

**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)**

*With generous support from the Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF)*

## **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.

(iii) **Small Group sessions** reinforce the material covered in the plenary and parallel tracks and foster participation and interaction among participants. Expert moderators will work with each group to guide the conversation and provide technical support. Everyday groups focus on the development of a rigorous impact evaluation design for their own projects. The final day working groups present the impact evaluation design for their own projects to the larger group for feedback.

**1. Key themes for the Policy-maker Sessions: managing evaluation studies and using results for more effective programs**

1. Why evaluate and the causality problem
2. Using evaluation results for decision making
3. Linking monitoring systems/ data and impact evaluation
4. Mainstreaming impact evaluation and evidence-based policy into government systems
5. Impact evaluation methodologies
6. Designing and planning an evaluation
7. Dealing with operational constraints
8. Case studies from practitioners and policy makers

**2. Key themes for the Technical Sessions: theory and methods**

1. Causal Inference
2. Experimental designs: Randomization
3. Regression discontinuity
4. Other non-experimental techniques
5. Case studies from practitioners and policy makers

**Agenda**  
**Sunday, April 27, 2014**

<b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 - 9:15 AM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductory Remarks</b> Joost de Laat, World Bank
<b>9:15 - 10:15 AM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>PANEL: Using Impact Evaluations to enhance policy in South Asia</b> Chair: Nazmul Chaudhury, World Bank Robert Chase, World Bank, Maya Escueta, Policy and Training Manager, J-PAL South Asia Leanne Unicomb, IPA/ICCDR, Bangladesh
<b>10:15 - 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:45 - 12:15 PM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>Evaluating Impact:</b>  <b>1. Overview of the “Why, What and How”</b> Joost de Laat, World Bank  <b>2. Case Study - Evaluation, learning and action: A case study of Targeting Ultra-Poor program”,</b> Munshi Sulaiman, IPA and JPAL.
<b>12:15 - 1:45 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:45 - 2:15 PM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>Game: Where in the World</b> Alexandra Orsola-Vidal, CEGA
<b>2:15 - 3:45 PM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>The Results Framework</b> Alexandra Orsola-Vidal, CEGA
<b>3:45 - 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>4:00 – 6:00 PM</b> <i>(Group Session)</i>	<b>Group Work I: Design the Results Framework</b> Introduction: Christian Borja-Vega, World Bank  <b>Moderators:</b> Impact Evaluation Specialists  Participants will be assigned to project groups. Each group will select one project on which it will work for the remainder of the week. In this session, the group will establish a results chain for the chosen project. At the end of the session, each group will submit their results chain in electronic format to their moderator.
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Reception</b>

**Agenda**  
**Monday, April 28, 2014**

**9:00 – 9:15 AM**  
*(Plenary Session)*

**Introduction to the Parallel Sessions**  
Christian Borja-Vega, World Bank

**9:15 – 10:45 AM**  
*(Parallel Tracks)*

**Experimental Methods (Part 1)**

Policy-maker session  
Urmy Shukla, J-PAL South  
Asia/CLEAR

Technical session  
Jacobus Cilliers, World Bank

**10:45 – 11:15 AM**

**Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 12:30 PM**  
*(Parallel Tracks)*

**Experimental Methods ( Part 2)**

Policy-maker session  
Niall Keleher, IPA

Technical session  
Jacobus Cilliers, World Bank

**12:30 - 2:00 PM**

**Lunch**

**2:00 – 3:00 AM**  
*(Parallel Tracks)*

**Quasi - Experimental Methods**

Policy-maker session  
Christian Borja-Vega, World Bank

Technical session  
Joost de Laat, World Bank

**3:00 - 6:00 PM**  
*(Group Session)*

**Group Work II: Design Research Question and Identification Strategy**  
**Moderators:** Impact Evaluation Specialists

***(coffee break  
to be served  
4.00-4.15 pm)***

Each project group will continue to work on their chosen project. The group will determine the research questions to be answered by the impact evaluation, identification strategy and the corresponding indicators and data. The results will be recorded in the project's PowerPoint template.

**Agenda**  
**Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

<b>9:00 - 10:00 AM</b> <i>(Plenary Session)</i>	<b>Operational Issues: How to Incorporate Impact Evaluation into Projects</b> Luis Andres, World Bank
<b>10:00 - 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Group Work III: Finalizing the design of the evaluation</b> Each project group will continue to work on their chosen project.
<b>10:45 - 11:15 AM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:15 AM- 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Small Group: IE Interactive Game</b> (Participants should bring a computer) Instructor: Jacobus Cilliers, World Bank
<b>12:00 – 12:30PM</b>	<b>Test</b>
<b>12:30 - 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:00 - 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Project Evaluation Proposal: Group Presentations (part 1/2)</b>
<b>3:00 - 3:30 AM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>3:30 - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Project Evaluation Proposal: Group Presentations (part 2/2)</b>
<b>5:00 -6:00 PM</b>	<b>Closing and Certificates</b> Luis Andres, World Bank Joost De Laat, World Bank Urmy Shukla, J-PAL/CLEAR Shoraez Shahjahan, IPA Mushtaque Chowdhury/Andrew Jenkins, BRAC (TBD)

**7:00 PM**                      **Farewell dinner**