



Case studies series on policy influence of impact studies

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), a recent initiative dedicated to improving development outcomes through better use of evidence from quality impact evaluations, is calling for proposals to conduct a series of case studies in order to identify factors that contribute to or impede evidence from rigorous impact evaluations to influence policy (including individuals, institutions, laws and regulations, as well as the approach used to communicate the findings), thereby improving the policy effectiveness of the evidence.

In order to ensure high-quality case-studies and comparability across cases and possibly multiple study-teams, 3ie commissioned CIPPEC (Centre for the implementation of public policy for equity and growth) to develop the **conceptual framework** (available at: http://www.3ieimpact.org/userfiles/doc/Conceptual_Framework.pdf) and **guidelines** (available at: http://www.3ieimpact.org/userfiles/doc/Guidelines_case_studies.pdf) to be followed in the conduct of the case studies. The approach should also enable comparison between cases and regions to draw lessons that are relevant beyond the cases themselves.

High-quality impact evaluations help measure the net change in outcomes that can be attributed to a specific program using the best methodology available, feasible and appropriate to the evaluation questions and context. By developing a theory of change and tracing the key actors, influential factors and decisions, the studies will assess what impact the evaluation and the ensuing results had among the variety of factors that led to policy change and, if feasible with the available information, examine whether the change actually translated into increasing cost effectiveness and better policies.

The studies should include both cases that appear to have been 'success-stories', such as Mexico's *Oportunidades* program, as well as cases where the policy decisions were not aligned with the recommendations ensuing from the impact evaluations, such as the Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project or Nicaragua's Social Protection Network (*Red de Protección Social*). Other interesting examples could include but not be limited to China's *Paying for Performance in the Battle Against Anemia* Program and Rwanda's *Performance Based Financing in Health*. Teams are invited to present proposals either for individual case-studies, or a set thereof, and can also indicate their interest in both options.

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- The main objective of the commissioned research will be to contribute to the understanding on how to design and implement the collection and dissemination of evidence so as to maximize influence on policy.
- The research will also provide concrete recommendations for 3ie's advocacy strategy on best practices for research uptake.

3. RESEARCH METHOD AND QUESTIONS

While the teams will follow the general guidelines (available at: http://www.3ieimpact.org/userfiles/doc/Guidelines_case_studies.pdf) developed by CIPPEC in coordination with 3ie during the first phase of this research, the possible research questions that arise in adopting this approach are:

- What is the policy change or changes the study sought to bring about? Did they take place and were they sustained?
- Who were the main actors in the decision-making process for this policy change? What were the main influences on them in making the decision they did?
- Was there opposition to the proposed changes? From whom, and how was it countered (political bargaining, use of evidence...)?
- Was there debate in parliament, the media, or civil society at large about the policy decision? How, and to what extent, were policy makers influenced by these debates? Did the impact evaluation findings feature in these debates?
- What were the possible direct and indirect channels of influence for the study in affecting this policy decision? Were these channels well utilized? What stands out as reasons why this study was, or was not, particularly influential?
- What efforts were made by the study team, or study funders, to promote the study to policy makers? Was there an explicit 'influencing strategy'? Did the researchers see policy influence as an objective of the study?
- Were study findings modified (simplified or distorted) in any way by the study team, funders or other users of the study findings? Were selected study findings suppressed or misrepresented?

- Does the timing of the policy change support the argument that the study played a role in the decision-making process?

4. TIMETABLE

OUTPUTS	DATE DUE
1. Deadline for submission of proposals	February 28 th , 2011
2. Review and award announcements	March 14 th , 2011
3. Draft case-study reports	April 29 th , 2011
4. Final case-study reports	May 16 th , 2011

6. SELECTION CRITERIA AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The selection procedure will be quality based selection. In the event of two or more proposals being of equal quality the selection will be made on the basis of price. As a guide, the total cost per case study is not expected to exceed US\$20,000; and the total number of cases is not expected to exceed six (6).
- 6.2 The proposal should (i) clearly establish an understanding of the study methodology; (ii) motivate the proposed case-studies, including background on policy, program and evaluation context; and (iii) include CV of the researchers, the time-table, and the financial proposal. The budget should be broken down by the daily fees and other expenses that apply to each member of the team. All case studies should adopt common methodology and design. The proposal should be clear about whether it is proposing to carry out one or multiple case-studies.
- 6.3 The proposal including profiles for research teams should be valid for a period of two (2) months as of the date received, until the contract is finalised.
- 6.4 The proposals received will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
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| a. Motivation and relevance of proposed case-study(ies) | 40% |
| b. Methodological understanding and timelines | 20% |
| c. Professional capacity and experience of professionals assigned | 40% |

The deadline for submissions is 28th of February 2011. 3ie Deputy Director, Dr. Marie Gaarder, is managing this research project with support from the Advocacy and Communications officer, Christelle Chapoy. Any questions should be sent to: dd@3ieimpact.org

ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO: dd@3ieimpact.org