

Table 7. Data analysis approaches for causal attribution with various options

<p>Counterfactual approach</p>	<p>Developing an estimate of what would have happened in the absence of the programme or policy; this implies the use of experimental and quasi-experimental methods (so also a control or comparison group) or modelling.</p>
<p>Consistency of evidence with causal relationship</p>	<p>Identifying patterns that would be consistent with a causal relationship, and then seeking confirming and disconfirming evidence. It includes, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of intermediate outcomes, • Checking results against expert predictions, • Checking timing of impacts, • Comparative case studies, • Checking consistency with existing literature, • Process tracing (developing alternative hypotheses and checking them), • Qualitative comparative analysis.
<p>Ruling out alternatives</p>	<p>Identifying possible alternative causal explanations, and then seeking information to determine if these can be ruled out. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process tracing, • Ruling out technical explanations, • Modelling, • Identifying possible explanations, their verification and possible ruling out.

Own elaboration based on: Rogers, P. (2014). Overview: Strategies for Causal Attribution, Methodological Briefs: Impact Evaluation 6, UNICEF Office of Research, Florence.