

Poverty Evaluation Project Proposal

World Bank, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

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SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL IMPACT EVALUATION WORKSHOP Evaluating the Impact of Development Programs: Turning Promises into Evidence

Bangladesh, Dhaka

April 27-29, 2014

The objective of this workshop is to give participants an overview of impact evaluation and to help them design evaluations for their own projects. The workshop focuses on the use of impact evaluation to inform policy-making and program design. This 3-days workshop includes sessions on designing evaluations and building results chains; taught through a mix of lectures, small and large group discussions, and hands-on application of practical skills in impact evaluation, to participants' own projects.

The workshop is targeted to intact task teams composed of government policymakers, technical staff, as well as World Bank task team leaders. The workshop is a highly interactive mix of small and large group sessions involving the "hands on" application of what is learned. The first day is a plenary discussion for all participants. On days 2 and 3, participants choose between parallel tracks -- one targeted to policy makers, one targeted to researchers -- which cover the same topics, but with different degrees of econometrics. Both tracks are designed to ensure consistency and the diffusion of key messages to both groups. From the very first day of the workshop until the last one, participants (policymakers, technical staff and World Bank task team leaders) will work together as project teams with expert moderators on the "hands-on" design of a high quality impact evaluations and implementation plans for their projects. On the final day of the workshop, the teams present their proposed evaluation plans to the whole group and receive guidance from each other and the course moderators.

Workshop Structure:

The workshop is organized into plenary, parallel, and small group sessions.

- (i) **Plenary sessions** are for all participants.
- (ii) **Parallel sessions** are divided between "Policy-maker" and "Technical" track for the sessions taking place on day two and day three.
 - **Policy-maker-track sessions** are designed for professionals working in an operational capacity and responsible for oversight, implementation, and logistics of impact evaluations. These sessions provide the theoretical foundation for identifying causality and different evaluation methodologies. The policy-maker sessions also cover practical techniques for building high quality impact evaluations into new programs, including sampling designs, roll-out strategies, and other operational tools.
 - **Technical-track sessions** are geared towards researchers and professionals who want to deepen their knowledge of econometric estimation methodologies as applied to impact evaluations. These sessions cover the theoretical foundation for identifying causality and the different evaluation methodologies used to conduct impact evaluations, using econometric and statistical notation as well as case studies that illustrate the clear link between theory and practice.