ON PROPOSAL CONTENT

1. Will only proposals to carry out RCT impact evaluations be accepted? What about proposals to evaluate interventions that are already ongoing? What about policies that affect entire sectors?

Only proposals for RCT impact evaluations will be considered for funding. Proposals to implement any other methodology of evaluation will be automatically disqualified. You can find an introduction to RCTs [here](#) and [here](#).

If your program or policy of interest is ongoing, you can still propose it for RCT evaluation, provided there is a new cohort of program participants that can be launched in accordance with the timeline of this grant. You can find more information in the [EOI template](#).

If your policy of choice affects an entire sector and random allocation of the intervention to treatment and control groups is not feasible, the policy is not a good fit for this call.

2. Are there any favored themes/subject areas for the proposed evaluations?

No, we are open to proposals from all areas pertaining to development. Proposals that include components of gender analysis are of special interest.

3. What is the timeline for proposed evaluations?

Earliest possible start date of the intervention is April 2022 and latest possible end date is May 2024. You will find more information about timeline requirements in the [EOI template](#).

ON TEAM COMPOSITION

1. Can NGOs fulfill the role of governments in this proposal?

No, this call is meant to promote impact evaluations of policy or programs carried out by government agencies.

2. Can sub-national government offices participate in this call?

Yes, we are open to receiving proposals from all levels of government who would like to run an RCT impact evaluation of a program of their choosing.
3. **Must the Principal investigator (PI) be experienced in RCTs?**

Yes, we require the PI to have some proven experience on RCTs. PI must refer to one publication or working paper of an RCT evaluation where she or he has participated in the capacity of lead researcher, co-researcher, or junior researcher.

Please note that experience using other methodologies for impact evaluation do not count for the purpose of attesting eligibility of PIs. Experience of randomized controlled trial evaluations is required to be a principal investigator under this call.

More information on what is required for the role of PI can be found in the [Applicant Eligibility Form](#).

4. **Can a research team member also serve as a government official?**

Researcher roles require ample time dedication to the research project. Based on our past experience, this tends to be incompatible with the role of government officials, as these will be required to participate in policy engagement activities. We will not outright reject projects where a person plays a role in both teams, but you must show strong justification for this choice as this practice is discouraged.

In the case of a government official intending to serve as a PI, please remember that PIs for this call need to fulfill the requirement of having proven experience on RCTs.

5. **Can researchers from country X present a proposal for country Y?**

Yes, as long as 1) both countries belong to the list of [countries targeted for this call](#) and 2) researchers live in country Y for the full duration of the project.

6. **Can one team/person submit more than one proposal?**

We will not disqualify proposals from teams or people who have already submitted a proposal, but we will not fund more than one proposal per person. We strongly suggest you submit your best proposal.

7. **Must the research team be affiliated to a university?**

No, we welcome independent researchers and researchers affiliated to other kinds of organizations, as long as they abide by the eligibility requirements for skills, nationality and location, as outlined in the call [website](#).

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**OTHER**

1. **What types of institutions are qualified to receive the grant?**

Grant payments can be made to a government institution or a research institution. No payments can be channeled through individuals.

2. **What should the letter of commitment to RCT state?**

We require that the government institution responsible for the implementation of the policy or program of choice commits to random assignment of subject to treatment in order to carry out a Randomized Controlled Trial evaluation. We provide a template letter you can use: [English](#) / [Français](#).
3. What costs are covered under the research and data collection portions of the grant?

The core research grant (US$ 24,000) is to cover costs of conducting the research. The data collection grant of US$ 50,000 must be used for data collection activities.

Additional grants to organize annual meetings, field visits and study visits will be made available to funded teams based on the possibility of international travel.

The costs of the intervention must be covered by the government office in charge of the program. However, a marginal portion of the grant funds can be allocated to help cover intervention costs if needed.

Details of the budget are not required at the Expression of Interest stage. These will be discussed in subsequent applications.

4. Will administrative charges or overhead costs be allowed in budgets?

Budget narratives are not required at the Expression of Interest stage. However, overhead costs can be included in budgets if needed.

5. Is there a way to contact PEP for further questions about this call?

Specific team composition questions that are not covered in the call’s website can be sent to info@pep-net.org. Questions on the specific content of proposals will not be answered at this stage.