



Request for Qualifications: Impact evaluation of agriculture and health sector programs in the Philippines

3ie's Philippines Evidence Program (Phase 2)

Issue date: 7 September 2021

Deadline: 23:59 Philippines Standard Time (PHT), 10 October 2021

1. Background

The [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#), is an international NGO promoting evidence-informed development policies and programs. A global leader in funding, producing, and synthesizing evidence on what works, for whom, why, and at what cost, 3ie believes that evidence can enhance development policies and program effectiveness and improve lives of the poor and disadvantaged. Since its inception in 2008, 3ie has supported close to 250 evaluations in 50 low-and middle-income countries with a total value of over USD 100 million.

3ie began its engagement in the Philippines in 2014 to improve the culture of use of evidence in development policy and programming in the government by generating high quality rigorous evidence on topical issues. In Phase 1 of the program (formerly known as Policy Window Philippines – Phase 1), 3ie supported four impact evaluations across diverse sectors. The reports are available on 3ie's website. As part of Phase 2 of the program, 3ie looking to undertake and/or support impact evaluations of priority government programs in collaboration with the Philippine departments and agencies.

2. Summary

3ie is inviting applications for two different modalities. First, for individual researchers to serve as Principal Investigators, second, for research or evaluation organizations to conduct impact evaluations of programs that the Philippine government identifies in select sectors. This document provides the background, details on each modality and how to apply.

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The evidence program will combine two modalities and qualifications are requested for both modalities:

Modality 1: (For individuals) Principal investigators to work with 3ie teams to conduct evaluations

3ie is looking to hire Principal Investigators who have expertise in evaluation of complex government programs in sectors such as agriculture and health to join the research team that 3ie will put together to carry out the evaluation.

Modality 2 (For organizations): Research and/or evaluation organizations or consortia to conduct evaluations

3ie will award grants to research or evaluation organizations or consortia to conduct impact evaluations, which will be quality assured by 3ie. The selected firm or consortia will be solely responsible for implementing the study and will be accountable for following 3ie processes to ensure the evaluations are policy relevant and of high-quality.

3. 3ie's Philippines Evidence Program

[Philippines Evidence Program \(PEP\)](#), formerly known as the [Policy Window Philippines \(PWP\)](#), is a joint initiative of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia (DFAT) and 3ie. With funding support from DFAT, the program aims to enhance the effectiveness of major government reforms and service delivery programs by:

- (i) producing actionable, evidence-based findings from high-quality impact evaluations, and
- (ii) building interest and capacity for evidence-informed decision-making in the Philippines by putting the government in the 'driver's seat' and supporting policymakers prioritize and articulate their needs for evidence and research.

3ie is currently working with Philippine Departments of Health and Agriculture to better understand the program design, implementation and roll-out to propose impact evaluations that will help answer priority policy questions and inform future scale-up of flagship programs. The programs have been identified based on their alignment to the [Philippines Development Plan](#), the SDGs, and the Philippines' national COVID-19 response plan.

The other factors to consider also include the department's own policy focus and operational considerations such as:

- a) current and planned scale of the priority program.
- b) the potential for increased outreach and adjustment to program theory of change.
- c) lack of evidence regarding the program effectiveness and impact.

3ie has funds to conduct and/or support three impact evaluations. The grant size may range from USD 100,000 to USD 500,000 depending upon the scope of the evaluation and the data collection activities expected to be undertaken. Currently four programs across the Department of Agriculture and Health are under consideration for a possible impact evaluation, which are described below.

Department of Agriculture

1. **Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund:** As part of the Rice Tariffication Law (Republic Act No 11203), a Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) has been set up to enhance food security and improve the efficiency and global competitiveness of the agriculture sector in the Philippines. This new law has led to a more liberalized rice trade policy by lifting restrictions on rice imports among other things. Due to these changes, there is a need to invest in improving the competitiveness of rice farmers through a multi-pronged approach that addresses barriers to farmers' access to better quality seeds, credit assistance, extension services and mechanized farm machinery.
2. **KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Program:** KADIWA is an agri-fishery marketing program started in March 2020 to meet the daily rice requirements of families living in Metro Manila. This program has now been scaled nationwide with the twin objectives of (1) ensuring food security to households in high-demand areas and at affordable prices, and (2) linking small farmers and fisherfolk directly to buyers, thus increasing their income by helping them move up the value chain as aggregators and consolidators. To achieve this, farmer and fisherfolk cooperatives are being given financial and technical assistance, and community-based organizations and local government units are being supported to promote various retail modalities through which cooperatives may sell their produce directly to the consumers.

Department of Health

1. **Telemedicine:** The Telemedicine program is a key component of the Philippines government's efforts to achieve universal health care (UHC). Its aim is to "ensure that every Filipino has equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services without facing financial hardships." Under the Universal Health Care Act, enacted in February 2019, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), PhilHealth, and local government units, (that consist of provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities), have started to integrate the local health systems to province-wide and city-wide health systems. At present, 58 of 119 local government units have committed to the integration and been registered as UHC integration sites (UHC-IS). The government envisions that by 2025, all 119 local government units will become UHC-IS.

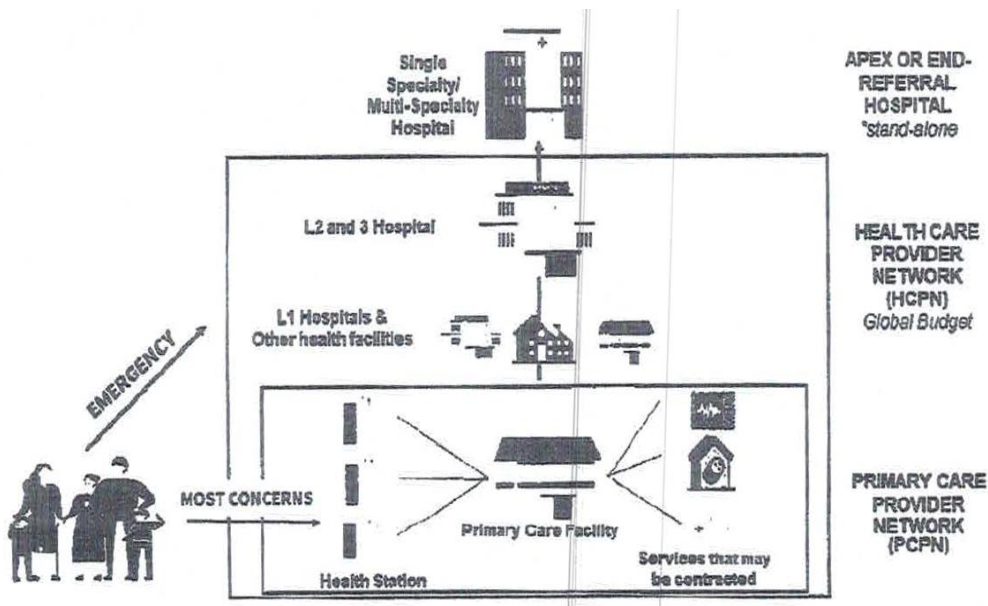


Figure 1: PCPNs are responsible for providing preliminary consulting with patients, except emergency cases, and coordinating referral to secondary and tertiary health care service within the HCPN
 Source: Administrative Order No. 2020-0019 Annex B

2. Primary health care: A key ambition of the Universal Health Care Act is to ensure that all Filipinos have “access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services without causing financial hardships and prioritizes the needs of the populations who cannot afford such services” (Republic Act 11223 Chapter 2, Section 2b). To facilitate this, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth is committed to realizing the the vision of primary health care access by developing the *Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta)* package. Among other things, this requires expanding the network of Konsulta accredited service providers and registering all Filipinos at Konsulta accredited primary health care facilities. A range of other initiatives aimed at recasting the Philippines approach to health care will accompany universal insurance coverage through Konsulta. Prominent among these being integration of local health systems to province-wide and city-wide health systems to facilitate the referral process and development of integrated Health Information System (iHIS), with modules on electronic medical records, referral system management, telemedicine, laboratory and diagnostic, electronic prescription and dispensing, HR information, clinical decision support and PhilHealth electronic claims processing and provider payment to be integrated in stage 1, and enterprise resource planning, supply chain management, financial and capital asset management, and quality management system for integration in stage 2.

Note: Interventions described above are only indicative based on initial conversations with the departments. New or different interventions may be considered for evaluation to respond to Philippine government’s priorities. The final decision on what impact evaluations will be funded will be jointly made by 3ie, the NEDA, and DFAT.

4. Scope of work

The selected research team (individual researchers or firms) will be expected to develop a rigorous evaluation design using experimental or quasi-experimental methods to answer the primary research question and analyse the data using the appropriate econometric methods.

4.1 Designing a rigorous impact evaluation

The researchers should be able to demonstrate the feasibility of using experimental or quasi-experimental design to measure attributable change in target outcomes and impact variables. The evaluation should have robust identification methods and should be adequately powered to measure outcomes. It should be able to account for common threats to causal validity, including program placement bias, confounding, sample selection bias, biases arising from spill overs and contamination, and biases in outcomes data collection and reporting.

Below is an indicative (not an exhaustive) list of deliverables or main outputs from the study. Please note that the expected set of deliverables from the research teams will be tailored to the specific context and needs of the evaluation:

1. A pre-analysis plan with clearly described mixed-methods evaluation design.
2. Evaluation tools, such as baseline and endline surveys and interview guides for qualitative data collection.
3. A baseline report, and a final evaluation report in 3ie format, and
4. A clean data set and well-annotated do files for purpose of replication and publishing.

Where 3ie putting together a team of individual researchers the outputs mentioned above would be jointly produced with the 3ie team. In case of research organizations or consortia, this would be the responsibility of the successful applicants with quality assurance from 3ie. Individual researchers or research organizations will be required to adhere to 3ie's [research transparency policy](#) before contract signing.

Additionally, 3ie encourages researchers to adopt a theory-based approach to evaluation wherein there is clear description and unpacking of causal pathways between the intervention and main outcomes of interest.

The program theory of change requires a mix of factual and counterfactual analysis that draws on both quantitative and qualitative data. By incorporating mixed methods for data collection and analysis, we expect impact evaluations to answer for whom, why, at what cost (magnitude of impact and cost) the intervention worked. 3ie requires equity-focused analyses to capture impacts on marginalized and vulnerable people, such as women, children, elderly, and individuals living with disabilities. The impact evaluation should also include a cost-effectiveness or cost benefit analysis of interventions to enhance the policy relevance of study findings.

Research teams are expected to regularly engage with primary intervention beneficiaries, including preliminary findings, to elicit insights and feedback for incorporation into the intervention's implementation and evaluation.

3ie's [stakeholder engagement and evidence uptake plan](#) (see the generic template) is an important exercise in identifying key stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels, and developing engagement strategies to build their ownership of the study. This engagement, especially with project partners, is critical in building capacity and a culture of use of evidence,

including institutionalizing monitoring and learning systems that routinely provide feedback to refine program implementation.

4.2 Research team engagement on the evidence program

Based on the modality, the engagement in the evidence program will vary for individual researchers and research organizations or consortia.

<p>Modality 1 (For individual researchers)</p> <p>Successful individual researchers will join 3ie research team and will be compensated on an agreed rate for an agreed number of days.</p>	<p>Modality 2 (For organizations)</p> <p>Successful research teams will be onboarded in two phases.</p>
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Phase 1 of the study will be for **eight weeks** during which the selected research team will finalize the impact evaluation design in consultation with the implementing agency (Department of Health or Department of Agriculture) and develop a study budget. The impact evaluation proposal will be vetted by 3ie internally and by external experts and the research team will be required to incorporate/respond to the comments received. The selected teams will be provided up to **10,000 USD** for proposal preparation.

Phase 2 will focus on study implementation based on approved impact evaluation design and budget. The expected timeline for the full impact evaluation is April 2022 to September 2023.

5. Eligibility

Please carefully review the eligibility criteria for both individual researchers and/or legally registered organizations or consortia of registered organizations before applying.

<p>Modality 1 (Individual researchers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in design and implementation of impact evaluation of complex government programs, with proven ability to adjust evaluation scope and methods to the evolving priorities of the government or constraints posed by changes in program implementation strategies. • Experience in evaluation and research using experimental and quasi-experimental methods. 	<p>Modality 2 (legally registered organizations or consortia of registered organizations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant-holding organizations and the lead PI may be located anywhere in the world. Preference will be given to organizations that are based in the Philippines and propose local researchers in a lead role. • The research team must include at least one PI who is a Philippines national based in country. S/he should be working for an organization registered in the Philippines or could be an independent consultant resident in the Philippines. The Philippine researcher must be engaged in substantive tasks, including proposal preparation, data analysis, report writing
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- Experience designing and implementing evaluations in the Philippines or South East Asia at least. *Preference will be given to researchers based in the Philippines.*
- Publication record in top journals in either of the identified sectors, namely health or agriculture.

- Comfort with working in multi-disciplinary teams.

- Willingness and ability to travel to Philippines, circumstances permitting.

and stakeholder engagement for understanding findings and for uptake of evidence into policy and programming.

- At least one team member should have experience in designing and implementing randomised evaluations.
- The proposed team should demonstrate substantial experience in design and implementation of impact evaluation of complex government programs, with proven ability to adjust evaluation scope and methods to the evolving priorities of the government or constraints posed by changes in program implementation strategies.
- Experience in evaluation and research using experimental and quasi-experimental methods is mandatory.
- Organizations may submit more than one proposal and may be included on more than one proposal. They should, however, have the capacity to implement any or all grants awarded to them under the program.
- For-profit organizations are eligible to apply but are restricted to the same indirect cost limits as non-profit organizations and may not charge a fee.
- The applicant organization must be able to sign the [3ie preparation grant agreement](#), a sample of which is available on the 3ie website.
- Organizations must submit budgets as part of their qualifications (subject to 3ie's [direct](#) and [indirect](#) cost policies). Short-listed organizations will go through the due-diligence process, a checklist of which can be found [here](#).
- If selected, the organization will be required to submit a full impact evaluation

proposal as per the timeline indicated in Table 1. The proposal would require a budget that may include others as sub-grantees or sub-contractors (subject to 3ie's [direct](#) and [indirect](#) cost policies). The selected organizations should also be willing and able to sign [3ie's full grant agreement](#).

3ie is an equal-opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, ethnicity, disability, caste, religion or sexual orientation. We particularly encourage women, ethnic minorities, and differently abled persons to apply.

6. Timeline

All submissions must be made to pwp2@3ieimpact.org. **The deadline for submitting qualifications is 23:59 PHT, 10 October 2021.**

Table 1: Key dates for activities or deliverables

Activity or Deliverable	Key dates <i>(all deadlines 23:59 PHT)</i>
RFQ posted	7 September 2021
Deadline for questions	17 September 2021
Q&A document posted	22 September 2021
Deadline for submission of qualifications	10 October 2021
Announcement of awards	30 October 2021
Signing of grant/consultant agreements	30 November 2021
On-boarding meetings	1-7 December 2021
Submission of impact evaluation proposals	30 January 2022
Modality 2 only: (For organizations, impact evaluation grant)	
Comments on submitted proposals sent to teams	28 February 2022
Deadline for submission of revised proposals	30 March 2022
Signing of grant agreements	1 April 2022

7. Selection criteria

The submitted applications will be reviewed and scored by two internal reviewers and at least one external reviewer. 3ie reserves the right not to award any grant in case no applicant meets the requirements. Applications will be scored between 1 and 5 based on the criteria and scoring weights listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Preparation grant and impact evaluation proposal criteria

Criteria	Modality 1	Modality 2
Impact evaluation experience <i>Assessed from the application form, CVs and sample publications</i>	25%	15%
Experience evaluating complex government programs <i>Assessed from the application form, CVs and sample publications</i>	25%	15%
Relevant sectoral experience of the team <i>Assessed from the application form, CVs and sample publications</i>	25%	15%
Relevant country experience <i>Assessed from the application form, CVs and sample publications</i>	25%	15%
Team constitution, including representation from local researchers <i>Assessed from the application form</i>	N/A	20%
Organizational capabilities to manage the grant <i>Assessed from the application form</i>	N/A	15%
3ie membership of research and/or implementing agency <i>Assessed from the application form</i>	N/A	5%

Modality 2 only: (For organizations, impact evaluation grant)

Criteria	Weight (%)
Policy relevance of the research questions	25
Internal validity of proposed method	30
Program theory of change	15
External validity and scalability of results	10
Collection of cost data, cost-effectiveness, cost benefit analysis	10
Stakeholder engagement and evidence uptake plan	10

8. Instructions for applicants [for both Modality 1 (individuals) and 2 (for organization)]

Qualification applications for modality 1 and 2 must be submitted to pwp2@3ieimpact.org and include the following components:

- **Qualification application form:** The form for both can be accessed [here](#) and the submitted form should be complete in all respects.
- **Budgets in 3ie template**
- **Curriculum vitae** (CV, not to exceed three pages each) of all research team members who will be involved in the project. Applicants are required to provide only information relevant to the grant in their CVs.

- Copies of publications, relevant for this call, which have proposed PIs as named authors (for individuals).

9. Submission of questions

If you have queries related to this RFQ, please write to pwp2@3ieimpact.org with 'PEP2 RFQ query' in the subject line by **23:59 PHT, 17 September 2021**. A single document with all questions and answers will be made publicly available on the [3ie website](#) by **22 September 2021**.

10. Submission guidelines

Submit your qualifications by email to pwp2@3ieimpact.org using the templates included in the [key documents package](#).

- *For individuals (Modality 1), the subject line should be 'PEP2 Modality 1 – Individual'*
- *For organizations (Modality 2), the subject line should be 'PEP2 Modality 2 – Organization'*

Attachments should not exceed 25 MB. The deadline for submission of qualifications is **23:59 PHT 10 October 2021**.

Only completed applications will be reviewed and shortlisted individuals/organizations contacted for next steps.