DEG's Disclosure Statement for the
Operating Principles for Impact Management

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Partners in Transformation ImpactConnect

UkraineConnect a financing instrument provided by:

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Ukraine Connect

KFW DEG

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Disclosure Statement
Operating Principles for Impact Management

DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH
June 2026

DEG – Deutsche Investitions- and Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG) hereby affirms its status as a Signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management (the "Impact Principles").[1]

This Disclosure Statement applies to the following assets or business lines (the "Covered Assets"):

I. DEG Core Business: The total Covered Assets under management in alignment with the Impact Principles is US$ 13.7 billion[2] as of December 31, 2025.
II. Connect: DEG Advisory Services: The total Covered Assets under management in alignment with the Impact Principles is US$ 304.2 million as of December 31, 2025.

Please find detailed information on the Impact Principles on its webpage: www.impactprinciples.org

On our website you also find the current verifier statement by BlueMark.

Roland Siller
DEG Chief Executive Officer
June 2026

[1] The information contained in this Disclosure Statement has not been verified or endorsed by the Global Impact Investing Network ("the GIIN") or the Secretariat or Advisory Board. All statements and/or opinions expressed in these materials are solely the responsibility of the person or entity providing such materials and do not reflect the opinion of the GIIN. The GIIN shall not be responsible for any loss, claim or liability that the person or entity publishing this Disclosure Statement or its investors, Affiliates (as defined below), advisers, employees or agents, or any other third party, may suffer or incur in relation to this Disclosure Statement or the impact investing principles to which it relates. For purposes hereof, "Affiliate" shall mean any individual, entity or other enterprise or organization controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Signatory.

[2] EUR 11.66 billon; 1 EUR = 1.17631 USD as per 31.12.2025

Introduction

The Operating Principles for Impact Management are a milestone, bringing together DFIs, asset managers, and asset owners on a robust framework to foster greater discipline, transparency, and accountability in impact investing. The Impact Principles continue to grow as a global standard among impact investors and their evolving regulatory environments.

DEG became a signatory in 2019 and went through an initial verification of the alignment of its Core Business with the Operating Principles for Impact Management in 2021. Since 2024 DEG verified the alignment of its Core Business as well as DEG's advisory service to the Connect programs ImpactConnect, UkraineConnect, ClimateConnect and ReconstructionConnect and its special-purpose alternative investment fund Connect with the Impact Principles annually.

This disclosure statement reflects the impact management approach of DEG's core business and Connect in 2025. While DEG's core business and Connect share impact core values, their respective impact management approaches differ with respect to the Impact Principles. Therefore, this disclosure statement is divided into two sections:

I. DEG Core Business
II. Connect: DEG Advisory Service

The joint verification has been performed by BlueMark, the leading independent provider of impact verification services. The next verification is scheduled for 2029.

DEG Core Business

DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH, Cologne, is charged with a development policy mandate to promote the expansion of the private sector in developing and emerging market countries. As an institution with public-benefit status, its sole purpose is to promote private sector business in developing and emerging market countries.

DEG finances economically and developmentally sustainable, socially and environmentally sound projects by private sector enterprises. Its financing services encompass loans, loans with equity features and participating interests, together with targeted advisory services. These services are aimed primarily at medium-sized businesses. DEG's objective is to contribute to its customers' lasting success by providing reliable long-term finance and advice, as only consistently successful enterprises will create permanent jobs and generate sustainable development impact.

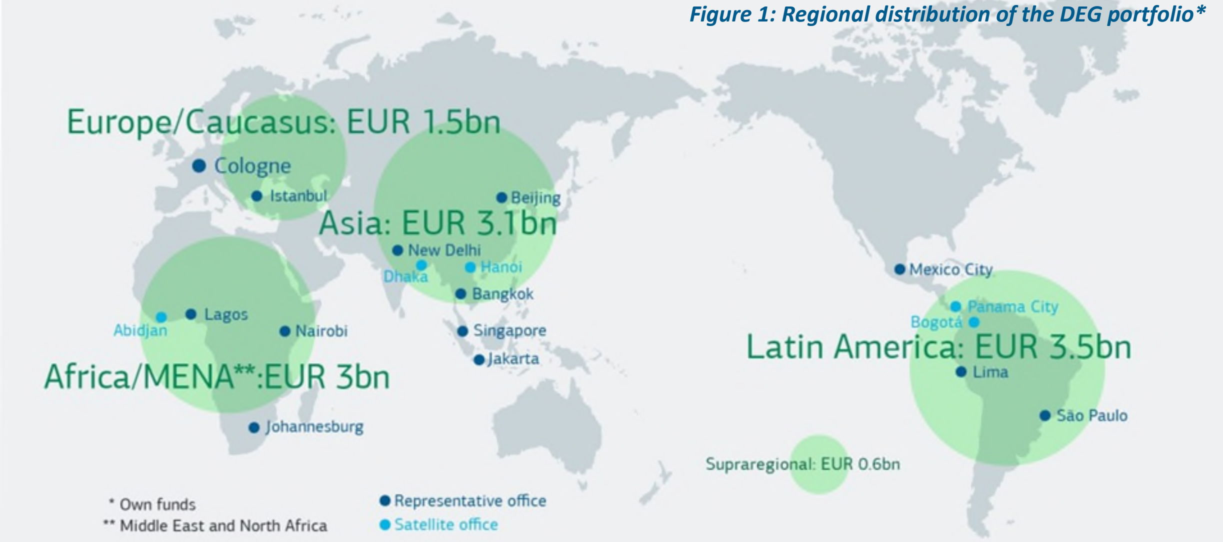
As part of KfW Group and on the basis of its development policy mandate, DEG operates on the subsidiarity principle. It provides finance where the market fails to offer financing to enterprises at an adequate level, or indeed at all. DEG reaches enterprises in developing and emerging market countries both directly and indirectly. It finances businesses directly, as well as making capital available to local banks and other financiers to offer bespoke financing and advice, particularly to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries.

Within the scope of its activities, DEG thinks and acts like an entrepreneur. That includes generating risk-appropriate earnings. Any surpluses DEG generates are used to expand its equity base and strengthen its risk-bearing capacity. This forms the necessary foundation for DEG to pursue and expand its activities by drawing on its own resources.

In the context of its Impact.Climate.Returns. strategy, DEG focuses on climate-friendly financing with a strong impact. It specifically champions the financing of projects that make a significant contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. There is a particular focus on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) and selected climate action measures (SDG 13). DEG has set itself the objective of pursuing an investment policy in keeping with the 1.5 degree Celsius target of the 2015 Paris Agreement, with the aim to guarantee the neutralization of the residual DEG responsible financed emissions based on DEG net-zero roadmap 2040.

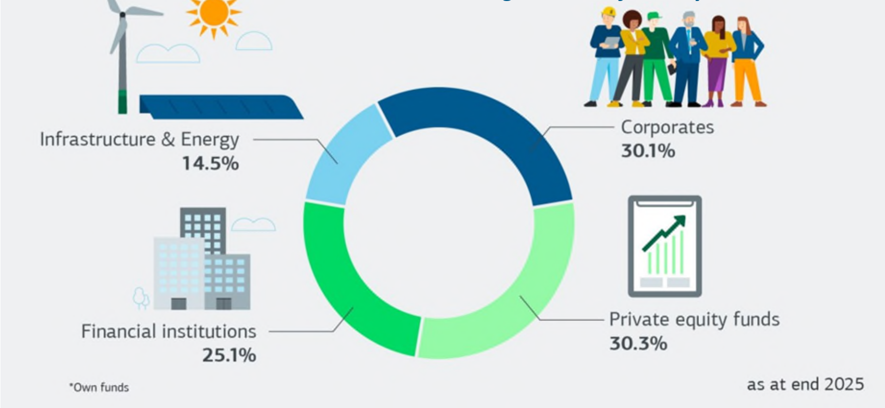
DEG currently finances more than 600 companies in developing and emerging market countries with approximately EUR 11.7 billion as per the end of 2025. The regional distribution can be found in figure 1.

*Figure 1: Regional distribution of the DEG portfolio**



DEG promotes the expansion of the private sector in developing and emerging market countries directly by investing in corporates and project finance, as well as indirectly through the investments in financial institutions and funds. Figure 2 shows the portfolio distribution per customer cluster.

Figure 2: Portfolio by customer cluster*



Verification results

BlueMark verified DEG's Core Business alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management initially in 2021 and annually since 2024. Compared to the 2025 verification, BlueMark's 2026 findings show no change compared to the 2025 verification, resulting in an **advanced** score on the first six Impact Principles. The verification identified potential for improvement especially for managing exits (Principle 7).

Figure 3 shows BlueMark's 2026 verification results for DEG core business. The detailed verifier statement is available online[3].

Figure 3: Verification results DEG core business

Principle	Alignment
1. Define strategic impact objective(s), consistent with the investment strategy	ADVANCED
2. Manage strategic impact on a portfolio basis	ADVANCED
3. Establish the Manager's contribution to the achievement of impact	ADVANCED
4. Assess the expected impact of each investment, based on a systematic approach	ADVANCED
5. Assess, address, monitor, and manage potential negative impacts of each investment	ADVANCED
6. Monitor the progress of each investment in achieving impact against expectations and respond appropriately	ADVANCED
7. Conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact	LOW
8. Review, document, and improve decisions and processes based on the achievement of impact and lessons learned	HIGH

In the last three years, DEG conducted an independent verification alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management annually for both DEG's core business and Connect: DEG Advisory Services. Going forward, independent verifications will will be conducted every three years.

The Disclosure Statement will be updated yearly once the verifier outcomes have been received.

[3] https://www.deginvest.de/DEG-Documents-in-English/About-us/Responsibility/DEG-BlueMark_Verifier-statement_2026.pdf

Principle 1: Define strategic impact objective(s), consistent with the investment strategy.

The Manager shall define strategic impact objectives for the portfolio or fund to achieve positive and measurable social or environmental effects, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or other widely accepted goals. The impact intent does not need to be shared by the investee. The Manager shall seek to ensure that the impact objectives and investment strategy are consistent; that there is a credible basis for achieving the impact objectives through the investment strategy; and that the scale and/or intensity of the intended portfolio impact is proportionate to the size of the investment portfolio.

- DEG, a wholly-owned subsidiary of KfW, was founded in 1962 to promote the private sector in developing and emerging markets, thereby contributing to sustainable local development.

- In order to realize the ambitious "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the private sector plays a crucial role. DEG's clients accelerate sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda through their entrepreneurial success and their environmental and social responsibility. DEG supports its clients to enhance their sustainability and impact performance by combining long-term financing with a broad range of project support and advisory services through its subsidiary DEG Impulse and a clear focus on promoting international environmental, social and corporate governance standards.

- In 2022, DEG's strategy *Impact.Climate.Returns.* came into effect, whereby the impact of DEG's portfolio investments is considered equally important as the financial return. As part of this strategy, DEG committed to
  1. Increasing our clients' positive impact on society and the environment, and thus strengthening their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is a particular focus on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) and selected climate action measures (SDG 13). The impact target is measured through DEG's Development Effectiveness Rating (DERa) on client level and steered on portfolio level.
  2. Combating climate change by entering a reduction pathway in alignment with the Paris Agreement's 1,5º C targets from 2025 onwards, achieving a net-zero portfolio in 2040. DEG's measures are guided by a hierarchy of (1) avoiding GHG emissions, (2) reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change by implementing transformation pathways with its clients, and (3) neutralising remaining DEG responsible financed emissions.
  3. Supporting clients on their own transformative journeys towards positive impact and more climate resilience. This way, DEG is able to achieve its impact and climate goals together with its clients.

  DEG's impact and climate commitment is available online[4] and updated statements can be found in DEG's development report[5]. In 2026 these commitments are strengthened by a new E&S commitment.

- DEG's impact measurement and management approach is rooted in a so-called theory of change, a methodology used to explain how and why DEG's strategy, inputs and activities are expected to lead to better outcomes and finally impacts. DEG actively worked on the development of a more comprehensive, evidence-based theory of change, clearly differenting between the sphere of control, the sphere of influence and the sphere of interest. The theory of change is presented in this year's development report[6].

[4] https://www.deginvest.de/DEG-Documents-in-English/About-us/Responsibility/DEG-Impact-Climate-Commitment-2022.pdf
[5] The latest version of the report can be found on the following website: https://www.deginvest.de/Our-impact/
[6] The latest version of the report can be found on the following website: https://www.deginvest.de/Our-impact/

Principle 2: Manage strategic impact on a portfolio basis.

The Manager shall have a process to manage impact achievement on a portfolio basis. The objective of the process is to establish and monitor impact performance for the whole portfolio, while recognizing that impact may vary across individual investments in the portfolio. As part of the process, the Manager shall consider aligning staff incentive systems with the achievement of impact, as well as with financial performance.

- DEG applies its Development Effectiveness Rating (DERa)[7] in order to measure the development effectiveness of its individual clients and their contributions to the SDGs. With regard to funds, it also measures development effectiveness at investee level. In 2024 DEG launched a new and improved version of the DERa. The aim of the update was to illustrate both positive and negative effects of investments in order to observe and measure the impact based on a "net perspective". It was also intended to better represent aspects such as gender equity and climate action, which have gained in relevance. Additionally, the DERa now captures the role DEG plays in the transformations of customers aiming to make a greater impact with their investments. The DERa rating tool is subject to DEG's model validation processes.

- The DERa is applied throughout the project cycle of each transaction. Prior to approval of a transaction, the first DERa is filled in. It consists of a baseline with actual values prior to investment and an ex-ante estimate of the expected effects of the investment with a time horizon of five years (forecast). After commitment, the DERa is updated yearly with actual values. This allows DEG to track impact performance over the lifetime of the investment up until exit/divestment. Thus the DERa offers a consistent framework to systematically consider impact throughout the investment process from due diligence, through portfolio management until exit/divestment.

- DERa is an integral tool for DEG's impact management. DEG's impact target is defined as the average actual DERa portfolio score. The overall average DERa score is audited by an external Auditor on an annual basis.

- In 2025 Management and staff incentives were directly related to the level of achievement of the two strategic goals – impact and financial return. By linking the annual bonus of DEG to the achievement of a portfolio-level DERa target, the staff incentive system is connected to impact. Further, DERa targets offer an informal performance and discussion mechanism within investment teams.

Principle 3: Establish the Manager's contribution to the achievement of impact.

The Manager shall seek to establish and document a credible narrative on its contribution to the achievement of impact for each investment. Contributions can be made through one or more financial and/or non-financial channels.[1] The narrative should be stated in clear terms and supported, as much as possible, by evidence.

[1] For example, this may include: improving the cost of capital, active shareholder engagement, specific financial structuring, offering innovative financing instruments, assisting with further resource mobilization, creating long-term trusted partnerships, providing technical/ market advice or capacity building to the investee, and/or helping the investee to meet higher operational standards.

- DEG offers a range of financial and non-financial products and services aimed at contributing to the achievement of impact. In addition to long-term finance at market-oriented terms and risk capital that is needed in emerging markets, DEG negotiates transformative actions with its cliens and offers a variety of advisory services.

[7] For more information on the DERa, please refer to https://www.deginvest.de/Our-impact/Wir-messen-Wirksamkeit/

- In the updated DERa, the role that DEG plays in the transformations of customers is assessed in a more systematic way and has become score-relevant. Designed as a second pillar in DERa, the *“Transformation promoted by DEG*” records and assesses DEG’s work with its customers to mitigate the negative and promote the positive impact of their investments. This pillar primarily concerns DEG's role in supporting customers with their transformation processes. The focus is on value additionality beyond financial value creation and considers four aspects:

  1. **Structuring:** The structuring stage of an investment involves an assessment of the organisational, legal and equity participation structure of the company in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of its corporate management and its effects on financial performance. Transformations proposed and contractually agreed at this stage, such as increasing transparency through audited annual financial statements and an improved corporate governance structure, put the company in a much better position and secure the impact contributions achieved. From the structuring of the deal (defining specific use of funds for instance for gender or green loans, improved corporate governance and transparency or improved project design) the DEG investment team works with the client to improve its economic and impact performance.

  2. **Implementation of environmental and social standards:** DEG's comprehensive environmental and social assessment concerns the potential effects and risks of the financing. This approach assesses the transformation resulting from the agreement of environmental and social action, such as in action plans, and its implementation by the customer with the aim of offsetting the risks and significantly improving environmental and social performance.

  3. **Technical assistance: DEG** can also offer supplementary developmental financial and advisory services through its subsidiary DEG Impulse to help implement action plans and increase the impact contributions of its customers. Support can be provided on social, environmental or economic issues. DEG Impulse tracks the status of the activity as well as the intention, interim results, success level and related results via an extensive documentation, supported by key data managed in SAP.

  4. **Impact-climate commitments**: Some DEG customers are prepared to start their impact and/or climate transformation journey with DEG and work together via a formal commitment that extends beyond the minimum requirements. This form of cooperation is currently in the pilot stage and will be assessed in this area in future.

  Within DERa, the level of ambition (impact potential) of each aspect and the status of implementation are assessed and scored. The results are incorporated in the overall DERa-score.

- By sharing, benchmarking and discussing the results of the yearly DERa with the client DEG creates an incentive to achieve more impact.

Principle 4: Assess the expected impact of each investment, based on a systematic approach.

For each investment the Manager shall assess, in advance and, where possible, quantify the concrete, positive impact[2] potential deriving from the investment. The assessment should use a suitable results measurement framework that aims to answer these fundamental questions: (1) What is the intended impact? (2) Who experiences the intended impact? (3) How significant is the intended impact?[3] The Manager shall also seek to assess the likelihood of achieving the investment's expected impact. In assessing the likelihood, the Manager shall identify the significant risk factors that could result in the impact varying from ex-ante expectations.

In assessing the impact potential, the Manager shall seek evidence to assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context. The Manager shall also consider opportunities to increase the impact of the investment. Where possible and relevant for the Manager's strategic intent, the Manager may also consider indirect and systemic impacts. Indicators shall, to the extent possible, be aligned with industry standards[4] and follow best practice.[5]

[2] Focus shall be on the material social and environmental impacts resulting from the investment. Impacts assessed under Principle 4 may also include positive ESG effects derived from the investment.

[3] Adapted from the Impact Management Project: http://www.impactmanagementproject.com

[4] Industry indicator standards include HIPSO (https://indicators.ifipartnership.org/about/); IRIS (iris.thegiin.org); GIIRS (http://b-analytics.net/giirs-funds); GRI (www.globalreporting.org/Pages/default.aspx); and SASB (www.sasb.org), among others

[5] International best practice indicators include SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely), and SPICED (Subjective, Participatory, Interpreted & communicable, Cross-checked, Empowering, and Diverse & disaggregated), among others.

- DEG's impact target is measured through DEG's Development Effectiveness Rating (DERa) on client level and steered on portfolio level. The DERa score is derived from two pillars:
    - Pillar I assesses development outputs and outcomes in five outcome categories: decent jobs, local income, market and sector development; environmental stewardship, and community effects. These five outcome categories are viewed from a "net perspective", which includes both positive and negative effects. Also indirect effects are captured though the use of the Joint Impact Model.
    - Pillar II, "Transformation promoted by DEG", records the work of DEG and customers on mitigating potential risks and increasing the customers' impact.

  The two pillars comprise various outcome categories and assessment mechanisms, which are weighted and aggregated to determine the final score. Up to 80 points are available in pillar I. Up to 20 points are available in pillar II.

- DERa is applied over the entire project duration of each DEG investment. An initial DERa is created during due diligence before a project is approved. This consists of a baseline with current values prior to the DEG investment and an ex-ante estimate of the expected effects of the investment with a time horizon of five years (forecast). After commitment, DERa is updated annually by recording current values. Comparisons between baseline, forecast and actual score for individual clients, but also for portfolio clusters and the overall clusters over years provide useful trends and lessons.

- To assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context, DEG uses a two-fold apporach.
    - DERa reflects the country and sector context in an individual category (providing a higher score for less developed countries and sectors which are a bottleneck for development) as well as the contribution of the investment project to market and sector development (e.g. if the investment is changing market structures, promoting innovation such as new technology and enhancing competition).

- As part of the transaction analysis, the specificities that cannot be captured by the highly standardized DERa, can be described in a qualitative manner and are considered as part of the decision-making.

- DERa is aligned to HIPSO and the Joint Impact Indicators and partially to IRIS+. In case these frameworks do not cover relevant indicators, other standard frameworks are used. The alignment to a standard is documented for each indicator of the DERa.

Principle 5: Assess, address, monitor, and manage potential negative impacts of each investment.

For each investment the Manager shall seek, as part of a systematic and documented process, to identify and avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, mitigate and manage Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)[6] risks. Where appropriate, the Manager shall engage with the investee to seek its commitment to take action to address potential gaps in current investee systems, processes, and standards, using an approach aligned with good international industry practice.[7] As part of portfolio management, the Manager shall monitor investees' ESG risk and performance, and where appropriate, engage with the investee to address gaps and unexpected events.

[6] The application of good ESG management will potentially have positive impacts that may or may not be the principal targeted impacts of the Manager. Positive impacts resulting from ESG matters shall be measured and managed alongside with, or directly embedded in, the impact management system referenced in Principles 4 and 6.

[7] Examples of good international industry practice include: IFC's Performance Standards (www.ifc.org/performancestandards); IFC's Corporate Governance Methodology (http://www.ifc.org/cgmethodology), the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (www.unglobalcompact.org/library/2); and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/themes/human-rights.htm).

- DEG requires and promotes compliance with international environmental and social standards as well as environmentally relevant safety, health and technical standards in production and products. A dedicated sustainability team is in charge of the environmental and social management from due diligence to monitoring. In addition, corporate governance risks are addressed during structuring of the investment and in portfolio management by the investment managers themselves.

- DEG manages the ESG risks of its investments in line with the IFC Performance Standards (IFC PS). The companies that DEG finances contractually agree to comply with the Exclusion List, national regulations, the IFC Performance Standards, as well as the core labour standards and Fundamental Principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO). An overview of the guidelines that DEG adheres to, can be found online[8]. In case of current deviations from these standards, DEG contractually agrees on an Environmental and Social Action Plan with its clients, which is regularly monitored. If necessary, DEG assists its clients in implementing adequate measures to meet these standards through tailored advisory services.

- DEG regularly monitors the Environmental and Social (ES) risks of each investment as well as the agreed Action Plans and documents them in its revamped Environmental and Social Indicator System (EaSI) in a systematic manner.

- The operations level such as fatalities or other matters with high response urgency are covered by the E&S department and market colleagues have a rapid notification and response system in place to deal with this issues in a much faster manner. This notification is contractually agreed with DEG clients.

- DEG publishes investment-related information on the investments financed using DEG funds on the website https://deginvest-investments.de/. This includes information on the environmental and social

[8] https://www.deginvest.de/Impact-climate-focus/A-guide-to-our-standards/

risk category (A, B+, B, C) and, in case of in the case of land-related investments, a link to the company's website providing a summary of the environmental and social action plan.

- For investments in financial institutions (FI) and funds, DEG's E&S due diligence comprises a review of the existing portfolio and portfolio forecast of the FI or fund to identify ESG risks at sub-borrower or sub-investee level. DEG requires all FI and fund clients to develop, implement and maintain an E&S Risk management system adequate to their respective potential risk levels. DEG's subsidiary DEG Impulse offers Business Support Services to support its clients in developing and implementing such a system.

- DEG's Corporate Governance (CG) assessment tool considers a company's commitment to corporate governance, the structure and functioning of its board, its internal and external controls, treatment of minority shareholders as well as transparency and disclosure. As part of its Business Support Services, DEG offers a Corporate Governance Assessment to its clients, which results in a benchmarking against national standards and international best practice as well as specific recommendations, which clients can implement themselves or with further support from DEG.

- To ensure individuals, groups, communities or other parties who believe to be adversely affected by a project financed or planned by DEG the right to be heard and the right to complain, DEG has established an Independent Complaints Mechanism. An Independent Expert Panel, consisting of a group of three persons with environmental, social, legal and financial expertise, decides whether a complaint is admissible based on agreed eligiblity criteria, responds to the complainant, is responsible for a dispute resolution or a compliance review and reports on individual complaints. Information as regards the complaint mechanism and individual complaints are available on DEG's website[9].

- DEG's Development Effectiveness Rating (DERa) has been further developed to incorporate a net-perspective in pillar I "Impacts of our clients". In each outcome category positive and negative effects are captured. Considering that many of the outcome categories are of interest both from a "do no harm" as well as a "do good" perspective, DERa uses data captured and assessments made in the Environmental and Social Indicator System (EaSI) to avoid duplication or data inconsistencies.

Principle 6: Monitor the progress of each investment in achieving impact against expectations and respond appropriately.

> The Manager shall use the results framework (referenced in Principle 4) to monitor progress toward the achievement of positive impacts in comparison to the expected impact for each investment. Progress shall be monitored using a predefined process for sharing performance data with the investee. To the best extent possible, this shall outline how often data will be collected; the method for data collection; data sources; responsibilities for data collection; and how, and to whom, data will be reported. When monitoring indicates that the investment is no longer expected to achieve its intended impacts, the Manager shall seek to pursue appropriate action.[8] The Manager shall also seek to use the results framework to capture investment outcomes.[9]
>
> [8] Actions could include active engagement with the investee; early divestment; adjusting indicators/expectations due to significant, unforeseen, and changing circumstances; or other appropriate measures to improve the portfolio's expected impact performance
>
> [9] Outcomes are the short-term and medium-term effects of an investment's outputs, while the outputs are the products, capital goods, and services resulting from the investment. Adopted from OECD-DAC (http://www.oecd.org/dac/).

- DEG requires its clients to report at least annually on financial, E&S, impact and climate performance. For this purpose, specific reporting requirements are defined and templates provided.

[9] https://www.deginvest.de/%C3%9Cber-uns/Verantwortung/Beschwerdemanagement/index-2.html

- After commitment, DERa is updated annually by recording current values. DEG internally provides all colleagues with a DERa manual which provides metric definitions and guidance as well as specifies data collection frequency and responsibilities across the team. For each client, the initial forecast figures are displayed next to the actual figures to see the level of alignment with expectations. This information is accessible to all investment related colleagues.

- DEG internally provides all colleagues with a DERa dashboard that allows aggregated and disaggregated views of a single client's development effectiveness performance as well as views on departments, client cluster, countries, regions etc. It provides insights, promotes transparency as well as identifies potential areas for improvement to discuss internally and with clients.

- DEG's subsidiary DEG Impulse is focused on providing private sector companies with advisory and funding solutions for their investments in developing and emerging countries. A key focus on this subsidiary is to support DEG's clients in improving their ESG and impact performance.

Principle 7: Conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact.

When conducting an exit,[10] the Manager shall, in good faith and consistent with its fiduciary concerns, consider the effect which the timing, structure, and process of its exit will have on the sustainability of the impact.

[10] This may include debt, equity, or bond sales, and excludes self-liquidating or maturing instruments.

- DEG Environmental and Social Due Diligence, as well as the corporate governance screening in the structuring phase and the negotiation of action plans sets in a very early phase the ambition level DEG wants to achieve with its clients during the investment period. If followed up and implemented properly the planned and contractually agreed measures will help to improve the respective risk management practices of the clients and facilitates exploring impact opportunities. The structuring and portfolio management of DEG with its clients is an active contribution for a responsible exit at a much later stage.

- DEG's long-term debt investment horizon allows for impactful change to materialize while DEG is a financing partner. Good practices and Environmental and Social Risk Management Systems incorporated into policies and processes of our clients are very likely to be sustained beyond the term of DEG's investment. By financing only financially sustainable businesses, it is ensured that they last beyond DEG's financing.

- In order to sustain clients' impact in times of financial distress, DEG has a special policy for debt restructuring in place.

- DEG considers the effect on maintaining impact when making exit decisions in its equity portfolio. This can affect the timing, structure, and choice of who to sell to.

Principle 8: Review, document, and improve decisions and processes based on the achievement of impact and lessons learned.

The Manager shall review and document the impact performance of each investment, compare the expected and actual impact, and other positive and negative impacts, and use these findings to improve operational and strategic investment decisions, as well as management processes.

- The Annual Review documents of DEG investments include the risk side on ESG and climate information as well as the more opportunity focused development effectiveness aspects. The implementation of any climate and ESG transformation agreed upon with clients is also monitored.
- Based on DERa results, DEG publishes an impact report annually.[10] DEG also contributes to KfW's Sustainability Report[11] every year.
- A DEG-internal dashboard provides transparent and easy access to all impact data allowing feedback to different departments, comparisons between different sectors, regions etc.
- Informed by DERa monitoring for each investment and DERa trends on portfolio level, DEG conducts an annual strategic review to continuously refine DEG's strategy leading to the adoption of the updated business strategy by its supervisory board and its shareholders assembly. Learnings and takeaways from annual strategy review processes are consistently documented.
- DEG also undertakes studies of selected topics including case studies of individual investments. In its most recent study, 60 Decibels was engaged to capture the voice of the end-beneficiaries of one of its clients, deepening the insights on impact performance.
- DEG conducts periodic internal impact learning sessions on key impact topics. In addition lessons from the special operations departments with clients in difficult situations, are discussed with responsible departments and management.
- The DERa rating tool is subject to DEG's model validation processes and underwent external validation. Learnings from the validation are used to improve the rating tool.

[10] https://www.deginvest.de/International-financing/DEG/Download-Center/Jahresberichte/
[11] https://www.kfw.de/microsites/Microsite/nachhaltigkeitsbericht.kfw.de/en.html

Connect: DEG Advisory Service

In 2019, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), DEG established and implemented the program ImpactConnect (previously known as AfricaConnect), aimed at promoting German and European investments in developing and emerging markets through an investment fund.[12] In 2025, the initiative was expanded to reflect foreign investment priorities of the German Government, resulting in the launch of additional programs: UkraineConnect, ClimateConnect, and ReconstructionConnect. Consequently, DEG's advisory services were extended to include all of these initiatives (collectively, the "Connect programs"), which operate under a unified umbrella structure referred to as "Connect".

While ImpactConnect, ClimateConnect and ReconstructionConnect are funded by the BMZ as part of the BMZ's private sector network "Partners in Transformation", UkraineConnect is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) as a new investor. The financing vehicle for all compartments is the special-purpose alternative investment fund "Connect GmbH & Co. geschlossene Invest KG", which is managed by CREDION Kapitalverwaltungsgesellschaft mbH. Each program has its own compartment within the fund and each of the compartments is considered a financial product in accordance to Art. 8 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR).

The programs support investments in countries of the OECD-DAC list[13] (excluding China), with a particular focus on BMZ partner countries[14]. Their objective is to close the financing gap in developing and emerging markets by offering small-ticket financing of EUR 0.25 million to EUR 10 million, depending on the program, at attractive terms.

Across all Connect programs, investments are guided by a strong focus on fostering economic transformation, supporting market development, and creating jobs in developing and emerging economies. While these overarching objectives are shared, each compartment targets specific development priorities and differs in its regional focus.

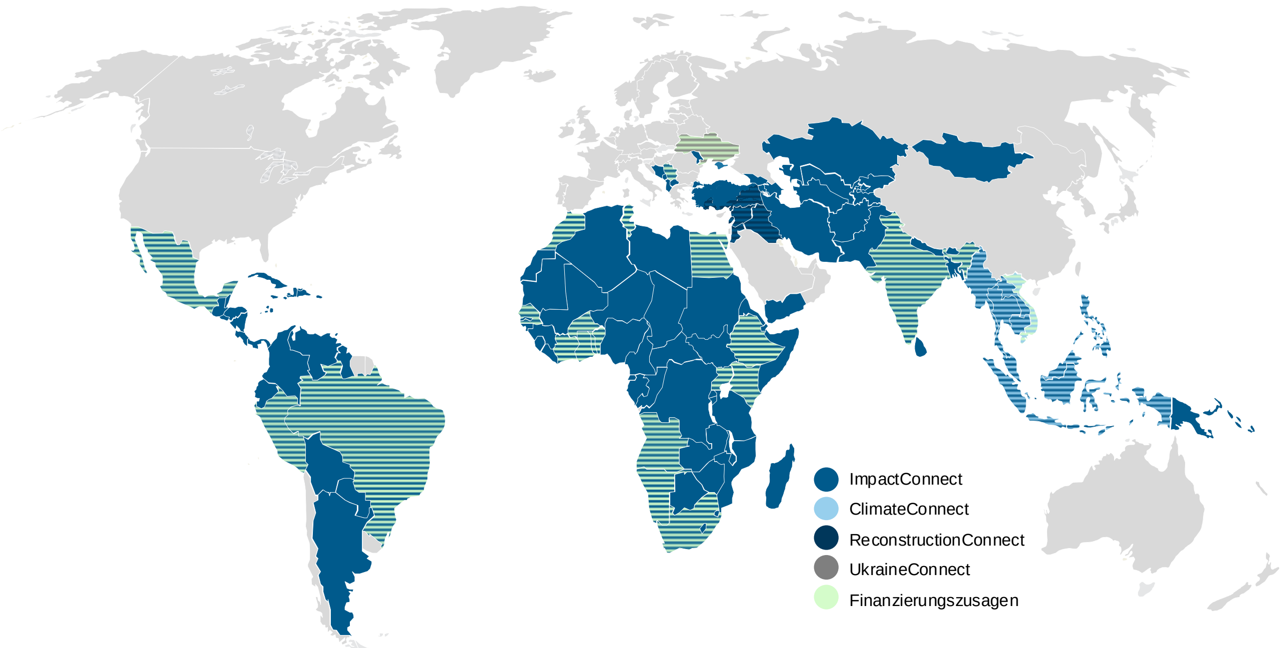


Figure 5: Target and financed countries of Connect, Status: December 31, 2025

[12] https://www.deginvest.de/Unsere-L%C3%B6sungen/ImpactConnect/index-2.html
[13] https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/281392/dac-laenderliste-berichtsjahr-2024-und-2025.pdf
[14] https://www.bmz.de/de/laender

In general, the programs only differ in the specific target setting and applied focus region while the processes and procedures remain the same across all projects. Beyond financing, Connect also supports its clients in structuring investments and strengthening ESG performance—for example, through the provision of technical assistance funds aimed at maximizing developmental impact or interest rate reductions for implementing high positive impact.

Verification results

In the 2026 verification of alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management, Connect not only maintained its strong results but also achieved improvements compared to the previous year. The application of the exit questionnaire resulted in an enhanced score for Principle 7 (exit strategy). Thus, Connect achieved ultimately an **advanced** score across five of the eight assessed principles as well as three **high** ratings. The detailed verifier statement is available online[15].

Principle	Alignment
1. Define strategic impact objective(s), consistent with the investment strategy	ADVANCED
2. Manage strategic impact on a portfolio basis	HIGH
3. Establish the Manager's contribution to the achievement of impact	ADVANCED
4. Assess the expected impact of each investment, based on a systematic approach	ADVANCED
5. Assess, address, monitor, and manage potential negative impacts of each investment	ADVANCED
6. Monitor the progress of each investment in achieving impact against expectations and respond appropriately	ADVANCED
7. Conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact	HIGH
8. Review, document, and improve decisions and processes based on the achievement of impact and lessons learned	HIGH

Figure 6: Verification results Connect.

In the past three years, Connect together with the DEG Core Business has conducted a verification of its alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management on an annual base. Going forward, independent verifications will will be conducted every three years.

[15] https://www.deginvest.de/DEG-Documents-in-English/About-us/Responsibility/ImpactConnect-BlueMark_Verifier-statement_2026.pdf

Principle 1: Define strategic impact objective(s), consistent with the investment strategy.

The Manager shall define strategic impact objectives for the portfolio or fund to achieve positive and measurable social or environmental effects, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or other widely accepted goals. The impact intent does not need to be shared by the investee. The Manager shall seek to ensure that the impact objectives and investment strategy are consistent; that there is a credible basis for achieving the impact objectives through the investment strategy; and that the scale and/or intensity of the intended portfolio impact is proportionate to the size of the investment portfolio.

- The Connect programs aim to promote investments by EU-based companies in developing and emerging countries. The programs cooperate closely with the German government which provides momentum for developing a comprehensive impact strategy that reflects the priorities of German development cooperation and international business support.

- Each program has defined a clear and comprehensive impact objective. While for ImpactConnect the main objective revolves around the core aim of generating sustainable employment opportunities, ClimateConnect aims to support climate change mitigation efforts, ReconstructionConnect focuses on reconstruction in Syria as well as the stabilization of the region and UkraineConnect targets the mobilization of the German economy to support the reconstruction of Ukraine. Enhancing positive impact in target countries is a core element of all programs. This is achieved both by incentivizing additional impact—through reduced interest rates where feasible—and by systematically integrating impact assessments into the investment decision-making process.

- All Connect programs are commited to making a contribution to the social-ecological transformation of an economy and to contributing to the achievement of the 17 Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) as shown in each compartment’s theory of change. These theories have been developed to establish a logical and evidence based connection between the fund’s financing activities to the desired outcomes. It also aligns the organization's efforts with the SDGs. In particular, the programs contribute to SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 16 and SDG 17 with the impacts achieved at the private sector clients.

- The potential impact of the financing is a crucial aspect throughout the term of the loan. Connect implemented various processes and measures in order to ensure the achievement of the impact objectives. These measures include:
  - The selection of companies that already demonstrate solid impact potential and willingness to work towards a sustainable transformation
  - The support of clients to achieve higher impact effects or to remain at a high level of impact implementation, e.g. with technical assistance support
  - The requirement to apply risk adequate environmental and social standards to ensure good insustry practices and fair employment opportunities
  - Each project is assessed based on the potential impact that forms part of the investment decision. Connect tracks the achieved impact throughout the term of the loan
  - Impact indicators that are measured on the portfolio level and reported to the BMZ as well as to the BMWE regularly.

Principle 2: Manage strategic impact on a portfolio basis

The Manager shall have a process to manage impact achievement on a portfolio basis. The objective of the process is to establish and monitor impact performance for the whole portfolio, while recognizing that impact may vary across individual investments in the portfolio. As part of the process, the Manager shall consider aligning staff incentive systems with the achievement of impact, as well as with financial performance.

- In order to evaluate the impact achieved by each project, Connect has developed a comprehensive scoring system for each program. This scoring system is closely linked to the projects' contribution towards the SDGs. The score forms part of the investment decision and allows for comparability between financings and enables effective comparison between different projects. At a portfolio level, the majority of all funded projects are required to surpass a predetermined score threshold. This benchmarking process ensures that a substantial number of financings make a significant contribution towards the attainment of relevant SDGs. The score is updated on an annual base. Hence, the impact is monitored throughout the term of the loan ensuring that the impact at portfolio level remains at a high level. The portfolio's achievement of the score is subject to external audit review.

- Connect diligently monitors a range of supplementary impact indicators throughout the project cycle, commencing with the careful selection of companies that possess substantial potential for generating impact. These indicators are regularly updated on an annual basis. They constitute an integral component of the reporting process to the investors, both on a monthly and yearly basis, at a portfolio level. The BMZ as well as the BMWE have agreed with Connect upon impact goals that must be attained by the programs. Consequently, the reporting mechanism provides consistent updates on the portfolio's impact performance.

- To meet the programs' company profiling and impact screening criteria, every potential transaction must align with specific charecteristics. Consequently, team members are motivated to source investments that have a significant positive impact. Currently, there is no formal staff incentive system is in place. However, this will be considered once there are best practices in place.

- These various processes described above are documented in the Impact Guidance Notes of the Connect programs that are intented to provide guidance to ensure the comprehensive management of impact on portfolio basis throughout the investment cycle.

Principle 3: Establish the Manager's contribution to the achievement of impact.

The Manager shall seek to establish and document a credible narrative on its contribution to the achievement of impact for each investment. Contributions can be made through one or more financial and/or non-financial channels.[1] The narrative should be stated in clear terms and supported, as much as possible, by evidence.

[1] For example, this may include: improving the cost of capital, active shareholder engagement, specific financial structuring, offering innovative financing instruments, assisting with further resource mobilization, creating long-term trusted partnerships, providing technical/ market advice or capacity building to the investee, and/or helping the investee to meet higher operational standards.

- The programs are designed to support high-risk activities in developing and emerging markets by providing attractive financing solutions to EU-based companies. The impact monitoring system enables Connect to track impact indicators that align with the programs' impact objectives as agreed with the stakeholders.

- Each financing is evaluated based on its potential impact. A scoring system is used to assess the impact potential of each project and forms part of the investment decision. This score as well as other impact indicators are reviewed annually in order to assess the project's progress regarding the anticipated impact.

- Where feasible, the programs also offer technical assistance funds as grants to portfolio companies, which can be used to improve their capacity, structure, or any activity that has a significant developmental or sustainability impact.The Connect team shares its market and sector experience as part of the DEG network. This support helps companies implement appropriate and recognized sustainable industry practices, leading to high impact for each project.

- To effectively monitor the outcomes of investor contribution activities, Connect compiles monthly as well as comprehensive annual reportings to the BMZ and, prospectively, to the BMWE. These reports track the progress against key contribution indicators ensuring accountability and transparency in the programs' impact efforts. Here, certain impact goals need to be achieved as part of the agreement with the Ministries. Additionally, all programs are integrated in evaluation schemes ensuring independent assessments of the programs on a regular base. For example, in 2023, an external evaluation was conducted to assess ImpactConnect's achievement of investor contribution objectives. This evaluation considered quantitative and qualitative data. The outcome of the evaluation showed that the program aligns with the BMZ's strategic goals of promoting investments in developing and emerging countries.

Principle 4: Assess the expected impact of each investment, based on a systematic approach.

For each investment the Manager shall assess, in advance and, where possible, quantify the concrete, positive impact[2] potential deriving from the investment. The assessment should use a suitable results measurement framework that aims to answer these fundamental questions: (1) What is the intended impact? (2) Who experiences the intended impact? (3) How significant is the intended impact?[3] The Manager shall also seek to assess the likelihood of achieving the investment's expected impact. In assessing the likelihood, the Manager shall identify the significant risk factors that could result in the impact varying from ex-ante expectations.

In assessing the impact potential, the Manager shall seek evidence to assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context. The Manager shall also consider opportunities to increase the impact of the investment. Where possible and relevant for the Manager's strategic intent, the Manager may also consider indirect and systemic impacts. Indicators shall, to the extent possible, be aligned with industry standards[4] and follow best practice.[5]

[2] Focus shall be on the material social and environmental impacts resulting from the investment. Impacts assessed under Principle 4 may also include positive ESG effects derived from the investment.

[3] Adapted from the Impact Management Project; http://www.impactmanagementproject.com

[4] Industry indicator standards include HIPSO (https://indicators.ifipartnership.org/about/); IRIS (iris.thegiin.org); GIIRS (http://b-analytics.net/giirs-funds); GRI (www.globalreporting.org/Pages/default.aspx); and SASB (www.sasb.org), among others

[5] International best practice indicators include SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely), and SPICED (Subjective, Participatory, Interpreted & communicable, Cross-checked, Empowering, and Diverse & disaggregated), among others.

- Given the importance of impact within the Connect programs, the selection process and investment decisions take into account the potential impact of each project. To evaluate this potential impact, Connect follows a well-defined and structured approach.

- Where feasible, Connect offers interest rate reductions in case the project shows high commitment to achieving positive impact including the achievement of the SDGs. Defined benchmarks have been established across program-specific impact categories. For example, ImpactConnect evaluates projects against categories such as Better Jobs, Female Empowerment, Fair and Sustainable Supply Chains, and CO_2 Reduction. By linking financing conditions to impact performance, these variable margins increase the likelihood of impact realization and strengthen clients' incentives to set and achieve ambitious impact targets.

- In addition to these impact categories, other indicators such as the number of jobs created or innovation and market access are being assessed and taken into account when evaluating potential new projects. The significance as well as likelihood of achieving these indicators are crucial aspects considered during the due diligence and investement decision-making process. To enhance comparability, the contribution is quantified, giving higher scores to projects with a greater number of new jobs or projects using a significant share of renewable energies.

- In the beginning of each transaction Connect assesses associated potential negative impact related to affected communities. During the Due Diligence, Connect places significant emphasis on assessing stakeholder participation risk including evaluating whether and how companies have engaged with end-customers to inform their business strategies.

- To measure impact, Connect introduced program-specific impact KPIs at the beginning of the investment as a baseline and tracks them throughout the loan term with annual updates. The indicators encompass the type of intended impact ("What"), the target group of the impact diaggregated to the largest extend possible ("Who") and estimate the effect of the impact ("How Much"). These KPIs align with the agreed-upon impact objectives, making the impact measurable.

Principle 5: Assess, address, monitor, and manage potential negative impacts of each investment.

For each investment the Manager shall seek, as part of a systematic and documented process, to identify and avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, mitigate and manage Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)[6] risks. Where appropriate, the Manager shall engage with the investee to seek its commitment to take action to address potential gaps in current investee systems, processes, and standards, using an approach aligned with good international industry practice.[7] As part of portfolio management, the Manager shall monitor investees' ESG risk and performance, and where appropriate, engage with the investee to address gaps and unexpected events.

[6] The application of good ESG management will potentially have positive impacts that may or may not be the principal targeted impacts of the Manager. Positive impacts resulting from ESG matters shall be measured and managed alongside with, or directly embedded in, the impact management system referenced in Principles 4 and 6.

[7] Examples of good international industry practice include: IFC's Performance Standards (www.ifc.org/performancestandards); IFC's Corporate Governance Methodology (http://www.ifc.org/cgmethodology), the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (www.unglobalcompact.org/library/2); and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/themes/human-rights.htm).

); and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/themes/human-rights.htm).

- Connect has implemented and established a systematic approach to managing environmental and social (E&S) risks for all projects. This approach is based on the DEG Guideline for Environmental and Social Sustainability, ensuring that investments align with international environmental and social standards such as the IFC Performance Standards or ILO Core Labour Standards. A dedicated team within Connect is responsible for applying this E&S risk approach.

- Connect requires all projects to refrain from engaging in activities listed on the Exclusion List. The ESG due diligence process involves a screening procedure that aims to identify significant ESG risks, such as reputational risk, country/sector-specific ESG risks, or biodiversity risks. These risks are subsequently assessed and categorized, taking into account the specific context of each program.

- Furthermore, Connect conducts a desk-top E&S due diligence (ESDD) process. This involves gathering comprehensive information about the project's ESG aspects through questionnaires, interviews, and site visits. Broader risks related to the project, such as supply chain risks, may also be identified. In cases where projects involve higher and more complex ESG risks, Connect may seek external E&S due diligence support when operating outside a conflict-affected setting. Usually, this support is financed by the program. In case gaps to the required E&S standards have been identified, Connect contractually agrees on an Environmental and Social Action Plan with its clients. As a complementary tool, Connect can offer technical assistance funds in order to improve the E&S performance of clients and assisst clients to introduce adequate measures in order to meet the required standards for most of the compartments.

- The findings of the ESDD process are documented and play a crucial role in the investment decision-making process. Only through effective risk management can sustainable impact be achieved in the long-term.

- To ensure ongoing monitoring of ESG risks, Connect requires clients to submit annual E&S monitoring reports. This enables continuous assessment and management of ESG risks. Additionally, all stakeholders of Connect's projects have access to the DEG Independent Complaints Mechanism in case of an adverse effect.

Principle 6: Monitor the progress of each investment in achieving impact against expectations and respond appropriately.

The Manager shall use the results framework (referenced in Principle 4) to monitor progress toward the achievement of positive impacts in comparison to the expected impact for each investment. Progress shall be monitored using a predefined process for sharing performance data with the investee. To the best extent possible, this shall outline how often data will be collected; the method for data collection; data sources; responsibilities for data collection; and how, and to whom, data will be reported. When monitoring indicates that the investment is no longer expected to achieve its intended impacts, the Manager shall seek to pursue appropriate action.[8] The Manager shall also seek to use the results framework to capture investment outcomes.[9]

[8] Actions could include active engagement with the investee; early divestment; adjusting indicators/expectations due to significant, unforeseen, and changing circumstances; or other appropriate measures to improve the portfolio's expected impact performance

[9] Outcomes are the short-term and medium-term effects of an investment's outputs, while the outputs are the products, capital goods, and services resulting from the investment. Adopted from OECD-DAC (http://www.oecd.org/dac/).

- The impact monitoring system of Connect diligently collects impact performance data from its portfolio companies on an annual basis. This data is utilized to measure the actual impact achieved over time at both the project level and portfolio level and allows for portfolio anaylisis.

- At the project level, the impact score is updated annually, allowing for the tracking of impact realization over time. Connect follows for the creation and update of the score a defined methodolgy as stipulated in each compartment's sustainability strategy[16]. A decreasing score may indicate unsatisfactory impact performance. Additionally, each company is required to estimate its developmental impact such as the expected job creation at the beginning of each transaction. The monitoring data will display the actual number of jobs created. Moreover, the companies have to report on the fulfilment of the impact categories in order to remain the interest rate reductions.

- As an active investor, Connect introduced an underperformance protocoll and proactively engages with its clients on an ad-hoc basis if the collected impact performance data deviates from expectations requiring background information of this development. This allows for timely discussions and potential corrective actions to be taken. In case a project does no longer fulfil a impact category, Connect has the right to withdraw the interest rate reduction.

- At the portfolio level, the collected data is used for ongoing monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of overall impact performance for the BMZ and BMWE. On a monthly basis, Connect conducts a portfolio overview of impact performance, considering various impact indicators and geographical locations, as part of a dashboard. In addition, more detailed annual reports are prepared for the BMZ and, prospectively, the BMWE, providing a comprehensive assessment of the impact achieved.

[16] See also Produktbezogene Informationen - CREDION AG

Principle 7: Conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact.

When conducting an exit,[10] the Manager shall, in good faith and consistent with its fiduciary concerns, consider the effect which the timing, structure, and process of its exit will have on the sustainability of the impact.

[10] This may include debt, equity, or bond sales, and excludes self-liquidating or maturing instruments.

- Connect maintains a robust and ongoing engagement with its portfolio companies, ensuring regular interactions and active communication. The channels may include conducting an annual call with each company to discuss their progress and performance.
- These interactions provide an opportunity for Connect to stay updated on the company's developments, address any concerns or challenges, and assess the overall progress which shall ensure long-term positive impact of the investment.
- As the investment term nears its end, Connect arranges a meeting with the company to discuss the investment in detail and will provide the company with an exit questionnaire. This questionnaire serves to gather general feedback on the Connect financing experience. It also includes queries related to standard impact KPIs, potential long-term effects of the loan, and the company's future impact planning.
- Generally, Connect's approach is designed to create long-term positive impact effects for all projects. Every investment takes into consideration the three dimensions of sustainability, enabling impact beyond the term of the loan.

Principle 8: Review, document, and improve decisions and processes based on the achievement of impact and lessons learned.

The Manager shall review and document the impact performance of each investment, compare the expected and actual impact, and other positive and negative impacts, and use these findings to improve operational and strategic investment decisions, as well as management processes.

- Connect diligently reviews the impact performance of each investment at various levels to ensure effective monitoring and continuous improvement. This enables the comparison of expectations, baseline performance, and performance over the loan term, both over time and across projects. Additionally, the progress made in terms of impact is included in the shareholder reportings.

- Recognizing the importance of external evaluation, Connect has made a commitment to undergo periodic assessments. The most recent evaluation took place for the operational programm ImpactConnect in 2023 with plans for subsequent evaluations every three years. These evaluations provide valuable insights and learning objectives, enhancing transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making. They also contribute to knowledge management and learning at the program and portfolio levels.

- Connect actively seeks feedback from its clients. This feedback serves as valuable input for improving the program's investment approach and decision-making processes.

- Furthermore, the programs conduct an annual internal review, which serves as a platform to reflect on lessons learned and operational changes implemented as a result of the review process taking into account the annual monitoring of each investment individually as well as on the portfolio level. This allows the Connect programs to continuously refine their impact strategies and ensure alignment with their goals.

Verification

Since 2024 Connect together with the DEG Core Business has conducted a verification of its alignment with the Operating Principles for Impact Management on an annual base. Going forward, independent verifications will will be conducted every three years.

Principle 9: Publicly disclose alignment with the Impact Principles and provide regular independent verification of the alignment.

The Manager shall publicly disclose, on an annual basis, the alignment of its impact management systems with the Impact Principles and, at regular intervals, arrange for independent verification of this alignment. The conclusions of this verification report shall also be publicly disclosed. These disclosures are subject to fiduciary and regulatory concerns.

[11] The independent verification may be conducted in different ways, i.e. as part of a financial audit, by an independent internal impact assessment committee, or through a portfolio/fund performance evaluation. The frequency and complexity of the verification process should consider its cost, relative to the size of the fund or institution concerned, and appropriate confidentiality.

- In the second quarter of 2026, Bluemark verified the alignment of DEG's core business and Connect: DEG Advisory Services with the Operating Principles for Impact Management.

- The total Covered Assets in alignment with the Impact Principles for the year ending December 2024 totalled
  - US$ 13.7 billion for DEG's core business
  - US$ 304.2 million for Connect: DEG Advisory Services.

- The Verifier Statements identified both areas of strength and areas for improvement.
  - DEG's core business
  - Connect: DEG Advisory Services.

  About BlueMark:
  BlueMark, a Delaware-registered public benefit company, is a leading provider of impact verification services in the impact investing market. BlueMark was founded with a mission to "strengthen trust in impact investing" and to help bring more accountability to the impact investment process. BlueMark has conducted this verification with an independent and unconflicted team experienced in relevant impact measurement and management issues. BlueMark has implemented a Standard of Conduct requiring our employees to adhere to the highest standards of professional integrity, ethics, and objectivity in their conduct of business activities.
  BlueMark has office locations in London, UK; New York, NY; and Portland, OR; and is headquartered at 154 W 14th St, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Its outside investors include S&P Global, Temasek Trust Capital, Blue Haven Initiative, Gunung Capital, Tsao Family Office, Ford Foundation and Radicle Impact. For more information, please visit www.bluemark.co.

  About the Assessment Methodology and Scope:
  BlueMark's full assessment methodology, based on its professional judgment, consisted of:
  1. Assessment of the IM systems in relation to the Impact Principles, using BlueMark's proprietary rubric, and examining processes and policies against the following criteria:
     - *Compliance* of the IM system with a threshold level of practice;
     - *Quality* of the IM system's design in terms of its consistency and robustness; and

- *Depth* of sub-components of the system, focused on completeness

2. Interviews with DEG and Connect staff responsible for defining and implementing the IM system;
3. Testing of selected DEG and Connect transactions to check the application of the IM system; and
4. Delivery of detailed assessment findings to DEG and Connect, outlining areas of strong alignment and recommended improvement, as well as BlueMark's proprietary benchmark ratings on the extent of alignment to each of the Impact Principles.