



Program Description



Background and Context

The Spanish Trust Fund for Impact Evaluation (SIEF) is the largest trust fund ever established in the World Bank focused on impact evaluation. A €10.4 million program funded by Spain, complemented with \$1,5 millions from the United Kingdom, its goal is to support the World Bank in evaluating the impact of innovative programs to improve human development (HD) outcomes. It will support prospective, rigorous evaluations in eligible developing countries, impact evaluation training, publications, and dissemination of results.

As Spain scales up its own development assistance, improving aid effectiveness and promoting results-based management in its own agencies and in partner developing countries is increasingly important. The SIEF is advancing global knowledge on "what works" to promote MDGs and other key HD goals. It is building the capacity of developing countries, World Bank staff, Spanish and other development partner agency staff to carry out rigorous impact evaluations and effectively utilize the results.

SIEF's Priority Agenda - The SIEF supports three types of activities:

1. *Impact Evaluations of Priority Programs via Three Separate Windows*

SIEF has given funds to new impact evaluations and/or follow-on funding to complete already-launched evaluations with priority given to randomized, prospective evaluations; alternative designs may be supported when well justified. Priority was given to evaluations of programs supported by World Bank lending, but the program was also open to other activities (e.g., NGO-implemented programs or government programs not currently supported by Bank lending) that had high potential relevance to future Bank operations.

Cluster Fund

The goal of the Cluster Fund is to systematically try to evaluate similar interventions in different country contexts. The SIEF Technical Committee allocated US \$5.9 million to fund 26 impact evaluations in the following clusters: HIV/AIDS Prevention, Conditional Cash Transfers, Basic Education Accountability, Malaria Control, Health Contracting/Performance and Active Labor Markets/Youth Employment.

Innovation Fund

Unlike the SIEF Cluster Fund, the SIEF Innovation Fund (US \$2.6 million) supports **individual impact evaluations** that are highly innovative. Under this call, "innovative" refers to:

1. *Promising technologies which have not been implemented or rigorously evaluated before in developing countries.*

Impact Evaluation Highlights:

The SIEF is currently providing funding to over **39** impact evaluations generating key evidence on "what works" in areas ranging from conditional cash transfers to prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission in Tanzania, to pay-for-performance schemes in providing maternal health services in Argentina, to community managed school projects in Nepal.

2. *New methods of service delivery which have not been implemented or rigorously evaluated before in developing countries.*

As one of the core objectives of the SIEF is to understand the scope for non-HD interventions and programs to improve HD outcomes, the Innovation Fund made awards through two separate windows:

- **HD Window (\$1 million)** – for the following sectors/themes: **poverty and hunger; education; social protection & labor; health; HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; gender; fertility and reproductive health; children and youth; disability**
- **SD Window (\$1 million)** – for the following sectors: **water, sanitation and housing**

The innovation fund is supporting four evaluations in human development in Kenya, Uganda, Philippines and Liberia and eight evaluations in social development in South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay, Brazil/Uruguay and Peru.

Quick WinsFund

The Quick Wins Impact Evaluations represent a small number of high quality impact evaluations that demonstrated urgent funding needs and allowed the SIEF to start off strongly. The Technical Committee allocated \$1.5 million to these programs.

For additional information on the programs funded by SIEF please visit: www.worldbank.org/sief.

2. Regional Training Courses on Impact Evaluation

SIEF supports up to 5 field-based Impact Evaluation workshops per year in order to build staff, client and donor capacity for measuring results, evaluating impact and using evaluation evidence for policy.



Training Highlights: SIEF has sponsored several regional workshops in 2008 – Philippines, Nicaragua, Egypt and Spain and 2009 –South Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Jordan and Peru-attracting more than 1,200 researchers and policy makers from more than 50 countries. In the workshops participants learn and develop impact evaluation designs. In 2010 there are scheduled three more workshops in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Brazil.

3. Results Dissemination

SIEF funds high quality global policy studies synthesizing the evidence generated on "what works" to promote HD outcomes; global and regional conferences to disseminate major results; public access databases and Spanish translation of research results.

ABOUT HD NETWORK IMPACT EVALUATION PROGRAMS

The mission of the Office of the Chief Economist (CE) for the Human Development Network is to improve the analytical and operational quality of the World Bank's efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive "investment in people".

The CE unit is responsible for advising on the quality of analytical work conducted by staff of the HD Network, with primary focus on the areas of education, health, HIV/AIDS, social protection, children and youth and disability. The goal is to develop assistance based policy advice for local governments, as well as international agencies and donors.

The CE unit is actively involved in research to strengthen the knowledge base for HD policy by promoting systematic impact evaluations in Bank-supported HD projects, and in training Bank staff and government officials on the value of evidence from rigorous impact evaluations and for policy and program design.