



Advanced Policy Focused-Poverty Analysis Project in Zimbabwe

Call for Proposals *February- July 2020*

Introduction

The World Bank/Zimbabwe Reconstruction Fund (ZIMREF) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis Unit (ZEPARU) is calling for research proposal for Advanced Policy Focused Poverty Analysis in Zimbabwe using available national household survey micro-data from ZIMSTAT. The objective of the Call is to produce a series of high quality policy-focused papers on poverty related issues that are driven by evidence, have clear policy messages and influence the policy debate in the country. The idea is also that findings feed into the preparation of the new National Development Plan (NDP). The initiative is being coordinated by ZEPARU with funding from ZIMREF managed by the World Bank.

Scope of Research

This Call for Proposals focuses on the following six thematic areas that are expected to be addressed. The research will focus on, but not limited to the following broad themes.

- i. Agricultural subsidies, productivity, rural incomes and poverty.
- ii. Household vulnerability to weather/ health shocks and the performance of safety nets and health care subsidies.
- iii. Nutrition and food security: How does welfare as measured using household survey data correlate with alternative measures of food security? Has this relationship changed over time?
- iv. The gender and disability dimension of poverty and including human capital, multi-dimensional poverty, spatial poverty traps and fiscal policy.
- v. Welfare impacts of transfers and international remittances and changes over time. Impacts of remittances received on household savings, consumption patterns and investment in agriculture.
- vi. Access to utilities and its effect on poverty.

Eligibility

While the Call is open to Zimbabwean and non-Zimbabwean researchers, priority will be given to research teams that are led by Zimbabwean researchers and that collaborate with an official from ZIMSTAT and an official from a relevant government Ministry. This will facilitate partnerships between researchers and the government in the production of policy relevant research outputs. Similarly, involving ZIMSTAT officials in the research team will help promote a good understanding of the data, among others. Additional weighting will be given to research proposals that demonstrate a strong policy focus and potential to influence policy. All selected Research Teams will be engaged as World Bank consultants in accordance with the World Bank procurement rules and General Conditions of Contract for Operational Consulting Services.

Datasets

This Call is leveraging the use of anonymized household survey micro-data that are now available from ZIMSTAT. The sharing of anonymized micro data is supported under the amended Statistics and Census Act of January 2017 and a micro-data dissemination policy that was adopted in August 2018.

The available datasets include the PICES 2011/12, and the PICES 2017. The Agricultural Productivity Module of the PICES 2017 will be uploaded shortly. Copies of the questionnaires can be obtained from ZEPARU or ZIMSTAT. The PICES surveys are multiple topic household surveys that cover demographics, migration, employment, education, health, access to government and NGO support programs, food and non-food consumption and income. Micro-data from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) 2014, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 are also accessible. A spatial database with 2012 poverty data and summaries of the 2002 and 2012 Population Census variables - obtained from published pdf files - is available at ward level. Data from the LFS 2019 are expected to be uploaded shortly. Below are the weblinks to the anonymized micro-data:

Household survey	Weblink for micro-data and survey documentation
PICES surveys 2011/12 and 2017	http://www.nada.zimstat.co.zw/nada/index.php/catalog
Labor Force Surveys 2014: \	http://www.nada.zimstat.co.zw/nada/index.php/catalog/77/get-microdata
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019	https://mics.unicef.org/surveys
Ward level poverty data for 2012 and Ward level averages of 2002 and 2012 Population Census	https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/zimbabwe-spatial-database-2019 , or from Bindura University of Science Education, contact: Tawanda Manyangadze (tmanyangadze@buse.ac.zw ; manyangadze.tawanda@gmail.com)
Agricultural Productivity Module (APM) of PICES 2017 and LFS 2019	http://www.nada.zimstat.co.zw/nada/index.php/catalog (to be uploaded shortly)

Application Process and the Deadline

This Call is based on a two-step application process. The first step involves the preparation of a short (maximum 3-pages) concept note. A Technical Committee (TC) operating under the coordination of ZEPARU will select the concept notes that best meet the requirements (see below) and invite selected teams to prepare a full proposal with the guidance from the TC. Implementation will take place under the supervision of TC members who have expertise in the relevant research area.

Concept Note Requirements

Each concept note, should include the following:

- i) Policy issue: A brief description of the problem and the poverty-related policy issue at hand.
- ii) Objective (s): A brief statement of the specific objectives of the study.
- iii) Methodology and Data: A brief description of the methodology to be applied and relevant datasets.
- iv) Proposed research team and Statement of Qualification and Current CV(s) for each member (as annexes).
- v) Work Programme and Timeline: A brief description of the activities and timeline needed for each activity. Total duration of the study should not exceed 3 months.

Research Proposal Requirements

Each research proposal, not exceeding 15 pages, should include the following:

- i) Objective (s): A brief statement of the policy context and the objectives of the study, making it clear what specific policy issue the research will attempt to underpin with better evidence.
- ii) Methodology and Data: A detailed description of the methodology to be applied and relevant datasets. Researchers intending to investigate specific issue (s) drawing on other data sets beyond the available national household data sets must demonstrate availability and access to the requisite data for the study.
- iii) Proposed research team and Statement of Qualification and Current CV(s) for each member (as annexes). Women are particularly encouraged to apply.
- iv) Work Programme and Timeline: A description of the activities and timeline needed for each activity. Total duration of the study should not exceed 3 months with a first draft due 2 months after initiation.

Expected Outputs: A high quality, policy relevant, poverty focused and publishable research paper to be approved by independent peer reviewers. A policy brief of no more than 5 pages and a set of powerpoint slides (maximum 20 slides) should be produced.

Submission Requirements and Key Dates:

The deadline for submission of the concept note is 7 March 2020. Concept notes/proposals should be sent to ZEPARU on the following email address: administration@zeparu.co.zw. Research Teams with selected concept notes will be notified by 14 March 2020 by email. The deadline for submission of the full proposal is 31 March 2020.