

**Application Guideline for**  
**“Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh,**  
**Intervention Phase II” Commissioned by IDE-JETRO**

June 27, 2024  
Susumu Kataoka  
President, Japan External Trade Organization

**APPLICATION GUIDELINE**

All of applicants should apply in accordance with this guideline, with recognition about contents of this specification.

**1. Proposal Form Submission**

Submit the Proposal Form in which all necessary items are filled, following the instruction stipulated above clauses by the deadline shown below by e-mail or mail/courier service.

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**Application DEADLINE: 17:00 July 23, 2024 (JST=GMT+9)**

**2. Evaluation Schedule**

Accepting Proposal: June 27, 2024 ~ July 23, 2024  
Evaluation Process: July 24, 2024 ~ July 30, 2024  
Notification: by the beginning of August, 2024  
Contract: August 15, 2024

## **SPECIFICATION**

Enclosed Proposal Form shall be submitted following all requirements and conditions specified in the clauses below.

### **1. Title of the Research**

Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh, Intervention Phase II

### **2. Evaluation Criteria**

- 1) Soundness and feasibility of intervention strategy.
- 2) Systematic arrangement for the intervention to submit final results by the deadline without delay.
- 3) Credibility on institutional management experience to establish the team for conducting the randomized intervention, especially by appropriate and sufficient allocation of its personnel. Some experiences in conducting randomized interventions with foreign clients (e.g. universities).
- 4) Experience with randomized interventions on the related subjects.
- 5) Familiarity with the conditions of the study area such as previous intervention experiences, possession of networks/resources.
- 6) Qualifications and competence of the principal researcher. Proficiency in speaking/writing/reading Bengali and English required.

### **3. Background and Objectives of the Research**

IDE-JETRO is currently conducting the research project with an aim to prevent early pregnancy in Gaibandha district in Bangladesh. Gaibandha is one of the most child marriage prevalent areas in Bangladesh, with 70% of girls marry, of whom 64% become pregnant below age 18. In the South Asian context, daughters' marriage is collectively decided by parents, relatives and even the community, and it seems very difficult for parents to refuse a "good" proposal even though they understand the negative consequences of child marriage. We argue that the realistic solution to avoid the most detrimental effect of child marriage is to prevent early pregnancy. Our field observation has revealed that child-married girls usually get pregnant right after the marriage without any reproductive health knowledge. We will conduct the randomized controlled trial (RCT) to explore how providing information on reproductive health knowledge with adolescent girls aged 13–17 delays their pregnancy.

The baseline survey and the 1st phase of the intervention have successfully completed in the FY2023. This research project is about the implementation of the randomized intervention Phase II. Note that the content of the Phase II intervention is basically the same as Phase I, but it is somewhat modified for married and pregnant girls. The core of the intervention is providing reproductive health and sexual knowledge with unmarried adolescent girls aged 13–17 in the girls' club meeting. For the married girls, the community health workers track them to their husbands' household at least via phone since it is unrealistic for them to attend the meeting (intervention) in their natal village. This

research project includes collecting administrative data such as participation rates of the girls' club where the information will be disseminated.

#### **4. Scope of Work on the Research**

A CONTRACTOR will do the following activities:

- (1) Hire two female local community health workers who have the paramedic certificate and at least two years of experience of providing reproductive health and family planning services in the field.
- (2) Conduct the monthly intervention by forming the girls' club in 50 treated villages (which were selected randomly in the Phase I) in Gaibandha district.
- (3) Collect the administrative data concerning participation rate in the girls' club.
- (4) Submission of the data (computer-based format).

#### **5. Expected Outcome**

Administrative data of 500 households in 50 villages.

#### **6. Research Schedule**

Term of Research work:

Research work shall be conducted from August 15, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Making a contract: August 15, 2024

Submission of the reports (specified in clause 8): February 17, 2025

#### **7. Payment method**

IDE-JETRO shall remit the amount of contract in two (2) installments as follows after receiving an invoice from a CONTRACTOR for each payment.

- (1) First payment (50% of total amount): upon the signing of the Agreement
- (2) Second and final payment: upon submission of the Report (as specified in clause 8)

#### **8. Reports**

A CONTRACTOR submits to IDE-JETRO the following by February 17, 2025.

- Data of 500 households in 50 villages (computer-based format, preferably in STATA).
- Summary Report minimum of 1 page in A4 paper.
- Statement of accounts and time sheets.

#### **9. Budget Estimation Guideline**

- (1) Total Budget: Maximum budget is JPY1,992,854 which consists of Direct Expenses and Administrative Overhead.
- (2) Direct Expenses: See clause 10 for details.
- (3) Administrative Overhead: Administrative expenses on the Research activities, such as the cost on facility management and maintenance. 10 % of direct expenses is maximum.
- (4) Amount: Payment is conditional on the completion of submission specified in clause 8. If the data collected is less than 500 households in 50 villages, the amount should be reduced.

Methods to reduce the amount shall be negotiated between both parties.

## **10. General Condition of Expenditure and Account Management on the Research**

### (1) Expenditure Items

Expenditure items on the Research should be confined to the following items.

a. Honoraria for researchers

Keep daily reports describing the contents of your research to confirm the status of the work.

b. Wages and salaries for research assistants

Upon hiring research assistants, keep daily reports specifying the name of the employee and content of service, to confirm the status of work.

c. Point to Notice on Calculation of Honoraria for Researchers or Wages and Salaries for Research Assistants

A CONTRACTOR shall be required to instruct joint researchers or research assistants to take an appropriate and adequate recess (e.g. noon recess) in accordance with the labor law or the employment practice of your country.

A CONTRACTOR shall be required to exclude the rest period from the working hours of the day when a CONTRACTOR calculates the honoraria for joint researchers or wages for research assistants.

(2) Expenditure such as telecommunication and translation on the Research shall be borne within the amount of Administration Overhead.

## **11. Statement of Accounts for Settlement and Working Record**

Statement of Accounts for Settlement and Working Record of which form is provided by IDE-JETRO shall be submitted immediately after submission of final report within the contract period.