

Terms of Reference

Results-Based Financing for Health Impact Evaluation
[Country] Evaluation Team

Local Researcher¹

January 2011

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTANCY

The purpose of this consultancy is to provide in-country leadership and technical support to the [Country] RBF Impact Evaluation team on the design and implementation of a prospective, rigorous impact evaluation of a Results-Based Financing for Health program in [Country].

HEALTH RESULTS INNOVATION TRUST FUND (HRITF) BACKGROUND

The objective of the HRITF is to design and implement sustainable Results-Based Financing (RBF) pilot programs that cost-effectively improve maternal and child health outcomes (i.e MDGs 4 & 5). The hypothesis is that RBF can be used to increase access to appropriate medical care, improve the quality of medical care, and encourage individuals to adopt health-improving behaviors.

The HRITF is financing RBF pilot interventions - both supply-side (provider payment schemes, contracting out) and demand-side (conditional cash transfers). A central element of the HRITF is to learn about and document the extent to which RBF policies are effective, are operationally feasible, and in what circumstances. As such, rigorous evaluation of all HRBF programs is essential for generating new knowledge that can inform governments and partners to effectively design and use RBF mechanisms. The eventual learning objective is not only to assess the impact of the RBF intervention(s) in [Country], but also to compare these impacts across the other countries with similar interventions, and to be able to provide externally valid advice on the feasibility and effectiveness of these approaches to other countries.

The [Country] RBF team is seeking a Local Researcher to support activities associated with the impact evaluation of its RBF program. The Local Researcher will provide direct support to the RBF Principal Investigator on all day-to-day activities related to the design, implementation, analysis and dissemination of results for the impact evaluation.

SCOPE OF WORK

The assignment includes the following tasks:

¹ NOTE: Depending on the context and requirements of the team, this individual may also be considered a Co-Principal Investigator. The consultant qualifications should be adjusted based on this.

Technical Support on Evaluation Design, Preparation and Implementation

The Local Researcher will provide in-country direct support to ensure all activities related to the RBF impact evaluation design, preparation and implementation in order to maximize the relevance of the impact evaluation policy questions, ensure the survey materials are culturally appropriate and ensure the highest level of data quality assurance is maintained through field team training, field work, data entry and management. This requires close collaboration with the Survey Firm(s) contracted to conduct data collection activities.

Represent RBF Impact Evaluation

The Local Researcher will provide in-country representation to the Advisory Panel (and/or Technical Working Group), participate in meetings with key stakeholders and maintain frequent communication with the RBF Impact Evaluation team in order to ensure proper coordination of impact evaluation activities and RBF program implementation and operations.

Validation of Evaluation Design and Data

The Local Researcher will provide in-country monitoring of the program roll-out with the primary objective to ensure adherence to the impact evaluation design (assignment of treatment and control groups). The Local Researcher will communicate any threats to the internal validity of the evaluation to the RBF Impact Evaluation team. In addition, the Local Researcher will provide expert technical guidance on reviewing the descriptive data report and ensure data is consistent with other national estimates for similar outcomes.

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF EFFORT

All activities include the provision of direct support to the [Country] RBF Impact Evaluation Principal Investigator. The level of effort for the Local Researcher required for these responsibilities is currently estimated at **XX** working days.

Deliverables	Expected Delivery Date	Days
1.1 Monthly Progress Report summarizing activities related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical support on evaluation design, prep and implementation• Local representation for RBF Impact Evaluation team• Validation of evaluation design and data		
Total Days		

REQUIRED SKILLS/ EXPERIENCE

- Master's level degree(s) or equivalent in relevant field, such as health, public health, or economics; PhD preferred
- At least 5 years experience managing large scale research studies on health related topics (preference for experience with maternal and child health programs)
- Proven experience with data quality assurance mechanisms (field work management, data entry programming, etc)

- Ability to communicate in English and local language
- All written documentation must be submitted in English
- Familiarity with the health sector in country (preference for experience working in Results-based Financing for Health programs)
- Proven ability to facilitate communication between different levels of government and between government and development partners

Estimated Schedule

This consultancy will run from [Date] to [Date]

Management and Logistical Support

The consultant will report directly to the [Country] Task Team leader.

Payment

The assignment will be remunerated upon delivery of the agreed outputs, at the agreed fee rate and the agreed number of days of professional fess chargeable, as per the normal procedures of the World Bank.