World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL)
Call for Expressions of Interest:

Seeking NGOs, governments, donors, and private sector firms with interventions designed to improve women's economic empowerment in Nigeria.

Call release date: 23 November 2020
Submission deadline: 5pm US Eastern Standard Time on 8 January 2021.

Whom is this opportunity for?

Each successful applicant will meet all four criteria below:

- Be an NGO, government, donor, or private sector firm.
- Have a new or existing intervention, which they are planning to roll-out or scale-up; that could help strengthen women's economic empowerment in rural Nigeria; and for which the organization has already secured any necessary funding.
- Be interested in gaining insights into how and why their intervention is working through a scientifically sound, quantitative impact evaluation.
- Be interested in strengthening their intervention's design towards more effectively serving women.

About the World Bank Africa Region Gender Innovation Lab (GIL)

The GIL works to generate evidence on how to close gender gaps in five thematic areas: land and property rights, agriculture, youth employment and social protection, entrepreneurship, and social norms. In close collaboration with partners, the GIL designs, launches, and oversees rigorous impact evaluations of interventions. These interventions are typically carried out by NGOs, governments, and private sector programs, policies, and products.[1] Each GIL impact evaluation aims to generate evidence on what works best to close key gender gaps and relax identified constraints to women's economic empowerment. Each GIL impact evaluation is carefully selected to probe critical knowledge gaps and to meaningfully inform policymakers and project teams.

GIL is in the process of establishing a Nigeria Gender Innovation Lab which will: (1) document the magnitude and key drivers of gender gaps in economic outcomes in Nigeria; (2) generate new evidence on what works to improve women's economic empowerment in Nigeria through at least 5 new impact evaluations; and (3) coordinate with relevant stakeholders to promote the uptake and scaling of effective

[1] The GIL works in partnership with units across the World Bank, aid agencies and donors, governments, nongovernmental organizations, private sector firms, and researchers. The Lab is supported through the World Bank Group's Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE). The UFGE is a multi-donor trust fund dedicated to strengthening awareness, knowledge, and capacity for gender-informed policy-making.

policies and programs. This EOI aims to inform the evidence generation pillar of the Nigeria Gender Innovation Lab work

To learn more about GIL, visit http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-gender-innovation-lab.

About this opportunity

During 2020-2021, GIL plans to launch a new set of impact evaluation (IE) studies that evaluate interventions aimed at easing constraints faced by women in rural Nigeria. Specifically, through our analytical work, GIL has identified the following **key constraints driving gender gaps in income from economic activities in Nigeria: limited crop choice, access to inputs, labor and mechanization for women farmers; access to capital stock and position in the value chain for women entrepreneurs; sectoral segregation for female wage earners; and time availability for all working women.**

Through this EOI, GIL seeks information on interventions aiming to address one or more of the above key drivers of gender gaps in economic outcomes in Nigeria. For example, interventions may address the above constraints to women's agricultural productivity by: (1) Shifting women's crop choice from lower-value to higher-value crops; (2) Increasing fertilizer or herbicide use; or (3) Increasing access to high-productivity labor. We encourage respondent organizations to interpret the constraints broadly: agricultural interventions may also improve labor productivity by, for example, making existing labor more productive through mechanization. Self-employment/entrepreneurship-focused interventions may address the priority constraints if they help women move up the value chain or increase access to capital, potentially through innovative financing approaches that address the lower levels of collateral that women typically hold. Women's land tenure security interventions should be similarly broadly interpreted and may focus—either alone or together with complementary interventions—on titling, shifting community or household norms on women's land use rights, and/or facilitating inclusive land markets.

GIL has already secured funding to cover GIL staff time and travel, data collection, and data analysis costs associated with five new impact evaluations. **This expression of interest seeks responses from organizations ("project teams") implementing projects in rural Nigeria that aim to address key constraints to women's economic empowerment, and who may be interested in working with the Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) on an impact evaluation of their interventions.** The selected project teams will be matched with highly skilled and experienced GIL and external researchers who will, on a *pro bono* basis:

- Work with you to identify the questions your project team would like to answer through impact evaluation; work with you to develop a strong and viable impact evaluation design for your program; and lead an impact evaluation of your project (including design, data collection, and analysis);
- Provide training for your organization/team on impact evaluations; and
- Work with you to strengthen your project's design towards more effectively serving women.

Priority Research Questions

Under this call, GIL will prioritize interventions that aim to ease one or more of the key constraints (listed above) faced by women in Nigeria. In particular, it seeks to conduct studies that strive to answer one or more of the following priority questions:

(i) What works to shift women's crop choice from low-value crops to high-value crops?

(ii) Which interventions can help in promoting and increasing use of farm inputs like fertilizers and herbicides among women farmers?

(iii) What works to boost women's access to high-productivity labor and mechanization?

(iv) What works in improving women's access to land and livestock and strengthening women's land tenure security?

(v) What interventions work to enhance women entrepreneurs' access to capital?

(vi) What works to help women famers move up in the value chain?

(vii) Which initiatives work in enhancing women's access to skills and information such that female wage earners could enter male-dominated sectors and secure high-paying jobs?

(viii) What interventions work to ease women's time constraints?

EOI Selection Criteria

a. **Geographical Fit:** Will the intervention take place in rural Nigeria? GIL works across Sub-Saharan Africa but only interventions in rural Nigeria will be eligible for evaluation under this expression of interest call.

b. **Project Fit:** Is the intervention a new or existing intervention with the potential to strengthen women's economic empowerment in rural areas?

c. **Potential to Probe Critical Knowledge Gaps:** Will an impact evaluation of the intervention help answer one or more of the priority questions (listed above)?

d. **Project Partner's Capacity and Risk Factors**: Does the prospective partner have proven capacity to successfully carry out the type and scale of intervention that it is proposing? Does the partner have funding already secured to carry out the intervention? Is the environment going to be sufficiently secure within the timeframe of the project to not impede or undermine the impact evaluation?

e. **Organizational Commitment to Learning:** Partnering with researchers for a rigorous impact evaluation requires a sustained and deep-seated commitment, including buy-in from the partner's senior leadership, program managers, and sometimes, key stakeholders, including donors. It also requires a true interest in learning how one's programs are working and letting this information become publicly available when the results of the impact evaluation are published

and presented.[2] Finally, the organization and project implementation team must be willing to work constructively on an impact evaluation, including potential changes to implementation plans.

f. **Other Practical Criteria**

(i) Is there at least one potential viable comparison group that will allow for credible impact evaluation results? Will some set of impacts be measurable and observable within three years?

(ii) Are there sufficient technical skills and infrastructure in the potential study location to carry out the data collection needed for the impact evaluation?

(iii) Will the program be implemented at a sufficient scale to allow an impact evaluation to statistically detect the anticipated impacts?

(iv) Is the partners' timeline for the roll-out / scale-up of the intervention such that there will be adequate time to design an impact evaluation and collect baseline survey data prior to roll-out / scale-up?

Timeline and Steps

1. Prospective partners should submit expressions of interest (EOIs) by the **submission deadline,** which is **5pm US Eastern Standard Time on Friday, 8 January 2021**. **Each submission is to follow the guidelines outlined below in the "Expression of Interest Application Form". EOIs should be submitted as a Word document by email to Amy Copley (acopley@worldbank.org).**

2. GIL's steering committee will select a maximum of 8 finalist projects from amongst the EOIs with the understanding that some may not make it past the concept note stage and we have full funding for 5. The selection will take place by March 2021.

3. An "evaluation team" for each of the selected projects will be assembled by GIL, subject to the approval of the project team. The evaluation team will include (a) at least one GIL staff researcher, (b) *optional:* researcher(s) identified by the project team in this EOI, and (c) *optional:* additional researcher(s) identified by GIL who can add value to the evaluation. Evaluation teams will form in March 2021.

4. Each "project team" and "evaluation team" pair will work together to come up with a design for a rigorous impact evaluation, that will be described in a "concept note".[3]

[2] GIL impact evaluation results are published in written formats that are made openly and freely available: as policy briefs, academic working papers and journal articles. GIL also presents results to relevant World Bank project teams, partners, government counterparts, and decision-makers at development agencies, both at international for a and in the countries where GIL is working. All data collected as part of GIL impact evaluations will be deidentified and publicly released according to the World Bank Open Data Initiative standards.

[3] Concept notes must include the key questions that the impact evaluation will try to answer; the interventions and the theory of change behind them, the methods used to identify causal impact, the key indicators/outcomes to be used, the sources of data to be used, the project and evaluation team members and their responsibilities, the timeline for activities, and a budget for the impact evaluation.

5. Once a project team and evaluation team pair jointly finalize their impact evaluation concept note, the document will undergo a formal "concept note review" process, during which three technical reviewers will either approve the concept note or ask for it to be revised.[4] We anticipate that most (if not all) projects will eventually receive approval.

6. Simultaneously with step 5, each project team and evaluation team pair will request from GIL the funding resources needed to support data collection. Each impact evaluation team will be able to decide upon and organize who and how they will carry out their data collection.

7. Given our experience with how long the impact evaluation design stage typically takes, we anticipate that baseline surveys will likely begin in mid-to-late 2021. Fast tracking of projects whose designs are already well-advanced may be possible after projects have been selected.

Expression of Interest Application Form

There is no specific word limit. Please use the space that you need to answer the questions fully.
We ask the EOI to be **no longer than 15 pages**.[5] Concise clarity of expression is prized above presentation.
In your EOI application, please replace the text below that is in black with the text of your answer.

1. **Project Name:** Name of Project

2. **Project Team:** (a) Name of organization(s)/team[6] that is or will be implementing the Project to be evaluated – i.e. the "Project Team". (b) If multiple, list all and explain the respective roles of each. (c) *For World Bank projects only*, list the name of the TTL and any co-TTLs. (d) If a team separate from the Project Team is submitting this EOI, please list and describe the relationship between the two.

3. **Contact Information:** Name, title/position, email address, and phone number (including country code), of the person we should contact for questions about this EOI, particularly questions that include the activities of the Project.

4. **Project Description:** (a) What "interventions"[7] is the Project is made up of? (b) Describe the intensity, duration, and timing of each. (c) If relevant, describe whether you think of the interventions within the Project as complements or substitutes to each other, and why. (d) If the Project is comprised of multiple interventions bundled together, are you willing to deliver the interventions separately? (e) Is the Project Team willing to experiment with implementation arrangements, interventions, and/or target groups?

5. **Geography:** (a) What region(s), states(s), towns, etc. will this Project take place in? The intervention must be carried out within rural Nigeria. (b) To what extent is this fixed or flexible?

[4] The Technical Reviewers will consider whether the research questions are well specified, the methodology is technically sound, the sample size is sufficiently large, the team has adequate expertise, and the concept note is realistic in its assumptions, risks, external validity, and measurement challenges.
[5] If you need extra space, please attach additional content as an appendix.
[6] Given that many organizations have many divisions and teams within them, please also clearly explain which division/team prepared this EOI, and where it fits within the organization
[7] For example, a Project may include an individual land registration component, a communal land registration component, and an agricultural extension component. Each of these is an "intervention".

6. **Timing Considerations:** The timing of the Project may be influenced by factors such as commitments made to donors, agricultural cycles, the rainy season, political cycles, etc. (a) Please describe any such considerations pertaining to this Project. (b) When is implementation expected to start? (c) If there are any plans for phased roll-out, describe. (d) *For World Bank projects only*, please list your expected or actual World Bank board date.

7. **Gender:** (a) Describe the extent to which the Project targets men and/or women. (b) Describe any ideas you have about how the program may work differently for men and women. (c) If applicable, describe any measures or innovations taken to tailor the Project to better meet women's and men's specific needs and/or to address gender related issues.

8. **Impacts and Beneficiaries:** (a) Briefly describe the Project's overall impact objectives, and the specific impacts you expect each intervention to have. (b) Describe whom the Project is targeted to directly benefit, as well as anticipated indirect beneficiaries.[8] (c) Describe the anticipated number of direct beneficiaries, including any funding constraints.[9] (d) *For World Bank projects only*, include the PDO and the indicator(s) for tracking the PDO.

9. **Comparison Group:** Impact evaluations often compare a treatment group of program beneficiaries to a comparison group of non-beneficiaries. Have you already identified how you might create treatment and comparison groups for an impact evaluation of your Project? If yes, briefly describe. (If the team has not done this, this will be a critical part of the early work of the evaluation team with the Project Team). Randomization: While not all of GIL's studies are based on a research design that randomly allocates potential project beneficiaries to a treatment and control group, randomization is GIL's preferred evaluation method. Please describe briefly your willingness to build a randomization approach into the evaluation.

10. **Potential to Probe Critical Constraints:** Please describe which, if any, of GIL's priority constraint(s) (listed above) this intervention aims to ease. Please do not just list the constraints that you think are applicable – please also describe your thinking behind why you selected these.

11. **Project Team's Capacity:** (a) Briefly describe the Project Team's qualifications and experience to successfully carry out the Project at the proposed scale. (b) Describe the status of the funding that will support the Project.[10]

12. **Risk Factors:** Describe any organizational, environmental, political, or other threats that may keep the Project from starting; from going as planned; or from finishing. Please also describe your plans for protecting the Project from these threats.

[8] For example, these may be beneficiaries' households, neighbors, communities, etc.

[9] I.e. the Project has funds to serve x people, but the organization/team is seeking funds to serve an additional y people.

[10] Here we are asking about the funding for the intervention(s) that the Project Team will implement. We are not asking about funding for the impact evaluation.

13. **Organizational Commitment to Learning and to a Potential Partnership:** (a) Describe who on the Project Team and at the Project Team's organizations knows about and supports this EOI. (b) Describe the Project Team's motivation for wanting to partner with GIL.

14. **Funding for the Impact Evaluation's Data Collection:** The major cost of an impact evaluation is for data collection (i.e., baseline and endline surveys). Has the Project Team already identified and/or secured funding for these data collection costs? If yes, describe. If no, just indicate.

15. **Preferences to Work with Specific Researchers (Optional):** If you already have specific researchers in mind, whom you would like to work with on the impact evaluation, please list their names and institutions here.

16. **Other Additional Information:** If there is any other thing that you would like us to know, please include it here.