

Call for proposals 6

Covid-19 Recovery

Appendix

ID	Country	Sector	Topic
01	Lesotho	Social Protection and Jobs	Integrating livelihoods support into a social assistance program targeting households with children
02	Dominican Republic	Social Protection and Jobs	Multiple social assistance programs
03	Brazil	Education	Mitigating learning losses and dropout through teach-at-the-right-level approaches and an early warning system
04	Ethiopia	Social Protection and Jobs	Competitive grants to establish new short-cycle training programs or expand existing programs for youth
05	Moldova	Education	Supporting learning recovery and refugees through tech-enabled assessments and tutoring
06	Dominican Republic	Education	Personalized adaptive learning platforms to improve math skills
07	Panama	Health	Tele-health and video-consultations for patients recovering from COVID and patients with chronic illnesses
08	Lao PDR	Health	Report cards and performance pay in health centers.

Project ID	01
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Lesotho
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Social Development (MoSD)
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	The MoSD is interested in measuring the impacts of integrating livelihoods support measures in their social protection programming. Lesotho has sought to develop and scale up a lifecycle approach to social protection programming and has worked on consolidating social assistance programs through investments in core delivery systems and on expanding coverage and better targeting of existing programs, the most important one being the Child Grant Program (CGP), which targets poor households with children under the age of 18 and provides them with cash transfer as consumption support. Now, the MoSD would like to focus on pandemic recovery by enhancing the efficiency of CGP through the integration of livelihood opportunities, complementing cash transfers with a package of economic inclusion measures.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate “timeline open” if there is no particular date	The timeline is open. There is an opportunity to embed a rigorous evaluation in the economic inclusion program to be piloted and scaled up under the Lesotho Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Project. The overall project is slated to start implementation in July 2022 and will last for 5 years.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	Administrative data includes the national social registry – the NISSA, which includes data on all households in Lesotho in urban and rural areas classified into 4 groups “ultra poor”, “poor”, “non-poor” and “better off”. In addition, survey data can be collected for the purpose of the impact evaluation.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	The WB will support the MoSD in implementing the Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Project. A component of the overall project includes an economic inclusion package (mostly targeted to women) of productive services and support to enable individuals to engage in economic activities, save, and be referred to relevant health and nutrition services. The economic inclusion program will be implemented with the assistance of a service provider (technical assistance partner).
Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.

Project ID	02
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Dominican Republic
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Program Superate, SIUBEN (registry) and Minister of Economic and Planning (MEPYD)
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	The country is implementing a new poverty strategy through the SUPERATE program. SUPERATE aims to protect human capital gains of the poorest and build resilience to shocks for the vulnerable. SUPERATE benefits include several cash transfers, economic inclusion, active labor market programs, and social care support for families that take under consideration the life cycle. Therefore, the SUPERATE program can benefit from multiple impact evaluations. The most relevant one would ideally be related to the links between social assistance and economic inclusion programs.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate "timeline open" if there is no particular date	The World Bank is preparing a project. Evaluation results will be needed within the next year.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	SIUBEN, the national registry has socioeconomic characteristics of 67% of the population. The Superate program has the information for 1.3 million households. Quality of the data is good.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	Yes, there are multiple cash transfers that are new and are targeting different profiles of households - e.g a transfer to female victims of gender violence and an emergency cash transfer in case of disasters and other crises. Also there are urban employability programs and rural economic inclusion programs under discussion. Program pilots will inform future scale-up. The transfers for women have already started as a pilot. The emergency cash transfer will have an operation manual and operational guidance within the next 2-3 months and will be ready to be implemented during the hurricane season in the Dominican Republic. The employability and economic inclusion programs will start this year (2022).
Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.

Project ID	03
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Brazil
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Education
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	The client is planning to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on school dropouts and learning losses. The interventions are focused on primary and lower secondary schools.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate "timeline open" if there is no particular date	The timeline is open.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	The evaluation could combine administrative data and survey data collected during the evaluation. The quality of administrative data in Brazil is very high.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	Brazil is planning to evaluate a teach-at-the-right level approach focused on lower secondary and an early warning system. There is interest in evaluating impacts of multiple interventions.
Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.

Project ID	04
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Ethiopia
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS)
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	Youth entering the labor market with secondary school education or less is a challenge in Ethiopia. In 2019, 78 percent of the labor force had not completed primary education, and only seven percent had completed secondary education or more. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, ensuring that the school-to-work transition is successful for those that are not able to access tertiary education is particularly important in the context of 2 million youth entering the labor market each year and few job opportunities. Short-cycle skills programs are a potentially promising model for countries that are looking to reskill their labor force. The MoLS aims to establish a Skills for Jobs Challenge Fund (SJCF) to support such short-cycle skills programs through a competitive and performance-based model.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate “timeline open” if there is no particular date	The project will likely become effective early 2023, after which the SJCF will be set up. In order to take early learnings from the impact of the SJCF, it would be important to have an initial set of lessons learnt after the first cycle of awarded training contracts. The exact timeline for this is open and will depend on the research design, as well as implementation.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	The project will likely include a Management Information System (MIS) for the SJCF to track training providers contract performance, as well as the registration, enrollment, and performance of training beneficiaries. The latter will likely include demographic data, educational background, attendance records, and pre- and post-assessment data. However, as the project is currently still in the design phase, the exact details of the MIS, as well as other available data sources, will be clarified during the project preparation phase.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	The Education and Skills for Employability (EASE; P177881) Project aims to support Ethiopian youth to attain relevant skills for employability. EASE will support the MoLS to establish a competitive and performance-based skills development fund that partners with both public and private training providers to offer industry-certified market-demanded short-cycle skills programs, relevant for wage employment and self-employment. Beneficiaries of the training will be employed and unemployed youth, with

	<p>priority for women. Specific disadvantaged population groups will also be targeted.</p> <p>The Fund will focus on skills development for priority sectors that are relatively labor-intensive and have prospects for further expansion. Sectors will be identified based on assessments of current and expected local demand for labor and local market opportunity for business development, considering government sector priorities and interrelatedness. Programs to be supported will cater to the needs of the local economies and deliver relevant foundational skills, soft-skills, digital skills and entrepreneurship skills, in addition to sector-specific technical skills certified by industry.</p> <p>The Fund will offer competitive grants to establish new short-cycle training programs or expand existing programs that demonstrate potential for high employment outcomes. The competition will be designed to raise the employment returns of training programs—their projected impacts on trainee’s wage employment and entrepreneurship outcomes, which providers do not normally consider in their investment decisions. To incentivize training providers to ensure a pertinent offer and quality of training and collaborate closely with employers, rewards will be linked to the employment outcomes of their graduates, following a performance-based model. Programs that do not meet minimum employment targets will be dropped.</p>
<p>Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).</p>	<p>Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.</p>

Project ID	05
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Moldova
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Education
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	The country is interested in supporting learning recovery and refugees.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate "timeline open" if there is no particular date	Timeline open
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	Administrative. There is an EMIS and information from the Statistical Bureau.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	Tech enabled assessments and tutoring
Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.

Project ID	06
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Dominican Republic
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Education
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	The client is interested in evaluating the impact of using personalized adaptive platforms to enhance learning in public schools. We have been building this work with small pilots but the country is ready to do it at a larger scale and would require support for an impact evaluation.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate "timeline open" if there is no particular date	Within a year, but the sooner the better.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	Admin data, learning assessment data, data from previous uses of the personalized adaptive platform and previous pilots, qualitative data.
Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.	The intervention is the use of personalized adaptive learning software for Math, similar to Mindspark but in Spanish. The challenge is to come up with the appropriate comparison group and/or the implementation details. In general, the intervention will be implemented as additional time dedicated to math outside the regular math class. We are flexible on the design.
Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.

Project ID	07
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Panama
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Health
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	In order to increase access to health services for the population and to build resilience and continuity of care in case of emergencies, the Ministry of Health of Panama has started implementing a digital health program in 2021. It targets mild, asymptomatic and recovering COVID-19 patients in their homes/communities and people with chronic conditions (mainly hypertension, diabetes, asthma). The program is active in 12 out of the 15 health regions. The Ministry wants to build on the program to strengthen and expand it and a solid impact evaluation would be extremely helpful to inform this transition. The Ministry intends to transform the program in the original 12 regions from one of tele-consultations into one of video-consultations and to expand the program of tele-consultations to the health regions that currently are not covered, which are the most remote areas and/or those that host indigenous populations. There are also discussions about expanding the program to cover more conditions, but a decision has not been made in that direction yet. The pandemic has offered an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of telehealth in Panama, and an impact evaluation would be critical to fully understand its results so far, as well as factors that favored implementation and mechanisms that will favor sustainability, beyond COVID-19. In this sense, it would be very important to understand key dimensions of such programs including effectiveness, experiences of the users, equity and inclusion.
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate "timeline open" if there is no particular date	The program is under implementation now. While the timeline for expansion has not been completely finalized, the Ministry of Health has indicated that they expect to start shifting to video-consultations in the 12 regions and to include the other 3 regions in the tele-consultations program in the second half of 2022 and complete the transition by the end of 2023. It would be good to align the evaluation with this timeline for expansion, but the study design can be flexible. Some data has already been collected on the teleconsultation programs in the 12 original regions.
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	Data about number of tele-visits, including disaggregated by condition, by sex, and by age, is routinely collected by the Ministry of Health and is of relatively good quality and reliability. Additionally, surveys of user experiences are being planned and will be launched in the coming months,

	<p>but are not currently available. In addition, depending on the methodology pursued, the 2019 National Health Survey and the 2021 World Bank High Frequency Phone Survey could be used for pre-intervention data points on health service utilization, including telehealth services and services for chronic diseases. Such household surveys (in particular the National Health Survey) collect comprehensive information on individual and household characteristics. This potentially would enable researchers to explore options for a quasi-experimental evaluation of existing implementation.</p>
<p>Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.</p>	<p>The expansion of the digital health program is being supported by the Additional Financing to the Panama COVID-19 Emergency Response Project, which is expected to become effective in June 2022 and will close on December 29, 2023. Therefore, the impact evaluation could inform directly investments made by the government through the World Bank project and beyond.</p>
<p>Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).</p>	<p>Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.</p>

Project ID	08
Which client country are you working with as TTL?	Lao PDR
Which ministry or department are you mainly working with?	Ministry of Health
What specific problem is your client trying to solve that could benefit from rigorous evidence? For example, the client is trying to improve quality of care in primary clinics, or the client is trying to decrease school drop-out between primary and middle school, or the client is trying to determine the optimal way to make transfer payments.	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the capacity of the health system to continue delivering essential health services, as already limited resources for health have been reallocated to the COVID-19 response activities. Data from the health management information system (DHIS2) shows decreasing coverage in some essential health services such as measles, Penta, antenatal care. However, the data also shows some essential services rose in 2021, including delivery with skilled birth attendance and HIV.</p> <p>In support of the government’s commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2020, the Health and Nutrition Services Access (HANSA) Project, jointly co-financed with the Global Fund, DFAT and the World Bank, introduced a Quality and Performance Scorecard (QPS), a standard tool designed to systematically assess the quality and performance of the health centers in line with the Ministry of Health’s Quality of Health Care (QHC) policy. The HANSA project supports performance-based fund transfers to the health center level which are directly proportionate to their QPS score and thereby providing them flexible resources to spend on a specified set of operational expenses to support quality improvement of primary health care services at health center level. The World Bank team is interested in working with a researcher to do a quasi-experimental evaluation of this program.</p>
When would your client need evaluation results? What is the latest date that evaluation results would be useful for decision-making? Please indicate “timeline open” if there is no particular date	The results from the first phase of rollout will be needed by May 2023 to provide inputs to the project design for the new Health and Nutrition Services Access Project Phase 2 (HANSA 2).
What kind of data access could you facilitate for research purposes? Are there administrative data sources that might be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	<p>The data available for the research include the QPS data that is collected using assessment tools including: (i) Quality and Performance Scorecard; (ii) a list of Essential Equipment; (iii) a List of Medicines and Supplies; (iv) vignettes for clinical cases simulation; and (v) client interviews.</p> <p>The data collected using vignette tools for case simulation are designed to assess the clinical management of a particular case (for commonly encountered clinical conditions at health centers). Currently 15 vignettes mostly focus on maternal and child health services, such as using of</p>

	<p>family planning, antenatal care, integrated well child care. Additional vignettes such as emergency obstetrics and mental health, safe abortion & post abortion care will be included for the rollout.</p> <p>The QPS assessment is administered by trained and certified assessors from the district health offices and results/data are directly input to web-enabled tablets and uploaded to DHIS2. The data are collected regularly but carefully .</p> <p>In addition, the assessment data verified by the third party agency is also available for research. Subsets of health centers are visited by the their party verification agency to validate the QPS score following the same assessment tool and methodology. In addition, health service coverage and utilization data including MCH, immunization, outpatient, inpatient services, TB, and HIV are also available at health facility level in DHIS2.</p>
<p>Are there particular interventions that are already open for discussion or in progress? Please describe and include dates of implementation if known.</p>	<p>The QPS covers the following aspects of HC quality: (i) Structural Quality measuring availability of infrastructure, essential equipment, medicines, supplies; (ii) Process Quality measuring program management assessed through vignettes; and (iii) Outcome Quality measuring client satisfaction through client interview. It includes multiple dimensions to assess the performance of service delivery and quality, including infection prevention and control, staff knowledge and skills, availability of key supplies and commodities, delivery of integrated outreach services in remote villages, and performance on priority public health programs such as MCH, nutrition and TB.</p> <p>Flexible financial incentives are made available directly to health centers to invest on quality improvements and incentivize health workers to improve their performance. A third-party verifies the assessments carried by the district level staff and the assessment includes disincentives against inflating assessment scores.</p> <p>As QPS is being rolled out, building a rigorous evaluation is needed to build an evidence base on the QPS intervention and how it has contributed to improved access to quality health services through implementation of systemic quality and performance assessment and availability of flexible funds for quality improvements. The evaluation results will directly inform a design of HANSA phase 2 which will be prepared in FY23-24 and to facilitate the government to institutionalize this performance-based transfer into the government system and sustain the continued implementation of QPS beyond the project implementation period. In this regard, we are keen to work with researchers with expertise in impact evaluation.</p>

Could you confirm that there would be funding for interventions that would be evaluated? (SIEF only funds evaluations, not the implementation of the interventions under evaluation).	Yes - there would be project preparation, project, or separate government funding.
--	--