



ICT for Evaluation

Société Luxembourgeoise d'évaluation et de prospective

Oscar A. Garcia

Director

Independent Office of Evaluation IFAD

Independent Office
of Evaluation



Investing in rural people

Context

- 4th industrial revolution
- Demographic explosion
- Climate change
- Increasing disparities
- SDGs: people, planet, prosperity, peace, partnerships

ICT4Eval Conference 6 – 7 June 2017



200 participants, including UNEG, ECG, private sector, academic institutions, NGOs, think tanks and national-level counterparts



SDGs and Challenges for evaluators

- 145 out of 232 indicators of SDGs cannot be measured as of today (UNDP Guidance note, September 2017)
- What can be measured is a result traditional approaches to:
 - Data collection
 - Data analysis
 - Dissemination of evaluation results

Technology and new data

- Newer avenues and sources of data – e.g. Remote sensing
- Better analysis of existing data – e.g. Machine learning and big data analytics
- Better Feedback loops to stakeholders, especially beneficiaries in the field

Examples of frontrunners

- **Save the Children, Somalia** -> Conflict and lack of mobility -> Use of satellite data for infrastructure, Skype and email for remote audits and verification -> Possibility of evaluations in midst of deteriorating security environment
- **GEF-IEO and DEval** -> Evaluations -> Lack of counterfactual for environment impacts -> Remote Sensing -> Readily available impact and counterfactual for low cost combined with other sources
- **3ie** -> Systematic reviews -> Time and labour consuming review process -> Machine learning -> Reducing review time by up to 70%
- **Oxfam GB** -> Impact evaluations in Zambia and Thailand -> Lack of feedback to beneficiaries -> Mobile phones for data collection and dissemination -> Real time feedback to beneficiaries and validation of impact data collected

Results

- Increased effectiveness and efficiency
 - Better
 - Faster
 - Cheaper
- Augmented bias
- Disproportionally available (political economy)

Reflections for the future

- Technology not a panacea but means to an end
- Evaluations need to be grounded in theory
- Ethics of paramount importance
- Evaluation needs to remain human centric
- Partnerships – Tapping into complementary capacities