more than one year past their target implementation dates, allowing for a one-year grace period to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic may have adversely impacted the progress of implementation. However, starting with the Fourteenth PMR, this grace period was removed, and actions are now classified as overdue if they are not completed by their designated target dates outlined in their respective MIPs.

In total, among the 91 actions evaluated in the Fourteenth PMR, a record 49 actions have been successfully implemented, which includes eight that were reported as overdue in the Thirteenth PMR. Meanwhile, 42 actions are still open, with 13 of these being overdue (or past their target implementation dates).

MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

In March 2025, the Executive Board approved the MIP for the IEO's evaluation of *The Evolving Application of the IMF's Mandate* (IMF, 2025b), and in July 2025, the Board endorsed the MIP for the IEO's evaluation of *The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy* (IMF, 2024d).

The [MIP for the IEO's evaluation of The Evolving Application of the IMF's Mandate](#) was discussed by the Evaluation Committee on February 25, 2025, and subsequently endorsed by the Board on March 19. It addresses the four IEO recommendations, which aim to (i) enhance the decision-making process for Fund engagement in new policy areas; (ii) address operational challenges by producing budget data in a manner that allows tracking by policy area across all Fund activities and operations; (iii) enhance the clarity of key elements regarding surveillance in new policy areas; and (iv) adopt an Executive Board-approved high-level Statement of Principles for Engagement with Partners. Staff will leverage existing and planned workstreams to address the IEO's recommendations. Specifically:

- ▶ The ongoing 2026 Comprehensive Surveillance Review (CSR) will suggest the appropriate level of engagement in new policy areas that align with forward-looking surveillance priorities, taking into account trade-offs based on enterprise risk assessment and available expertise. It will also identify potential areas where additional resources may be needed. An updated Surveillance Guidance Note will be released after the completion of the 2026 CSR.
- ▶ The MIP builds upon the existing budget framework and recent efforts to enhance and modernize budget data reporting, acknowledging its critical role in strategic prioritization and budget oversight.
- ▶ The existing modalities for collaboration with external partners will provide a basis to outline an Executive Board–approved high-level Statement of Principles for Engagement with Partners.

The MIP on the IEO’s EAP evaluation was discussed by the Evaluation Committee on July 22, 2025, and subsequently endorsed by the Board on August 25, 2025. It addresses the Board-endorsed recommendations to: (i) conduct a dedicated review of the EAP; (ii) emphasize sound program design as a safeguard in EA cases; (iii) address technical gaps in the EAC; (iv) strengthen procedures for risk mitigation and learning; and (v) reinforce the coherence between the EAP and the IMF’s ERM policy. Staff will leverage existing and planned workstreams to address the IEO’s recommendations. Specifically:

- ▶ Short-term actions include assessing program design and providing recommendations for enhancing effectiveness, including of EA programs, as part of the ongoing Review of Program Design and Conditionality; issuing clearer guidance on political assurances, communications, and early and regular informal consultations with Executive Directors in EA cases; improving the staffing process of EPEs; and clarifying expectations for ERM.
- ▶ A dedicated review of the EAP, which will cover the remaining recommendations, is planned to be launched after the Review of Program Design and Conditionality is concluded.



IEO WORK PROGRAM

The current [IEO work program](#) includes three ongoing evaluations (IEO, 2024d):

IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy. In May 2024, the IEO launched an evaluation of the IMF's fiscal policy advice. The [issues paper](#) (IEO, 2024a) was discussed in an informal Board seminar in May 2024 and posted for comments on the IEO website. This evaluation aims to assess the IMF's fiscal policy advice in addressing members' macroeconomic challenges, focusing on both cyclical aspects, including fiscal stance, fiscal adjustment, interactions of fiscal policy with other policies, spillovers, and select structural fiscal aspects at the multilateral and bilateral level in AEs, EMMIEs, and LICs. The evaluation will include five thematic background papers which will provide in-depth assessment on the following issues: (i) Fund's advice to the AEs; (ii) Fund's advice to emerging markets and middle-income economies; (iii) Fund's advice to LICs; (iv) the consistency between the multilateral surveillance and country-level recommendations; and (v) policy advice on selected structural fiscal issues. The evaluation is in its final stages and scheduled to be discussed by the Executive Board in December 2025.

The IMF and Climate Change. In September 2024, the IEO launched an early-stage evaluation to assess the IMF's approach to climate change. The [issues paper](#) (IEO, 2024b) was discussed in an informal seminar with Executive Board members in September 2024 and posted on the IEO website for comments. The evaluation will focus on the initial implementation of the 2021 Climate Strategy, the design of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) programs, and the Fund's advancing work in climate capacity development. It will include five background papers focusing on: (i) the adaptation of multilateral and bilateral surveillance following the implementation of the 2021 Climate Strategy; (ii) the Fund's lending operations, particularly related to design of the RST and arrangements under the RSF; (iii) capacity development (CD) work; (iv) internal and institutional issues; and (v) the Fund's role within the global architecture for climate governance and financing. The evaluation is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2026.

IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in Low-Income Countries. In May 2025, the IEO launched an evaluation of IMF engagement on debt issues in LICs. The [issues paper](#) (IEO, 2025a) was discussed in an informal seminar with Executive Board members in May and posted on the IEO website for comments. The evaluation will focus on debt-related issues in LICs through surveillance, lending, and CD. It will assess, for the period from January 2005 to April 2025, the quality and effectiveness of IMF engagement, including the timely identification of debt vulnerabilities, the provision of advice, and the role of the Debt Sustainability Framework for LICs (LIC-DSF) in evaluating risks to debt sustainability and how it was used to inform fiscal advice more broadly. It will examine the implications of debt sustainability assessments for LICs' access to Fund resources, as well as issues related to debt transparency and

public debt management. The evaluation will also review the Fund's effectiveness in supporting recent debt relief initiatives and multilateral debt restructuring efforts for low-income borrowers, its catalytic role, and the success of the Fund's collaboration with the World Bank on debt-related matters. It is targeted for completion and discussion by the Executive Board in the second half of 2026.

Possible topics for future evaluations. The IEO regularly updates its list of [topics for possible future evaluations](#), following consultations with the Executive Board of the IMF, Fund management and staff, external experts, and civil society. The next update is expected by January 2026.



IEO mid-term workshop for the evaluation of IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy.



IEO retreat in 2025.



IEO ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AND STAFFING

The IEO spent \$7.18 million in FY2025, about 6.0 percent below its approved budget and 10.3 percent below the total funding available (see Administrative Budget table for details about the IEO's budget and expenditures). The underrun was due to several vacancies that took time to fill and the related delay in the work schedule, as well as the IEO's prudent expense management. Some related expenses shifted from FY2025 to FY2026 as a new evaluation got underway and the IEO began the year operating near full capacity.

In February 2025, the Executive Board approved the IEO's FY2026 budget proposal of \$7.63 million in FY2025 U.S. dollars. This figure is consistent with zero real growth over the FY2025 budget and continues the practice of maintaining zero real growth since FY2011. This budget will allow the IEO to fulfill its FY2026 work program, which will include completing two ongoing evaluations, sustaining work on one recently launched evaluation, and starting work on one new evaluation. The IEO also presented indicative budgets for FY2027 and FY2028, again based on zero real growth.

There are now 18 staff positions (including the Director) at the IEO, after the Executive Board approved three additional positions effective November 1, 2024. These additional positions were funded by an internal reallocation of resources from contractual services to regular staff. This follows the 4th External Evaluation of the IEO, which recommended removing rigidities and achieving a better balance of objectives within the IEO's Human Resources policy, all while staying within the budgetary framework. The Evaluation Committee (EVC) reviewed the IEO's proposals to implement the Panel's recommendations, which were later approved by the Board on October 21, 2024. The IEO team consists of a diverse group of professionals, of whom more than half were hired from outside Fund staff. The IEO also employs research officers and assistants on a contractual basis, as well as benefitting from summer interns. In addition, the IEO continues to rely extensively on external consultants to bring expertise and fresh and independent perspectives to its evaluation work.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

(In U.S. dollars)

Budget	FY2024		FY2025		FY2026
	Budget	Outturn	Budget	Outturn	Budget
Total resources including carry-forward	8,028,916	6,250,496	8,007,139	7,179,594	8,237,588
Of which carry-forward ¹	575,455	...	372,673	...	381,723
Administrative resources	7,453,461	6,250,496	7,634,466	7,179,594	7,855,865
Regular staff allocation	5,858,280	4,730,649	5,971,740	5,761,893	7,000,500
Discretionary budget	1,595,181	1,519,847	1,662,726	1,417,701	855,365
Of which:					
Contractual services (including overtime)	828,177	1,162,279	864,275	1,030,915	33,945
Business travel and seminar program	470,697	215,626	489,996	209,919	504,206
Publications	31,846	7,823	33,152	9,725	34,113
Other administrative items	264,461	134,119	275,303	167,142	283,101

¹ Resources carried forward from the previous year under established rules, aside from FY2024 when a higher carry-forward was approved on a one-time exceptional basis.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING IEO WORK PROGRAM

EVALUATIONS	STATUS
IMF Engagement on Debt Issues in Low-Income Countries	In progress for completion in second half of 2026
The IMF and Climate Change	In progress for completion in mid-2026
IMF Advice on Fiscal Policy	In progress for completion in December 2025
The IMF's Exceptional Access Policy	Completed 12/24
The Evolving Application of the IMF's Mandate	Completed 06/24
The IMF's Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	Completed 03/23
The IMF and Capacity Development	Completed 09/22
IMF Engagement with Small Developing States	Completed 05/22
Growth and Adjustment in IMF-Supported Programs	Completed 09/21
IMF Collaboration with the World Bank on Macro-Structural Issues	Completed 11/20
IMF Advice on Capital Flows	Completed 09/20
IMF Advice on Unconventional Monetary Policies	Completed 06/19
IMF Financial Surveillance	Completed 01/19
The IMF and Fragile States	Completed 03/18
The IMF and Social Protection	Completed 07/17
The IMF and the Crises in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal	Completed 07/16
Behind the Scenes with Data at the IMF: An IEO Evaluation	Completed 03/16
Self-Evaluation at the IMF: An IEO Assessment	Completed 09/15
IMF Response to the Financial and Economic Crisis	Completed 10/14

EVALUATIONS	STATUS
Recurring Issues from a Decade of Evaluation: Lessons for the IMF	Completed 06/14
IMF Forecasts: Process, Quality, and Country Perspectives	Completed 02/14
The Role of the IMF as Trusted Advisor	Completed 02/13
International Reserves: IMF Concerns and Country Perspectives	Completed 12/12
Research at the IMF: Relevance and Utilization	Completed 06/11
IMF Performance in the Run-Up to the Financial and Economic Crisis: IMF Surveillance in 2004–07	Completed 01/11
IMF Interactions with Member Countries	Completed 12/09
IMF Involvement in International Trade Policy Issues	Completed 06/09
Governance of the IMF: An Evaluation	Completed 05/08
Structural Conditionality in IMF-Supported Programs	Completed 12/07
IMF Exchange Rate Policy Advice	Completed 05/07
The IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa	Completed 03/07
Multilateral Surveillance	Completed 03/06
Financial Sector Assessment Program	Completed 01/06
IMF Support to Jordan, 1989–2004	Completed 11/05
The IMF's Approach to Capital Account Liberalization	Completed 05/05
IMF Technical Assistance	Completed 02/05
The IMF and Argentina, 1991–2001	Completed 07/04
Evaluation of the IMF's Role in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility	Completed 07/04
Fiscal Adjustment in IMF-Supported Programs	Completed 08/03
The IMF and Recent Capital Account Crises: Indonesia, Korea, Brazil	Completed 05/03
Evaluation of Prolonged Use of IMF Resources	Completed 08/02

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IMF Involvement in International Trade Policy Issues: Evaluation Update	Completed 12/19
Governance of the IMF: Evaluation Update	Completed 11/18
Structural Conditionality in IMF-Supported Programs: Evaluation Update	Completed 5/18
IMF Exchange Rate Policy Advice, Evaluation Update	Completed 10/17
Multilateral Surveillance: Revisiting the 2006 IEO Evaluation	Completed 02/17
The IMF's Approach to Capital Account Liberalization: Revisiting the 2005 IEO Evaluation	Completed 02/15
Revisiting the IEO Evaluations of The IMF's Role in PRSPs and the PRGF (2004) and The IMF and Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa (2007)	Completed 08/14
IMF Technical Assistance: Revisiting the 2005 IEO Evaluation	Completed 03/14
Fiscal Adjustment in IMF-Supported Programs: Revisiting the 2003 IEO Evaluation	Completed 07/13
Prolonged Use of IMF Resources: Revisiting the 2002 IEO Evaluation	Completed 07/13

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