



# SARA VACA

Doing (and visualizing) Evaluation 



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## ABOUT ME


- Evaluator
- Data Visualizer
- Facilitator
- Speaker
- Author
- Leader (&team player)
- Mentor (& mentee)
- Peer-reviewer
- Guest lecturer

Independent evaluator, fascinated by the *science* and *art* of Evaluation.

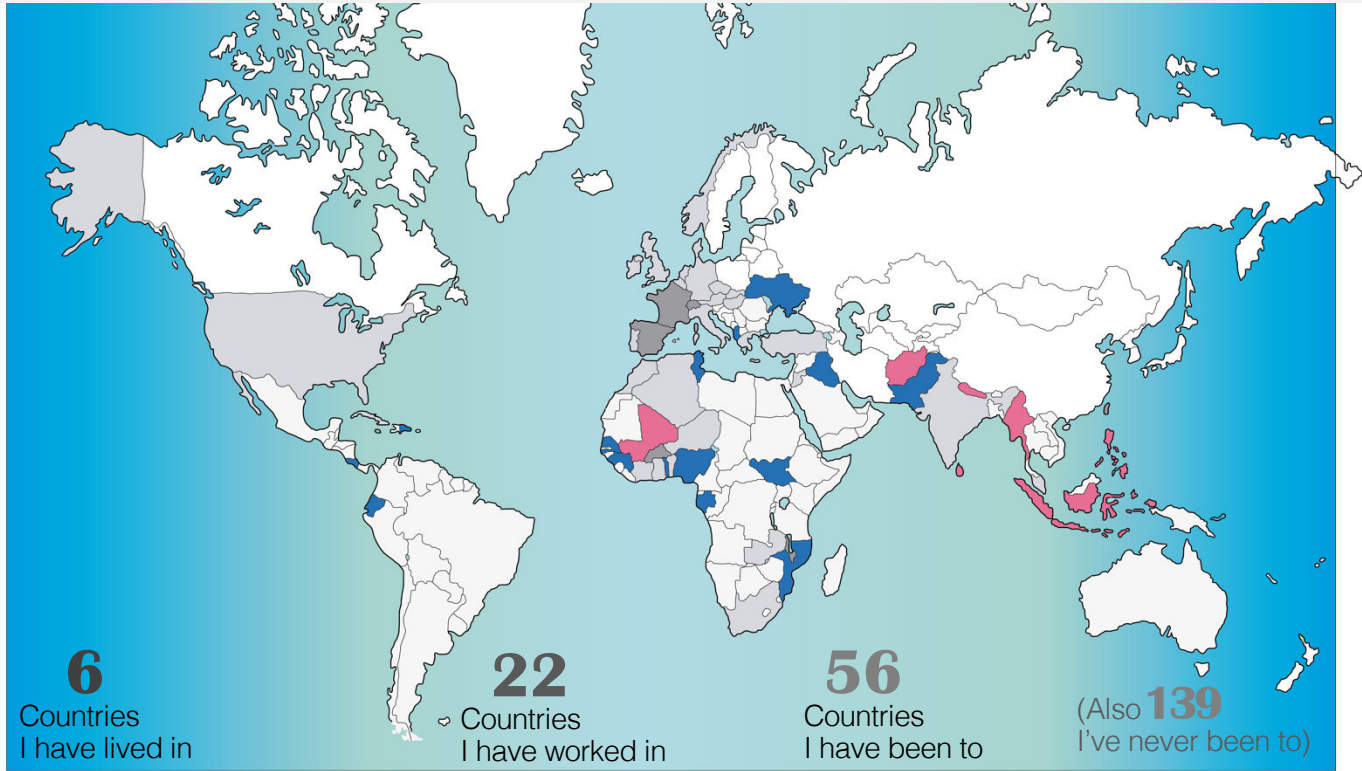
Passionate about articulating evaluation and ideas in a visual way, to foster understanding.

Grateful to feel part of a global Evaluation community, actively affiliated to different Professional Evaluation Organizations (AEA, EES, Aproeval) and to several firms and partnerships I admire.

My favorite evaluation authors are [Patricia Rogers](#), [Jane Davidson](#) and Barbara Befani, and also of course M.Q.Patton and M.Scriven, along with [Rick Davies](#)' always interesting news.

 Always up for connecting with interesting people and working together.

## SUMMARY



**18**  
Evaluations

**140**  
Meta-Evaluations

**60**  
Theories of change

**50+**  
Visuals & infographics

**20** years in  
RBM & Monitoring

## EDUCATION



University Degree  
Management & Administration  
1995 - 1999



Master M.A.  
Management of Non-Profits  
2004 - 2005



Master M.A.  
Evaluation of Programs and Policies  
2012 - 2013

"The more I work, the luckier I get".



## EXPERIENCE

### EVALUATIONS

I do my best to adapt to the evaluation purpose and context, to foster *real* Participation, solid Methodology, Gender and Equity lens and Use

ROLE	STARTING	COUNTRY	COMMISSIONER	SECTOR
Lead evaluator	10/2020	EECARO	UNFPA	Developmental evaluation of the Regional Progr.
Evaluator	04/2020	(Home-based)	ITC	Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report
Lead evaluator	01/2019	Ukraine	UNFPA	Pilot integrated mobile teams to eliminate GBV
Lead evaluator	11/2018	Equatorial Guinea	UNICEF	Prevention HIV Mother to Child Transmission Decentralization Programme
Lead evaluator	08/2018	El Salvador	UNFPA	Sexual and Reproductive Health. Gender equity and Youth participation. Population dynamics.
Lead evaluator	05/2018	Iraq	ICRC	Agricultural recovery program (Livelihoods) for the population affected by the conflict.
Lead evaluator	03/2018	Ecuador	IFRC	Response to the 2016 earthquake. Disaster management, shelter, Watsan, livelihoods.
Lead evaluator	12/2017	South Sudan	World Vision	Cash grants for coping crisis in urban Juba. ODK
Evaluator	09/2016	Albania	UN Women	Gender-responsive Budgeting.
Lead evaluator	07/2016	Dominican Republic	UNFPA	Sexual and Reproductive Health. Gender equity and Youth participation. Population dynamics.
Lead evaluator	04/2016	Togo	Danish Red Cross	Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). Gender
Lead evaluator	03/2016	Senegal	NGO Musol	Governance Democratic participation.
Assessment specialist	10/2015	Nigeria	ICRC	Livelihoods. Resilience. (ICRC: International Committee of Red Cross)
Evaluator	05/2015	(Home-based)	IATI	Governance. Transparency. Big data.
Lead evaluator	05/2015	Tunisia	Article 19	Human Rights. Freedom of expression.
Lead evaluator	05/2014	Geneva	IFRC	Information management assessment.
Lead evaluator	01/2014	Pakistan	German Red Cross	Cash transfers. Livelihoods. Post-crisis.
Lead evaluator	07&11/2013	Senegal	ICRC/British RC	Cash transfers. Livelihoods. Post-crisis.

### META-EVALUATIONS

I am also involved in Quality Assurance for other evaluation reports, where I learn from other colleagues and contexts

ROLE	STARTING	COUNTRY	COMMISSIONER	SECTOR
Meta-evaluator	01/2020	(Home-based)	UNDP (EOI)	Erradication of poverty and CCA.
Meta-evaluator	11/2019	(Home-based)	Oxfam	Development and humanitarian interventions
Meta-evaluator & Coordinator	01/2016	(Home-based)	UNICEF (HQ)	Child Protection. Gender. Education. Social policy. Policy change.
Meta-evaluator & Coordinator	02/2016	(Home-based)	UN Women (HQ)	Gender equity. Women's empowerment. Policy change.
Meta-evaluator	09/2015	(Home-based)	Fund for Gender Equity	Gender Equity. Women's empowerment.

“The only way of doing a great job is to love what you do” (Steve Jobs)... “and the people you do it for” (me).



## EXPERIENCE

Theories of change are the perfect mix of evaluation, facilitation and data visualization 😊

## THEORIES OF CHANGE

ROLE	STARTING	COUNTRY	COMMISSIONER	SECTOR
ToC Specialist	08/2020	Mali (online)	WFP	Developing ToC of the Resilience package
ToC Specialist	05/2020	Asia RO	WFP	Developing ToC lessons learned and guidelines
ToC Specialist	02/2020	Sri Lanka	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	01/2020	Myanmar	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	01/2020	Indonesia	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	12/2019	Philippines	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	11/2019	Afghanistan	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	10/2019	Pakistan	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	09/2019	Nepal	WFP	Developing ToCs of the Country Programme
ToC Specialist	02/2017	Indonesia	UNICEF	Rebuilding 25 ToC of the Country Programme.
ToC Specialist	03/2016	(Home-based)	Plan UK	Rebuilding Plan UK Theory of change.

## OTHERS

Although I'm mostly an evaluator, I'm often involved in other projects

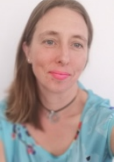
ROLE	STARTING	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	SECTOR
M&E Specialist	05/2019	(Home-based)	Impact Mapper	Responsible for Client Success using the tool
Inform. Manager	03/2019	Mozambique	Shelter Cluster (IFRC)	Information manager for <i>I dai</i> cyclone emergency
M&E Specialist	06/2017	Guinea	Int. Medical Corps	Health. Ebola outbreak mitigation teams.
M&E Specialist	10/2016	Burkina Faso	UNICEF (HQ)	Design PPP accountability monitoring system.
Delegate	10/2008	Burkina Faso	Spanish Red Cross	Food security. Community development.
Delegate	03/2008	Malawi	Spanish Red Cross	WASH. Organizational development.
Youth officer	10/2007	Spain	Youth Red Cross	Outreach. Project management.
F&A manager	12/2005	Spain	Theodora Foundat.	Hospitalized children's well being.
Quality manager	02/2000	Spain	Philips	Results Based Management in Private sector.

## DATA VISUALIZATION & SPEAKING

Love visuals + love sharing = I speak and facilitate workshops

ROLE	STARTING	COUNTRY	HOST	SECTOR
Facilitator	03/2020	Netherlands	ToC Masterclass	Facilitation of Theories of Change
Facilitator	11/2019	Geneva	IFRC	Workshop on Data Visualization for reporting
Speaker	10/2018	Greece	EES Conference	Ways of visualizing Theories of Change
Facilitator	06/2018	USA	AEA Summer Inst.	Workshops Visual Thinking and Visual Making
Speaker	02/2018	South Africa	Zenex Foundation	Keynote & workshop on Data Visualization
Speaker	11/2017	South Africa	SAMEA	Keynote on Data Visualization for M&E
Facilitator	11/2014	Geneva	IFRC	Workshop on Data Visualization for M&E
Trainer	04/2014	Pakistan	German Red Cross	Workshop on Better Reporting

"Everything you do may be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it" (Mahatma Gandhi).



## LANGUAGES



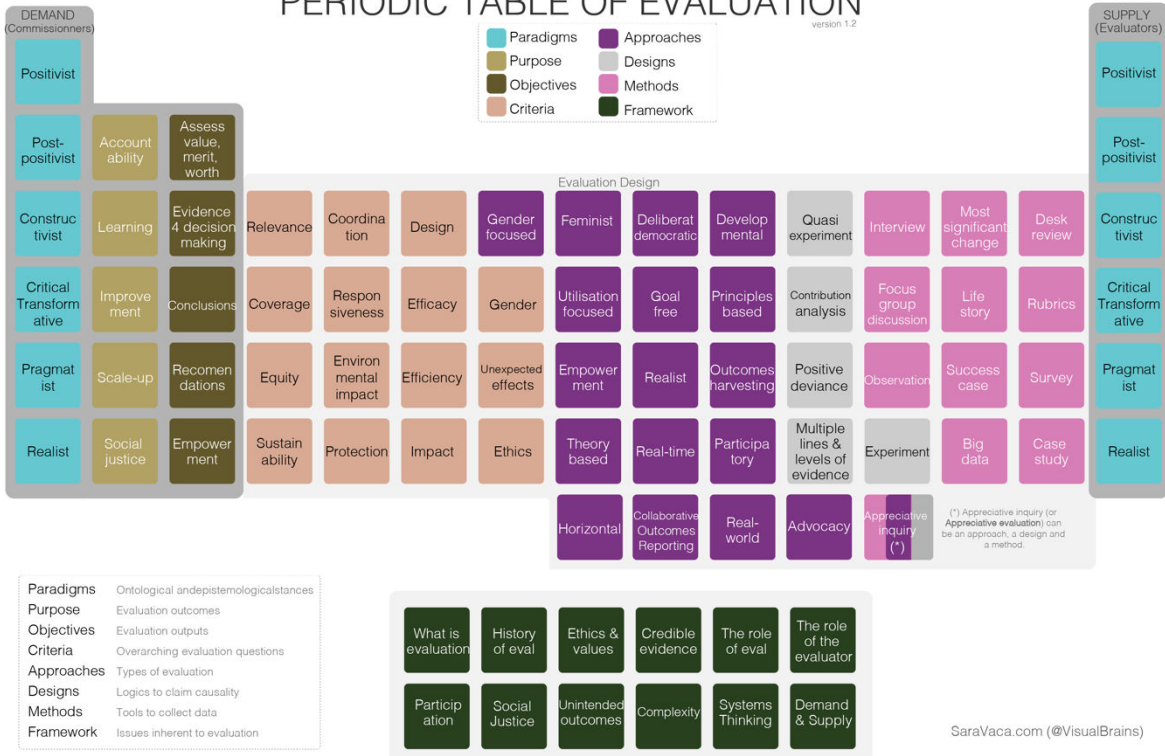
## MISSION / VISION

I would love to contribute to build a new paradigm in Evaluation, with increased rigor, use and influence by promoting **Transparency and Innovation** through Data Visualization.

The Periodic Table of Evaluation is a example of the pieces I create to understand and disseminate Evaluation theory.

## PERIODIC TABLE OF EVALUATION

version 1.2



SaraVaca.com (@VisualBrains)

More of Visuals published in [www.SaraVaca.com/Dataviz](http://www.SaraVaca.com/Dataviz)

## PAPERS

- Monthly contributions to [AEA365.org](http://AEA365.org)
- Vaca, S., Dhillon, L. (2018). "[Refining Theories of Change](#)". Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE), Vol14, No 30.
- Vaca, S., Santos, R. (2016). "[Can evaluation of Impact Investment and Development interventions learn from each other?](#)". Connections, European Evaluation Society's newsletter (Special issue on "Impact Investment", October 2016). Pages 3-6.
- Vaca, S., Santos, R. (2016). "[Impact Investment – the excitement and dilemma of double-edged impact](#)". Connections, European Evaluation Society's newsletter (Special issue on "Impact Investment", October 2016). Pages 6-8.
- Vaca, S., Vidueira, P. (2016). "[Improving Systems Thinking models with data visualization](#)". Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE), Vol 12, No 26 (2016).
- Vaca, S. (2015). "[How Data Visualization can help to do better evaluation](#)". Connections, European Evaluation Society's newsletter (Special issue on "Emerging evaluators", June 2015). Pages 3-7.
- Vaca, S. (2015). "[Democratic evaluation and Crowdsourcing... It's a match!](#)". Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation (JMDE), Vol 11, No 24 (2015).
- Vaca, S. (2014). "[The Meta-evaluation dashboard](#)". Connections, European Evaluation Society's newsletter (November 2014)