

Spectacular ambitions: '*No-one left behind*'?

Beyond the rhetoric

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1. There are two sides to the ethical imperative of NOLB

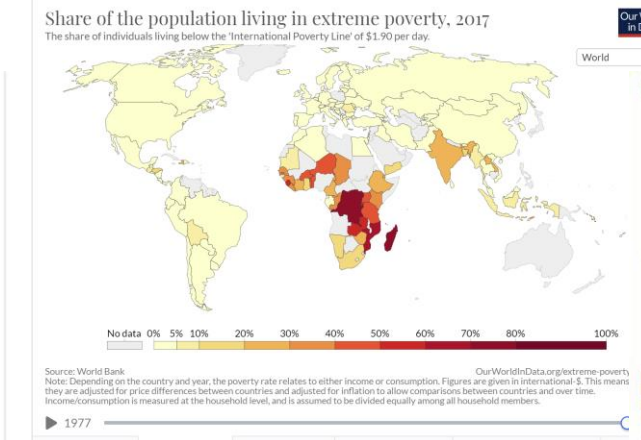
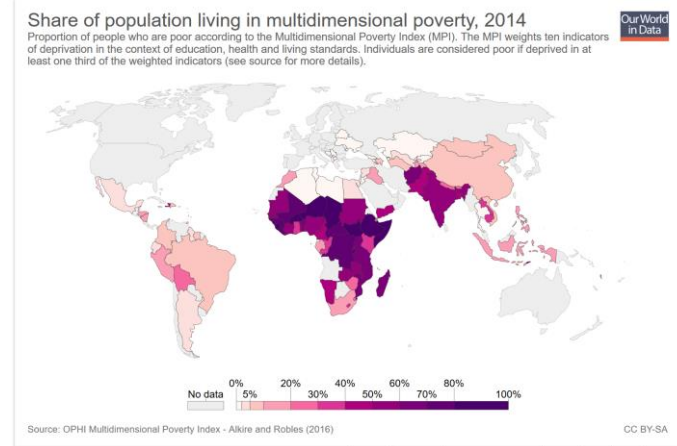
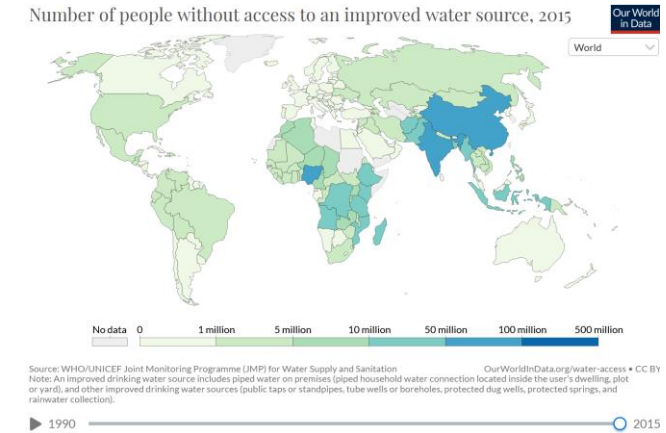
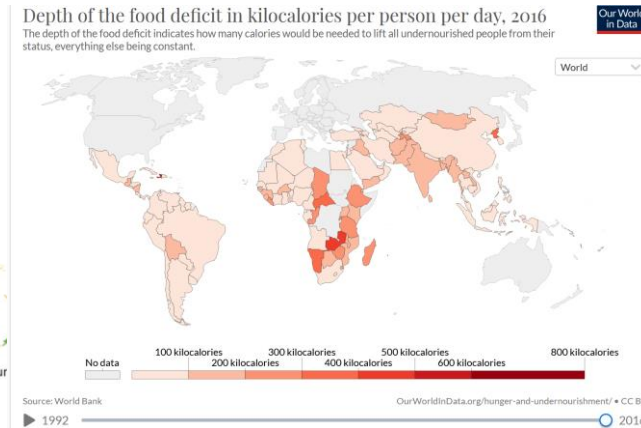
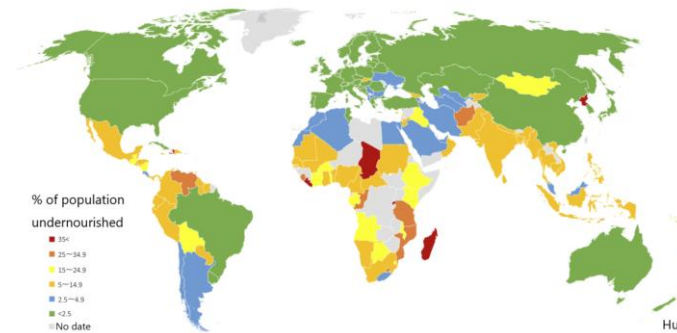
It's not about your project!

It's about my country!

Oumoul Ba Tal, Mauritania, 2007

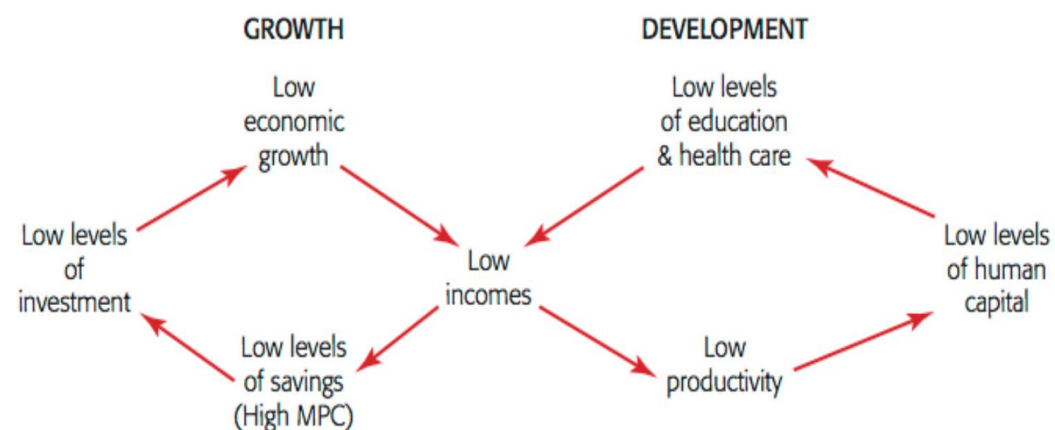
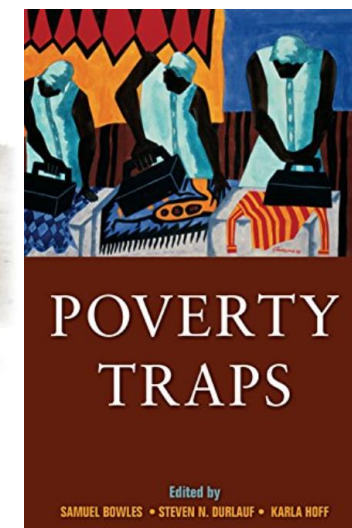
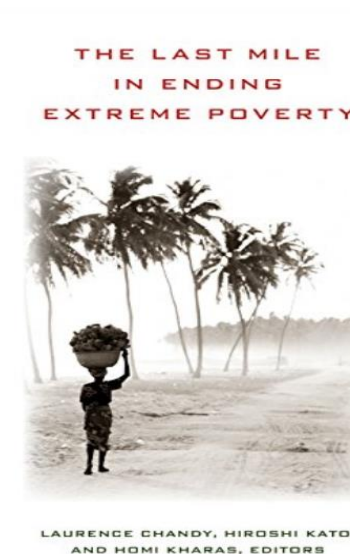
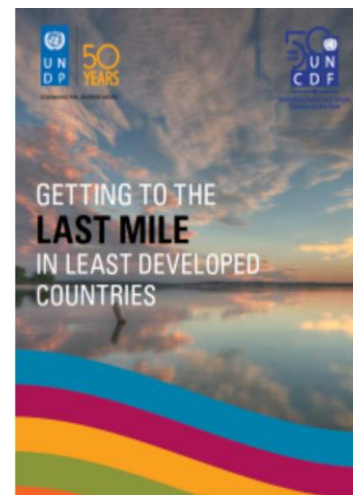
Sometimes certain groups have to be left behind -
at least for a while.

NOLB is a far more complicated matter than we seem to think



The burden of *sustaining* NOLB efforts falls inevitably on the poorest countries in the Global South - who cannot afford it.

This means evaluators have the responsibility to assess plans and actions related to NOLB within the larger country context.



2. Development & evaluation specialists buy into questionable narratives about 'development'

For example

- “Development *from the start* has to be based on “inclusive growth” and NOLB. **Development trajectories of countries and their stage of development** do not matter.”
- “Funding and effort have to be **concentrated on extreme poor** countries or areas or communities or groups.”
- “Progress can be measured - in snapshots - by the performance of the weakest, without considering the **sustainability of the progress.**”

3. A dark side of aid-driven development: What counts as 'success'?

In the aid world there is little consideration – in a 'country' / 'society' context - of

- i. the long term
- ii. development trajectories
- iii. poverty traps
- iv. skillful (policy and practice) adaptation to changing conditions
- v. what complex systems concepts tell us about how the (social) world works.

4. In design & evaluation we need to attend to nuance, to patterns that emerge, and to the application of complex systems concepts

And by implication issues such as

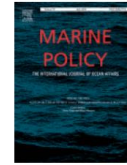
- systematic, directed / sequenced experimentation and improvisation
- leverage points / catalytic action
- co-evolution
- path-dependence
- (cascading) ripple effects
- trade-offs
- negative consequences/impacts



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Marine Policy

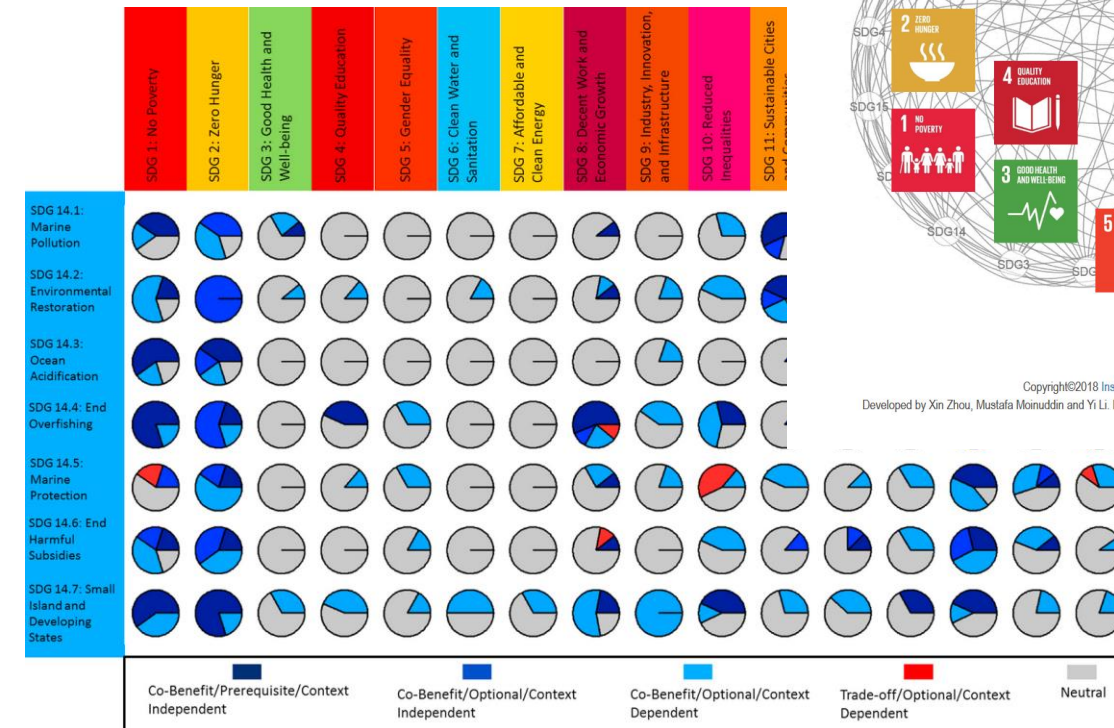
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A rapid assessment of co-benefits and trade-offs among Sustainable Development Goals

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SDG Interlinkages Analysis & Visualisation Tool



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Briefing

Water: Policy and planning
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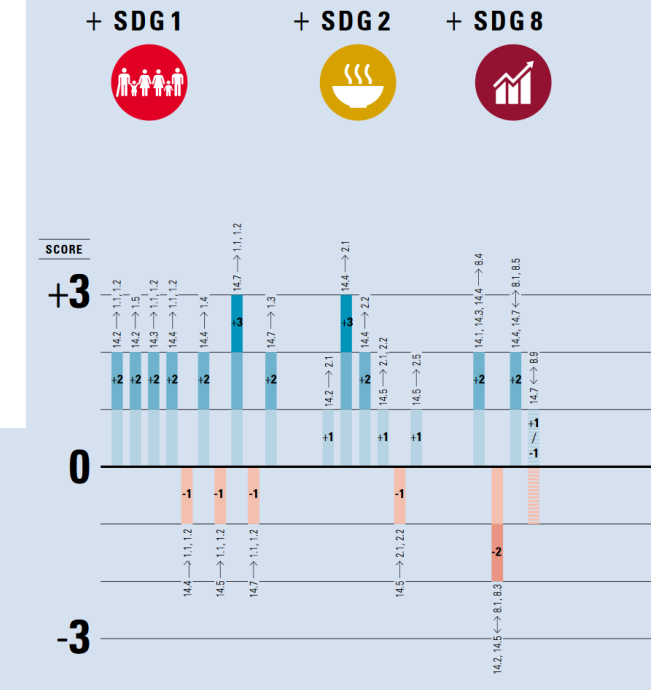
Policy pointers

Development actors will maximise their chances of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 (life below water) if they

From monitoring goals to systems-informed evaluation: insights from SDG14

If the world is going to make significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, development actors will need work in new ways, including in evaluation. We believe that complex ormed approaches can make a major contribution. With reference to below water), this briefing offers two examples: (i) exploring between SDG targets, and (ii) shifting attention from projects and s to systems. Such approaches can help all development actors —

KEY INTERACTIONS SDG 14 WITH OTHER GOALS



3. Impressive application of complex systems concepts in development

