

SPANISH IMPACT EVALUATION FUND (SIEF)

CLUSTER FUND: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

I. INTRODUCTION

The SIEF is a new €10.4 million program funded by Spain to support the World Bank in evaluating the impact of innovative programs to improve HD policy, programs and outcomes. It will support prospective, randomized evaluations in eligible developing countries, impact evaluation training, and make available limited funds for publications, and dissemination of results. The program will run from July 2007–July 2010. This is the largest trust fund ever established in the World Bank focused on impact evaluation and results.

Funding for impact evaluations through the SIEF is available through three windows: Quick Wins (awarded July 2007), Cluster Fund and Innovation Fund (call expected January 2008). SIEF funding covers a range of impact evaluation related expenses, including staff and consultant time and travel for impact evaluation activities, data collection, etc.

We are pleased to invite proposals for the Cluster Fund window. The funding envelope for this call for proposals is up to **US \$6 million and will be allocated to support up to 6 priority clusters. Funding for individual evaluations will not exceed US \$600,000.**

If there are not enough suitable applications in this round, the Technical Committee may reserve some of the funds for a second call of proposals under this cluster window no later than January 2008.

II. CLUSTER FUND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Cluster Fund will provide multi-year funding commitments to support up to 6 priority clusters. In order to qualify for funding, evaluations need to fulfill the following criteria:

- 1. Technical Requirements:** Priority will be given to **new, randomized, prospective evaluations**; alternative designs will be supported only when well justified and on an exceptional basis
- 2. Cluster Affiliation:** Evaluations funded under this window must be part of a **pre-identified or new cluster of impact evaluations**. Clusters are groups of impact evaluations which systematically evaluate similar interventions in different country contexts. The program management team will group related evaluations proposed under this call to form new clusters. Evaluations that ultimately do not qualify as part of a cluster may be eligible for funding under a separate Innovation Fund window.
- 3. Eligible Countries:** Evaluations must take place within the 72 eligible countries identified by the donor. See Annex 1 for the list of eligible countries.
- 4. Eligible Sectors:** Evaluations must fall under at least one of the following 11 priority sectors identified by the donor. See Annex 2 for the list of eligible sectors.

III. PROCESS

The selection process for SIEF Clusters will involve a two-stage process.

Stage 1

Interested staff must submit individual evaluation proposals to the Program Manager Barbara Bruns (HDNVP) with copy to Adam J. Ross, no later than **September 14, 2007**. These proposals will be screened for eligibility and grouped into clusters for review by the **Technical Committee**¹. The Technical Committee will rank the clusters and commission full Cluster Briefs from the top 10 ranked clusters. At the same time, the technical committee will nominate SIEF Cluster Leaders for the top 10 ranked clusters who will be responsible for preparing the Cluster Briefs.

Stage 2

The **Technical Committee** will review the Cluster Briefs from the clusters selected in stage 1. Up to 6 clusters will be selected to receive funding under SIEF. The amount of funding allocated to each cluster will be determined by the Technical Committee. **Cluster funding allocations will be announced in November, 2007.**

Once SIEF clusters have been selected, all individual impact evaluation designs will be subject to an independent technical review by two qualified peer reviewers. Individual impact evaluations with approved designs will be allocated funding by the Cluster Leader with SIEF Program Manager approval. Funding commitments will typically be multi-year, but the release of subsequent tranches will be contingent upon the achievement of specified performance milestones.

IV. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Technical Committee and Program Management team will review and rate clusters based on the following criteria:

1. Policy Relevance: What is the strategic importance of the cluster in relation to the World Bank's operations? How important are the results in informing future World Bank policies?
2. Cluster Depth: How well developed is the cluster? How many rigorous examples of country cases are currently underway?
3. Technical Quality: What is the overall technical quality of the evaluation? How rigorous is the identification strategy given the constraints of the intervention? What is the level of randomization? What are the sample sizes and sampling framework? Does the evaluation have sufficient power to determine an impact?
4. Capacity for Delivery: What are the qualifications and track record of the proposed evaluation team? What is the likelihood of successfully implementing the evaluation?

¹ The Technical Committee, appointed by the HD Vice President, include Maureen Lewis (Acting Chief Economist, Chair); Shanta Devarajan, Manny Jimenez, Beth King, Tamar Manuelyan, Ariel Fiszbein, and Barbara Bruns. TC members recuse themselves from funding decisions on any evaluations they are involved in.

5. Timeline for Result: How soon will results be available for publication and dissemination? Will they be available in FY 2010? What is the current stage within the evaluation cycle?

V. TIMELINE

Please submit all proposals via email to the Program Manager Barbara Bruns (HDNVP) bbruns@worldbank.org with copy to Adam J. Ross (HDNVP) aross@worldbank.org, no later than **COB September 14, 2007**.

Other important dates include:

1. Technical Committee commissions Cluster Briefs for the 10 top-ranked clusters: **September 20, 2007**
2. Deadline for Cluster Briefs: **October 12, 2007**
3. Technical Committee reviews Cluster Briefs and proposes funding allocations: **October, 2007**
4. Steering Committee approves Cluster Fund program: **November, 2007 (tbc)**

VI. FORMAT

Bank Staff must use the attached proposal template (SIEF Cluster Fund.doc). The proposal template has 5 pages. The total length of completed proposals allowed is as follows: 2 pages for **Proposal Cover Sheets**; 1 page maximum for **Cluster Details**; 2 pages maximum for **Impact Evaluation details**. Proposals that violate these guidelines will not be reviewed.

VII. QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION

Please contact Adam J. Ross (HDNVP) at (x39862) or aross@worldbank.org in case of questions regarding the proposal template or the selection process. Additional information and updates are available at the SIEF webpage: <http://go.worldbank.org/DEDZ796Z90>.

ANNEX 1: Eligible Countries

Latin America		Middle East and North Africa	Eastern Europe
Argentina	Haiti	Algeria	Albania
Bolivia	Honduras	Egypt	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Brazil	Jamaica	Jordan	Turkey
Chile	Mexico	Lebanon	
Colombia	Nicaragua	Morocco	
Costa Rica	Panama	Syria	
Dominican Republic	Paraguay	Tunisia	
Ecuador	Peru	West Bank & Gaza	
El Salvador	Uruguay		
Guatemala	Venezuela		
Sub-Saharan Africa		East Asia	South Asia
Angola	Malawi	Cambodia	Afghanistan
Benin	Mali	China	Bangladesh
Botswana	Mauritania	Indonesia	India
Burkina Faso	Mozambique	Philippines	Nepal
Cape Verde	Namibia	Timor-Leste	Pakistan
DR of Congo	Niger	Vietnam	Sri Lanka
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria		
Eritrea	Rwanda		
Ethiopia	Sao Tome & Principe		
Ghana	Senegal		
Guinea-Bissau	South Africa		
Kenya	Sudan		
Lesotho	Tanzania		
Liberia	Uganda		
Madagascar			

ANNEX 2: Eligible Sectors

1. Poverty and Hunger
2. Education
3. Social Protection & Labor
4. Health
5. HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
6. Gender
7. Fertility and reproductive health
8. Children and Youth
9. Disability
10. Water and Sanitation to improve HD outcomes
11. Housing to improve HD outcomes