

**Spanish-World Bank Trust Fund for Impact Evaluation and Results Based  
Management in Human Development Sectors  
(SIEF)**

## **INNOVATION FUND: CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The SIEF (Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund) is a €10.4 million program funded by Spain to support the World Bank in evaluating the impact of innovative programs aimed at improving Human Development (HD) outcomes. SIEF supports prospective, rigorous evaluations in 11 eligible sectors/themes and 72 eligible developing countries (see Annexes). SIEF also supports training programs to build capacity for high quality impact evaluation, and publications and dissemination of results. The program was launched in July 2007 and will run until December 2010.

SIEF funding for impact evaluations is available through three channels: Quick Wins (awarded July 2007), Cluster Fund (awarded January 2008) and Innovation Fund.

We are pleased to invite proposals for the Innovation Fund, which has a **2008 funding envelope of US \$2.6 million**. In contrast to the SIEF Cluster Fund, the SIEF Innovation Fund will support **individual impact evaluations**. The objective of the Innovation Fund is to support impact evaluations of innovative programs in areas of high policy relevance. A key goal of the Innovation Fund is to support evaluations with high demonstration potential. In every case, the research must focus on interventions, programs and approaches **that affect HD outcomes**, even if the intervention or program is not in a HD sector.

Under this call, “innovative” refers to:

1. *Promising technologies which have not been implemented or rigorously evaluated before in developing countries*
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 will make awards through two separate windows:

- ***HD Window (up to \$1 million)*** -- for the following SIEF-eligible 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 (up to \$1.6 million)*** – for the following SIEF-eligible sectors: **water and sanitation; housing**

No proposal will be funded through either window, however, unless it meets a threshold standard of technical rigor and team quality. If insufficient applications meet the quality threshold, funds will be reserved for a future call for proposals.

## II. INNOVATION FUND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Innovation Fund will fund individual evaluation proposals. To be eligible for funding, evaluations must meet the following criteria.

- 1. Eligible Countries:** Evaluations must take place within one or more of the 72 eligible countries identified by the donor. See Annex 1 for the list of eligible countries.
- 2. Eligible Sectors:** Evaluations under both windows must fall under at least one of the 11 priority sectors and themes identified by the donor. See Annex 2 for the list of eligible sectors. *Evaluations in the area of any of the 6 SIEF-funded clusters (see Annex 3) will be given lower priority in competing for funding under the SIEF Innovation Fund window.*
- 3. Eligible Programs:** All evaluations must be managed by a World Bank staff member who is TFLAP certified. The staff member may be a project TTL or leader or a member of the evaluation research team, but he or she will be responsible for managing any SIEF funding awarded. Evaluation teams may include outside consultants and researchers and participation of local researchers is especially encouraged. Preference is given to evaluations of World Bank supported programs, but evaluations of programs being implemented by governments or NGOs are also eligible.
- 4. Technical Design:** SIEF funding is reserved for **prospective** impact evaluations, with robust identification strategies (valid treatment and control groups).
- 5. Innovative Interventions/Programs:** Proposals must demonstrate: i) the innovative nature of the intervention or service delivery approach; ii) the theoretical basis for expecting that the intervention will have significant impacts on HD outcomes (ie, a clear and analytically persuasive results chain); iii) the policy relevance of the intervention and HD outcomes to be studied; and iv) the current state of evidence or knowledge on the proposed program's impacts.
- 6. Funding Restrictions:** Funding may be requested for new or ongoing evaluations that meet the above criteria. Funding for individual evaluations will **not exceed US \$400,000** (including any previous SIEF grants, such as under the Quick Wins window). SIEF funding may be used for all impact evaluation related expenses including Bank staff/consultant time, travel, and data collection. Under the Innovation Fund window, up to 5% of the funds awarded may be used to support intervention costs.

The SIEF program team will review all proposed budgets to ensure that these are in line with our costing norms for different types of evaluation work. Budgets must present total evaluation costs and information about all other sources of funding (approved and/or pending). Budgets must also break down funding requirements by calendar year and specify the dates for key evaluation milestones (final approved concept note, baseline

data report, first round data report, final round data report, etc). More details and examples may be found on the SIEF website.

7. **Timeline.** The evaluation timeline must demonstrate that at least one round of follow-on data collection and analysis of results will be completed by December 2010.

### III. APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit all proposals via email to SIEF Program Manager Barbara Bruns (HDNVP) at [siefproposals@worldbank.org](mailto:siefproposals@worldbank.org), no later than **COB June 11, 2008**.

Applicants are requested to use the attached proposal and budget template (SIEF Innovation Fund Template.doc and SIEF Innovation Fund Budget.xls). Completed proposals should be **no longer than 10 pages**. Teams seeking funding for ongoing impact evaluations are encouraged to submit all available supplemental documents, such as: i) final concept note; ii) peer review comments on concept note; iii) report on baseline data collection; iv) instruments; v) reports on follow-on data collection rounds. *Applicants from previous SIEF rounds who received feedback encouraging them to apply to the Innovation Fund must please resubmit their proposals, using the new template.*

All proposals will be screened for eligibility. Eligible proposals will be reviewed by the **SIEF Technical Committee**<sup>1</sup> at end-June 2008. The Technical Committee will rank proposals and award funding based on the selection criteria identified below. For the purposes of reviewing proposals in the SD window, adjunct members from the SD network have been invited to join the SIEF Technical Committee.

Technically-vetted proposals will be presented to the SIEF Steering Committee in mid-July and the SIEF awards will be communicated to applicants at the beginning of August.

As with the other SIEF funding windows, proposals that are awarded funding will not actually access funds until they have passed an independent technical review by at least one qualified external peer reviewer. Guidelines for the peer review process – and a list of approved external reviewers -- may be found on the SIEF website. Funding commitments will typically be multi-year, but the release of annual funding tranches will be contingent upon the achievement of specified performance milestones.

Key dates:

1. Application Deadline: **June 11, 2008**
2. Technical Committee review meeting: **July 9, 2008 (tbc)**
3. Steering Committee approves Innovation Fund program: **July 23, 2008 (tbc)**
4. Innovation Fund awards communicated to evaluation TTLs: **August 1, 2008 (tbc)**

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<sup>1</sup> The standing SIEF Technical Committee, appointed by the HD Vice President, is chaired by Ariel Fiszbein and includes seven members: Shanta Devarajan, Manny Jimenez, Tamar Manuelyan, Harold Alderman, Elizabeth King and Barbara Bruns. SD proposals will be reviewed by three members of the standing SIEF Technical Committee plus four adjunct members from the SD Network invited to participate in this round: Mila Freire, Bill Maloney, Kaus Lorch., and a fourth member to be determined. Under SIEF guidelines, TC members recuse themselves from funding decisions if they are directly involved with any proposed evaluations in the funding window under consideration.

#### **IV. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Technical Committee and Program Management team will review and rank proposals against the following criteria:

1. Policy Relevance and Demonstration Potential: What is the strategic importance of the evaluation in relation to the World Bank's operations? How important would the results be for informing future World Bank policies and/or policy dialogue? If the program being evaluated is a pilot or an efficacy trial, how likely is it to be scaleable or sustainable at scale? How valid are the results for policy and program design in other countries and regions?
2. Innovation: Does the intervention represent a new or untested technology or service delivery method to improve HD outcomes? Is there a clear and analytically persuasive results chain that links the intervention to important HD outcomes? Is the intervention qualitatively different from other, currently available technologies or programs aimed at promoting similar outcomes? Is the existing evidence base on the HD impacts of the intervention insufficient? Does the proposal provide a complete review of existing evidence?
3. Technical Quality: What is the overall technical quality of the evaluation? Does the econometric identification strategy produce unbiased program impacts? Does the evaluation design guarantee a low probability of selection bias, endogeneity bias, or other common biases that may violate the internal validity of estimated impacts? Is the proposed sample size sufficient to detect minimum desired effects on primary outcome indicators as well as pre-intervention balance between treatment and comparison groups? Has the evaluation design addressed issues of external validity?
4. Capacity for Delivery: What are the qualifications and track record of the proposed evaluation team? How strong is partner (government and/or NGO) support for the program -- and for carrying out a rigorous evaluation? What is the likelihood of the program being fully implemented? What is the likelihood of the team successfully completing the evaluation with the proposed design unaltered?
5. Realism of Budget and Timeline: How tightly budgeted is the proposal? Are unit costs for proposed surveys or evaluation activities within norms for other SIEF-funded evaluations? Is the timeline credible? Has the team been active in seeking other sources of financing for the evaluation?

#### **V. FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please contact Adam J. Ross (HDNVP) at (x39862) or [aross@worldbank.org](mailto: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://www.worldbank.org/sief>

## ANNEX 1: Eligible Countries

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

## ANNEX 2: Eligible Sectors and Themes

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

## ANNEX 3: SIEF Clusters

1. Performance Based Contracting in Health	4. Malaria Control
2. Active Labor Market Programs and Youth Employment	5. Basic Education Accountability
3. Conditional Cash Transfer Programs	6. HIV/AIDS Prevention

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