

IGC ETHIOPIA: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The International Growth Centre (IGC) is pleased to issue a call for proposals for high quality research that will feed directly into policy under the Ethiopia Country Programme.

The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth by providing independent, demand-led policy advice to developing country governments based on frontier academic research. It is based in and directed from the UK, at the London School of Economics and the University of Oxford. It represents a collaborative venture between policy stakeholders in the developing world, a range of public, civil society and private sector partners, and researchers from developing country partners and around the world.

The IGC Ethiopia Country Programme has been active for 4 years, and has produced a range of products responding directly to Ethiopian policymakers' questions, providing them with an evidence base to inform policy decisions. The forms of outputs by our programme include rapid response work, short to medium term research and analytical work, and policy briefs. The core belief that effective policy impact requires long-term country engagement with policy stakeholders whilst leveraging a pool of quality academic expertise and in-country knowledge continues to guide the vision of the programme.

This call for proposals seeks high quality research that is in line with the research priorities of the Ethiopia Country Programme. These research areas (in the table below) are intended to fill existing research gaps and policy questions, and were determined through extensive consultation with Ethiopian policymakers. Proposals are highly encouraged, though not required, to address the thematic areas and specific topics outlined below.

Thematic Area	Topic
<i>Industrial Development</i>	<p>The role and management of industrial zones: optimal contracts with firms that want to locate in industrial zones; optimal regulatory regimes for firms operating in these zones (e.g. environmental and labour regulations); whether zones are successful in <i>net</i> employment creation as opposed to relocation of existing economic activity; the links between industrial zones and the rest of the domestic economy.</p> <p>Growing modern enterprises: what are the day-to-day problems that SMEs face and what are the means they use to address them? Does the apparent fuzziness of the boundary between 'the firm' and 'the household' constrain the growth of SMEs and the emergence of a modern private sector in Ethiopia?</p> <p>TVET and Industrialisation: what is the role of Ethiopia's Technical and Vocational Education Training Programme (TVET) in supporting SMEs to be more competitive through building the skills and productivity of workers?</p>

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	<p>Agro-processing firms: a descriptive study on the sector; supply-chain related constraints on the functioning and growth of specific sub-sectors; how to promote the competitiveness of this sector.</p> <p>Informal sector: how to encourage access to credit for firms in the informal sector?</p>
Agricultural Development	<p>Farmers' Groups: are farmers' groups large enough to overcome scale barriers but small enough to resolve trust issues? Is it possible to encourage the emergence of new forms or raise the capabilities of existing ones through policy measures and/or other support mechanisms?</p> <p>Agriculture and the effectiveness of mechanisation: whether successful farmers in Ethiopia have reached the point where mechanisation is useful; implications of mechanisation in the context of a tight labour market.</p> <p>Agricultural development, commodity exchange and forward markets: viability and potential of introducing more staple crops e.g. wheat to the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange; and the establishment of a forward market.</p>
Youth Employment	<p>How does the occupational distribution vary across sectors over time? Are recorded changes attributable to the expansion of the private sector? Does the decentralisation of the public sector play a role? Are micro-enterprises promoted by the government a significant player? What are the linkages between labour market outcomes and poverty dynamics, particularly in urban areas?</p> <p>In-depth analysis of youth unemployment in Ethiopia: what types of jobs do the youth search for? At what age? Until what age do young people typically remain dependent on their parents?</p>
Urbanisation	<p>To what extent should government support urbanisation through public investments in infrastructure and public good provision?</p> <p>How much of Ethiopia's growth is accounted for by the movement of people to cities, as opposed to growth within cities? Does the government have a role designing policies that either ease or hinder rural-urban migration?</p> <p>Agglomeration: Are Ethiopia's cities generating the kinds of agglomeration externalities that the literature suggests, or are they instead 'consumption cities' in which resource rents (including development assistance) are being spent, driving growth in non-tradable services rather than industrialisation? How do agglomeration benefits vary across industry sector? To what extent do firms benefit from intra-industry spillovers vs. inter-industry spillovers, and how do these results vary across sector? How does poor provision of public goods, market imperfections or coordination failures hinder agglomeration in the Ethiopian</p>

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	setting?
Civil Service	Mapping the structure and capacity of the civil service: what does the civil service do? How does it do what it does? What are the main institutional features of the civil service – decision, hierarchy, incentives?

The IGC Ethiopia Country Programme therefore invites interested researchers to submit research proposals that seek to address policy relevant questions in any of the areas identified above. All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Technical strength and quality
- Policy relevance
- Value for money
- Local content (capacity building)

Please send completed IGC Ethiopia Project Proposal forms (not to exceed 5 pages) to researchprogramme@theigc.org, cc'ing In-Country Economists, Miska Daredia (miska.daredia@theigc.org) and Yared Seid (yared.seid@theigc.org), and Hub Economist for Ethiopia, Michelle Jacob (michelle.jacob@theigc.org) by **31st May 2014**.

Kindly note, that the IGC places strong emphasis on collaborative work between local Ethiopian researchers and international researchers. Hence, joint proposals are strongly encouraged.

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Notes for Project Proposal Form

The Project Proposal Form (PPF) is the means by which projects receive approval and funding under the IGC Country Programme. *This form needs to be filled in by the Principal Investigators (PIs) and will be reviewed by the Country Leadership Team along with the In-Country Economists.*

Please note the following:

- The IGC Country Programme funds research and applied economic work undertaken by individual principal investigators and their teams. Submission of an itemised budget is necessary for funding approval.
- For any service (such as a firm hired to conduct a survey) included in the budget amounts to £8,000 or more, researchers are encouraged to obtain competitive quotes in order to ensure value for money. For auditing purposes, the Principal Investigator/ institution should retain all receipts from all service providers.
- Payment is made based on outputs. These can be both intermediate as well as final outputs. Please ensure that you have specified all deliverables in the relevant section.
- As funding allocation from one fiscal year (1 April – 31 March) does not carry over to the next fiscal year in the Country Programme, all expenses related to each output (including intermediate outputs) to be produced in each fiscal year must be clearly specified in the designated columns in Section 10 of the proposal form. These outputs will be expected to be delivered and paid for within the fiscal year specified.
- If the projects are contracted individually, there is no funding for overhead expenses.

Please note that all sections of the Project Proposal form attached need to be completed.

For additional information or any questions, please contact In-Country Economists, Miska Daredia (miska.daredia@theigc.org) and Yared Seid (yared.seid@theigc.org).

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