



Request for Proposal: impact evaluation of the effectiveness of Ugandan land policy reform to curb illegal evictions

Issue date: 8 January 2019

Deadline for questions: 18 January 2019

Proposal submission deadline: 18 February 2019

1. Introduction

The [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#) requests research organisations or consortia to submit proposals for an impact evaluation grant, under 3ie's Policy Window. The proposal will be for a [rigorous impact evaluation](#) of the effectiveness of the Ugandan Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development's (MLHUD) 2013 National Land Policy and associated reforms for curbing illegal land-related evictions and reducing land-related conflicts.

2. Overview of 3ie's Policy Window

3ie's Policy Window funds high-quality impact evaluations commissioned by policymakers and programme managers to answer questions about the attributable impact of interventions they implement. 3ie promotes [theory-based, mixed-method impact evaluations](#) that make use of a counterfactual (experimental or quasi-experimental) to examine the causal chain of the programme and answer questions about what works, for whom, why, how and at what cost. 3ie also requires cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit analyses to be included. These requirements are laid out in [3ie's principles of impact evaluation](#).

3ie seeks proposals for an impact evaluation of an intervention or associated components of MLHUD's 2013 National Land Policy. The proposed impact evaluation design and budget will be reviewed and scored by at least one 3ie internal reviewer and at least three external reviewers, including a representative from MLHUD. It is 3ie's intent, although not guarantee, to fund the proposed evaluation, conditional on the proposal receiving adequate scores on all selection criteria (see section 5.5). 3ie may provide comments and request a resubmission of short-listed proposals. 3ie may also suggest that teams add research and/or sectoral expertise, if the proposal is selected for further financial support. 3ie reserves the right not to award the grant.

New Delhi

202–203, Rectangle One
D-4, Saket District Centre
New Delhi – 110017, India

3ie@3ieimpact.org
Tel: +91 11 4989 4444

London

c/o LIDC, 36 Gordon Square,
London WC1H 0PD
United Kingdom

3ieuk@3ieimpact.org
Tel: +44 207 958 8351/8350

Washington, DC

1029 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
United States of America

3ieus@3ieimpact.org
Tel: +1 202 629 3939

If the proposal is accepted, 3ie will award the research team a grant to conduct the impact evaluation under 3ie's standard terms and conditions. Please see the [3ie grant agreement template](#) for more details.

3. Background

Land-holding in Uganda is under four tenure systems, namely freehold, leasehold, mailo and customary tenure. Most Ugandans (around 80 per cent) hold their land under customary tenure. This type of tenure is associated with problems such as insecurity of tenure, limited land markets and value and discrimination against women and vulnerable populations. To address these drawbacks, the Ugandan government implemented a series of policy, legislative and administrative land reforms that were based on Uganda's 1995 constitution: the Land Act Cap 227, the Mortgage Act, 2009 and the National Land Policy 2013. It also established Ministry Zonal Offices (MZOs) to handle land transactions that were centralised at the ministry headquarters, which in turn made the cost of doing business expensive.

It is against this backdrop that MLHUD, in collaboration with the Ugandan Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and 3ie, is interested in evaluating the effectiveness of the policy, legal and administrative reforms aimed at improving service delivery in the land sector. Any intervention and associated components within Uganda's National Land Policy 2013 are eligible for consideration as part of the impact evaluation proposal. The following are some of indicative evaluation questions that may be of interest to MLHUD:

1. Has the establishment of MZOs enhanced households' knowledge of the land laws and procedures?
2. Have MZOs contributed to curbing illegal land eviction?
3. What is the impact of land registration on tenure security and incidence of land-related disputes?
4. What is the impact of land registration on women and vulnerable populations' ownership and access to land?

4. Characteristics of successful proposals

3ie is looking for proposals for the evaluation of any intervention and/or associated components that are part of Uganda's land policy. We seek proposals that include or emphasise the following:

- **Innovative approaches for filling a critical knowledge gap.** Proposals should elaborate on why the evaluation of the proposed intervention is innovative and critical for filling a knowledge gap. The justification should include a review and analysis of existing evidence and the evidence gaps that the proposed evaluation will fill. The proposal should also discuss evidence from other geographies or sectors while explaining its relevance to the Ugandan context.
- **A strong theory of change.** All proposals should contain a problem statement, i.e. a description of the key evidence gap. A theory of change for the proposed intervention should clearly link the intervention components to outcomes of interest. It should also lay out the assumptions about how the change will happen that underpin each link in the theory of change, including identifying where evidence is missing to support an assumption, that the study will seek to provide. Studies will be expected to collect data for indicators along the causal chain e.g. knowledge and attitudes, and quality and

frequency of land-related services. Proposals should include an adequately developed figure of the theory of change.

- **Rigorous impact evaluations design.** Proposals must meet 3ie's definition of an [impact evaluation](#). They should have sound identification methods and should be adequately powered to measure the outcomes of interest, including subpopulation analysis. They should measure the impact using counterfactuals, which may be constructed using experimental or quasi-experimental methods. Impact evaluation designs should also incorporate **mixed methods** for data collection and analysis, and include process evaluations, implementation science and qualitative methods for addressing the questions of differential impacts, how and why the intervention worked or did not work in improving outcomes of interest and assessing unintended consequences. Outcomes measured by the impact evaluation should relate to the theory of change of the intervention. Please see 3ie's [principles for impact evaluation](#).
- **Policy relevance.** Applicants will demonstrate how the study meets the evidence needs and priorities of policymakers and other stakeholders. They should also elaborate on the study's potential to inform future programme and policy decision-making.
- **Technical quality of the evaluation.** Applicants will need to demonstrate the team's ability and the feasibility of using experimental or quasi-experimental methods to measure attributable change in land-related outcomes and/or impact variables and ability to use mixed methods robustly and not mainly to shed light on quantitative data or findings. 3ie is particularly interested in seeing explicitly gender-responsive and equity-focused evaluation questions and gender analysis frameworks used explicitly as part of mixed methods.

5. Policy Window Grant

5.1. Eligibility

- Only legally registered organisations and consortia of registered organisations, not individuals, may apply.
- Each proposal must be submitted by a single organisation that may include others as sub-grantees or sub-contractors (subject to 3ie's [direct](#) and [indirect cost](#) policies). Prior experience of working with MLHUD is desirable.
- The research team should include at least one researcher who is a Ugandan national as a lead principal investigator or co-principal investigator. National researchers must also be residents of Uganda. If they work for an organisation, it should be registered in the country. All national researchers must be engaged in substantive tasks, including study design, data analysis, report writing and stakeholder engagement for the uptake of findings in policy and programming.
- For-profit organisations are eligible to apply, but are restricted to the same indirect cost limits as non-profit organisations and may not charge a fee.
- The applicant organisation must be able to sign the [3ie grant agreement](#), which is available on the 3ie website.
- All data and products from the study will be open access to the public.

- All applicants will be subject to enhanced due diligence and 3ie's duty of care policies or demonstrate that they have policies equal to or exceeding 3ie's policy standards.

Please note that the government may nominate a national land expert to work on the study. The nomination of the expert will be based on mutual agreement between the government and 3ie, and the expert's CV will be shared with the selected team. 3ie will ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the nomination of this expert. The cost and terms of her or his engagement will be determined in agreement with the selected team.

5.2. 3ie expectations and best practices

On signing the grant agreement, the grantee, OPM, MLHUD and 3ie will have one or more introductory calls to clarify expectations of all the stakeholders. Within the first three months, the research team is expected to engage with MLHUD to validate their evaluation methodology, scope and the study's relevance to MLHUD's needs. This will be crucial for establishing buy-in from MLHUD, OPM and other key stakeholders, securing their cooperation for the evaluation and increasing the chance that the findings will be taken up for informing decision-making. The revised methodology and scope, clearly stated and registered as a pre-analysis plan, will be the key reference document throughout the study.

5.3. Budget for the preparation grant

The budget cap for this grant is US\$480,000. Please note that this grant is strictly for generating evidence and not for supporting the intervention.

5.4. Timeline

The following table provides an indicative list of deliverables and deadlines for the impact evaluation.

Table 1: Timeline for phase 1 and 2

8 January 2019	Call for RFP launched
18 January 2019	Potential applicants submit any queries regarding the grant to 3ie at pw3@3ieimpact.org
25 January 2019	3ie posts responses to emailed queries
18 February 2019	Applicants submit complete proposal package to pw3@3ieimpact.org
18 March 2019	Financial due diligence undertaken and selection decision announced

5.5. Selection criteria

The qualifications submitted will be reviewed and scored as per criteria outlined in the table below.

Table 2: Criteria and weightage for scoring impact evaluation proposal

Full impact evaluation proposal	%
Qualification of impact evaluation team including previous impact evaluation experience and sector experience	20
Quality of technical proposal, with strong and politically aware contextualisation and internal and external validity	45
Demonstrated relevance of research question to the need of the implementing agency and potential for uptake of study findings	25
Cost	10

5.6. Proposal review process

Qualifications will be reviewed and scored by at least one 3ie internal reviewer, at least two external reviewers and one representative from MLHUD.

6. Instructions for applicants

Applications must include the following information:

- Completed [organisation information form](#) available on the 3ie website.
- Completed [eligibility and qualifications form](#) available on the 3ie website.
- Completed [evaluation proposal form](#) available on the 3ie website.
- Proposed budget should not exceed US\$480,000. The proposed budget must follow 3ie's [direct cost](#) and [indirect cost](#) policies. It should include the cost of evaluation as well as engagement and communication with key stakeholders.
- Curriculum vitae (CV, not to exceed three pages each) of all proposed principal investigators. It is expected that these principal investigators will participate in the proposed evaluation. Applicants are required to provide only information relevant to the grant in their CV.
- Copies of up to three evaluation reports or publications relevant for this call which has proposed principal investigators as named authors.

7. Submission guidelines

- Please submit all files in a single email message not to exceed [**10MB**] to pw3@3ieimpact.org no later than **23:59 GMT, 18 February 2019**.
- The budget should be presented in [3ie budget format and follow 3ie budget guidelines](#). Budget notes may be submitted as a separate Microsoft® Word or .rtf file in font size equal to or larger than 11.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Please direct any questions related to this RFP to pw3@3ieimpact.org by 23:59 GMT on **18 January 2019**. By **25 January 2019**, a single document with all questions and answers will be made publicly available at [here](#).

This RFP does not constitute a guarantee of an award.