Terms of Reference for Short Term Consultant

Research Assistant

FY 2023

Summary
The Development Impact Evaluation department (DIME) is looking for a program officer who will be working as a short-term consultant (STC) to support a portfolio of impact evaluation focused on Gender. One main project will be measuring the effects of Gender Based-Violence (GBV) in public spaces in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) on women’s physical mobility i.e. route choice, mode choice, hours of travel and economic mobility including labor force participation, occupation choice, and wages. The research team will collect data through a GBV incident reporting mobile application (app), developed by an app development firm. The team will test if the app facilitates measurement of women’s perceived safety as well as experienced harassment and sexual violence. We will test app-embedded nudges to incentivize higher reporting in the app and outside of it to authorities. The consultant will work remotely and will work with the DIME team and the partner university in charge of data collection, on the management and supervision of the data collection exercise through the incident reporting app.

Background
This research activity is being jointly implemented by the Development Economics Impact Evaluation (DIME) group and the Transport Global Practice (GP). DIME is a department of the World Bank's Development Research Group whose purpose is to increase the use of impact evaluation (IE) in the design and implementation of public policy, and to develop institutional capacity for evidence-based policy. This project falls within the ieConnect for Impact program, a joint initiative between DIME and the Transport GP, which focuses on impact evaluations that can help to provide transformative evidence and analysis for the transport sector.

DIME's objective is to increase the use of impact evaluation (IE) in the design and implementation of public policies, 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. 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.

Tasks and deliverables
The position would be of a research officer who would provide overall supervision, as well as perform analytical work. The consultants’ main responsibility will be, among others, to:

For the Tanzania Gender Based Violence project (~70% of the time)

- Lead the preparation of data collection activities, including supporting the survey firm in charge of data collection in:
  - Testing and providing feedback on the data collection instrument. Reviewing the programming of data collection instrument and ensuring their functionality;
  - Support in the random allocation of the paid and trained and unpaid individuals and contrast the reporting patterns and GBV prevalence estimations from each group;
  - Verifying that all permissions necessary for conducting the data collection activities are in place;
- Monitor the entire data collection process, including:
  - Managing the field coordinator based in Tanzania with regular check-ins and detailed feedback on the field activities;
  - Dialing into the phone interviews to adapt the mobile app;
  - Supervising the activities conducted by the survey firm hired for the exercise and ensure a daily communication with their key staff;
  - Attending and supporting the training of enumerators,
  - Managing of data we receive from mobile use and merging these with survey results while ensuring confidentiality is kept intact;
  - Lead the quality control process during the field work to data entry, including:
    - Developing high frequency checks and back-check codes;
    - Running those codes along with any other data quality checks;
    - Sending the output of quality checks to the survey firm ;
    - Ensure that appropriate corrections are made by the survey firm on the raw data and support their application when needed;
    - Review high-frequency checks results from the code developed by the research assistants of the survey firm and
    - Review reports on data collection agents’ performance and ensure that immediate corrective actions are taken to ensure the highest standards of performance;
- Lead the cleaning and analysis of data, and the writing of project reports and policy memos, including:
  - Writing well-documented, reproducible code for data cleaning, descriptive statistics, regression analysis, data visualization, and any other analysis as per project needs; document all data work on the project’s GitHub repository.
Ensure to uphold DIME’s standards of reproducibility and transparency.

Manage databases, integrating various data sources (for example, project monitoring data, administrative data from local government, and primary data). This may require programming matching algorithms, performing manual matching, and linking up with field staff for additional information on specific tasks.

- Support all the activities relevant for the successful implementation of the research, including facilitating the relationship with World Bank Tanzania office, local partners and donors

For the other projects of the Gender portfolio (~30% of the time)

- Attend and participate in the monthly GIL Federation meetings
- Support sharing and dissemination of DIME’s gender work by coordinating compilation of materials from different team members
- Responding to queries from the country offices on relevant gender work being conducted
- Revising and updating the gender sections of annual report and the gender briefs to reflect the latest FY

Skills required:

- Academic specialization: A master's degree in economics, public policy, public health, or related field; strong quantitative research skills are essential, preferably with reference to development economics or impact evaluation topics;
- Technical skills: The candidate must have technical expertise in impact evaluation and econometric analysis (including proficiency in Stata and experience with programming in an ODK based platform). Experience coding in a team environment and using GitHub is highly desirable. Experience in research in transport economics or mobile based data collection is a plus;
- Experience: Previous experience supervising data collection activities in the field; previous experience both as a field coordinator and as a research assistant would be a distinct advantage;
- Capacity Building Skills: Demonstrated ability and experience in designing and delivering training and capacity building activities or other teaching experience;
- Interpersonal skills: Motivated self-starter, with demonstrated ability to work effectively and sensitively in teams and with counterparts at all levels and with partner organizations. High levels of energy, initiative, independence and flexibility in quickly adjusting to changing work program requirements. Ability to juggle numerous competing demands and priorities, respond quickly to internal and external client requests, and set priorities for self and others. Open-mindedness and multicultural attitude to understand and get adapted easily to the local context and customs;
- Language: Superior written and oral communications skills in English are essential.

Terms

The consultant will be hired as an STC for 150 days, from September 2022 to June 30th 2023, with possibility of extension depending on consultant performance and budget availability.