



## **The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation**

### **3ie Policy Window (Round 1)**

### **Call for Proposals for Interventions to be Evaluated**

#### **Background**

The mission of 3ie is to increase development effectiveness through better use of evidence in developing countries. In fulfilment of this mission 3ie funds impact studies of high relevance to policy makers which have a large potential policy impact.

This call for proposals invites government and non-governmental agencies in low and middle-income countries to submit proposed social and economic development interventions (projects, programmes, or policies) to be subject to quality impact evaluation. Teams to conduct the evaluation will be selected by 3ie, in cooperation with the implementing agency, through a process of international competitive bidding.

#### **Overview of the window**

The window operates through a two stage process:

1. Implementing agencies are invited to submit interventions to be evaluated. A panel of policy experts will select up to six of these proposals to be evaluated with 3ie grant finance. The review criteria are listed in Annex 1.
2. A separate international competitive bidding process is run for each of the selected proposals. Bids are reviewed by a technical team of reviewers, including a representative from the implementing agency. The review criteria are listed in Annex 1.

Final approval of awards is made by the Board of 3ie, which will meet in the second half of October, 2010.

#### **Review process and timeline**

Applications must be submitted on the appropriate application form before the deadline, along with any supporting materials. Applications should be submitted to [PW1@3ieimpact.org](mailto:PW1@3ieimpact.org). Any submissions not on the correct form, or sent to other 3ie email addresses, may not be considered under this call.

The deadline for submissions is 11.55 pm Delhi time, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The proposals will be reviewed by a panel of international policy makers. The selected proposals for evaluation will be announced by June 28<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The international competitive bidding process for the selected proposals will be launched in the first half of July, with a submission deadline of August 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. Successful awards will be announced in the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### **Role of national researchers/evaluators**

The study team will include national researchers. These will be selected in one of three ways.

The usual means are either that: (1) the national research team is the lead agency in the bid, or (2) the national research team will be part of a bid in a collaborative partnership with an international research team. National teams may participate in more than one bid for the same contract, which international team members may not.

In exceptional circumstances, the implementing agency may indicate the preferred national team. In such cases, 3ie will determine the most appropriate way of handling the bidding process.

### **Evaluation process**

For each study, a steering committee will be established, comprising a representative from each of the (1) the implementing agency, (2) the parent government agency, if not the implementing agency, (3) the national study team, (4) the international study team, (5) the two independent experts appointed by 3ie to act as peer reviewers, and (6) a 3ie staff member to act as secretary. The steering committee will review all major products produced by the study team.

### **Conditions**

In submitting a proposal, the submitting institution agrees to the following conditions:

1. 3ie reserves the right not to commission an evaluation if there are no proposals of sufficient quality.
2. Report findings will be disseminated locally and published on 3ie's website. There will be a period of internal consultation prior to publication. A 'management response' can be included in the final report if requested
3. The implementing agency will submit a report to 3ie on how it plans to utilize the recommendations and findings that ensued from the study, within 3 months of the dissemination of the results.
4. Data collected with 3ie financing are required to be placed in the public domain, being available for use by other researchers, 12 months after the completion of data collection.

## **Annex 1: Review criteria**

### *Stage one: selection of high policy impact interventions for evaluation*

A committee of five internationally-recognized policy makers, at least three of whom are developing country policy-makers, will review each proposal. The selection will be based on average scores of all reviewers, based on the following criteria (see Annex 2 for a complete description of the criteria):

- Policy relevance (50%)
- Potential policy impact (50%)

### *Stage two: evaluation design*

Evaluation designs will be reviewed by three external reviewers, one representative of the implementing agency, and a (non-voting) 3ie staff member. The following criteria will be used:

- Quality of technical proposal (40%)
- Qualifications of proposed staff (30%)
- Involvement of developing country researchers/evaluators (30%)

The proposals will be scored. Either all those reaching a minimum score or the top two proposals will be passed, and the one chosen with the lowest budget. A decision can be made that no proposals are of adequate quality.

## Annex 2 Definition of review criteria

Term	Definition	Criteria	Scoring
Policy relevance	Policy relevance has two dimensions: (1) alignment with national and international priorities, and (2) the importance of the intervention.	.	Policy relevance is scored from 0-10, calculated as a simple average of the scores for alignment and importance.
	Alignment is defined as the extent to which the objectives of the intervention to be evaluated are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, and global priorities.	The issues addressed by the proposal are consistent with national and international policies, and enduring, meaning that it addresses policy questions that are likely to continue being important in 5 to 10 years time.	Reviewers should award a 0-10 score for alignment with national and international priorities
	Importance is defined as having either (i) substantial scale or expected effect size, or (ii) innovative intervention (not evaluation) design.	Importance is defined by <u>either</u> scale [(1) affect large numbers of people (national-level programs) or imply large resource outlays, (2) have large expected effects on particular subpopulations (large effect size)] <u>or</u> innovativeness of the intervention, with potential to go to scale.	Reviewers should score <u>either</u> scale <u>or</u> innovativeness on a scale of 0-10. In the case of scale, reviewers should score against both criteria on a scale of 0-10, and use only <u>the higher of those two</u> as the score.
Potential policy impact	The extent to which the study has the potential to influence national, regional and international policy.	<p>Potential policy impact is measured against factors in the evaluation process which make policy impact more likely. Policy impact is also a function of policy relevance and evaluation design, which are assessed under different headings.</p> <p>The factors assessed for policy impact are: (1) the engagement of key stakeholders in identification of the evaluation questions; (2) proven demand for the study, including clear indication of intended use of evaluation findings by the implementing agency; and (3) potential global impact [note the last of these is a reviewer assessment not necessarily based on information provided in the application)</p>	Policy relevance is scored from 0-10. Reviewers should award a 0-10 score to a proposal against each of the three criteria, and record as the potential policy impact score as the <u>average</u> of these three.

