

Impact Evaluation Research Assistant

Terms of Reference – Short Term Consultant

July 2019

1. Summary

The Development Impact Evaluation unit (DIME) is hiring 4 research assistants (RAs) to work on a large portfolio of impact evaluation (IE) studies. The consultants will be based in Washington, D.C., and work with the DIME team and external researchers on the analysis of micro-data collected by DIME as well as other data sources such as administrative data sets. The consultants will be involved with the projects during data collection, cleaning and analysis. **Qualified candidates should apply in [this website](#) no later than August 15. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.** 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. Positions are open in the projects/programs listed below.

Forced displacement

DIME's Forced Displacement team is looking for a consultant who will work to support the implementation of selected new impact evaluations in Jordan and Niger and provide analytical support. Working in collaboration with various partners, the consultant's work will primarily consist of research and technical input for the interventions in the multi-country study in the selected fragile countries, as well as the supervision and management of the rollout of newly designed project activities. On the issues in their charge, the consultant is expected to work independently and to engage with internal and external counterparts. Required qualifications for the position include at least a Master's degree in a relevant field; good knowledge of impact evaluation methods, experience designing and running interventions with the aim of empowering women in fragile and conflict-affected settings, a familiarity with the existing academic literature and operational practices surrounding such intervention design.

Within the Forced Displacement portfolio, DIME has worked closely with the implementing agencies to identify scalable innovations and to design impact evaluations that will generate new evidence on what works (and how) in improving socioeconomic and psychological welfare for refugees, internally displaced populations, and affected host populations. The consultant will be responsible for pushing this research to new frontiers and provide analytical support in terms of data analysis and reporting. The knowledge generated will be particularly valuable as it will help improve the efficiency and sustainability of the interventions as well as scale-up/scale-down decisions.

Agricultural Transformation in Rwanda

DIME's work in Rwanda spans multiple ongoing and completed evaluations in the agriculture sector. This portfolio has included close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and an emphasis on studying questions of interest to senior policy-makers. In the context of the government's large investments in hillside irrigation, DIME researchers are working to understand how and why technology adoption is constrained. If any of these constraints binds, increasing farm productivity through the development of new technologies cannot play the catalytic role necessary to initiate the rural transformation. In this context, the team is working with the government to implement a 2x2 RCT to test two potential interventions that would smooth frictions in rural agricultural land markets in Rwanda's largest hillside irrigation site – covering over 1000 hA. Key tasks will involve supporting the delivery of a follow-up survey in Fall 2019, working to construct a panel data using the resulting data, supporting the generation of related analytical products, and working with the field team to run a follow-up intervention next year. Previous experience with SurveyCTO is necessary, proficiency with R is required and familiarity with Stata is a preferred. Prior experience with agriculture-focused impact evaluations is a plus.

Mozambique rural development

DIME runs a large number of impact evaluations in the rural development and agriculture sector of Mozambique, which recently added to the portfolio a major new research collaboration with the European Commission through its PROMOVE-Agribiz program. Under this partnership, DIME will implement a component to promote evidence-based policy-making in the rural development sector of Mozambique, which includes five impact evaluations as well as an extensive capacity building program for government and local researchers. The research agenda is organized around two central themes:

- i. How to promote the sustained adoption of improved agricultural production practices among farmers?
- ii. How to improve the linkages between producers and commercial markets?

Other ongoing impact evaluations seek to generate evidence on irrigation infrastructure investment sustainability, rural feeder road impact, and models of emerging commercial farmer promotion. The consultant will join the extensive Mozambique team. Key tasks will include support to large scale data collection activities to ensure high quality data as well as work with the researcher team to produce several policy and research outputs.

Road Safety in Kenya

Kenya ranks among the top 10 countries in death rate due to RTCs in the world, with 29 deaths per 100,000. Policy action is constrained by lack of data and evidence on cost-effective interventions. Reliable statistics are lacking: in Kenya, the WHO estimates that the number of RTC fatalities is 3.7 times the official registry, which suffers from poor vital statistics systems. Information about the location of crashes and the physical characteristics that determine crashes is also lacking. Understanding what combination of approaches will prove successful in this context requires: (i) investment in data, (ii) understanding of the local constraints to road safety, and (iii) experimentation with safety approaches that involve multiple dimensions of road safety from behavioral to infrastructural.

This part of the consultancy is linked the development of features of a detailed real-time geo-referenced crash map to generate high-frequency data on crashes and their density around urban hotspots, which will be complemented with a real-time verification process that will record crashes typology and characteristics. This map will then be used to define interventions that can improve road safety in Nairobi and similar growing cities in the region.

Policy Impacts

Thousands of decisions are taken every day in the design and delivery of public policy. DIME products are designed to improve the quality of decision-making by providing policymakers, implementers and front-line workers with actionable data and evidence. By making data and evidence available to decision-makers, DIME aims at affecting the path of public policy and improving its results over time. It is for this reason that understanding what influence impact evaluations exert on policy decisions is of utmost priority to the DIME team. Developing such an understanding however is plagued by two challenges: 1. What to measure and how, and 2. How to analytically identify the data/evidence to decision link. To meet these challenges, DIME has developed two instruments within its broader policy influence strategy.

- i. *The MyIE Monitoring System* is a web-based platform which facilitates IE portfolio management and the production of reports tailored to different users and clients (DIME, GP or country management, and donor or client reporting). These reports are automatically generated on any issue of interest (cost, timeline, analytical design, data collection, geography etc.) across the portfolio or for specific programs or sectors. The system serves to monitor progress, identify issues and highlight how IE products can best contribute to development practice. By collecting data on how IEs feed into project design, support capacity building, influence outside projects and/or motivate scale-up or down of an intervention, the MyIE system helps identify opportunities to better inform policy decisions and increase focus on research with “impact”. This data is entered yearly by DIME IE project leads.
- ii. *DIME’s Policy Influence Survey* expands on and validates the MyIE policy influence indicators. The survey is tailored specifically to DIME partners, such as World Bank project leads and government counterparts. It includes questions to assess the IE contribution to elements of the program, monitoring and evaluation tools and systems, mid-course corrections, adoption

of results, and whether the IE has influenced other projects. A first round of data was collected in 2018, and a second round is scheduled early 2020.

The consultant's role will be to consolidate all the materials and data that have been developed for these two systems, and to put together two toolkits which will serve as a public good to DIME partners.

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 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 Portuguese is highly desirable for the Mozambique portfolio. French and / or Arabic are highly desirable for the Niger and Jordan portfolio.
- 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.

7. Selection Process

Qualified candidates should apply in [this website](#) no later than August 15. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants will be asked to add a link to a shared folder with their resume, a brief (maximum 1 page) statement of interest and a do-file prepared by them that best indicates the level of experience in Stata. Candidates may also send code samples in other relevant languages/software. Short listed candidates will be invited to take a technical test on statistical software (Stata, R or Python) and hold an interview with interested teams.

The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.