

Call for Proposals to Conduct

Demand Driven Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis Reference number: NIERA-2020-004

1.0 Background

A [scoping study](#) on the use of Impact Evaluation Capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa conducted by the Africa Center for Evidence reported growth in the use of Impact Evaluation methods. A consequent [rapid needs assessment](#) conducted by the [Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa](#) (NIERA) disclosed that effort needs to be applied to translate evidence generated through rigorous approaches into policy that would consequently produce the desired impact. An important bottleneck is the disjointed approach through which players in the demand and supply side of impact evaluation use, which lead to uncoordinated studies in similar thematic areas. As a result, policymakers do not benefit from “economies of evidence” that could be generated if all the findings were condensed in a single source.

NIERA seeks to address this gap through a multi-country and multi-disciplinary approach that applies three pillars namely: Capacity Building, Evidence Generation and Policy Outreach.

To this end, NIERA seeks to engage the services of consultants to conduct **six** Decision Focused Evaluation related systematic reviews and meta-analysis in either of NIERA’s thematic areas or cross-cutting disciplines. The focus will be to generate demand driven evidence that ultimately informs policy decisions in one or more countries that NIERA focusses on (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Ethiopia).

2.0 Objectives

The consultancy aims to:

- Determine priority policy questions that can be answered through synthesis of existing research findings.
- Develop a detailed list of questions for the systematic review.
- Develop and finalize the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the publications to include in the review
- Develop search strategies, search relevant bibliographic databases or sources of grey literature, and identify documents that meet the inclusion criteria
- Prepare an electronic database of documents included in the review

- Prepare a report of the systematic review(s) and meta-analysis.
- Complete and present demand-driven reviews and analysis to relevant stakeholders.

3.0 Deliverables

1. **A protocol**, which should be submitted for review within 3 weeks of commencing the contract. The protocol will include-(1) Background, (2) Aims and rationale for review, (3) Definitional and conceptual issues, (4) Objectives of the systematic review; (5) Conceptual framework; (6) Methods for identifying and briefly describing studies to assess the literature available.
2. **Initial scoping of the literature** (as part of a protocol) identified from a systematic search.
3. **Final protocol** informed by the decisions made in light of the scoping of the literature.
4. **Draft report**, 3 months after commencing the contract, which is also subject to review and approval by the NIERA Secretariat.
5. **Final report**, which responds to comments, made during the peer review process.
6. **Systematic review summary document** (not more than 5 pages, to be submitted along with the draft report, in a language understandable to non-specialists, and including:
 - Key messages for policy-makers, practitioners and/or researchers, which provide the headline findings of the review.
 - The purpose of the systematic review and the question(s) it seeks to answer.
 - Summary of main findings of the paper(s).
 - Broad findings relating to the body of evidence as a whole.
 - Reflections on the assumptions and quality of the evidence.
 - Specific gaps in the evidence relating to important policy concerns.
7. **Quarterly status reports**, to be submitted to the NIERA Secretariat through the Country Leaders describing progress.
8. **Presentation on key findings from the final report** to the relevant stakeholders at the end of the study.
9. **Dissemination products**, which may include, but not limited to popular columns, blog postings, leaflets and an article that can be included in a newsletter for different types of audiences to encourage debate and uptake.
10. **Publication** of the systematic reviews and meta-analyses in reputable peer-reviewed journals with impact factor of no less than 1.5.

4.0 Reporting, administrative support and logistics

The consultant (s) will work under the overall guidance and support of the NIERA secretariat through the Network Chair and Program Manager. The consultant (s) will:

- Have opportunity to consult from the secretariat on email, online engagements, telephone, or other modes of contact at designated times.
- Access Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website.
- Get support from a librarian who will help to locate publications recommended by the consultant.
- Make electronic submissions.

- Attend a virtual inception workshop in addition to brief peer technical workshops on monthly basis.

5.0 Timelines

Expected Start date: 12th January 2021, End date: 31st October 2021.

6.0 Qualifications and experience required

- Master's degree in the relevant discipline.
- Demonstrated experience and skills in conducting demand driven systematic reviews and meta-analysis.
- Demonstrated experience in assessing the quality of the evidence and levels of effectiveness of development interventions.
- Experience in generating evidence using rigorous research approaches.
- Consultant/team of consultants with expertise in qualitative synthesis methods and theory of change analysis.
- Demonstrated experience in generating publishable, systematic reviews and meta-analyses that meet globally recognized standards such as, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).

7.0 Applications

Proposals responding to this call should clearly demonstrate:

- The thematic area to be addressed and how it aligns with the policy priorities in the country or countries where the findings will be applied to inform policy.
- Clear understanding and demonstration of the players who will validate the priority areas
- Proposed approach and methodology.
- A draft timeline and budget: tentative indication of the proposed level of efforts with a clear distribution of days amongst proposed team members, as applicable and availability.
- Full CV(s) of the applicant team members clearly indicating the lead evaluator/researcher
- Relevant credentials and experience. Please include online links where your work is hosted.

Consultants or consortium of consultants who meet the requirements of the assignment should submit their proposals on email to **Anne Maina** ammaina@usiu.ac.ke not later than **4th January 2021, 1700HRS EAT**. Proposal should be no more than 10 pages long, Arial font size 11, single-spacing, normal margins.