Q&A document

TW11: Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Window

Request for Qualifications: impact evaluations of sanitation and hygiene programmes

Deadline for questions: 3 March 2015
Deadline for applications: 23:59 GMT, 19 March 2015

Q1: Does this proposal have to be an evaluation of a WSSCC programme or just an evaluation in a WSSCC priority country?

A1: The impact evaluation must be conducted of a hygiene and/or sanitation programme in one of the 35 WSSCC priority countries, although not necessarily of a WSSCC-funded or implemented project or programme.

Q2: Question related to status of the projects in the ‘35 priority developing countries’. In Madagascar it seems that the project started in 2010 and that there were already impact evaluations run. It seems that they now need to scale up: http://www.wsscc.org/countries/africa/madagascar/global-sanitation-fund

If so, is the evaluation agency expected to run an impact evaluation on the newly included villages or is it cross checking the results previously advanced using a different methodology? As there is generally a need to collect data at two different point in time (at least) it would be valuable to know what is expected for each country.

A2: As stated in the call, teams are encouraged to use innovative methods, including follow-up surveys building on existing datasets and/or rigorous ex-post evaluation designs. Should the study team wish to evaluate the impact of a specific WSSCC project or programme, they will be able to engage with relevant WSSCC staff during the week of the post-award workshop on May 5.

Q3: What will be the exact role of 3ie?

A3: WSSCC has commissioned 3ie to manage this evidence programme. 3ie’s role in this project is to coordinate requests for proposals/qualifications, select teams, manage them and quality assure all subsequent products, including those produced under the present call for proposals for impact evaluations. 3ie will manage the selected team for quality assurance.
purposes, including coordinating the peer review of deliverables and holding management meetings with the team. The overall evidence programme with WSSCC has other components as well, impact evaluation being one component. 3ie is also responsible for these other components and will be responsible for collating learning from these different aspects of the evidence programme.

Q4: Does this impact evaluation call apply only to organisations and not individual level consultants?

A4: Only legally registered organisations and consortia of registered organisations are eligible to apply for the grant.

Q5: As per my understanding, an annual independent audit of the separate ledger accounts (specific to the grant) or of the institution account is required whenever the grant amount is above USD 500,000. However, specific audit inspection can be conducted at the request of 3ie even if grant amount is below USD 500,000. Under such a case, the following is mentioned: “Concerning fixed benefit, facility and administrative costs rates payable, the purpose of such audit shall be only to verify that a recognized auditing agency has approved the institution's rate structure.” Could you please be more specific? By “auditing agency”, do you mean independent financial auditor? Does it imply that the institution should necessarily be annually audited, whatever the amount of the grant? Would an agreed upon procedure (ISRS 4400) on the institution’s rate structure be acceptable?

A5: The organisation receiving the grant has to ensure that the project and use of funds under the grant are covered by an annual audit performed by an independent accountant in accordance with US or other internationally-accepted auditing standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

For grants under US$500,000, 3ie may arrange for an independent audit and financial review of the recipient’s accounts and expenditures in relation to the grant, and the recipient should allow 3ie and/or its designees to carry out such an audit or review. While reviewing the indirect cost rate and fringe benefit rate of the grantee (i.e. fixed benefit, facility and administrative costs rates payable) the purpose of such an audit will be only to verify that a recognised auditing agency has approved the institution's rate structure. For reviewing the indirect cost range and fringe benefit rate, the ISRS 4400 confirmation by independent financial auditor is acceptable.