

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

July 23, 2025
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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 12, 2025 (JST=GMT+9)

2. Evaluation Schedule

Accepting Proposal: July 23, 2025 ~ 12:00 noon, August 12, 2025
Evaluation Process: August 12, 2025 ~ August 15, 2025
Notification: by the end of August, 2025
Contract: September 1, 2025

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, Phase III

2. Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Soundness and feasibility of sampling 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 Objectives of the Research

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 are 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 1st and 2nd phases of the study: the baseline household survey followed by the intervention, and then the midline survey.

In this research, we will conduct the 3rd phase baseline survey. Using the same structured questionnaire from the 1st and 2nd phases, our survey will include new households: (1) households with a younger cohort of 13–14-old unmarried girls (who were 11–12 during the listing survey in the 1st phase), and (2) eligible households that were not part of the original sample, i.e., those with

at least one unmarried girl aged 15–19 (corresponding to 13–17 at the time of the initial listing).

Following the baseline survey, in the treated villages, we will continue the intervention with the same content, i.e., providing reproductive health information and contraceptive knowledge to adolescent girls through monthly girls' clubs at the village level. The intervention will target the original cohort from the 1st and 2nd phases, as well as the younger cohort now aged 13–14. Although the newly sampled older cohort (aged 15–19) is included in the baseline survey, they are not included in the intervention. Attendance records with monthly quiz scores will be collected to assess the participants' reproductive health knowledge.

4. Scope of Work on the Research

A CONTRACTOR will do the following activities:

- (1) Sampling the 7 baseline households in each 100 villages.
- (2) Conduct household survey of 700 eligible households using the agreed questionnaire.
- (3) Conduct the test measuring girls' understanding of the sexual and reproductive health knowledge and record the scores.
- (4) Submission of the data (quantitative survey in computer-based format).

5. Expected Outcome

- (1) Data of 700 households (among which 350 households include administrative data and test scores of the girls).

6. Research Schedule

Term of Research work:

Research work shall be conducted from September 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Making a contract: September 1, 2025

Submission of the reports (specified in clause 8): February 17, 2026

7. Payment method

IDE 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, 2026.

- Data of 700 households (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 JPY 6,116,000 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 700, 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.