RW2 Request for Proposals  
**Replication Studies of Impact Evaluations of Development Programmes**  
**Issue date:** March 4, 2013  
**Deadline for questions:** 23:59 GMT March 18, 2013  
**Submission deadline:** 23:59 GMT April 26, 2013

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), with funding from an anonymous donor, is issuing an open call for proposals to conduct replications of impact evaluations of development interventions in low and middle income countries.

**Background**

3ie seeks to improve the lives of poor people in low and middle income countries by providing and summarizing evidence about which development interventions work, when, why, and for how much. In addition to providing and summarizing such evidence, 3ie seeks to improve the quality and reliability of evidence that is produced and used for development policy making. To this end, in 2012 3ie established a Replication Programme for impact evaluations of development policies and programmes. For more information, see the [Replication Programme Document](#).

The primary objective of the replication programme is to improve the quality of evidence available for development policy making and programme design. For impact evaluations that have valid and robust findings, the replication programme will lend additional credibility to these findings for use in policy making. For impact evaluations that have invalid or non-robust findings, the replication programme will help to encourage further analysis before the evidence influences policy. More specifically, the replication programme seeks to:

- Verify the findings, and examine the robustness of findings, in selected influential, innovative, or counterintuitive impact evaluations of development interventions;
- Improve the incentives of researchers to conduct careful and responsible data analysis.

3ie’s replication programme is designed to increase the conduct of internal replication studies of impact evaluations of development programmes. Accepted replications will be published on the 3ie website through the working paper series.

As a result of this request for proposals, 3ie anticipates awarding up to 10 fixed-price independent or institutional consulting contracts for replications.
Scope of 3ie-funded replications

By internal replication, 3ie means the reconciliation and re-analysis of the findings of an original study using the study’s own raw data and, in some cases, using data from different sources for the same population. The 3ie programme does not include external replication—replications of interventions in different settings to assess the external validity of an impact evaluation of a particular intervention.

For this second request for proposals under the Replication Programme, studies to be replicated must be selected from the Candidate Studies List presented in Appendix A of this RFP. Due to copyright restrictions, 3ie is unable to publicly distribute the articles on the Candidate Studies List. In their proposals, applicants should discuss why they selected the paper they did and explain carefully what the objectives or evaluation questions for their replication of that study will be. Applicants need not be from or currently reside in the country where the research was originally conducted.

Eligibility

The call is open to any individual who can agree to the terms of one of the replication programme contracts. Applicants may submit up to three proposals but may only receive one contract in a single window. It is the intent of the programme for the principal investigator to be the researcher who is devoting the most time to the replication. Individual researchers may be involved in more than one ongoing replication, but can only be the principal investigator, and thus the person accountable, for one at time per window.

The contracts are independent consulting contracts with individuals or consulting contracts with institutions. All proposed costs must comply with 3ie direct cost policies. No indirect costs or fringe rates are permitted under independent contract agreements with individuals.

Replication timeline

A key element of the contract is the data acquisition period. For replications of studies for which the data and necessary log files are not already publicly available, the contract includes a three-month data acquisition deadline. Consultants are responsible for contacting the original authors and obtaining the replication data. The deadlines for the draft replication report and the final replication report are then calculated from the date that the data and necessary files are acquired.

During the data acquisition period, 3ie will also send the replication researcher detailed comments from reviewers on the replication plan. A revised replication plan must be approved prior to the release of the first tranche. These final replication plans will be published on the 3ie website.

If the consultant or is not able to obtain the data and necessary files by the three-month deadline, the replication is aborted. The consultant can be reimbursed US$500 upon
submission of necessary documentation for time spent trying to obtain the data. The consultant is eligible to submit a proposal to replicate another study from the candidate studies list, and 3ie awards contracts in these cases assuming the proposal receives a minimum acceptable score.

The contract also includes a two-month period between the submission of the draft replication report and the final replication report. 3ie provides comments to the consultant by the end of the first of these two months.

Instructions for applicants

The proposal shall consist of two documents: 1) a technical proposal not to exceed eighteen (18) pages (including any attachments, tables, figures, etc. but excluding a cover page if desired) submitted as a single Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat file with font size no small than 11 point and 2) a cost proposal submitted as a Microsoft Excel files in the 3ie budget template with any cost notes included in the file. At this time, the working language of 3ie is English and we are only able to accept proposals in English.

The technical proposal must include the following components:

- CV of the principal investigator (not to exceed five pages);
- Statement explaining the applicant’s choice of the study and the main replication questions (not to exceed three pages). This statement should include a discussion of the contribution of the study to the literature and the study’s influence or potential influence on policy;
- Proposed replication plan (not to exceed 10 pages). This plan should identify the proposed categories of replication to be included (pure replication, measurement and estimation analysis, or theory of change analysis) and what avenues of inquiry the proposal plans to pursue.

The technical proposal may include other names and CVs or bios at the applicant’s discretion but these must fit within the overall 18 page limit.

The cost proposal must include the following:

- Proposed line-item budget, not exceeding $15,000, in the 3ie budget template and conforming to the 3ie direct cost policies.
- Any cost notes (or budget narrative) necessary to support or justify the budget included within the Excel file.

Submission and Review Process

Any questions regarding this RFA should be submitted to replication@3ieimpact.org no later than 11:59 GMT March 18, 2013. All submitted questions and the answers will be published on the 3ie website the following week.
All proposals must be sent via two attachments to a single email message to replication@3ieimpact.org. The cover email message must include a certification that the applicant has read and is willing and able to sign the replication contract. Proposals must be received by 23:59 GMT April 26, 2013.

Proposals will be scored according to the following selection criteria and weights by at least two internal and one external reviewer. Each criterion will be scored on a point scale from 0-9.

- Qualifications of applicant (40%)
- Understanding of study and relevance of proposed replication questions (20%)
- Proposed replication plan (40%)

Contracts will be awarded on a best value basis, so that final selection may take into account relative costs across proposals. Only one proposal will receive a contract for any given candidate study.

3ie anticipates sending out award notifications in early June.

**Contract terms**

The contract templates can be found on the Replication Window webpage. The contracts are independent consulting contracts with individuals or consulting contracts with institutions. In cases where the principal investigator desires to pay others involved in the study, he/she may include those costs as expenses in the budget and then provide the receipts for these expenses as part of the time and expense reports. These expenses and the budgeted daily rates of the principal investigators must comply with 3ie direct cost policies. No indirect costs or fringe rates are permitted under independent contract agreements with individuals.

A key element of the contract is the data acquisition period. The contract includes a three-month data acquisition deadline. If the consultant is not able to obtain the data and necessary files by the three-month deadline, the replication is aborted. The consultant can be reimbursed for up to 8 hours of recorded time spent trying to obtain the data. The consultant is eligible to submit a proposal to replicate another study from the current candidate studies list, and 3ie may award contracts in these cases assuming the proposal receives a minimum acceptable score.

The consultants will be required to follow the 3ie Replication Contracts Notification and Communication Policy, with draft replications being shared with original authors. The contract also includes a two-month period between the submission of the draft replication report and the final replication report. 3ie provides comments to the consultant by the end of the first of these two months.

Note that deliverables, such as proof of data availability and revised replication plan may be submitted in advance of the contract deadlines. 3ie will review deliverables upon receipt.
3ie makes payments based on review and approval of deliverables according to fixed percentages of the ceiling price of the contract. Consultants are required to submit expense reports with each tranche. The final payment is made based on a reconciliation of the expense reports with the original budget and constitutes the lesser of the actual costs and the ceiling price of the contract.

The three tranche payments are:

- 20% when the data and codes are obtained from the original authors and a final replication plan has been approved by 3ie;
- 40% after the acceptance of the draft replication report;
- 40% after the acceptance of the final report.
Appendix A: The Replication Window 2 Candidate Studies List


