



## Consultant - research assistant

### 3ie, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## 1. Background

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) promotes evidence-informed equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. We support the generation and effective use of high-quality evidence to inform decision-making and improve the lives of people living in poverty in low- and middle-income countries. We provide guidance and support to produce, synthesise and quality-assure evidence of what works, for whom, how, why and at what cost. 3ie is registered as a non-governmental organisation in the United States. It has offices in New Delhi, London and Washington, DC.

We do so through evidence programmes, production of public goods, professional services, support to and partnership with our members and support to institutional advancement initiatives. The evidence programmes include impact evaluations, formative evaluations, process evaluations, implementation research, replication studies, systematic reviews and evidence gap maps. Our work encompasses a wide range of topics, sectors and themes.

## 2. Summary

3ie is looking for a full-time consultant in Dhaka, Bangladesh to collaborate on a rigorous impact and a process evaluation of a large-scale aquaculture intervention in Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions, implemented by WorldFish. The goals of the intervention are to improve productivity of fish ponds owned by smallholders, strengthen aquaculture value chains, promote women's empowerment, and improve nutrition among households in fish-farming areas. The evaluation will test whether the intervention achieves these outcomes, and will examine the mechanisms by which the intervention produces its effects.

The project encompasses the following components:

- A formative study to understand the context of the project areas, build relationships with key stakeholders, inform the strategy for roll-out of the intervention, refine the impact evaluation design and carefully test key assumptions to help validate and/or improve the theory of change upfront.
- A process evaluation beginning at the outset and continuing over the life of the project, with emphasis on early capture of problems, opportunities, or trends that may be important for the WorldFish project's success and potential impacts.
- An impact evaluation that examines causal program impacts on stated household and individual outcomes. The impact evaluation will use a randomised design and three rounds of primary data collected in the beginning, middle and end of the project. The estimated sample size of the impact evaluation is close to 4,000 households over 171 unions.

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- Maintain ongoing dialogue and develop collaborative working relationships with WorldFish, and relevant stakeholders, to ensure the relevance of all research activities and outputs. Collaborate with World Fish to support their policy influencing activities.
- A systematic review of the state of evidence, with a focus on women's involvement and participation in different nodes of aquaculture value chains.
- Development and implementation of a stakeholder engagement and evidence use plan for the evaluations to monitor, measure and report on activities designed to promote the uptake and use of evaluation findings.

The evaluation started in April 2019, and the project will continue until April 2025. Currently, the evaluation team comprises of researchers at 3ie and the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich. The role and responsibilities of the research assistant who will be a part of the evaluation team are described in detail below.

### 3. Key responsibilities

The consultant will be a resident or national of Bangladesh and be based out of Dhaka. This is a full-time position. She/He will be expected to work closely with all researchers of the evaluation team. She/He will report to the senior evaluation specialist at 3ie. Key responsibilities are outlined below.

- Ensure smooth and high-quality data collection operations by:
  - Managing and coordinating multiple field-testing or piloting of questionnaires that will be undertaken by a data collection firm hired for this purpose;
  - Assisting in training master trainers of the data collection firm on questionnaires and primary survey methods; and
  - Coordinating with the data collection partner to conduct quality assurance of collected data (e.g., performing back-checks, spot checks and data cleaning according to the protocol).
- Support the formative studies and process evaluations by:
  - Accessing and summarising existing secondary data sources and literature on aquaculture in Bangladesh from various sources; and
  - Gathering qualitative data from households and other key stakeholders related to aquaculture in Bangladesh to understand the context of the project areas and test the main assumptions of the theory of change in the ground.
- Collaborate with the evaluation team to analyse qualitative and quantitative data, report writing and produce knowledge products such as summary reports and briefs;
- Ensure constant and accurate communication between the evaluation team, WorldFish and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and
- Day-to-day project management.

### 4. Qualifications and skills

- Master's degree in agriculture, economics, biosciences, sociology or nutrition. Candidates with a bachelor's degree and substantial research experience in the above mentioned fields can apply;
- One-two years of experience in statistical data analysis using excel, STATA or R;
- Four-five years of experience conducting field work in rural areas in developing countries;

- Experience managing complex field operations to meet firm project deadlines and ensure data quality;
- Proficiency in speaking, reading and writing Bangla;
- Ability and willingness to travel regularly and at short notice to project sites within Bangladesh;
- Ability and willingness to work remotely and independently;
- Commitment to designing and carrying out inclusive, ethical, equitable, and gender-responsive research; and
- Excellent English-language skills.

## 5. Eligibility

The successful candidate must be a resident of Bangladesh and have the right to work. 3ie is an equal-opportunity employer committed to equality and diversity. We do not discriminate based on sex, age, religion, ethnicity, caste, sexual orientation or for being differently abled. We particularly encourage ethnic minorities and differently abled persons to apply.

## 6. Terms of employment

Candidates should be available to start work at the earliest. 3ie offers competitive remuneration based on experience and qualifications. Our policies and procedures reflect our commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from abuse. We follow a zero-tolerance policy for any form of bullying or harassment in the workplace.

## 7. How to apply

Please apply by e-mail to [jobs@3ieimpact.org](mailto:jobs@3ieimpact.org), mentioning 'Consultant - research assistant Bangladesh' in the subject line. The application package must include the following:

- A cover letter highlighting your experience in field work, conducting or managing primary data collection and data analysis. A summary on your curriculum vitae is not a substitute
- Curriculum vitae, no more than two pages.
- Name and contact information for three references

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and asked to submit references and proof of experience. **We will review applications on a rolling basis and the position will remain open until filled.**