IEG
Independent Evaluation Group
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Evaluation approaches under Covid-19: what have we learned

DeGEval Conference

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Outline

- Introduction: three types of challenges
- Methodological challenges: what did we do differently
- Going forward: what have we learned

Three types of challenges

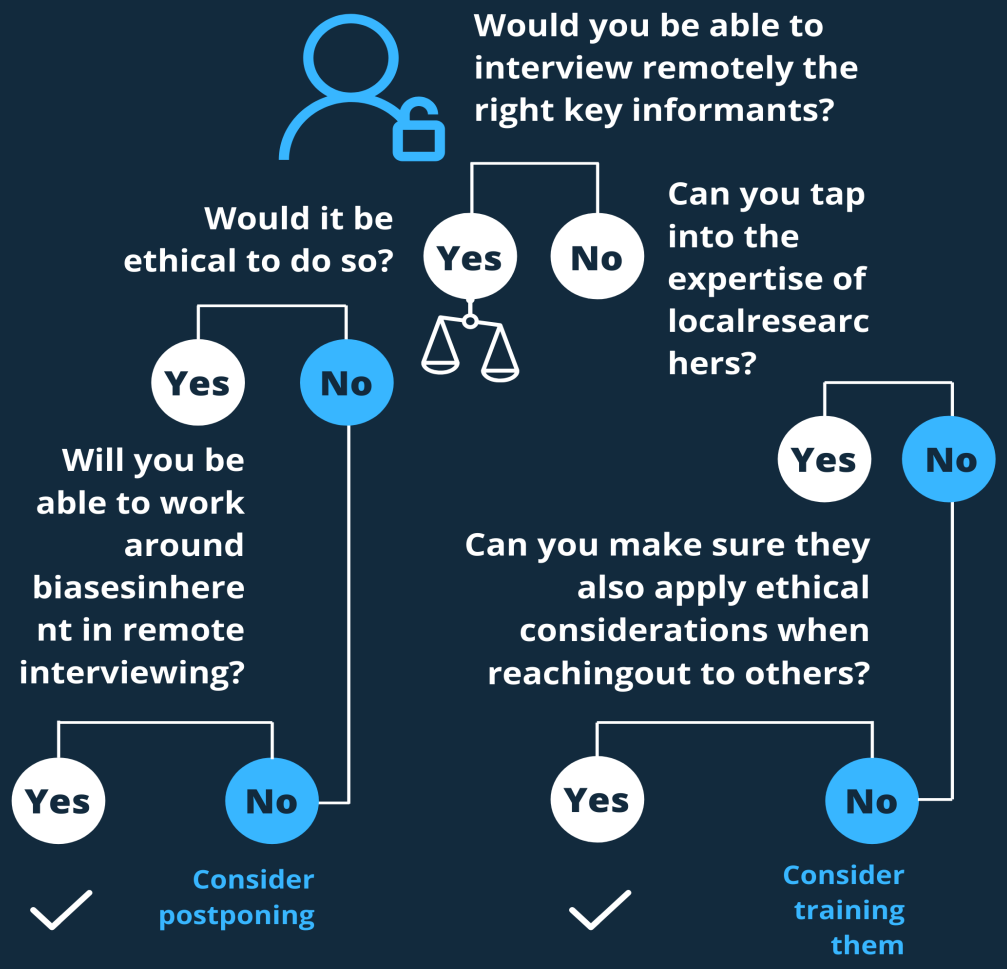
- Work program challenges
- Conceptual challenges
- Methodological challenges

Methodological challenges

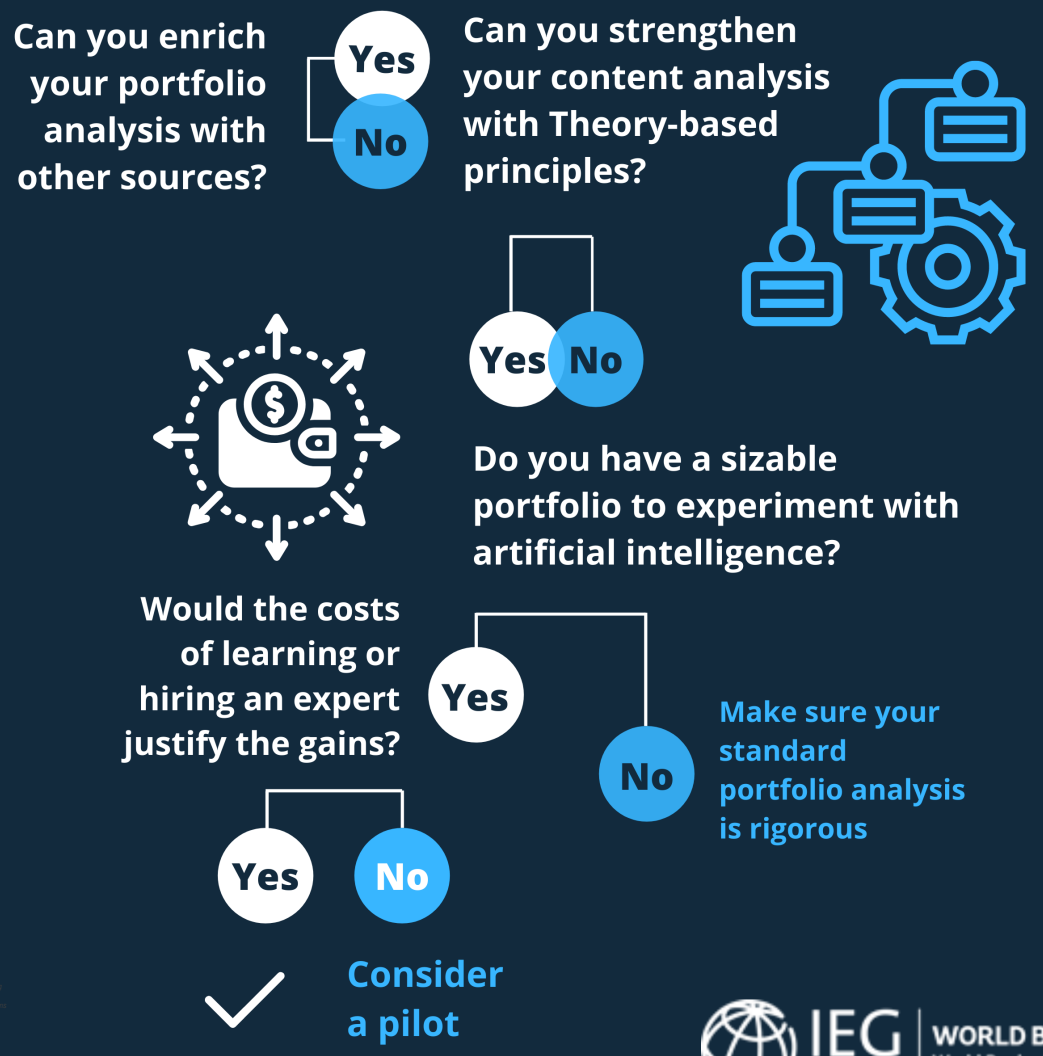
- Difficult access to key informants:
  - Travel restrictions
  - Connectivity issues
  - Shifting institutional priorities
  - “Crisis” modus
- Impossibility to conduct “on-site” data collection:
  - Difficulty to develop a rich and contextualized perspective on the evaluand
  - Strategies such as building rapport, unobtrusive observation, “on-the ground” snowball sampling of interviewees, are impossible
  - Remote interviewing is prone to biases

- Remote interviewing
- Local consultants
- Ethical considerations
- Mitigate biases

Can you find ways around what is infeasible?

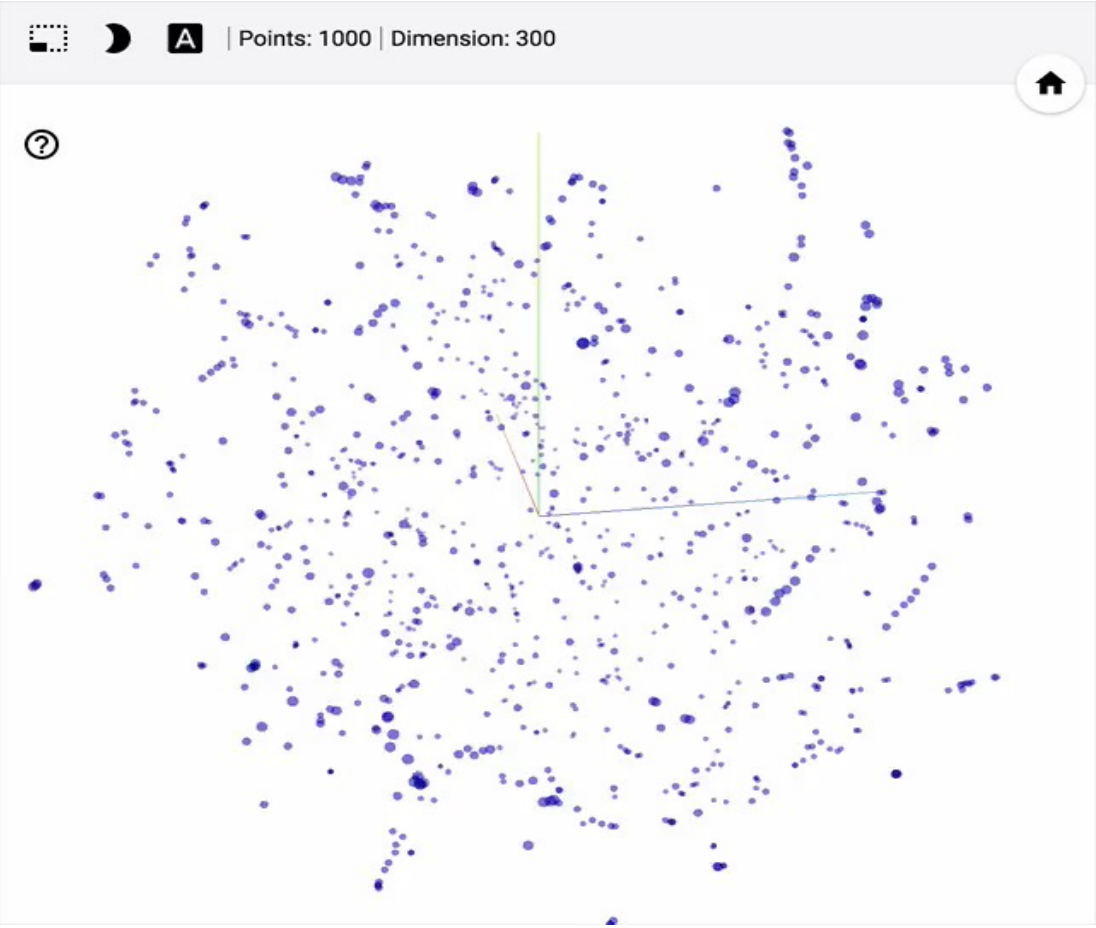


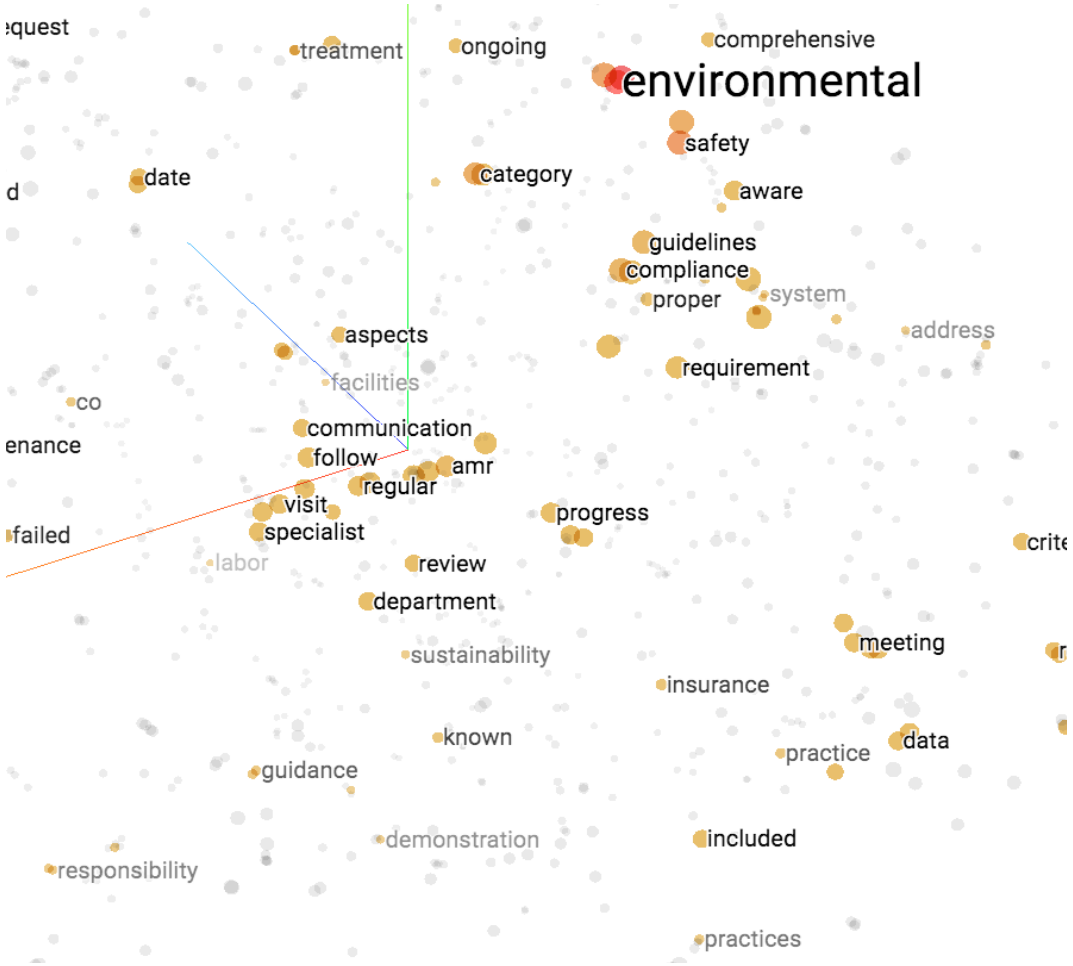
Can you improve what remains feasible?



- Enrich portfolio analysis
- Conduct theory-based content analysis
- Experiment with Artificial Intelligence

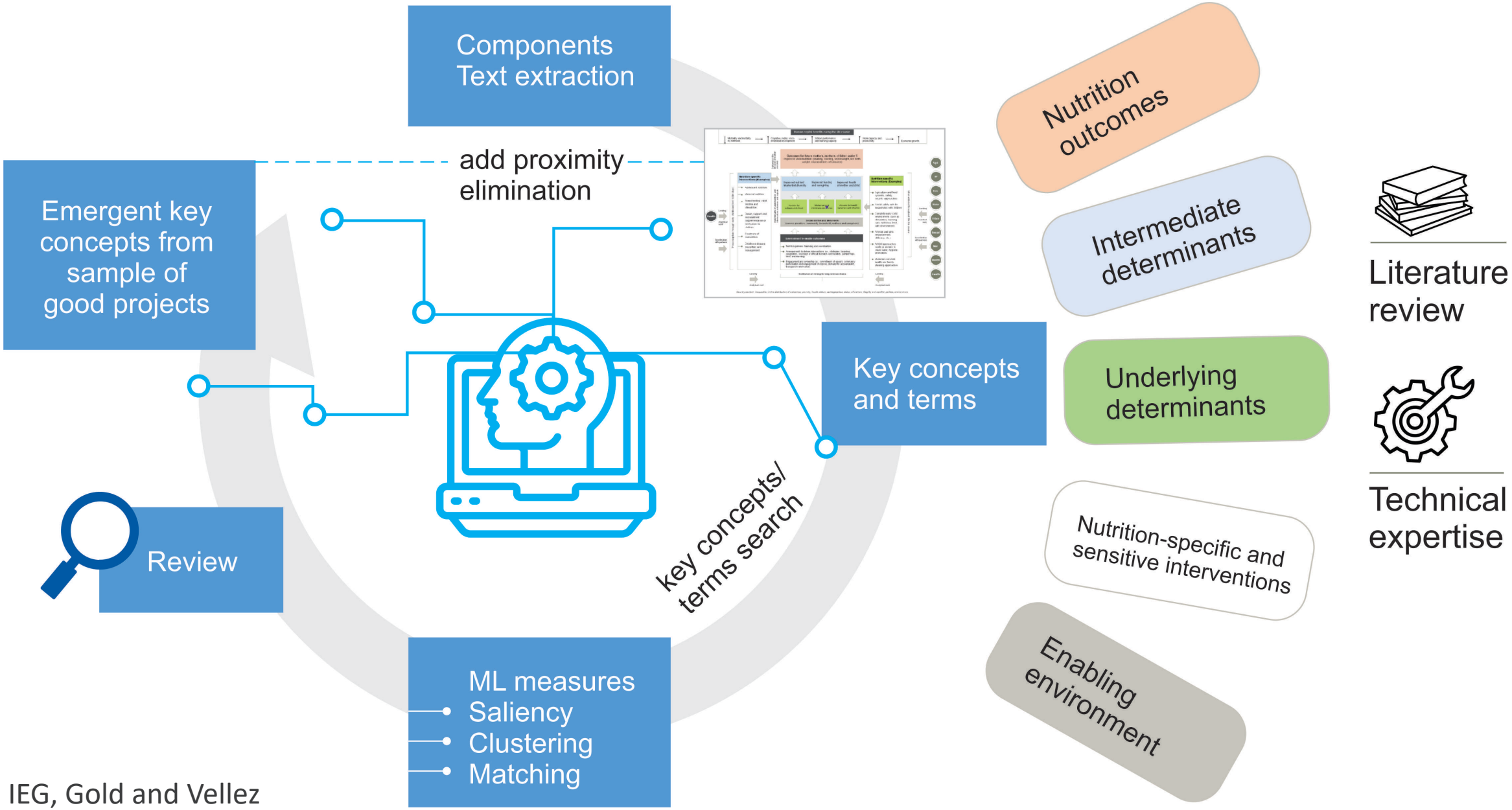
1. Evaluators as synthesizers: example private sector development projects evaluative synthesis





Source: IEG, Bravo

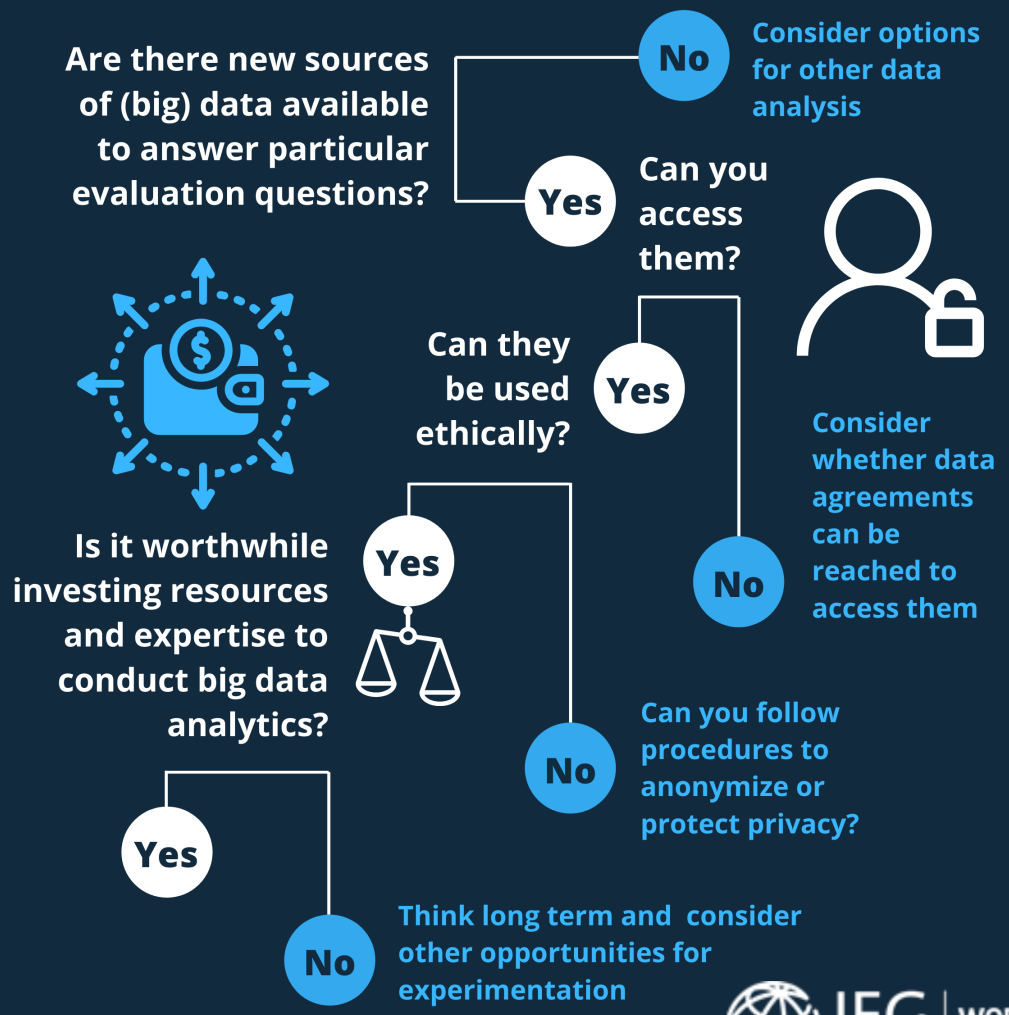
2. Identifying the evaluand: example global evaluation WBG support to combat undernutrition



Source: IEG, Gold and Vellez

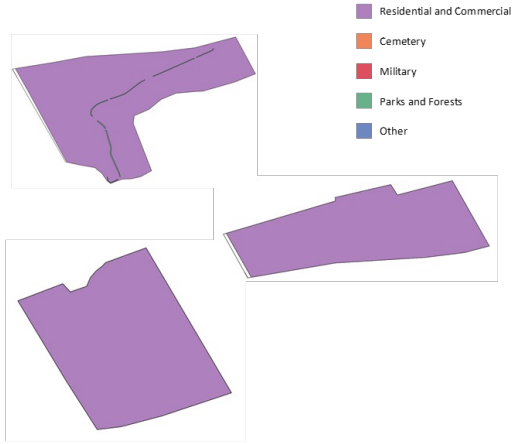
- Explore new sources of (big) data

Can you tap into alternative sources of evidence?



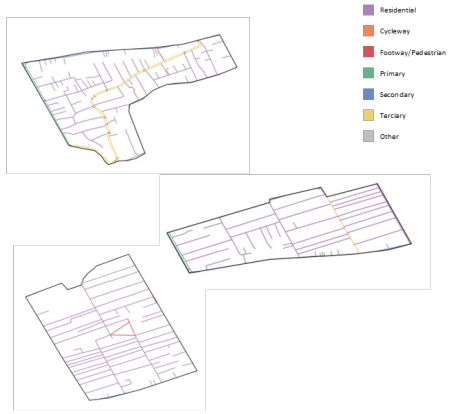
3. Using big data for evaluative analysis: example geospatial data Tirana (urban development)

URBAN FABRIC



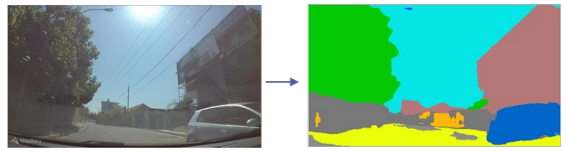
	Total Area (m^2)	Urban Fabric (m^2)	Residential and Commercial (m^2)	Parks and Forests (m^2)	Cemetery (m^2)	Military (m^2)	Others (m^2)
Tirana	39,998,805	31,763,400	28,379,611	2,729,500	232,704	323,568	98,048
Bathore	454,457	452,127	448,366	3,761	0	0	0
Zone 2	298,176	295,008	295,008	0	0	0	0
Zone 3	589,747	589,747	589,747	0	0	0	0

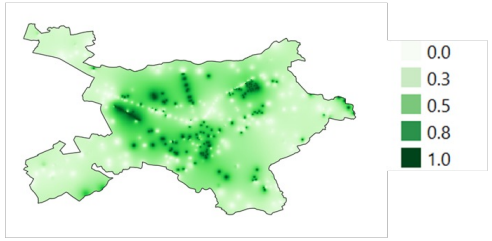
ROADS



	Total Area (m^2)	Total Roads (m)	Residential (m)	Cycleway (m)	Pedestrial/Footpath (m)	Primary (m)	Secondary (m)	Terciary (m)	Others (m)
Tirana	39,998,805	962,326	470,524	39,231	68,875	40,064	48,846	60,621	234,165
Bathore	454,457	12,114	5,076	0	239	895	753	2,903	2,248
Zone 2	298,176	7,536	5,584	0	10	505	285	395	757
Zone 3	589,747	11,145	9,670	0	415	0	190	4	867

Streetscape Images





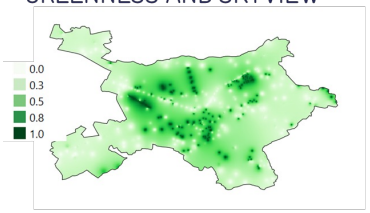
- Description: high resolution street-level imagery.
- Source: GoogleEarth, Mapillary, others.
- Data type: images.
- Spatial coverage: worldwide
- Temporal coverage: mostly available for recent years. Timeseries analysis with this data might prove difficult.
- Particularly useful for in-depth analysis of smaller geographic areas (e.g. cities) in the context of urban development projects. Different techniques allow to process a large amount of images in a short amount of time and extract its relevant features (such as roads, cars, buildings, sky, etc.). These features can be geocoded and mapped.

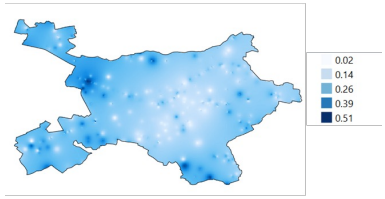
Example: Semantic segmentation of a street-level image from Tirana (Albania). The information extracted from 800+ images was used to derive a map showing the level of greenness across different parts of the city.

BUILDINGS

	Total Area (m^2)	Buildings Area (m^2)	Number of Buildings	Min. Building Area (m^2)	Avg. Building Area (m^2)	Max. Building Area (m^2)
Tirana	39,998,805	3,552,670.00	12,281	1.7	289	18,826
Bathore	454,457	96,325.80	762	2.3	126	1,174
Zone 2	298,176	55,012.30	452	0.2	122	19,959
Zone 3	589,747	96,860.10	762	4.0	127	1,073

GREENNESS AND SKYVIEW





- Greenness: areas in central parts of the city have a large concentration of green areas due to the existence of parks and a larger number of trees along main trees. Areas in the periphery of the city with a high concentration of green areas mostly correspond to forests.
- Skyview: areas in the periphery of the city have the most sky view (around 50%) due to low development density.
- Maps were produced applying IDW interpolation algorithm.

Source: IEG, Ziulu

Going forward: what have we learned?

- The role of evaluation
- Methodological innovation: yes, but…
- Organizing (independent) evaluation in international organizations

Thank you!