

PRESS RELEASE

The International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) Awarded US\$1,567,175 Research Grant to Generate and Bridge Evidence Gaps on the Impacts of Infrastructure on Nutrition and Women's Economic Empowerment in sub-Saharan Africa

Nairobi, Kenya- December 13, 2021: The International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) officially launched a new two-year research initiative, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, designed to increase understanding of the role that infrastructure plays in improving diets and women's economic empowerment in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The lack of infrastructure has emerged as a major challenge for agricultural development on the continent as it poses a great risk to rural livelihoods by hindering access to affordable, healthy, safe and nutritious diets by low-income producers and consumers. The lack of access to inclusive infrastructure and safe and nutritious diets also has negative impact on women's economic empowerment. It also affects the quest for gender equality embedded in the unequal and unjust gender relations, production systems and processes, and decision-making and participation structures in the everyday living conditions of women and men in many countries in SSA.

The research program addresses three policy areas: (i) the impact of different types of infrastructure on access to affordable, safe, and nutritious diets among low-income consumers and women's economic empowerment; (2) the types and design of infrastructure investments and whether they are conducive to advancing the choices that low-income consumers make on nutritious diets and also contribute to women's economic empowerment; and (3), the role of policymakers and development organizations in strengthening the design of gender-inclusive and nutrition-sensitive infrastructure investments.

ICED President and CEO, Dr. David Sarfo Ameyaw remarked: "ICED is excited about this grant that will go a long way in identifying fundamental evidence gaps that if addressed will bring African countries closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 5 and 10."

Incorporating the diverse needs of girls and women in infrastructure development empowers them by incorporating their voices in the decision-making process. "This initiative will gather evidence that will guide governments in Africa on how to plan, deliver, and manage infrastructural development based on gender mainstreaming approach to address gender-based barriers impeding access to infrastructure services," said Dr. David Sarfo Ameyaw.

ICED anticipates that findings under this research initiative will be instrumental in identifying emerging knowledge and evidence that can shape better infrastructure policies that contribute toward positive development outcomes for all in Africa.

Currently, ICED implementing the Feed the Future Advancing Local leadership, Integration and Network (ALL-IN) research grant, a Sub-Award from the University of California Davis' Market, Risk and Resilience Innovation Lab, (BASIS) that has awarded 12 research grants to 8 Africa Research Institutions in 6 countries. ICED has memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with over 20 leading research institutions in Africa. It has also developed MoUs with selected government ministries to promote research and evaluation for policymaking and action. These include the Commissioner of M&E, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda; The State Ministry of Planning, Department of M&E, Kenya National Treasury and

Planning; The Planning Commission, Malawi; and The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Puntland, State of Somalia.

For further information on the project, please contact Dr. David Sarfo Ameyaw through dameyaw@iced-eval.org.

ENDS

About ICED

ICED is a not-for-profit organization with its operating headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, a West Africa office in Ghana and with a range of emerging international alliances and partnerships. ICED aims to provide, inspire, and support thought leadership and practical innovation in evaluation rooted in practical realities and experiences across cultures and contexts, especially in Africa. ICED fills an important niche in the global evaluation architecture. It is the first international organization based in Africa that focuses explicitly on research and innovation in evaluation for development.