

World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) Call for Expressions of Interest:

Seeking NGOs, governments, donors, and private sector firms with interventions designed to improve women's land tenure security in rural Sub-Saharan Africa.

Call release date: 11 December 2018

Submission deadline: 5pm US Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, 6 February 2019.

Whom is this opportunity for?

Each successful applicant will meet all four criteria below:

- Be an NGO, government, donor, or private sector firm.
- Have a new or existing intervention, which they are planning to roll-out or scale-up; that could help strengthen women's land tenure security in rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa; and for which the organization has already secured any necessary funding.
- Be interested in gaining insights into how and why their intervention is working through a scientifically sound, quantitative impact evaluation.
- Be interested in strengthening their intervention's design towards more effectively serving women.

About the World Bank Africa Region Gender Innovation Lab (GIL)

The GIL works to generate evidence on how to close gender gaps in four thematic areas: land and property rights, agriculture, youth employment, and entrepreneurship. In close collaboration with partners, the GIL designs, launches, and oversees rigorous impact evaluations of interventions. These interventions are typically carried out by NGOs, governments, and private sector programs, policies, and products.¹

Each GIL impact evaluation aims to build the evidence base on how best to close key gender gaps. Given the lack of existing evidence within GIL's thematic areas, most of GIL's impact evaluations are proof-of-concept studies to test unproven interventions and confirm the existence and severity of hypothesized development constraints. **Each GIL impact evaluation is carefully selected to probe critical knowledge gaps.**

¹ The GIL works in partnership with units across the World Bank, aid agencies and donors, governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector firms, and researchers. The Lab is supported through the World Bank Group's Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE). The UFGE is a multi-donor trust fund dedicated to strengthening awareness, knowledge, and capacity for gender-informed policy-making.

To learn more about GIL, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-gender-innovation-lab>.

About this opportunity

During 2019, GIL plans to launch a new set of impact evaluations on women's land tenure security in rural areas. GIL has already secured funding to cover GIL staff time and travel, data collection, and data analysis costs associated with three new impact evaluations. **This request for expressions of interest (EOIs) is for organizations ("project teams") who would like to work with the Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) on impact evaluations of their interventions.**

The selected project teams will be matched with highly-skilled and experienced GIL and external researchers who will, on a *pro bono* basis:

- Work with you to identify the questions your project team would like to answer through impact evaluation; work with you to develop a strong and viable impact evaluation design for your program; and lead an impact evaluation of your project (including design, data collection, and analysis);
- Provide training for your organization/team on impact evaluations; and
- Work with you to strengthen your project's design towards more effectively serving women.

For these impact evaluations, GIL is also prepared to support the costs associated with GIL staff time and travel, data collection, and data analysis.

EOI Selection Criteria

- Geographical fit:** Will the intervention take place in Sub Saharan Africa? The Lab's work is focused exclusively on Sub-Saharan Africa. Only interventions in rural areas will be eligible for evaluation under this expression of interest call.
- Project fit:** Is the intervention a new or existing intervention with the potential to strengthen women's land tenure security in rural areas?
- Potential to probe critical knowledge gaps:** Will an impact evaluation of the intervention help answer one of the priority questions? GIL has identified priority policy and research questions to answer on women's land tenure security. GIL uses impact evaluations to generate evidence that can help answer these questions. These priority questions are listed below. GIL will prioritize the selection of those interventions that can help answer one or more of these priority questions.
- Project partner's capacity and risk factors:** Does the prospective partner have proven capacity to successfully carry out the type and scale of intervention that it is proposing? Does the partner have funding already secured to carry out the intervention? Is the environment going to be sufficiently secure within the timeframe of the project so as to not impede or undermine the impact evaluation?
- Organizational commitment to learning:** Partnering with researchers for a rigorous impact evaluation requires a sustained and deep-seated commitment, including buy-in from the partner's senior leadership, program managers, and sometimes, key stakeholders, including donors. It also requires a true interest in learning how one's programs are working and to let

this information become publicly available when the results of the impact evaluation are published and presented.² Finally, the organization and project implementation team must be willing to work constructively on an impact evaluation, including potential changes to implementation plans.

f. **Other practical criteria**

- (i) Is there at least one potential viable comparison group that will allow for credible impact evaluation results? Will some set of impacts be measurable and observable within three years?
- (ii) Are there sufficient technical skills and infrastructure in the potential study location to carry out the data collection needed for the impact evaluation?
- (iii) Will enough beneficiaries be part of the program to allow an impact evaluation to statistically detect the anticipated impacts?
- (iv) Is the partners' timeline for the roll-out / scale-up of the intervention such that there will be adequate time to design an impact evaluation and collect baseline survey data prior to roll-out / scale-up?

Timeline and Steps

1. Prospective partners should submit expressions of interest (EOIs) by the **submission deadline**, which is **5pm US Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, 6 February 2019**. Each EOI submission follow the guidelines outlined below in the “**Expression of Interest Application Form**”. EOIs should be submitted as a Word document by email to Brittany Hill (bnhill@worldbank.org).
2. GIL's steering committee will select a maximum of 5 finalist projects from amongst the EOIs with the understanding that some may not make it past the concept note stage and we have full funding for 3. The selection will take place by March 2019.
3. An “evaluation team” for each of the selected projects will be assembled by GIL, subject to the approval of the project team. The evaluation team will include (a) at least one GIL staff researcher, (b) *optional*: researcher(s) identified by the project team in this EOI, and (c) *optional*: additional researcher(s) identified by GIL who can add value to the evaluation. Evaluation teams will form in March 2019.
4. Each “project team” and “evaluation team” pair will work together to come up with a design for a rigorous impact evaluation, that will be described in a “concept note”.³

² GIL impact evaluation results are published in written formats that are made openly and freely available: as policy briefs, academic working papers and journal articles. GIL also presents results to relevant World Bank project teams, partners, government counterparts, and decision-makers at development agencies, both at international fora and in the countries where GIL is working. All data collected as part of GIL impact evaluations will be de-identified and publicly released according to the World Bank Open Data Initiative standards.

³ Concept notes must include the key questions that the impact evaluation will try to answer; the interventions and the theory of change behind them, the methods used to identify causal impact, the key indicators/outcomes to be

5. Once a project team and evaluation team pair jointly finalizes their impact evaluation concept note, the document will undergo a formal “concept note review” process, during which three technical reviewers will either approve the concept note or ask for it to be revised.⁴ We anticipate that most (if not all) projects will eventually receive approval.
6. Simultaneously with step 5, each project team and evaluation team pair will request from GIL the funding resources needed to support data collection. Each impact evaluation team will be able to decide upon and organize who and how they will carry out their data collection.
7. Given our experience with how long the impact evaluation design stage typically takes, we anticipate that baseline surveys will likely begin in late 2019. Fast tracking of projects whose designs are already well-advanced may be possible after projects have been selected.

Priority Questions

All impact evaluations on women’s land tenure security will be built around new or existing interventions to strengthen women’s land tenure security in rural Africa. Under this call for expressions of interest, GIL will prioritize those interventions that can help answer one or more of these priority questions on women’s land tenure security.

- (i) What works to promote joint or individual female land titling or certification, and do these narrow investment and productivity gender gaps?
- (ii) Does land titling and the form it takes (individual, joint, etc.) narrow or widen gender gaps in land tenure security?
- (iii) What impact does strengthening a woman’s land tenure security have on her earnings and income sources, including off-farm employment and earnings?
- (iv) How are resources shared and controlled within the household, and how much control do women exert over land and other resources within the household?
- (v) What interventions work to shift these dynamics, including community and household norms around land rights?
- (vi) What are the effects of complementary interventions (e.g. credit, information) in settings with multiple institutional and market inefficiencies?

used, the sources of data to be used, the project and evaluation team members and their responsibilities, the timeline for activities, and a budget for the impact evaluation.

⁴ The Technical Reviewers will consider whether the research questions are well specified, the methodology is technically sound, the sample size is sufficiently large, the team has adequate expertise, and the concept note is realistic in its assumptions, risks, external validity, and measurement challenges.

Expression of Interest Application Form

There is no specific word or page limit. Please use the space that you need to answer the questions fully. We ask that no EOI be longer than 15 pages⁵. Concise clarity of expression is prized above presentation. In your EOI application, please replace the text below that is in black with the text of your answer.

1. **Project Name:** (a) Name of Project
2. **Project Team:** (a) Name of organization(s)/team⁶ that is or will be implementing the project to be evaluated – i.e. the “Project Team”. (b) If multiple, list all and explain the respective roles of each. (c) *For World Bank projects only*, list the name of the TTL and any co-TTLs. (d) If a team separate from the Project Team is submitting this EOI, please list and describe the relationship between the two.
3. **Contact information:** Name, title/position, email address, and phone number (including country code), of the person we should contact for questions about this EOI, particularly questions that include the activities of the project.
4. **Project Description:** (a) What “interventions”⁷ is the Project is made up of? (b) Describe the intensity, duration, and timing of each. (c) If relevant, describe whether you think of the interventions within the project as complements or substitutes to each other, and why. (d) If the Project is comprised of multiple interventions bundled together, are you willing to deliver the interventions separately? (e) Is the Project Team willing to experiment with implementation arrangements, interventions, and/or target groups?
5. **Geography:** (a) What country(ies), region(s), district(s), province(s), towns, etc. will this project take place in? The intervention must be carried out within rural Sub-Saharan Africa. (b) To what extent is this fixed or flexible?
6. **Timing considerations:** The timing of the Project may be influenced by factors such as commitments made to donors, agricultural cycles, the rainy season, political cycles, etc. (a) Please describe any such considerations pertaining to this Project. (b) When is implementation expected to start? (c) If there are any plans for phased roll-out, describe. (d) For World Bank projects only, please list your expected or actual World Bank board date.
7. **Gender:** (a) Describe the extent to which the Project targets men and/or women. (b) Describe any ideas you have about how the program may work differently for men and women. (c) If applicable, describe any measures or innovations taken to tailor the Project to better meet women's and men's

⁵ If you need extra space, please attach additional content as an appendix.

⁶ Given that many organizations have many divisions and teams within them, please also clearly explain which division/team prepared this EOI, and where it fits within the organization

⁷ For example, a Project may include an individual land registration component, a communal land registration component, and an agricultural extension component. Each of these is an “intervention”.

specific needs and/or to address gender related issues. (d) If applicable, describe whether and how the program is expected to have an impact on gender-based violence.

8. **Impacts and Beneficiaries:** (a) Briefly describe the Project’s overall impact objectives, and the specific impacts you expect each intervention to have. (b) Describe whom the Project is targeted to directly benefit, as well as anticipated indirect beneficiaries⁸ (c) Describe the anticipated number of direct beneficiaries, including any funding constraints.⁹ (d) *For World Bank projects only*, include the PDO and the indicator(s) for tracking the PDO.
9. **Comparison Group:** Impact evaluations often compare a treatment group of program beneficiaries to a comparison group of non-beneficiaries. Have you already identified how you might create treatment and comparison groups for an impact evaluation of your Project? If yes, briefly describe. (If the team has not done this, this will be a critical part of the early work of the evaluation team with the project team). Randomization: While not all of GIL’s studies are based on a research design that randomly allocates potential project beneficiaries to a treatment and control group, randomization is GIL’s preferred evaluation method. Please describe briefly your willingness to build a randomization approach into the evaluation.
10. **Potential to probe critical knowledge gaps:** Please describe which, if any, of GIL’s priority questions on women’s land tenure security you think that an impact evaluation of this intervention may be able to help answer. Please do not just list the questions that you think are applicable – please also describe your thinking behind why you selected these.
11. **Project Team’s capacity:** (a) Briefly describe the Project Team’s qualifications and experience to successfully carry out the Project at the proposed scale. (b) Describe the status of the funding that will support the Project.¹⁰
12. **Risk factors:** Describe any organizational, environmental, political, or other threats that may keep the project from starting; from going as planned; or from finishing. Please also describe your plans for protecting the project from these threats.
13. **Organizational commitment to learning and to a potential partnership:** (a) Describe who on the Project Team and at the Project Team’s organizations knows about and supports this EOI. (b) Describe the Project Team’s motivation for wanting to partner with GIL.
14. **Funding for the impact evaluation’s data collection:** The major cost of an impact evaluation is for data collection (i.e., baseline and endline surveys). Has the Project Team already identified and/or secured funding for these data collection costs? If yes, describe. If no, just indicate.

⁸ For example, these may be beneficiaries’ households, neighbors, communities, etc.

⁹ I.e. the project has funds to serve x people, but the organization/team is seeking funds to serve an additional y people.

¹⁰ Here we are asking about the funding for the intervention(s) that the project team will implement. We are not asking about funding for the impact evaluation.

15. **Preferences to work with specific researchers (optional):** If you already have specific researchers in mind, whom you would like to work with on the impact evaluation, please list their names and institutions here.

16. **Other additional information:** If there is any other thing that you would like us to know, please include it here.