



International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

<http://www.3ieimpact.org>

3ie REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE SECOND OPEN WINDOW

3ie is pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) for impact evaluations of social and economic development interventions in low- and middle-income countries.

This call is being made under 3ie's Open Window, which accepts proposals in any sector. However, preference will be given for proposed studies which:

- Are impact evaluations of large-scale development interventions that have a high probability of influencing policy
- Have a clear and close partnership with the implementing agency
- Are produced by developing country researchers/evaluators or through a partnership between developed and developing country researchers/evaluators

3ie hopes to make awards up to a total value of US\$10 million under this RFP. There is no maximum size for individual grants.

More information may be found in the 'Instructions for Proposals' and 'Principles for Impact Evaluation'. The grant application form is available from www.3ieimpact.org/openwindow

The deadline for submissions is midnight EST Friday 27th November 2009.

Any questions should be sent to Mr. Arun Virk, Program Officer, proposals@3ieimpact.org.

ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO proposals@3ieimpact.org

3ie REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposal scoring system

All criteria shall be scored from 0 to 10, and then combined according to the following weights:

- Policy relevance (10%)
- Potential policy impact in the near future (20%)
- Quality of technical proposal (35%)
- Qualifications of proposed staff (15%)
- Involvement of developing country researchers/evaluators (15%)
- Does application include a 3ie member or an 3ie associate member (5%)

The communications plan is a required part of the proposal, but does not enter into the review process. If the proposal is successful, 3ie staff may engage with the grantee to develop, and ensure implementation of, this part of the work.

Value for money is not part of the selection process. The Review Panel will review the value for money of the proposals selected, and can indicate to 3ie staff that the budget needs discussion with the proposing organization. 3ie prepares a separate value for money review of all successful proposals.

Note on process

All proposals falling within the scope of this RFP are subject to independent external review. Final approval of awards is made by the 3ie Board of Commissioners.

Elaboration of proposal evaluation criteria

Policy relevance (10%)

Priority will be given to impact evaluations of interventions which are policy relevant in the sense that:

- They affect large numbers of people or imply large resource outlays
- Have large effects on particular subpopulations (large effect size)
- The issues addressed by the proposal are enduring, meaning that it addresses policy questions that are likely to continue being important in 5 to 10 years time.

To ensure policy relevance studies should provide sufficient documentation of the intervention's implementation to guide efforts to improve management, redirect the

intervention toward more successful approaches, and/or assist in judging the generalizability of the impact evaluation findings.

Potential policy impact (20%)

Impact evaluations are more likely to have policy impact if they engage project implementers, policymakers, evaluation experts, and affected communities and individuals in defining the evaluation questions and in designing, implementing and interpreting the study. The study should also be in-demand, that is program managers, policymakers, and/or affected communities and individuals demonstrate their interest in the study through letters of support and/or active engagement in the study's design and conduct. (The letters of support are required with the application; see application form).

Quality of technical proposal (35%)

Studies should be: (1) feasible, i.e. the information can be collected and analyzed in ways that make it possible to attribute impact to a particular program; and (2) rigorous if it meets accepted standards of evidence for attributing impact to a particular program (see 3ie's Principles of Impact Evaluation). The way in which the design ensures policy relevance is taken into account.

Qualifications of proposed staff (15%)

The PIs proposed to conduct the study should have the set of skills to implement the proposed design. Points are awarded for team members with prior experience of implementing impact studies consistent with 3ie's Principles of Impact Evaluation.

Involvement of developing country researchers/evaluators (15%)

Points are awarded for the substantive involvement of developing country researchers/evaluators in the study team. Developing country researchers are defined as developing country nationals resident in that country.