



In collaboration with



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

NIERA-UGLOBE FELLOWS: DEVELOPMENT OF IMPACT EVALUATION CURRICULUM AND TRAINING MODULES

1.0 Background

The Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers Africa (NIERA) is offering exciting 2020-2021 fellowship opportunities to researchers in East Africa. NIERA is looking for Fellows who are motivated and excited to develop impact evaluation courses at their institution. This fellowship provides a unique opportunity to receive much content support and become part of a network of likeminded East African academics. In addition, the fellowship comes with a modest stipend in support.

In the last decade impact evaluation (IE) studies have gained traction globally to fill a gap left by lack of robust evidence on what kinds of policies best achieve equitable outcomes, about what impact a program has—or whether it works at all. In East Africa (EA), the use of evidence drawn from impact evaluations to influence policy has been largely driven by donors, with nearly most impact evaluations being conducted by researchers from the global north. This is often justified on the grounds that the region lack in-country researchers capable of conducting high-quality impact evaluations (IE).

The lack of participation by academics from the global south, Sub Saharan Africa in particular, limits application of IE research in informing public policy. This bottleneck is further compounded by the fact that very few policy makers in the global south have been exposed to impact evaluation methods during their university studies. Further, a 2019 study conducted by the Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA) to determine the demand and supply side of IE in EA disclosed limited capacity to undertake these vital studies.

Against this back drop, NIERA and the Centre for Global Challenges at Utrecht University have conceived the project “Contextualizing Impact Evaluation Pedagogy in Africa (CIPA)” with the broad aim of increasing the supply of qualified IE researchers in EA by developing and delivering IE course curriculums and materials to students and researchers across a two year period.

The duration of the fellowship is two years.

2.0 Objectives:

The NIERA-UGLOBE fellow aims to:

- Develop tailored **IE course curriculums and materials** to be offered in academic and research institutions for students and researchers.

Specifically, the assignment will include the following tasks:

- Conduct a rapid technical review of training needs and assess preexisting programs offered by other institutions to inform development of training modules and a curriculum.
- Design and development of training modules, training materials and training aids incorporating best practices and strategies in IE to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Make recommendations about how best to deliver the curriculum and modules including recommendations about the most effective training strategies, methodologies and tools.
- Coordinating with stakeholders to generate, test and validate materials based on training needs.
- Deliver these courses with support from NIERA country coordinators

3.0 Deliverables:

- IE curriculum designed as a course that can be taught at any University or Research Institution, Concentration (a number of IE courses) that can be taught at Masters or Doctorate level and academic credit awarded.
- Evaluation framework for prepared curriculum and materials
- Presentation of the work (training modules and curriculum) in a workshop.
- Commitment to organize a workshop open to students and faculty at their respective institutions on evidence-based policy making using IE.

Note: *Given the COVID-19 dynamics, applicants are required to develop materials that are suitable for both online audience and face to face delivery. These include but are not limited to the utilization of digital platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, online engagements, telephone, or other modes of contact at any time.*

The actual implementation of the curriculum will however be shaped by the country and institutional preparedness to use technology.

In addition, the modules and curricula should include course objectives, syllabus, course duration, training outcome, course topics, training methodology, testing and certification conditions.

4.0 Eligibility Criteria:

- i. A PhD in a relevant technical field
- ii. Holding teaching positions in accredited universities or
- iii. Researchers working with research institutions and development organizations but with qualifications to teach in accredited universities in East Africa
- iv. Provide supporting letters from their university indicating that the institution is supportive of the applicant developing an IE course. (N.B This will be required of selected applicants ONLY)
- v. Have a minimum of 5 years of previous experience working with development of training programs or similar assignments
- vi. Knowledge and understanding of multi-disciplinary research involving use of scientific evaluation in social and economic development programs in East Africa.
- vii. Demonstrated knowledge of current instructional theories and principles applicable in both online and instructor led learning programs with strong training and facilitation skills
- viii. Excellent management skills and written and verbal communications skills
- ix. Ability and willingness to work long hours, take responsibility for delivery and meet tight deadlines.

5.0 Content Support:

The program will offer Fellows the following content support and training:

- i. Kick off Training Workshop to equip the selected fellows on IE tools and processes
- ii. Monthly remote meetings between the fellows and NIERA secretariat and regular in country meetings
- iii. Access to a virtual cross-country resource site in which fellows can share progress, ask questions and give continuous advice on the course materials
- iv. Opportunity to develop materials that are suitable for both online and face to face delivery

6.0 Reporting and administrative support:

The Fellow will work under the overall guidance and support of the NIERA secretariat through the Network Chair and Program Manager. He/she will have the opportunity to consult from the secretariat on email, online engagements, telephone, or other modes of contact at any time. The consultant will have the autonomy to communicate and collaborate closely with academic and research institutions, formal training providers and Master craftsmen, in addition to curriculum

development experts and other stakeholders. All submissions will be made electronically unless other means are needed.

The consultant will have access to various IE and policy engagement toolkits as well as administrative support.

7.0 Expression of Interest

Interested members who meet the requirements of the assignment should submit their proposal on email to ammaina@usiu.ac.ke not later than **31st July 2020, 1700 HRS EAT**. Proposal should be no more than 5 pages long, Arial font size 11, single spacing, normal margins. Applicants are encouraged to include samples of training modules and or/curricula that they have developed as appendixes to the proposal.