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Independent Office of Evaluation



Seeing more with less: GIS for evaluation

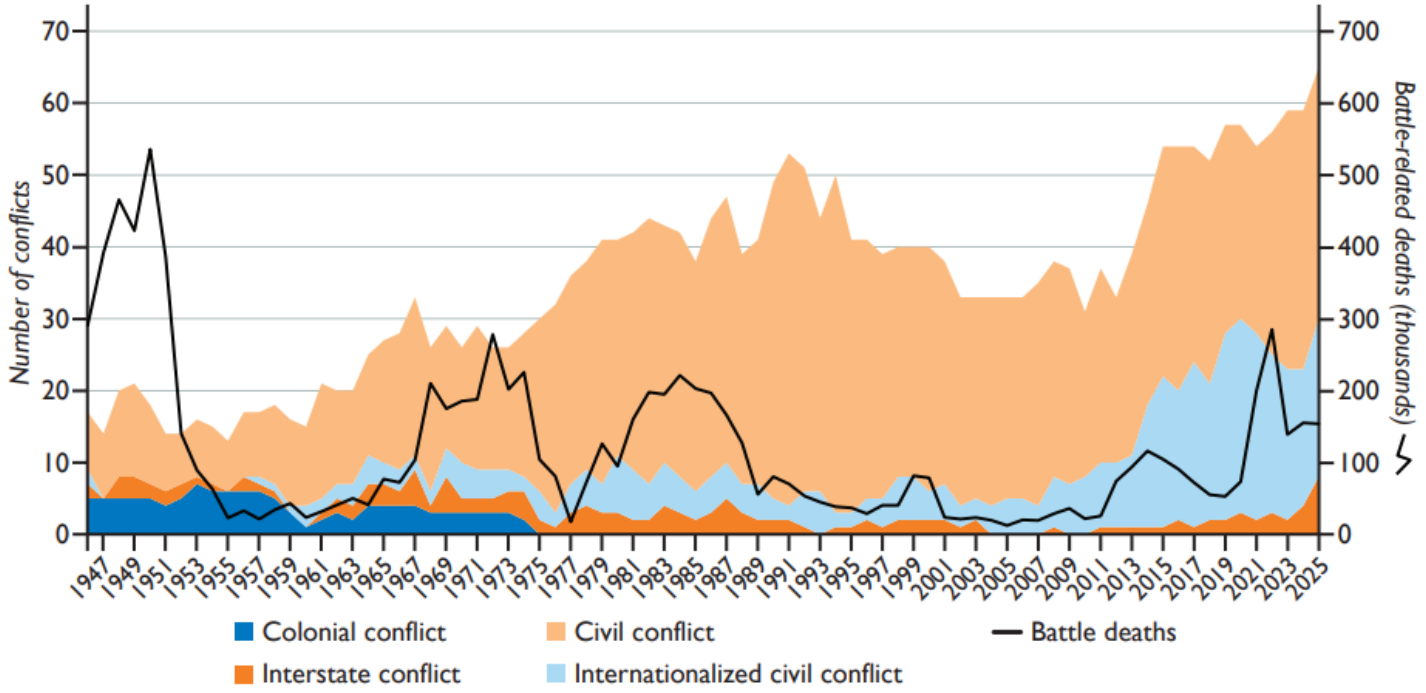
Rami Assaf, Evaluation Analyst

Eval for Earth Webinar

14 Oct 2026

Background

- Tighter budgets → No exception for evaluation
- Fewer field days → Travel first lines to be trimmed
- Increase in conflict → More difficult to access areas
- Increase in restricted access areas and no-go zones
- Same evidence bar → Stakeholders still expect credible findings based on evidence

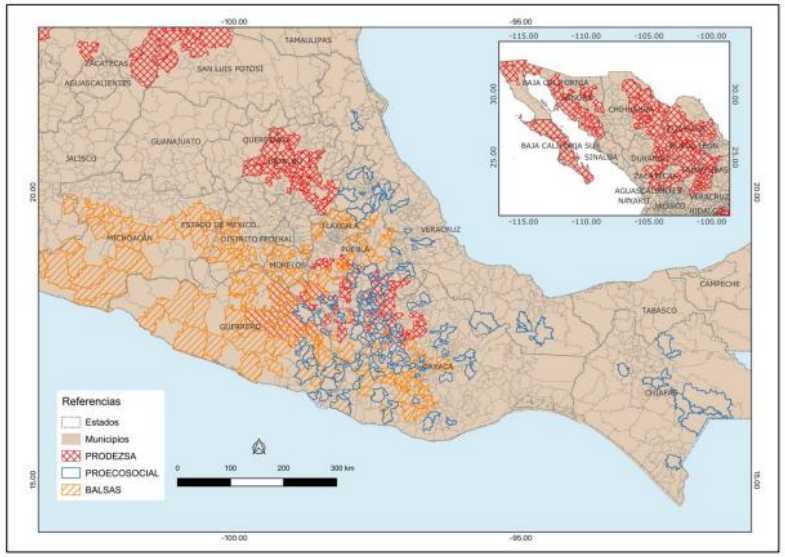


Source: Rustad, Siri Aas (2026) Conflict trends: A global overview, 1946–2025. PRIO Paper. Oslo: PRIO.

Disclaimer: I am no GIS expert but have been using it in evaluation and I am sharing my experience

Relevance

- **Background verification & Needs**: Overlaying project boundaries with community data proves whether interventions reached the intended populations and how relevant was the intervention for them
- **Field mission planning**: Guides evaluators to high-priority sites, maximising limited field time and resources
- **Synergy Mapping**: Visualizing multi-project footprints → Can reveal if efforts are strategically aligned or fragmented

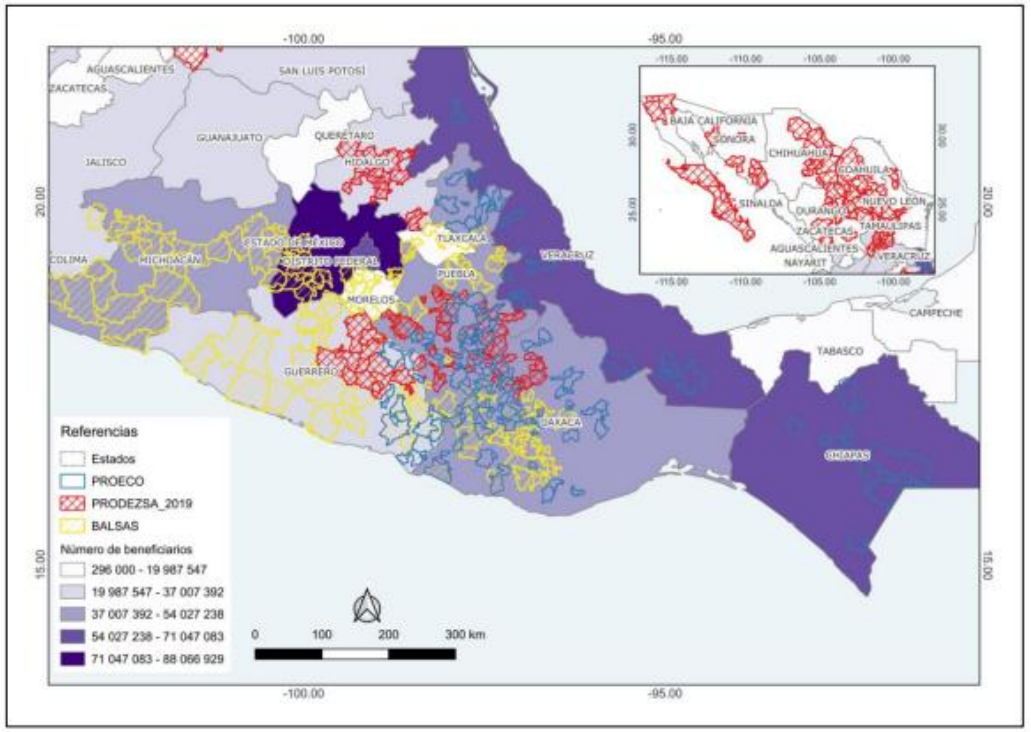


- Case study of IOE's CSPE of Mexico → GIS analysis for relevance underscores the challenge of tailoring interventions to varied ecosystems
- *Source: Oficina Independiente de Evaluación del FIDA, Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos: Evaluación de la estrategia y el programa en el país (Roma: FIDA, 2026)*

Key challenge	Actionable tip
Spatial analysis depends heavily on baseline data and precise GPS coordinates provided by field team	Engage project teams early to audit spatial data & source open national and international data and statistics

Coherence

- **Cross-sector visibility**: Maps can expose overlapping or isolated efforts among stakeholders
- **Safeguards**: Spatial layers can highlight overlap with sensitive risk zones

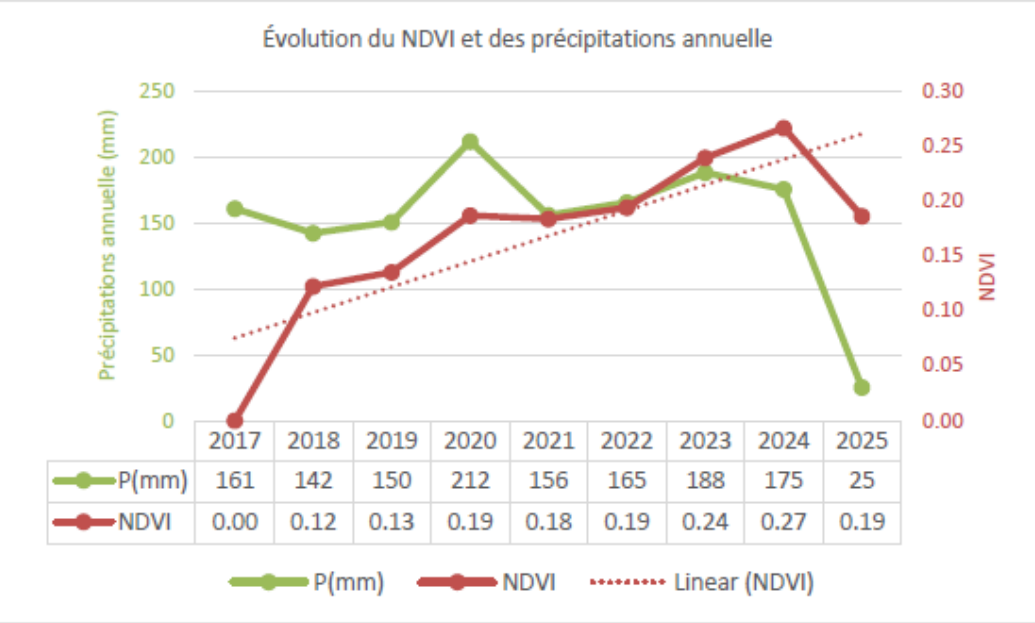


- Case study of IOE's CSPE of Mexico → GIS analysis shows territorial overlap of IFAD's projects with social and productive programs of the Mexican government
- *Source: Oficina Independiente de Evaluación del FIDA, Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos: Evaluación de la estrategia y el programa en el país (Roma: FIDA, 2026)*

Key challenge	Actionable tip
Datasets across different stakeholders are often siloed and hard to access	Partner with local GIS experts as they know more about existing datasets

Effectiveness & Impact

- **Remote verification**: Satellite imagery can confirm physical assets and infrastructure without field trips
- **Time-series tracking**: Historical satellite footage tracks landscape evolution over years
- **Environmental metrics**: Remote sensing indices can provide objective evidence



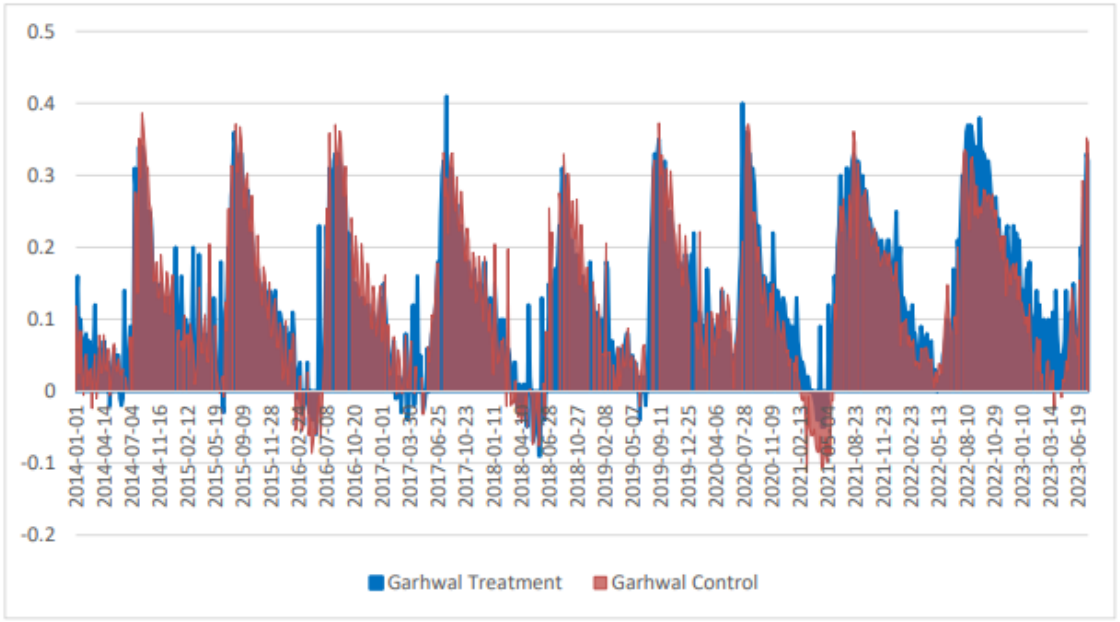
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
P(mm)	161	142	150	212	156	165	188	175	25
NDVI	0.00	0.12	0.13	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.24	0.27	0.19

- Case study of IOE's CSPE of Djibouti → Satellite imagery confirms a reservoir maintained water storage and promoted vegetation growth supported by NDVI analysis
- *Source: Bureau Independent de L'Evaluation du Fida, République de Dijbouti: Evaluation de la stratéfie et du programme de pays (Rome: FIDA, 2026)*

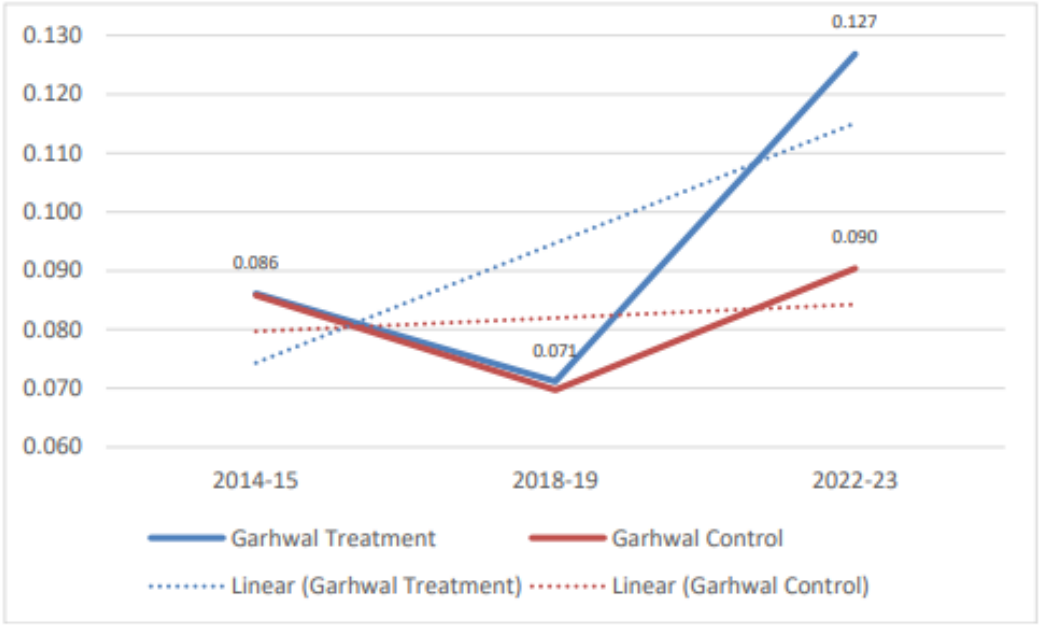
Key challenge	Actionable tip
Satellite imagery proves quantitative changes, but cannot explain qualitative human outcomes on its own	Pair georeferenced data collection with qualitative evidence (In-person or remotely + Desk review)

Effectiveness & Impact

NDWI in Garhwal for treatment and control area (2014-2023)



Average NDWI in the second cropping season in Garhwal for treatment and control area



- Case study of IOE's CSPE of India → Analysis of NDWI – Compared to control group, NDWI has risen in treatment area (Less water-stressed) → Evidence of project's impact
- *Source: Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD, Republic of India: Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (Rome: IFAD, 2025)*

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Thank you