

Application Guideline for
“Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh,
Endline Household Survey” Commissioned by IDE-JETRO

July 29, 2026
KATAOKA Susumu
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: 12:00 noon, August 24, 2026 (JST=GMT+9)

2. Evaluation Schedule

Accepting Proposal: July 29, 2026 ~ 12:00 noon, August 24, 2026
Evaluation Process: 12:00 noon, August 24, 2026 ~ August 26, 2026

SPECIFICATION

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

1. Research Project Title

Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh, Endline Household Survey

2. Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Soundness and feasibility of sample tracking strategy to collect the required data.
- 2) Systematic arrangement for the survey to submit final results by the deadline without delay.
- 3) Credibility on institutional management experience to establish the team for conducting the questionnaire survey, especially by appropriate and sufficient allocation of its personnel. Some experiences in conducting questionnaire surveys with foreign clients (e.g. universities).
- 4) Experience with household surveys with questionnaires on the related subjects.
- 5) Familiarity with the conditions of the study area such as previous survey 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 Research Objectives

IDE-JETRO has conducted household surveys aimed at preventing early pregnancy in the Gaibandha district of Bangladesh. Gaibandha is one of the regions in Bangladesh with the highest prevalence of child marriage, where 70% of girls get married, and 64% of them become pregnant below the age of 18. In the South Asian context, marriage decisions for daughters are typically made collectively by parents and relatives. It is often very difficult for parents to refuse a “good” proposal--typically meaning one from a groom employed by the government---even when they are aware of the negative consequences of child marriage. As such, child marriage may represent a form of social equilibrium. We argue that a realistic and effective approach to mitigate the most harmful consequences of child marriage is to prevent early pregnancy. Our field observations indicate that child-married girls typically become pregnant shortly after marriage, often without any reproductive health knowledge. To address this, we have been conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to examine whether providing information about reproductive health and contraceptives to adolescent girls aged 13–17 can delay pregnancy.

We have successfully conducted the second intervention following the original (1st) baseline, midline survey, and 2nd phase baseline.

In FY2026, we will conduct the endline survey. We use the same structured questionnaire from the baseline and midline surveys, with some additions of child health questions for those who gave births. The target of the endline survey will include all the households in the 1st and 2nd baseline

surveys, i.e., we construct a panel data.

Since the survey uses the same questionnaire for the same households, there are no technical issues with the survey itself. The most critical aspect of this endline survey is tracking the same households and minimizing the attrition rate. For the treated households, field motivators have regularly reported that some girls have migrated and are therefore less likely to be interviewed in person. This poses a serious threat to our study because attrition is not random. Our key outcomes of interest, such as the timing of marriage and pregnancy, are likely related to attrition, particularly when migration is marriage-related. To minimize attrition, we will follow up with migrated girls through phone surveys.

After completing the endline survey, we will also conduct the qualitative study on how some girls get pregnant despite the intervention, and by contrast, how other girls could successfully avoid pregnancy.

4. Scope of Commissioned Work

The CONTRACTOR will do the following activities:

- (1) Tracking the 11 baseline households in each 100 villages.
- (2) Conduct household survey of 1100 eligible households using the agreed questionnaire.
- (3) Conduct the qualitative survey on girls asking their narrative.
- (4) Submission of the data (quantitative survey in computer-based format, qualitative survey in word or pdf format).

5. Work Schedule

Term of Work:

The Work shall be conducted from September 15, 2026 to April 30, 2027.

Making a contract: September 15, 2026

(the work commencement date and the contract date shall be finalized upon completion of the administrative procedures)

Submission of the deliverables (as specified in Clause 7): March 31, 2027

6. Payment Method

IDE-JETRO shall remit the amount of contract in two (2) installments as follows after receiving an invoice from the 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 Deliverables (as specified in clause 7)

7. Deliverables

The CONTRACTOR shall submit to IDE-JETRO the following deliverables by March 31, 2027;

- Data of 1,100 households (computer-based format, preferably in STATA).
- Qualitative narrative of girls.
- Summary Report minimum of 1 page in A4 paper.

The deliverables above which contain the data shall be submitted to IDE-JETRO via e-mail or by any other means specified by IDE-JETRO.

8. Budget Estimation Guideline

- (1) Total Budget: Maximum budget is JPY 6,236,472 which consists of Direct Expenses and Administrative Overhead.
- (2) Direct Expenses: Honoraria for researchers and wages & salaries for research assistants.
- (3) Administrative Overhead: Administrative expenses on the Research work, including the cost on facility management & maintenance and telecommunication. The maximum is 10 % of direct expenses.
- (4) Amount: Payment is subject to the satisfactory completion of the Deliverables specified in Clause 7.

9. Important Notes

- (1) All expenses for the Commissioned Work, including travel expenses, shall be borne by the CONTRACTOR.
- (2) In the event the CONTRACTOR subcontracts any part of the Commissioned Work to any third party, the CONTRACTOR shall obtain prior approval from IDE-JETRO in advance and be responsible for instructing, confirming, and placing orders with the subcontractor.
- (3) The CONTRACTOR shall ensure that all necessary licenses or permissions are properly obtained when summarizing third-party copyrighted materials or when accessing and using data from third-party databases.
- (4) Any matter not specified hereinabove shall be resolved through discussion by IDE-JETRO and the CONTRACTOR.
- (5) All dates and times referenced herein shall be on Japan Standard Time (JST, GMT+9).