On *measuring* and *bridging* through impact evaluations

Lessons from AFD's experience

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01. EVALUATION AT AFD

In a nutshell

An evaluation policy geared towards learning

Three types of evaluation, mostly externalised :

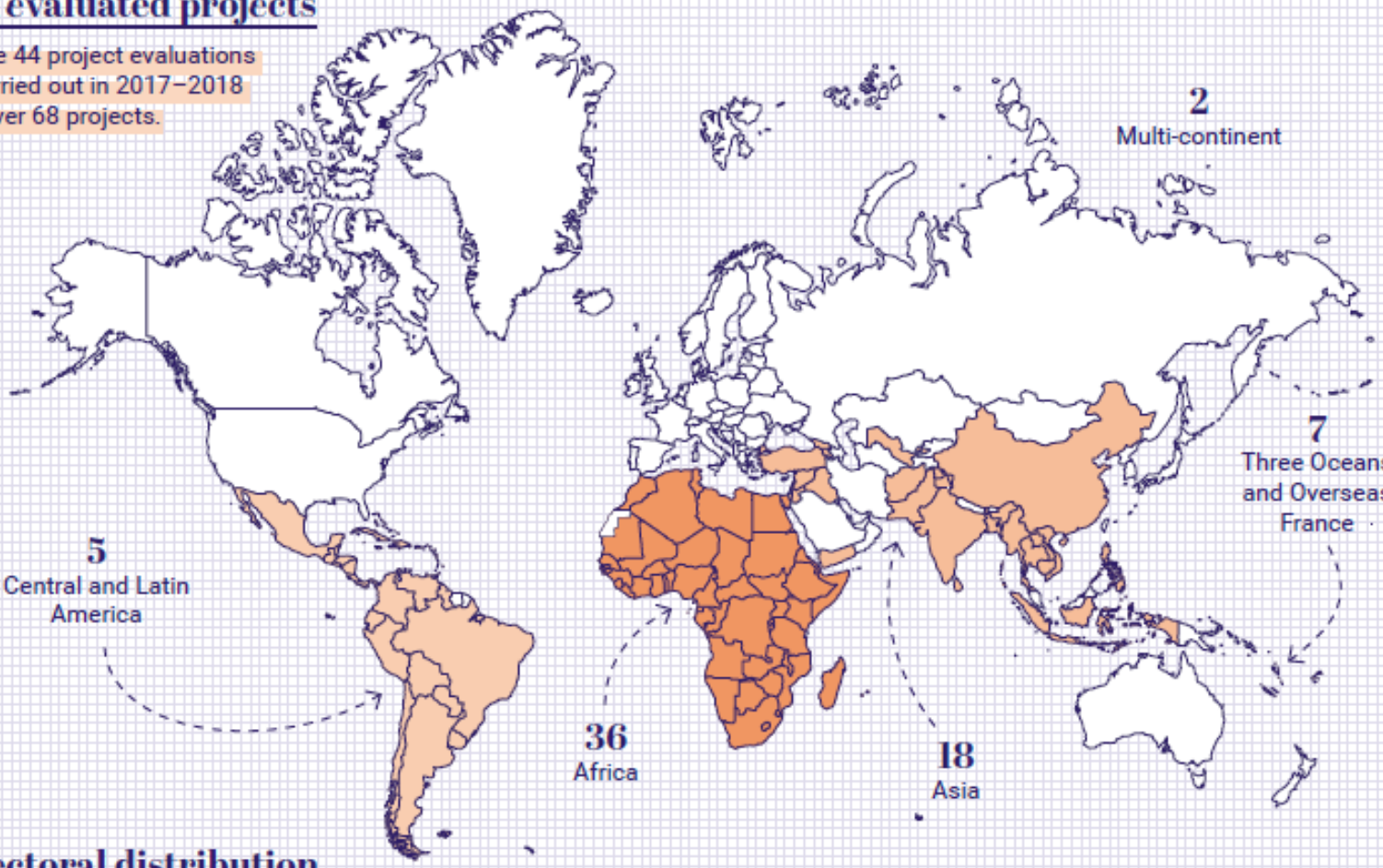
- **Project evaluations,** implemented by AFD offices located in AFD countries of intervention : target of 50% of projects achieved evaluated (33 in 2018, 45 in 2019 and 65 in 2020)
- **Broad scope evaluations** (thematic, strategic, country) : around ten per year
- **Impact evaluations :** around 1 achieved per year in the last 15 years, 6 ongoing impact evaluations in partnership with North and South research institutions + 15 feasibility studies in progress in 2020.

→ Increased focus on knowledge sharing

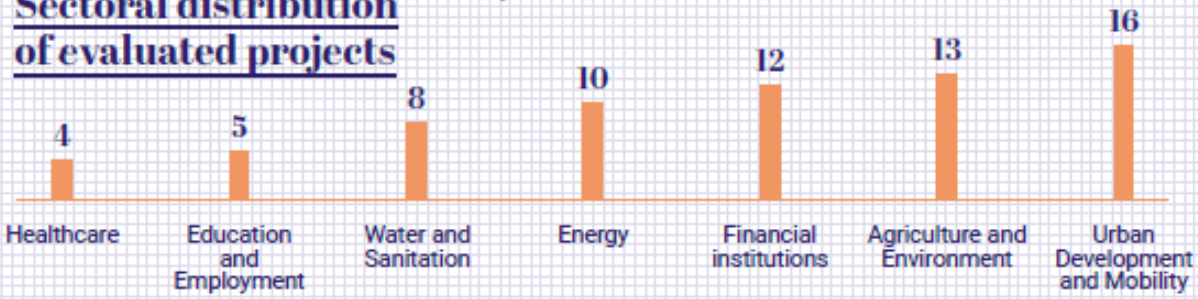
02.

Geographical distribution of evaluated projects

The 44 project evaluations carried out in 2017–2018 cover 68 projects.



Sectoral distribution of evaluated projects



03. EVALUATION AT AFD

TYPES OF EVALUATION

Type of evaluation	Scope	Method	Principal objective
PCR : auto-évaluation	Project (final)	Based on project objectives	Accountability
Project evaluation - Decentralized - Internal (2 in 2018) - Peers evaluation (2 in 2018)	Project (mi-term, final, ex-post) Cluster of projects	Based on project objectives Particular attention to gender, climate and E & S risks	Leaning, dialogue with project's counterparts
Broad scope evaluation	Thematic, sector, instrument, country, cluster of projects …	Based on theory	Learning, accountability
Impact evaluation	**Project**	**Impact evaluation, experimental or quasi**	**Knowledge production and learning**

04. DEFINITIONS

- **What is impact evaluation**
  - Scientifically rigorous evaluations that aim at isolating the effects strictly attributable to an intervention by using an explicit counterfactual
    - **ie. We compare the evolution of the beneficiaries by reconstructing the situation that would have occurred without an intervention**
  - For the validity of such evaluation, it is necessary to implement a rigorous evaluation protocol:
    - **Experimental method: random selection ex ante of the treatment group (beneficiaries) and the control group (non beneficiaries that were eligible to the project))**
    - **Quasi-experimental methods: identifying in itinere or ex post of individuals that appear to be very comparable to the beneficiaries**
    - **Articulating quantitative and qualitative methods enable to improve the result reliability and relevance to draw findings that can be generalized**
- **What is not impact evaluation**
  - DAC impact criteria: broader and less demanding on attribution
  - Impact indicators: do not provide information on efficiency
  - Before-after comparisons: useful to analyze trends but to not demonstrate attribution

05. 6 ONGOING IMPACT EVALUATIONS IN 2020

- **Water and urban essential services**
  - DRC-Uvira: impact of water adduction on cholera and severe diarrhoeal diseases
  - DRC-Kinshasa: impact of water adduction on socio-economic variables (gender, employment, governance)
  - Tunisia: impact of urban rehabilitation (sanitation, electricity, public services) on living conditions and socioeconomic variables, in particular incomes and employment.

- **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: education and employment**
- **Senegal: transport**
- **Burkina Faso: energy**

→ Most of the 15 feasibility studies in progress in 2020 are on health, education, transport and energy projects in African countries

06. Impact evaluation promises (1/2)

- **Measuring**
  - Rigorous impact evaluations can measure if programs reach their final goals and help comparing them
- **Bridging**
  - Researchers and decision makers focus on similar questions "what works, what doesn't and why ?"
- **Accumulating**
  - Transparent, opposable and replicable results synthesised in knowledge repositories

➔ **IE contributes accountability and knowledge, towards effectiveness of (future) development interventions**

07. Impact evaluation promises (2/2)

- **Benefits for AFD**
  - Raises AFD reputation and legitimacy, and makes it more attractive for scientific profiles
  - In-depth analysis that guels internal and external debates: strengthens an evaluation culture

- **Demanding and tricky studies**
  - Require important human and financial invesments, in partcular if surveys are needed (300-800 K€)
  - Important failiure rates: (AFD : 50% of the feasibility studies, IDB : 65%, World bank: 45-60%)

- **Results that only meet part of our expectations**
  - Contribute to knowledge building on development
  - Limited learning → work-in-progress to improve this goal
  - Not very useful for short term accountability → take several years to give results

- **AFD impact evaluation policy prioritizes our objectives**

1. Learning and improvement
2. Knowledge building
3. Accountablity

08. SUPPORT DURING PROJECT APPRAISAL

- **Analysing existing data (a core group of 6 data analysts)**
  - Use of statistical data from national surveys and satellite images
  - Context analysis, targeting of beneficiaries
  - Establishing baselines

- **Identifying indicators**
  - Based on the work done with each sector on project indicators

- **Supporting establishment of M&E systems**
  - Not a core activity of the department, mosty for projects in crisis/fragile countries or with ongoing feasability studies for impact evaluations

09. DOING MORE AND BETTER

Specific AFD-Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) joint project to finance (3M€), promote and build capacities of local researchers to lead impact evaluations

More joint impact evaluations with EU and potential other partners (Gates, KfW, DIME…)

Better integration of AFD's operational teams, counterparts and beneficiaries in evaluation processes by dissiminating intermediate results and including capacity building component in the protocole

Improving local political buy-in

- Locally relevant questions
- Acceptability of the method
- Regular information, timeliness
- Use of national statistical sources
- Capacity building

Ensuring international political buy-in

- Pendant questions
- Research team publishing and being read
- Networking and think tanks (3IE)

Case study: Impact of improving the supply of safe drinking water to fight against cholera

Description and rationale for an impact evaluation

- **AFD's interest for impact evaluation of water infrastructure project**
  - Measure the effectiveness of sustainable, long term investments in drinking water networks to prevent cholera.
    - Commitment to contribute to **existing empirical evidence** that mainly **focused on the effectiveness of short-term approaches** (distribution of chlorine tablets, filter kits) **or emergency measure** (immunization campaigns).

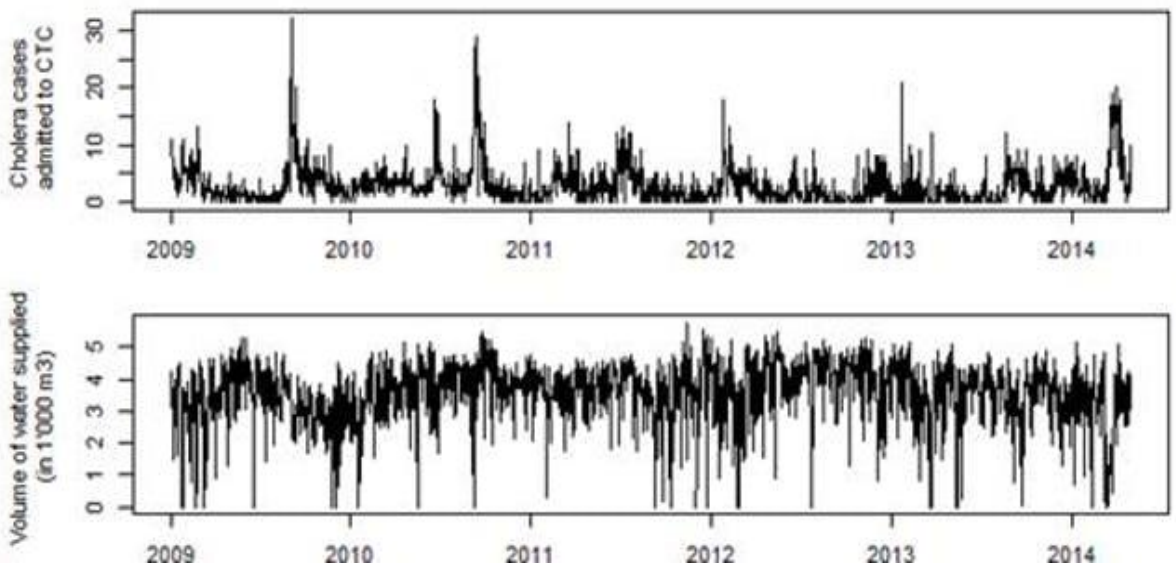
  → Previous impact evaluation results significantly oriented funding of towards responsive actions with limited and short-term effectiveness.

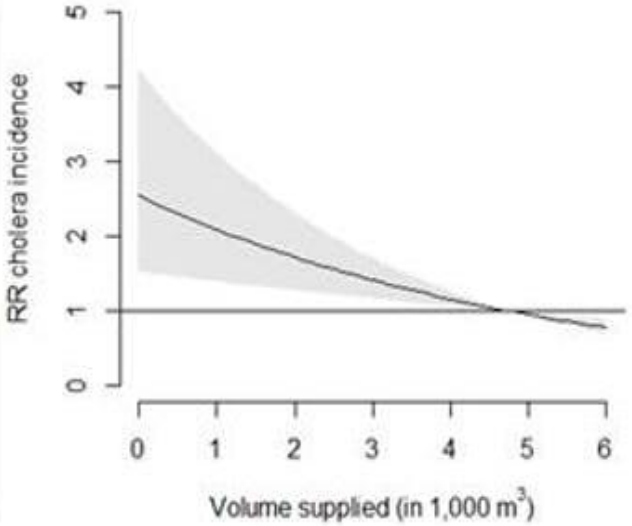
- **Uvira impact evaluation**
  - Water project supported by the French Development Agency, the Veolia Foundation, the European Union and OXFAM Great Britain.
  - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in charge of the evaluation since 2013.
  - Project funding amount : 430k€ funded from AFD, 1.1 Mds€ in total (cofinancing partners : Fondation Veolia).
  - Research activities continue despite challenging conditions : volatile political situation, security issues, cholera and Ebola outbreaks, important floods, covid-19 crisis.

Methodology, first results and policy recommandations

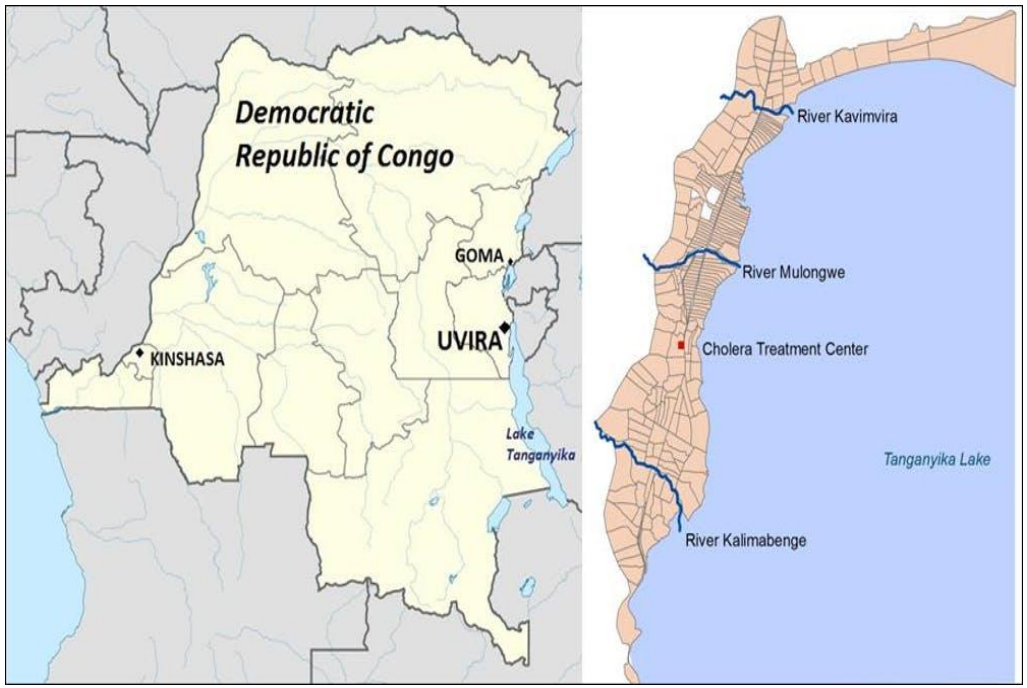
- **Methodology : a pragmatic but rigorous evaluation**
  - Built in tight coordination with national water company (Regideso)
  - Exploits building works schedule for water supply network improvement works
    - **Main component: "Stepped wedge" trial** based on the randomised rollout of the improved water supply network,
    - **Results of interest**: impact on cholera incidence and behaviours change when drinking water sources are closer and run continuously ;
    - **Other components of analysis : time-space analysis ; biomolecular sub-study** to assess the causes of acute diarrhoea among patients attending the Centre de Traitement du Choléra.
- **First results :**
  - Published in PLOS Medicine, PLOS ONE and Nature Clean Water, and demonstrated that :
    - **23% of cholera cases** in the city were **caused by interruptions in water supply ;**
    - **Hygiene habits** are directly **related to both the type of water connection and continuity of service households have ;**
    - **40% of suspected cholera cases were actually positive**, testifying of the high burden of other acute diarrhoeal diseases.

→ Need for comprehensive strategies which can address both cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.





Source : [Jeandron A. et al. (2018)]



Uvira

AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Thank you !

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