Consultants – Economic evaluation specialist

3ie, Washington, DC

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. We have offices in New Delhi, London and Washington, DC.

Our programmes and projects include theory-based, mixed-methods impact evaluations, implementation research, systematic reviews, evidence gap maps, and replication studies. Our work encompasses a wide range of topics, sectors and themes including but not limited to: health, nutrition, education, agriculture, governance, microfinance, climate change, humanitarian interventions, and social protection.

We are currently seeking economic evaluation specialist consultants to support upcoming projects funded by the US government. This work will be managed by 3ie’s Washington, DC office but the consultant can work remotely.

2. Summary

The consultant will provide technical and management leadership in applied cost-benefit analysis (CBA) and cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), including as standalone assessments, linked to impact evaluations, and as a component of broader evidence programmes.

The successful candidate will have significant economic evaluation experience and will have demonstrated expertise implementing research and translating research evidence for decision-makers in L&MICs. We are seeking a highly diplomatic and entrepreneurial individual who is comfortable taking initiative and who thrives in a matrix-managed, fast-paced environment.

The consultant will report mainly to the Director of the Washington, DC office and to the Senior Evaluation Specialist leading this work.
3. Key responsibilities

3.1 Economic evaluation and technical assistance

- The consultant will conduct, review, oversee, and quality assure CBA and CEA, to support ex-post evaluation of completed interventions as well as ex-ante modeling to estimate the costs and benefits of potential future interventions;
- Lead and facilitate communication with clients, partner organizations, and subject matter experts about intervention details, assumptions, program logic, preliminary models, analysis results, and policy and/or programmatic implications; and
- Contribute to 3ie strategic initiatives and partnerships, including advancing the use of cost evidence in impact evaluation and synthesis.

4. Qualifications, experience, and skills

4.1 Education and work experience

- Either a PhD in Economics with 1-2 years’ experience or a master’s in economics with 4-5 or more years of demonstrated experience in relevant fields of economics as applied to developing countries;
- Academic knowledge of and direct field experience with health, nutrition, and other social sector programming in L&MICs;
- Advanced knowledge of CEA and CBA methodologies; and
- Mastery of and expertise in economic principles, concepts and practices, and modeling complex economic concepts.

4.2 Skills

- Ability to carry out CEA and CBA data analysis in Microsoft Excel or R (preferred);
- Familiarity with causal inference and impact evaluation, including experimental and quasi-experimental research designs, methods and the major applications and limitations of each;
- Excellent oral and written communication as well as presentation skills in English; with professional proficiency in additional languages highly preferred; and
- Excellent organizational skills, attention to detail, and the flexibility and willingness to adapt to shifting priorities and deadlines.

5. Eligibility

We will recruit one or more individuals to perform the identified tasks. 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

Employment is contingent upon availability of funding. Candidates should be available to start work as soon as the funding has been awarded, expected in January 2021. The contract and hourly rate will be discussed between final candidates and 3ie upon confirmation of the award. Contracts will be for a maximum of one year.

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 sprasad@3ieimpact.org, and include ‘3ie Economic Evaluation Consultant’ in the subject line. The applicant must provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- A cover letter, not exceeding one page, highlighting your qualifications and experience relevant to the terms of reference;
- Curriculum vitae (not to exceed four pages);
- Writing sample (preferably a sample of a proposal, research paper, or other technical document that you alone authored);
- One or more previously completed CEA model and CBA model, including detailed calculations and a clear description of your role in producing each, as well as the role of any other contributors.
- Contact information for three professional references.

The deadline for receiving applications is October 30, 2020. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and incomplete applications will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.