

DEALING WITH COMPLEXITY IN IEG EVALUATIONS

CEDIL Webinar



MY REMARKS TODAY

1



Complexity as a default

2



Experimenting with new approaches

3



Reflecting on practices

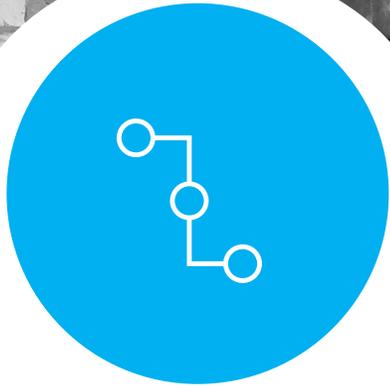


1 | Complexity as a default

What we do



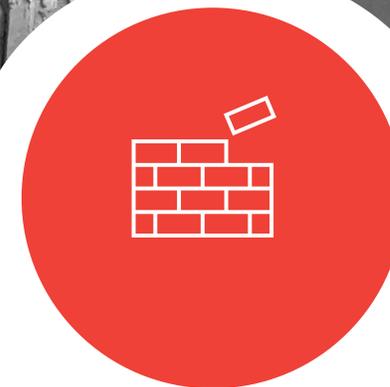
Multiple components & large portfolios



Long causal chain



Systems-level interventions



All of the above and then some

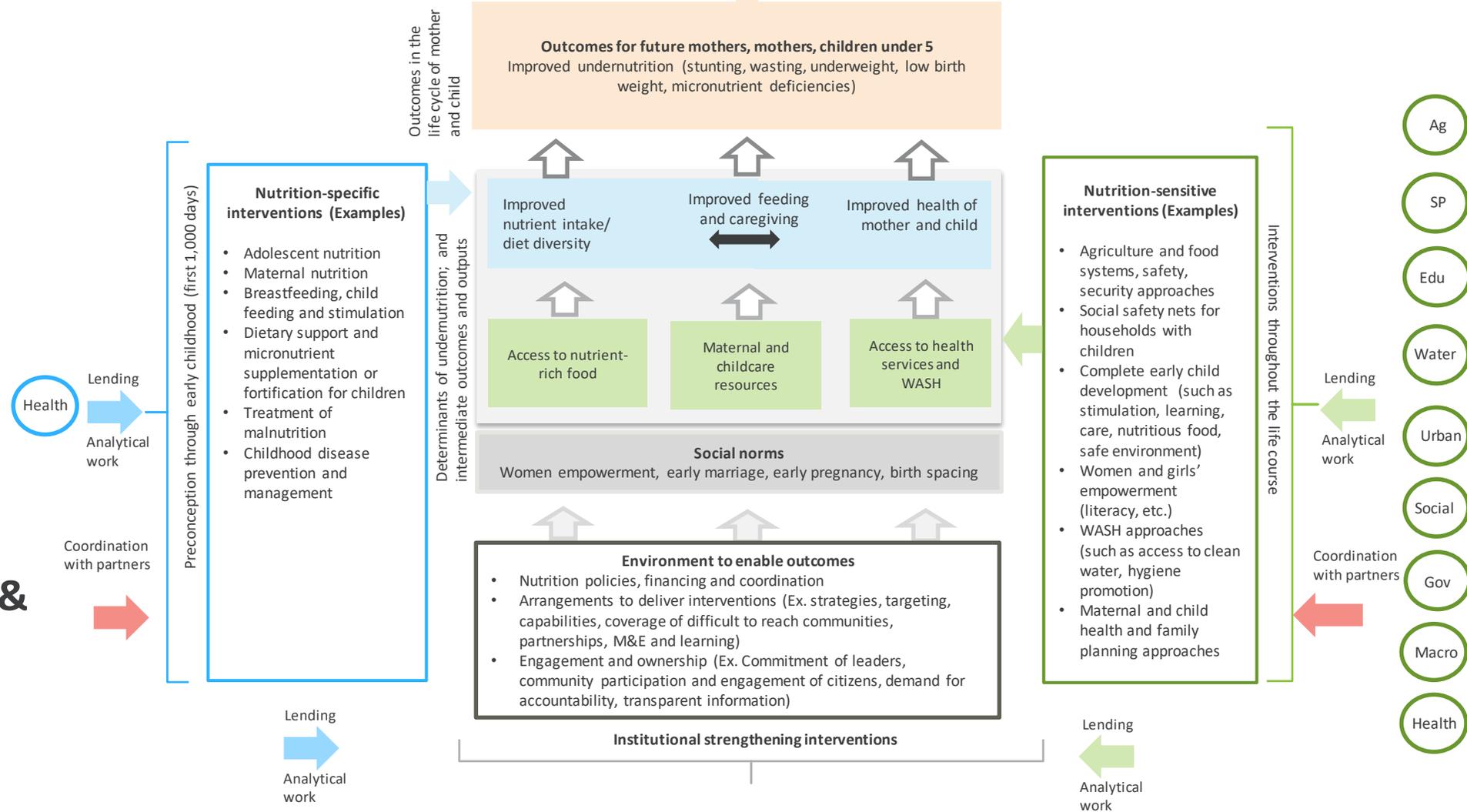


Example



Evaluating the WB Support to Reducing Child Undernutrition & its determinants (Approach Paper)

Source: [Link](#)



Country context: inequalities in the distribution of outcomes; poverty; health status; demographics; status of women; fragility and conflict; politics; environment



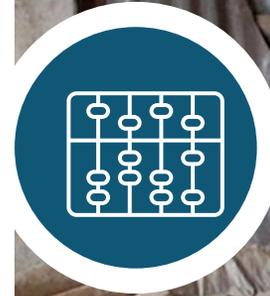
2 | Making sense of complexity

Directions of experimentation

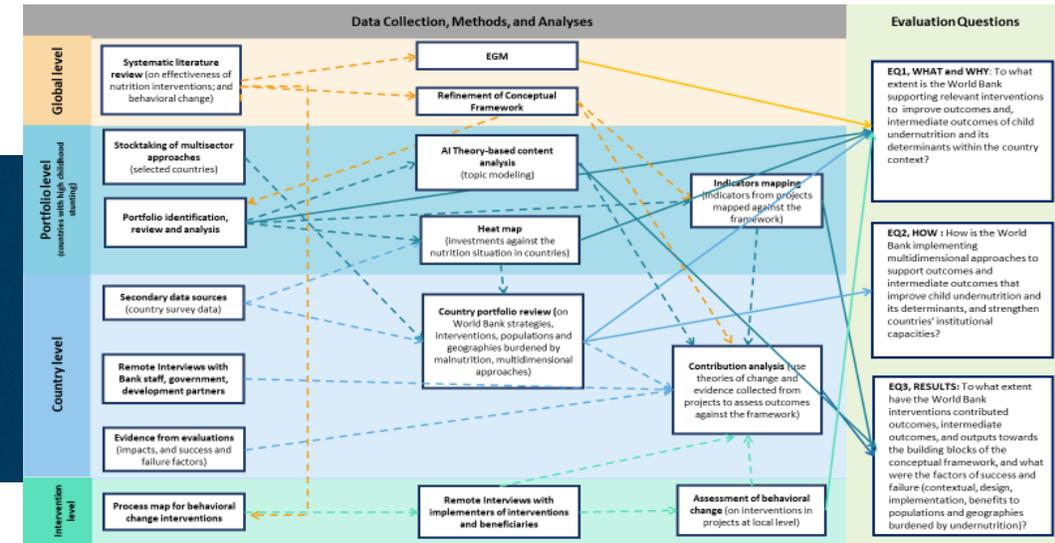
Enhancing our analysis of complex portfolios with Machine Learning and new sources of data

Combining data and approaches

Going in depth into complex causal processes to grasp the “how”



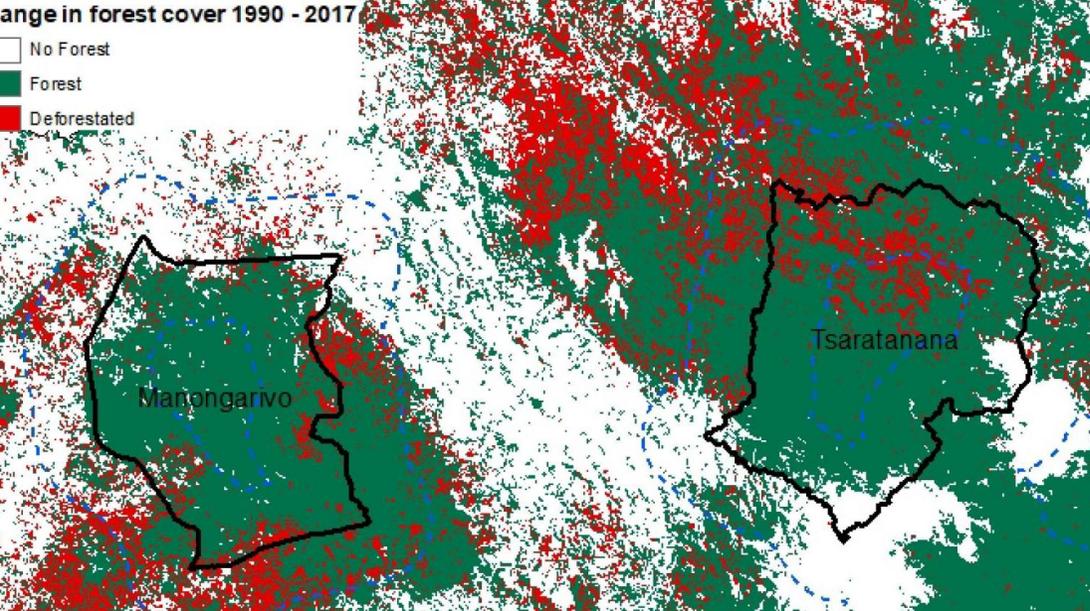
COMBINING METHODS



- We rarely conduct impact evaluations
- We embed causal analysis in our evaluation work
- This is a multi-part process



Using Machine Learning to identify and analysis complex, multi-faceted portfolios of interventions

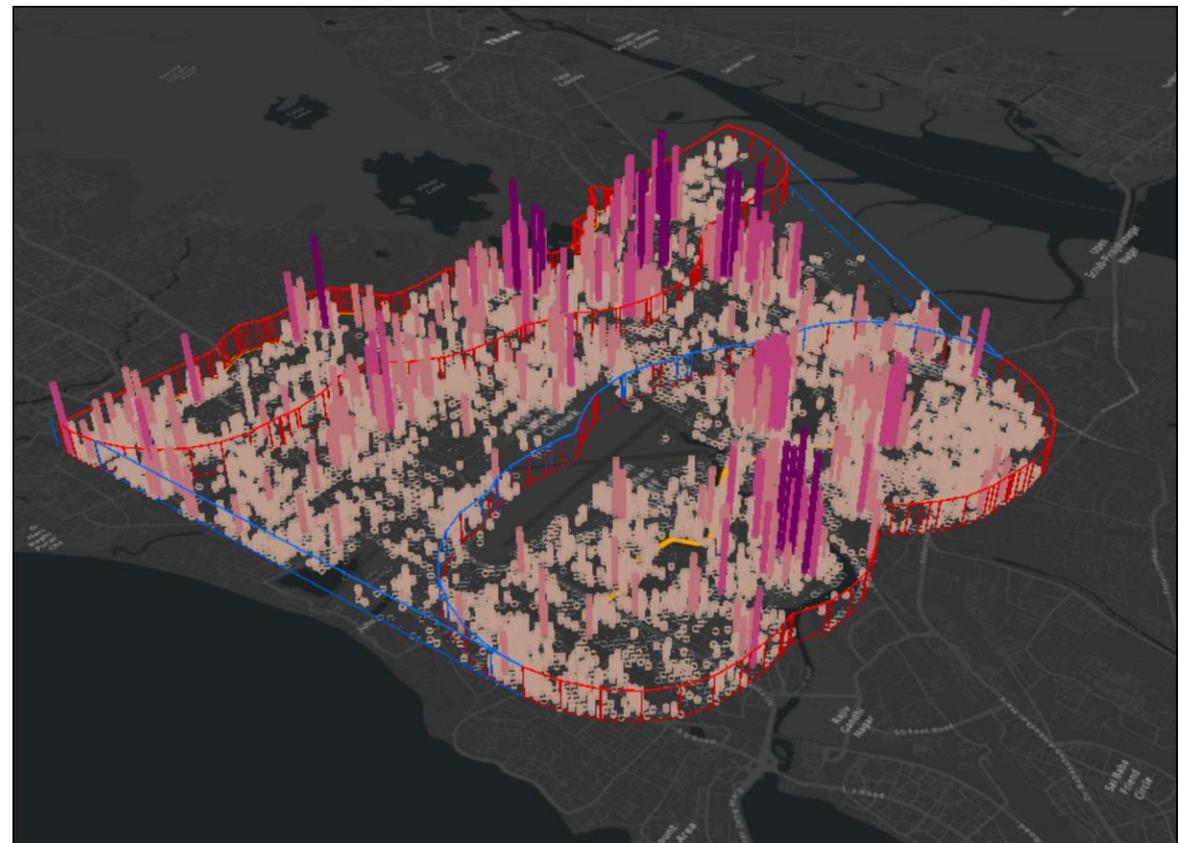


Deforestation in Madagascar



Sustainable landscape managements in Ethiopia

Using geospatial satellite data for Diff-in-Diff of complex interventions



Urban planning in Mumbai

<https://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/blog/when-evaluators-cannot-make-it-field-they-can-always-observe-space>



In-depth interviewing and rigorous story-telling



Using geospatial satellite data



Conducting QCA to understand the “why”

**Layering evidence
in cases**

Process Tracing

QCA



Going deep in causal processes

Pattern Matching



3 | Practical considerations

Experimenting under “real-world evaluation constraints”



Key aspects to consider

- Time
- Capacity
- Audience : message-driven evaluation
- Results-Based Management

Some thoughts on promoting the broadening of methods to capture complexity

- 1 Bottom-up
- 2 Incentives, nudges
- 3 Support

- 4 Knowledge brokering
- 5 Feedback-loop
- 6 Consolidate

- 7 Make it simple, not simpler
- 8 Engage and explain
- 9 Listen and iterate

Links to IEG work cited in the presentation

- Evaluation of the World Bank's Support to Improving Child Undernutrition and Its Determinants: [Link](#)
- When evaluators cannot make it to the field, they can always observe from space *By Joachim Vandecasteele* : [Link](#)
- Scaling the Great Green Wall? *By Lauren Kelly & Joy Butscher & Mees van der Werf* : [Link](#)
- From the Great Wall of Trees to Sustainable Management of Landscapes *By Bekele Shiferaw & Ebru Karamete*: [Link](#)
- PPAR ETHIOPIA Sustainable Land Management Project I and II: [Link](#)
- The Natural Resource Degradation and Vulnerability Nexus: An Evaluation of the World Bank's Support for Sustainable and Inclusive Natural Resource Management (2009–2019): [Link](#)
- Carbon Markets for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction in a Warming World: [Link](#)

Thank you

<http://ieg.worldbankgroup.com>



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