



*Sustainable Development*  
*Part of Evaluating Sustainable Development*  
AEA Conference,  
Jindra Cekan with Sanjeev Sridharan and



# Evaluation and the SDGs

*While SDG are a wonderful mechanism to focus funding, evaluation is mentioned twice, and not of the development projects or private sector investments causing the change.*

*“[SDGs] will be rigorous and based on evidence, **informed by country-led evaluations** and data... They will require enhanced **capacity-building support for developing countries**, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes...”*

*UN General Assembly Resolution 9/15*

***How well do we evaluate the Sustainability of Projects?***

*“The continuation of benefits from a development intervention after [completion]. **The probability of continued long-term benefits.** The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time”. OECD-DAC*

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***Who is defining what is evaluated - us or them?***

**SDGs will need “\$1.5-5 trillion per year to reach Goals”**  
**232 indicators are monitored at country level.**  
**How will eval link to causes, e.g. projects, economy etc?**





## **We fund Sustainable Development:**

\$5 trillion has been spent on foreign aid since 1945  
\$137 billion was spent in 2014 alone on development



But we're not sure if what we're doing is *actually* sustainable

**Less than 1% of all projects have been evaluated for sustainability**





# New Oppty1: Evaluating SDG indicators And Project Sustained and Emerging Impacts

## Issue:

- Currently no evaluative links between international development projects that could be generating the 'sustainable development' results the SDGs are tracking as indicators and the country-level reports
- A water sector example where dev projects do collect data SDGs need:

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

*6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water Services*

*6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water*

**IF COUNTRIES ARE TO EVALUATE THEM, WOULD THEY START WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS? WHAT COULD THEY LOOK FOR?**



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# New Oppty2: Sustained and Emerging Impacts

Theory of Sustainability: *Evaluating along the results chain from outputs to impacts* (from a hypothetical WASH project)

Some data  
Exists.

**Does *Political Will and Funding for Country-led Evaluation* including the sustained, unexpected and emerging? Are we asking *what we want to know or what they do?***

