



Impact Evaluation:

Data driven policymaking

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Outline:

- Evaluation
 - Classic evaluation
 - Current trends
- Impact Evaluation (IE)
 - Definition
 - Why we evaluate?
- M&E versus IE
- PROGRESSA
- IE Methods
- IE resources



Classic evaluation:

- Program managers and policymakers control and measure **inputs** and **intermediate** outcomes of a program.
 - How many EUR was spent?
 - How many beneficiaries?
 - How many trainings were developed?
 - How many webinars were held?
 - How many people participate in an employment program?



Current Global Trends:

- Focused on outcome and results.
 - What works better?
 - Are the goals improving the well-being of beneficiaries. How much?
 - Are the intended goals achieved?
 - (Are the goals of the project improving the network of RMA. How much?)



Definition: What is Impact Evaluation?

- “An assessment of the causal effect of a project, program or policy on beneficiaries.”
- determines the actual contribution of the intervention/ program/ policy.
- looks at changes in outcomes that directly can be attributed to the program.
- wants to determine whether the program directly causes the effect on an outcome.

What is NOT?

- Evaluating personnel or the evaluating performance of individual people or employees.



Why we do Impact evaluation?

Informs policy makers/ donors whether the program/ intervention is:

- Worth stopping
- Continuing (Example: PROGRESSA)
- Expanding
- Changing the program benefits
- Selecting among alternative programs

M&E versus IE



	M&E	IE
Frequency	Regular, Continuous	Periodic
Coverage	All programs	Selected programs/ aspects
Data	Universal	Sample based
Depth of Information	Tracks implementation, mostly administrative, looks at WHAT	Tailored, often to performance and impact/ WHY, Extent
Cost	Cost spread out	Usually high
Utility	Continuous program improvement, management	Major program decisions
Responsible	Internal within organization	External Evaluators

PROGRESSA:

- ❑ Launched in the 1990s by the government of Mexico in the form of a Conditional Cash Transfer.
 - ❑ **Condition:** children regularly attending school and visiting a health center
 - ❑ **outcomes:**
 1. improved school enrollment, by an average of 0.7 additional years of schooling.
 2. the incidence of illness in children decreased by 23 %,
 3. the number of sick or disability days fell by 19 % among adults.

 - ❑ The new government, elected in 2000, decided to continue the program.
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IE needs a **counterfactual**:

- to estimate what the state of the beneficiaries would have been in the absence of the program (which we call the **control** or the **comparison group**), compared to the observed state of beneficiaries (called the **treatment group**)

- to determine intermediate or **final outcomes attributable to the intervention**



Type of questions:

- Descriptive questions:
 - What happened, what is taking place (Describes processes, conditions, organizational relationships, and stakeholder views)
- Comparative/ Normative questions:
 - Compares: what is to what should be taking place, and can apply to inputs, activities and outputs.
 - Assesses activities: whether targets are or not accomplished.
- Cost and effect questions:
 - assess opportunity costs and contrasting them w/positive differences the intervention makes on outcomes.



IE Methods (quasi experimental & experimental)

- Randomized Control Trials (RCT)
- Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD)
- Difference-in-Difference (Diff-in-Diff)
- Propensity Score Matching (PSM)



Choosing the right IE method:

Best Design:

- Best comparison group & least operational risk

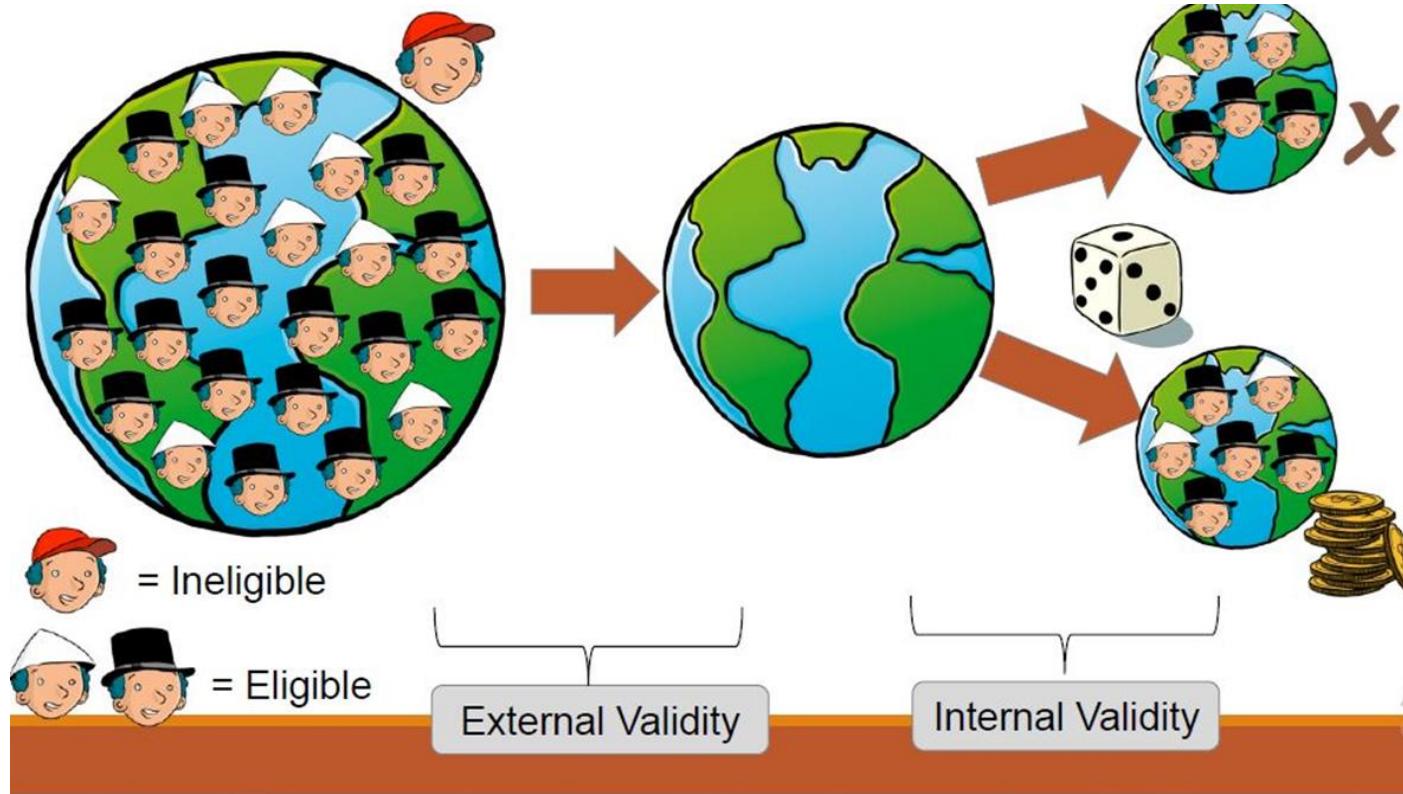
Have you controlled for everything?

- Internal Validity

Is the result valid for all the targeted population?

- External Validity

RCT: golden standard





Data Collection

- Identify what specific data are needed;
- Identify how the data will be collected;
- Identify who will be responsible for collecting and reporting the data;
- Identify when the data will be collected and reported, including how frequently;
- Identify costs and sources of financing.



Resources for a Headstart in IE



Ask me anything!

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