Impact Evaluation Research Assistant

Terms of Reference – Short Term Consultant

December 2019

1. Summary
The Development Impact Evaluation unit (DIME) is hiring a research assistant (RAs) to work on a set of impact evaluation (IE) studies in the agricultural and rural development sector. The consultant will be based in Washington, D.C., and work with the DIME team and external researchers on the collection and analysis of primary micro-data, as well as other data sources such as administrative data sets. The consultants will be expected to provide analytical supports at different stages of the projects in the portfolio: IE design, data collection, data management, report drafting. Qualification requirements and selection process are described in the remainder of the ToRs.

2. Background and objectives
DIME’s objective is to increase the use of impact evaluation (IE) in the design and implementation of public policy, to (i) improve World Bank and other MDB funded development projects and public policy to deliver better outcomes, (ii) strengthen country institutions for evidence-based policy making and (iii) generate knowledge in strategic development areas. Most DIME IEs are associated with a World Bank project. DIME works across the following World Bank sectors: Agriculture, Governance, Climate Change, Financial & Private Sector Development, Entertainment Education, Transport & Infrastructure, and Fragility Conflict and Violence. DIME establishes a research team to work on each IE study through its completion. Each research team includes a principal investigator and co-investigators, a field coordinator based in country to support the government team on all aspects of the IE, and one or more research assistants. This position will support DIME’s work in the agricultural and rural development space, across multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, where DIME is conducting research to understand constraints faced by farmers along the value chain and the most effective ways to address those constraints.

3. Tasks and deliverables
The consultant will report to the project PIs and other members of the Impact Evaluation team as well as collaborate with DIME’s Data Coordinators. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Cleaning administrative and primary datasets and create all necessary indicators
- Database management, integrating the project team’s monitoring data, administrative data from local government, and household survey data, for example. This may require programming matching algorithms, performing manual matching, and linking up with field staff for additional information and collaboration on specific tasks
- Work with the research team on updating the analysis plan and carry out the coding to perform this analysis (Descriptive Statistics and Regression Analysis)
- Developing protocols and programming to perform high frequency quality checks on survey data to support the country field staff during field work
- Contribute to the design of qualitative data collection tools
• Conduct literature review and syntheses, producing tables, graphs and appendices, editing current draft reports, supporting the design of IEs, development of policy briefs, and other research, writing and editing tasks

Deliverables may include, but are not limited to:
• Fully transparent and reproducible documentation of all data quality checks, cleaning, management, and analysis, which will be peer-reviewed by other DIME RAs and published in code repositories
• Reports and policy briefs with accompanying Stata do-files and documentation
• Deliver training courses on statistical analysis of micro data to clients as demanded

4. Skills Required
• Academic specialization: At least a Master’s degree in economics, public policy, statistics, or related field with strong quantitative research skills is essential, preferably with a concentration in development economics, impact evaluation and applied micro-econometrics
• Technical skills: The candidate must have technical expertise in impact evaluation and econometric analysis (including proficiency in Stata). Experience with programming in an ODK based platform and using GIS tools are desirable, and knowledge of other languages used for statistical analysis, such as R and Python are a plus.
• Experience: The candidate must have technical expertise in impact evaluation and econometric analysis, and experience working with raw household survey data. Field experience working on impact evaluations, and/or managing data collection, is preferred. Experience coding in a team environment and using GitHub is highly desirable.
• Capacity Building Skills: Demonstrated ability and experience in designing and delivering training and capacity building activities or other teaching experience is a plus
• Language: Superior written and oral communications skills in English is essential. Fluency in French if highly desirable.
• Interpersonal skills: Motivated self-starter, with demonstrated ability to work effectively and sensitively in teams
• Knowledge about the relevant sectors is desirable

5. Intellectual Property
The World Bank shall, solely and exclusively, own all rights in and to any work created in connection with this agreement, including all data, documents, information, copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets or other proprietary rights in and to the work. The consultant is not allowed to post or publish (electronically or in print) any project-related information without the explicit permission of the Impact Evaluation Team.

6. Terms
The Research Assistant will be hired as a short-term consultant based in Washington, DC and remunerated according to the World Bank scale. Contract duration will be discussed on a project by project basis.