

Ex post evaluation of the impact of 4 projects of the governmental cooperation

Major methodological lessons learnt

Brussels, Seminar on Impact Evaluation, 27th March 2014



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE
EN ÉCONOMIE
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
(CRED)



ANALYSIS FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

*Ce document est conçu comme un soutien à la présentation orale
et n'est pas destiné à être utilisé séparément*

Agenda

- Goals and definitions
- Case studies: projects Senegal and DRC
- Formative lessons learnt

Goals

Double goal: sommative and formative

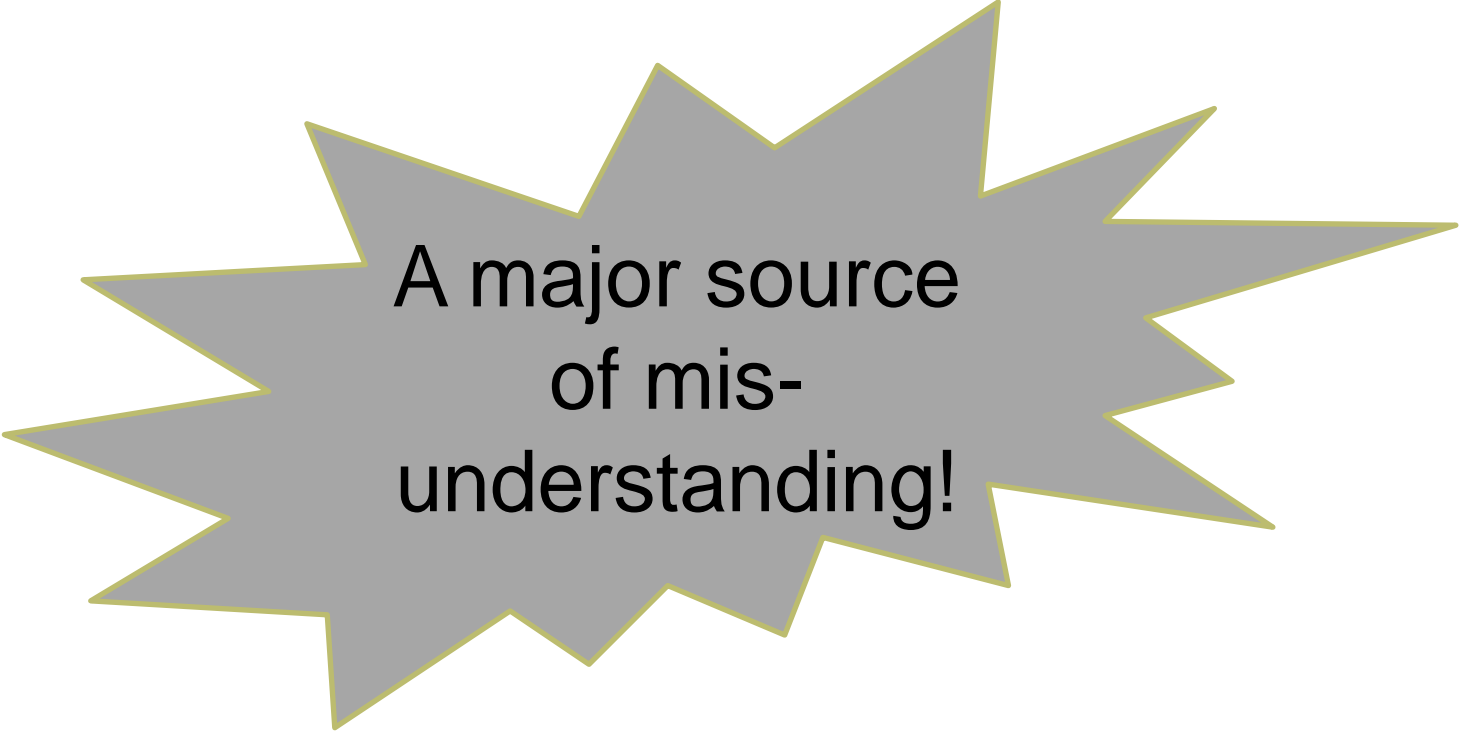
■ Drawing lessons

- Which impact?
- How to evaluate impact?
- Feasibility / Utility of impact evaluation?

■ 4 projects ≠ evaluated EX POST

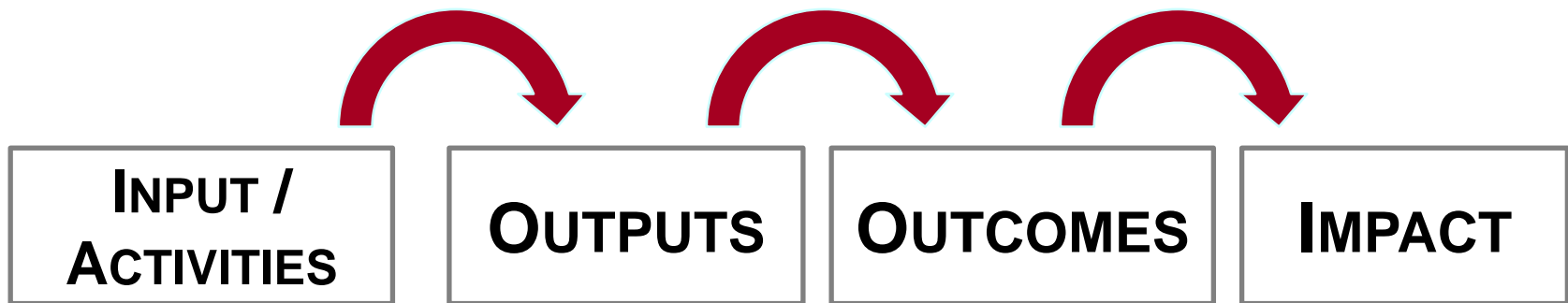
- Implementing phase of the projects : 2003-2008
- Mixed methods (quali & quanti)
- Mixed team (ADE/CRED)

3 definitionsu of impact



A major source
of mis-
understanding!

A logic of action that seems shared...



... but with which definition for each of these elements?

3 definitions of impact

- ① **DAC** : « *Positive and negative long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended* »
- ② **Logical framework**: « *Ultimate goal* » =
« *contribution of the intervention to changes at a more global level* »
- ③ **Quanti methods**: « *effects on the beneficiaries that can be attributed to the project* » (« outcomes » of the logical framework)

3 definitions of impact

① **CAD** : « long-term effects... »

~~→ **Effects are time bound**~~

② **Logical framework**: « Ultimate goal »

→ **Effects at a global level**

QUALI

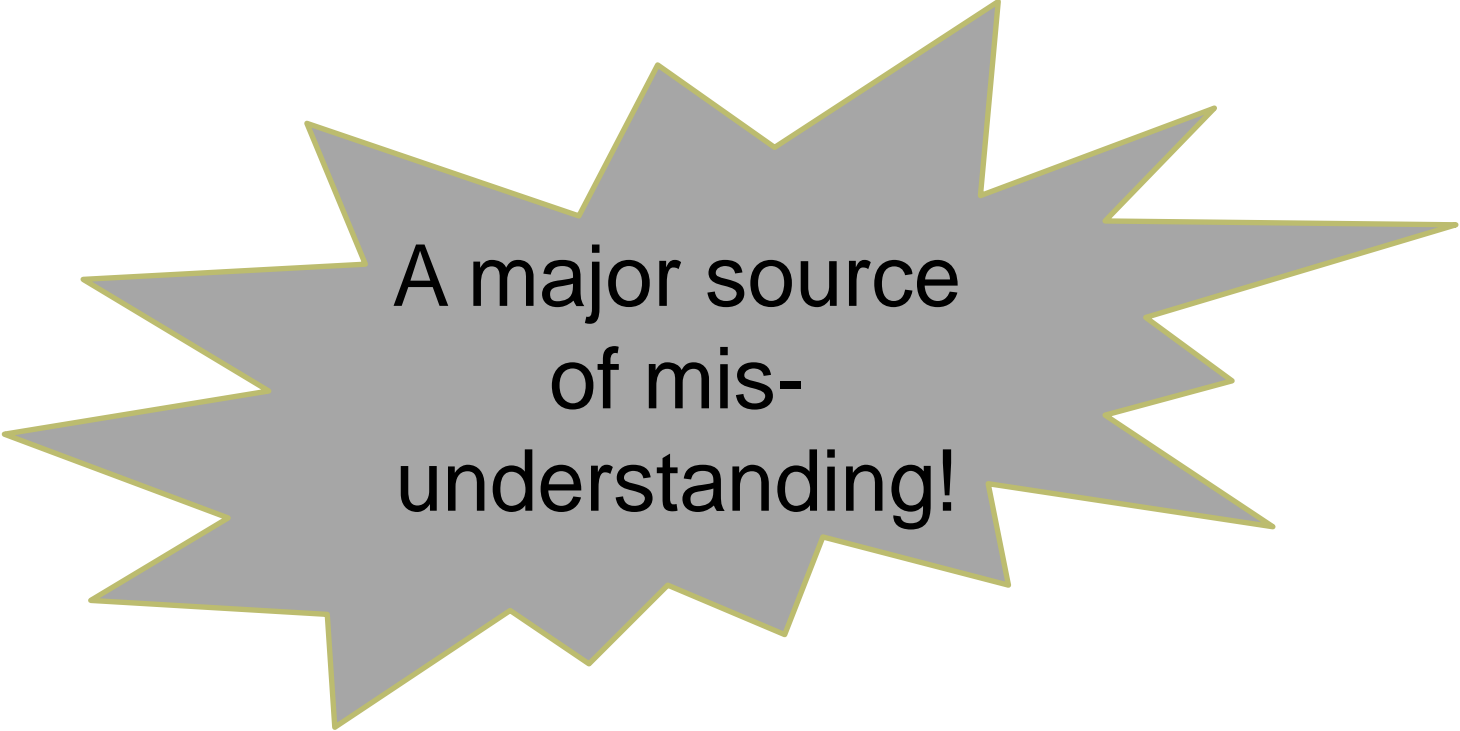
③ **Quanti methods**: « effects that can be attributed... »

= « outcomes » of logical framework

QUANTI

→ **Effects on beneficiaries + attribution**

3 definitionsu of impact



A major source
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Development interest: **impact** (global level)

Scientific interest: **outcomes** (tunnel approach)

Mixed methods

Relevant causal chain?

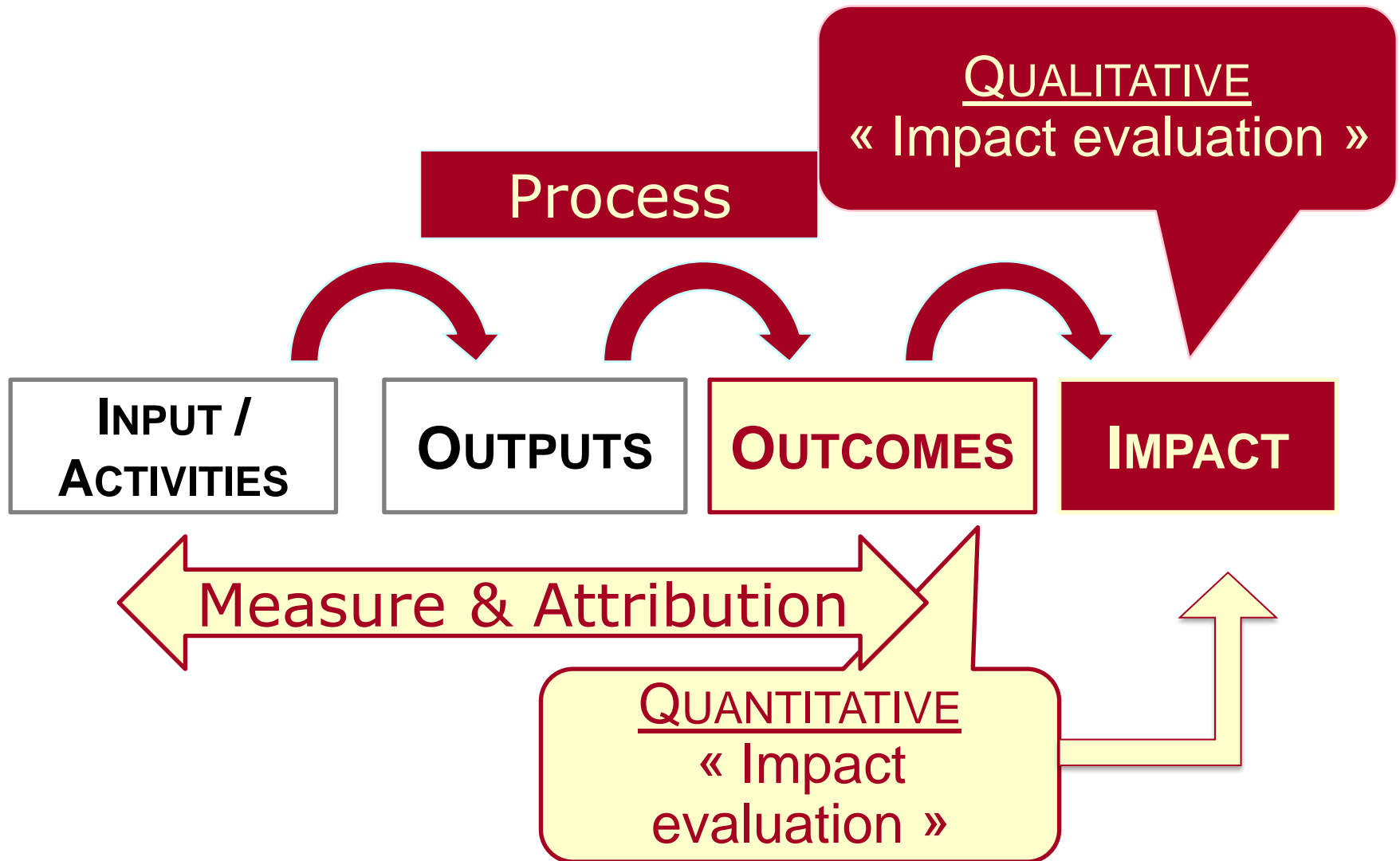
Conditions / hypothesis verified?

Process

QUALITATIVE
« Impact evaluation »



Mixed methods



Mixed methods

■ Qualitative methods

→ Reasoned judgement on impact

- Logical framework analysis
- Document analysis, interviews and observations

■ Quantitative methods

→ Measure of attributable *outcomes*

- Statistical and econometrical analysis
- Sufficient reliable data ; beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries ; before/after the project.

Theory-based evaluation

*In depth analysis of
causal chain and
conditions for
success*

QUALITATIVE
« Impact evaluation »

INPUT /
ACTIVITIES

OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES

IMPACT

QUANTITATIVE
« Impact
evaluation »

Six principles (© H. White 2009)

- (1) Map out the causal chain (programme theory) ✓
- (2) Understand context ✓
- (3) Anticipate heterogeneity ✓
- (4) Use a credible counterfactual ✓
- (5) Rigorous factual analysis ✓
- (6) Use mixed methods ✓

Limits of this study

- EX POST evaluations
- No optimal use of quantitative methods
- No representative sample of projects

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 - Project in DRC
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PARPEBA in Senegal

- Project: Water supply (rural),
2003-2008
- Methods of analysis:
Mixed methods incl. quasi-experimental design with counterfactual
 - Reconstruction of the intervention logic
 - Document study ; literature review
 - 217 household surveys (4 boreholes), with counterfactual (no baseline available)
 - Difference of means test (t-test) and Independence test on first hand data (household and individual level)
 - Double difference tests
 - 34 Focus groups (users, village authorities)
 - Interviews with resource persons in Belgium and in Senegal
 - Site visits

PARPEBA in Senegal

- Project: Water supply (rural)
- *OUTPUTS: overall achieved*
- *OUTCOMES*
 - Time and energy gain (mostly for private taps)
 - Gain in wellbeing and more social cohesion
 - Quantity of water / distance : no evolution
 - Water quality is a problem
 - Effect on education, health?
 - Strong willingness to pay
- *IMPACT*
 - Project → better water access for $\approx 15.5\%$ of the population (! *water quality*)

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AETP2 in RDC

- Project: Support to technical/vocational training, 2005-2008
- Methods of analysis:

Case studies with counterfactual

- Reconstruction of intervention logic
- Document study; literature review
- Interviews with resource persons in Belgium + DRC
- Statistical analysis of second hand quantitative data pre/post project (annual school performance)
- Qualitative comparison of target and reference groups
- 2 target schools + 2 reference schools (*no baseline*)
- « Focus groups » with direct beneficiaries (schools – teachers – students - graduates)

AETP2 in DRC

- Project: Support to technical/vocational training
- *OUTPUTS: globally achieved*
- *OUTCOMES*
 - No tangible effects
 - Causes:
 - Very unfavourable context
 - Partial use of outputs
- *IMPACT?*
 - No outcomes → no impact
 - In any case, limited coverage at national level:
AETP1&2 = 5% of schools
 - Positive evolution at Ministry level

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 - 2. Monitoring - evaluation
 - 3. Objective
 - 4. Types

Lesson 1

Mixed methods = adequate solution to appreciate and explain the *outcomes* and the impact

1. Measure and demonstrate the attribution of certain outcomes
2. Appreciate and argue the attribution of all the outcomes
3. Argued judgment on the obtained impact
4. Understand the 'why' and the 'how' of effects or lack of effects

Mixed methods = ideal

a) Quanti enriches quali

→ Via its objectives

- Measure and attribution → extrapolation possible

→ Via its mechanism of information gathering

- Number and reliability of quali data
- Focus on beneficiaries (and non beneficiaries)
- At random

Mixed methods = ideal

b) Quali allows rigorous quanti

- 4 challenges of quanti:

- ① A credible counterfactual
- ② Reliable data in sufficient quantity
- ③ Technical rigour
- ④ Realistic interpretation of results

➔ Quali brings in depth understanding of programme theory + context

Mixed methods = ideal

c) Quali to understand the effects/non-effect

- Analysis of logical framework
 - Coherence : means and fixed goals
 - Risks in the chain of results
- Analysis of the context
 - Relevance
 - Social, economic, political, cultural, diplomatic elements, local leadership, historic perspective...

Mixed methods = ideal

d) Consultation of all the actors



■ Quali: ‘a bit of all the actors’

■ Quanti : (non-) beneficiaries ; at random; numerous

➔ **Triangulation and + objectivity**

Mixed methods, Feasibility?

■ 4 factors

- ① Numerous reliable data (*baseline* + ex post)
- ② Credible counterfactual
- ③ Agreement of national authorities
- ④ *Value for money*
 - Probability to have an effect
 - Use of results

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Lesson 2

Importance of adequate design, implementation and M&E systems

- Intervention logic (programme theory) must be 'well thought out'
- Precise and realistic objectives
- Focus on outcomes and impact
- M&E systems

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Lesson 3

Clarify the objective of the impact evaluation

- Define the concepts univocally
 - « outcomes », « impact », etc.
- Define the objective of every impact evaluation
 - Accountability, supporting decision making, or capitalisation & sharing lessons learnt?
 - What role in the overall evaluation policy?
 - Of what use for the organisation?

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Lesson 4

Impact evaluation types

- Rigorous evaluations of outcomes/impact; mixed methods based on the intervention logic (theory based evaluation)
 - Important elements:
 - Objectives
 - Timing
 - Budget
 - Data
 - Field
- Methodological, financial and operational feasibility*

Quality impact evaluation

■ EX ANTE evaluation= ideal case

→ Logical framework = true management tool

+ *quality in design*

- *Explicit formulation of causal links*
- *Context and issues at stake*
- *Better defined, more realistic objectives*

+ *rigour in the evaluation*

- *M&E (precise definitions of indicators; collection modes) → Baseline, monitoring, ex post data*
- *Credible counterfactual ('pipeline')*

Quality impact evaluation

- EX POST evaluation= possible and rich
- Interesting alternatives
- Restitution = important step
 - To make the evaluation public
 - Reactions to feed the debates → actions



Questions or information requests?

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