



## Request for Proposals

**Deadline: Proposals Accepted on a Rolling basis until June 30th<sup>st</sup> 2017 or until all funding is committed.**

The Intimate Partner Violence Initiative, a joint program of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), invites proposals from researchers working on randomized evaluations in related fields to conduct rigorous research to help expand the evidence base on what works in reducing intimate partner violence in low income countries.

Globally, violence against women is a leading cause of premature death and morbidity for women. Almost one-third of women report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their life, and nearly 40 percent of all homicides of women are committed by an intimate partner. In order to accelerate the generation of evidence on pathways to mitigate IPV, the IPV initiative seeks to build on existing randomized evaluations by integrating additional components on IPV and related outcomes. We are specifically interested in additions to randomized evaluations where the intervention being studied is not centered on IPV prevention, but likely has a positive or negative effect on IPV outcomes (for example: studies focused on female empowerment, family planning, education and life skills training, socio-emotional development, household economic growth, cash transfers, etc.).

As part of the broader initiative, we also invite proposals that seek to improve the measurement of IPV and related outcomes like women's agency, decision-making, inter-household bargaining and time use. It is expected that successful candidates for measurement-related work will coordinate closely with IPA and IRC staff to ensure that instruments and measures match the measurement priorities of the field.

All successful candidates will receive guidance from the Initiative about emerging best practices and the ethical conduct of violence research.

We encourage proposals that:

- **Add IPV focused survey modules to existing studies.** We anticipate that smaller grants would fund the cost of adding additional IPV focused survey modules to studies currently underway. We would target the numerous programs and research studies that are not directly focused on IPV, but likely have notable impacts on IPV outcomes. Even though these programs may impact IPV, these outcomes are not measured in the study so we lack insight in what are some of the likely mechanisms underlying IPV. For example, programs like cash transfers or certain micro-finance programs that drastically change the inter-household financial dynamics can also add to, or relieve, inter-household tension that can be a trigger for IPV. Programs targeting depression, alcohol use, family planning, and personal

development could be examples of areas to explore. We anticipate funding between 4 to 6 additions to planned survey rounds totaling between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

- **Add IPV focused survey rounds to current or past studies.** We also anticipate funding additional survey rounds focused on IPV. The types of additional survey rounds we would consider include, but are certainly not limited to, (1) supplemental household or spouse surveys with related respondents that are not part of the original data collection plan, (2) a long term follow-up survey of concluded study, and (3) cases where it is important to separate any IPV data collection from the primary study. Examples of this could include a supplemental household/spouse survey for female entrepreneurship training study to see the effects on the intra-household dynamics, or a long term follow-up survey for an adolescent girls life skills coaching to understand the effect on partner selection. We anticipate funding between 1 to 2 additions in this category, totaling between \$50,000 and \$125,000 each.
- **Add an IPV targeted treatment arm to an existing study.** We anticipate dispersing one larger grant that will support expanding a study by adding a treatment arm focused on reducing IPV to an existing or upcoming randomized evaluation. Applicants can request funding for the costs of expanding the study sample and survey as well as the IPV focused intervention. We anticipate funding 1 large expansion to a study in the range of \$250,000 or less.

## **PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA**

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to provide insight into the theoretical underpinnings of IPV and related outcomes and the types of programs that can lead to sustainable reductions in IPV in LMIC settings. These considerations will be weighed against costs and the potential for the work to scale to other areas.

## CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

**Applicants.** Each application must be presented by a team consisting of (i) one or more researchers involved in the design of the intervention and responsible for carrying out a rigorous evaluation of the program and (ii) one or more practitioner institutions who will partner with the research team on the proposed intervention.

Researchers must be affiliated with a research institution or a university and either hold a PhD or be currently pursuing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline. They must demonstrate experience in field research and randomized evaluations.

**Geographic Focus.** The fund encourages research projects in developing countries. Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, as well as applications from research teams with one or more researchers working full time in these regions, are particularly encouraged.

**Research.** All submissions must present a rigorous study design for expanding a randomized evaluation to include a focus on IPV and a clear set of hypotheses of why this is important. **We will not provide pilot or start-up funds, so at minimum the study should have already received an award notification from a primary funder before applying.** All awardees are expected to coordinate with the IPV initiative on the selection of survey modules and reporting of IPV-related results. Studies must also be willing to accommodate all best practices for ethical research of IPV (Note: initiative staff will closely support awardees with this). We strongly encourage current and upcoming IPA projects and/or affiliated researchers to apply, though we will also consider proposals from outside sources.

Submissions proposing to conduct field-based data collection should specify the research implementing partner organization that will assist the research team with the management and implementation of the randomized evaluation. The organization must demonstrate experience implementing randomized evaluations and have a presence in the country.

Projects taking place in countries where IPA has a country program are expected to be run through the local IPA Country Office, as these offices have the experience and long-term presence to ensure that projects meet excellent research quality standards, maintain strong partner relationships, and that the study is well-integrated with the work of the IPV Initiative and IPA as a whole. Please make sure that you reach out to the local IPA Country Office well in advance of the deadline to discuss your application, including the research design, implementation plan, and project feasibility. Pending review and approval of your proposed project(s) by the country office staff, they will work with you on the budget and application materials. If you need assistance in reaching out to IPA Country Offices, please email us at [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org). Research applicants are encouraged to provide a clear motivation in case they elect to work with another implementing organization in a country where IPA is present.

**Funding.** Proposals shall indicate the overall cost of the project as well as the funding requested of the IPV Initiative. Funding requests are capped at \$300,000. Funding is for research costs. Implementation costs for the program are expected to be covered from other sources, except when adequate justification is provided for their inclusion in the study budget. No funding will be provided for the salary or time of researchers in developed countries. Funding under the study budget for the

salaries and/or time of researchers in developing countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the selection committee.

**Project Timeline.** Projects are expected to launch IPV-related component of their study before the end of 2017.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

The application process will proceed on a rolling basis with proposal reviews occurring every 6 weeks. A selection committee, comprised of experts from academia, will vet proposals and advise on final award selection. Awardees will be notified and the timeline for the disbursement of awards will be handled on a case by case basis.

Please label your proposal "IPV RFP 2017 LeadResearcherLastName PractitionerOrgName" and submit the completed application and other required attachments through our online portal at: [https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/ipv\\_rfp\\_2017](https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/ipv_rfp_2017). If you have difficulty submitting through this site, please contact [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org).

The application form will require you to provide:

- Details on primary applicant, co-applicants, and institutional affiliations.
- Overview of proposed research project, implementation plan and intervention(s)/products to be evaluated. Please make sure to provide information from ongoing or completed pilot(s), including data on uptake, usage, information in support of program feasibility, and on risks to the successful and timely roll-out of the program at scale. If a pilot has not been conducted yet, provide information on the timeline for any future piloting or why a pilot is not necessary.
- Tentative project timeline and budget. A detailed timeline of the project with key milestones indicated is required. Please note that full scale project implementation is expected to start within 5 months of the award date.
- CVs for all applying researchers, with filename "ResearcherLastName\_CV.pdf."
- Signed letter of support from the practitioner organization with filename "PractitionerOrgName\_letterofsupport.pdf." The letter should summarize the organization's operations and commitment to the project.
- Signed letter or email (printed in PDF) from the research implementing organization that will carry out the research (whether IPA or a third party), with filename "ResearchOrgName\_letterofsupport.pdf." The letter should indicate support for the application and intention to collaborate with the research team to carry out the study.

*Graduate Students: Graduate (PhD) students applying to the competitive fund must clearly state whether the proposed work is intended for their own dissertation or whether it is collaborative work with other researchers. Graduate students must include the name of their advisor in the application as well. The advisor must send an email to [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org) acknowledging their support for the submitted application.*

## ABOUT INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since its founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 400 leading academics to conduct over 600 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

IPA is present in 21 countries through 18 permanent offices. If you are working in Latin America outside of the countries mentioned below, please contact Prathap Kasina ([bpkasina@poverty-action.org](mailto:bpkasina@poverty-action.org)) for further information.

IPA Country Programs		
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Ashraf Haque	<a href="mailto:mahaque@poverty-action.org">mahaque@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Bolivia</b>	Juan Manuel Hernández-Agramonte	<a href="mailto:jmhernandez@poverty-action.org">jmhernandez@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Nicolò Tomaselli	<a href="mailto:ntomaselli@poverty-action.org">ntomaselli@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Colombia</b>	Sebastian Chaskel	<a href="mailto:schaskel@poverty-action.org">schaskel@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Henriette Hanicotte	<a href="mailto:hhanicotte@poverty-action.org">hhanicotte@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Sebastian Chaskel	<a href="mailto:schaskel@poverty-action.org">schaskel@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Ghana</b>	Madeleen Husselman	<a href="mailto:mhusselman@poverty-action.org">mhusselman@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Kenya</b>	Suleiman Asman	<a href="mailto:sasman@poverty-action.org">sasman@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Liberia</b>	Osman Siddiqi	<a href="mailto:osidiqi@poverty-action.org">osidiqi@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Malawi</b>	Carly Farver	<a href="mailto:cfarver@poverty-action.org">cfarver@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Mali</b>	Nicolò Tomaselli	<a href="mailto:ntomaselli@poverty-action.org">ntomaselli@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Mexico</b>	Juan Manuel Hernández-Agramonte	<a href="mailto:jmhernandez@poverty-action.org">jmhernandez@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Myanmar</b>	Jihae Hong	<a href="mailto:jhong@poverty-action.org">jhong@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Paraguay</b>	Juan Manuel Hernández-Agramonte	<a href="mailto:jmhernandez@poverty-action.org">jmhernandez@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Peru</b>	Juan Manuel Hernández-Agramonte	<a href="mailto:jmhernandez@poverty-action.org">jmhernandez@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Philippines</b>	Nassreena Sampaco-Baddiri	<a href="mailto:nbaddiri@poverty-action.org">nbaddiri@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Rwanda</b>	Kris Cox	<a href="mailto:kcox@poverty-action.org">kcox@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Osman Siddiqi	<a href="mailto:osidiqi@poverty-action.org">osidiqi@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Rachel Steinacher	<a href="mailto:rsteinacher@poverty-action.org">rsteinacher@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Uganda</b>	Dickson Malunda	<a href="mailto:dmalunda@poverty-action.org">dmalunda@poverty-action.org</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	Dylan Ramshaw	<a href="mailto:dramshaw@poverty-action.org">dramshaw@poverty-action.org</a>

To connect with one of our country offices or questions about working with IPA, you may also contact [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org) or [pd@poverty-action.org](mailto:pd@poverty-action.org).