Recruitment Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator

Terms of Reference

November 2019

1. Summary

The Development Impact Evaluation unit (DIME) is launching its recruitment process for field coordinators (FCs) to work on a large portfolio of impact evaluation (IE) studies in the agricultural and rural development sector. The process aims to select all consultants who will join DIME from December 2019 to June 2020 but could be extended based on performance and project development. The consultants will be based in country’s capital city and work with the DIME team to build client governments’ capacity for evidence-based policy-making through the cycle of several IEs. The consultants’ main responsibility will be to coordinate the implementation of the IE work in the field working closely with the project implementation team, prepare and supervise large scale survey's and delivering training to the clients as needed. The consultants will also be involved in analytical aspects of the IE.

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.

Agricultural development is crucial, not only for poverty reduction but for many other SDGs as well. Ending hunger and improving nutrition for the 13 percent of people in the developing world, who are hungry, requires restructuring the agricultural value-chain; from inputs suppliers to farmers who grow food to retailers who sell it to consumers. As a sector contributing both carbon emissions and capture and uniquely susceptible to climate and extreme weather, agricultural innovations can offer solutions to climate change through both mitigation and adaptation. Through rigorous impact evaluations imbedded in large scale projects across multiple countries, DIME builds evidence on the innovations that best address all these challenges. This call is for the recruitment of FC to support DIME agriculture and rural tranformation portfolio in Kenya, Burkina-Faso, and Ivory Coast.

Kenya

Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank Operational Team, DIME’s portfolio is focused on the interaction between input subsidies, inputs/outputs markets, extension services, and digital technologies for spurring sustainable agricultural growth and rural transformation. For example, DIME is currently trying to test the impacts of a significant reform in Kenya’s agriculture policy, through a
program that shifts the system of delivery of inputs and agriculture technology. Spread across 10 counties and reaching approximately 100,000 farmers in the calendar-year 2020, this ambitious reform aims to transform farmers’ productivity and income while also increasing local retailer and input-market efficiency. The intervention will be started in February 2020 and a very large-scale baseline survey of almost 10,000 farmers will follow – along a similar time-frame. The FC for this role will have experience working with large-scale government programs and working with a survey firm that is managing a large pool of enumerators to implement a huge survey.

**Burkina**

In Burkina Faso, DIME is working both with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture on questions related to sustainable land management practices (SLM), as well as agricultural technology adoption by smallholder farmers. An ongoing impact evaluation is trying to unpack the role of conservation incentives and social networks for the diffusion of SLM practices. The endline data collection targeting about 2000 farmers is about to be rolled out starting early December. In addition, a follow up experiment is being designed that will leverage the cash transfers received by farmers as part of the conservation incentives and identify how the interaction between cash constraints and information asymmetries affect the adoption of productive agricultural inputs by farmers. This experiment will work with agro-dealers across the country and use digital technologies to address information and coordination failures issues. The FC for this position will support the ongoing endline data collection, and support the design and later the implementation of the new experiment by providing in-country insights and feedback to the research team as needed. Therefore, experience running surveys with strict quality requirements, and monitoring the implementation of RCTs would be important requirements for this position.

**Ivory Coast**

In Ivory coast, DIME, in partnership with the WB FCI Global practice, and the Gender Innovation Lab, through the Women Entrepreneurship and Finance Initiative (WeFi), is at the initial stage of an experimental project that aims to identify market access constraints faced by women farmers in the Gbeke and San Pedro regions. The role is to pilot digital market platforms for linking women farmers to local providers of transport and extensions services, as well as output market opportunities, and understand how they affect on-farm production practices, market participation, and income. The FC for this project will be expected to support the design and implementation of the experiment and coordinate all aspects of data collection activities. The FC is therefore expected to have a good technical command of RCT designs and implementation, great interpersonal skills, and experience coordinating large data collection.

**3. Tasks**

The tasks per project include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Act as a liaison among members of the research team, government representatives, local stakeholders and other locally hired field staff to promote understanding of and support for the impact evaluation.
• Contribute to the development and implementation of field protocols and procedures and survey instruments, including: field protocol, data quality protocol, recruitment of field staff, pilot testing instruments, and production of progress reports.
• Conduct training sessions with stakeholders
• Coordinate data collection activities and compile data as appropriate (e.g. administrative data, community surveys, interviews etc.)
• Supervise the implementation of data collection and data entry activities (including helping in training field and data entry staff, conducting random spot checks of the activities, making sure that the data quality protocols are adhered to etc.)
• Ensure that interventions are carried out as planned. This may include ensuring IT systems for inspections are installed, inspection forms and checklists are properly used, tablets are prepared and available, and other similar tasks.
• Closely monitor the implementation of the interventions to be evaluated to ensure that the identification strategy is not compromised, identify possibilities of mid-line and qualitative data collection, and plan the first follow-up data collection and entry. Send weekly progress reports on the implementation to the research team.
• Conduct data cleaning and support the team with data analysis. This includes the review of data files and data cleaning to ensure all observations are uniquely identified and reported data are internally consistent; conduct merging across data files to ensure clean merges.
• Support in-country capacity building by helping train local hires and stakeholders in impact evaluation methodology, data collection, etc.
• Support the dissemination of impact evaluation methodology and results.
• Perform other related tasks, upon request.

4. Requirements
The consultant should present the following qualifications:

• Master’s degree in economics or related fields
• Experience in developing technology and using big data to study economic and market issues.
• Advanced programming skills in R, Stata and Python preferred
• Knowledge of SurveyCTO or another ODK-based platform.
• Excellent interpersonal skills
• Experience in developing countries preferred
• Excellent written and spoken English (and French for BF and CIV). In addition, proficiency in any of the local languages of the country of appointment would be a plus.

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