A method that is particularly useful for evaluating the impact of projects is participatory monitoring. It is a set of methods that enables local people to generate statistics for local level planning, learning and reflection, which can but also be aggregated at wider levels for statistical analysis and generation of ‘representative’ evaluation findings. QCA is a research and data analysis method for comparing complex cases. It was explicitly developed to tackle complexity in social programmes and combines quantitative and qualitative analysis. It uses set-theory to understand how causes and conditions combine differently in different cases to explain outcomes of interest.

A set of methods that gathers stories of change from a range of stakeholders, which are then discussed and analysed together to assess the impact of projects. It is particularly useful where there may not yet be agreement on what outcomes are the most important, or they are difficult to predict in advance.

A set of methods that emphasises being explicit about ‘how changes happen’ and how an initiative contributes to that change in any particular context. This is in turn, helps to focus data collection and enables ‘testing’ of the theory of change to see if it adequately accounts for what happens.

A method that is useful for evaluation of complex social programmes, implemented across a variety of contexts. Integrates qualitative and quantitative analysis and seeks to build an understanding of ‘what works for who in what circumstances’.

A set of gateway websites and discussion lists for more information on evaluation methods.