

International Projects



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Global development and financial assistance programs demand a broad range of research and analysis to ensure that they respond to the needs of the most vulnerable populations and that scarce resources are allocated effectively. Towards this end, NORC's International Projects (INPRO) department provides core expertise in impact and performance evaluations, analytic research, surveys, and a variety of other data collection methodologies. INPRO's staff includes subject-matter experts in agriculture, infrastructure, international finance, microfinance, housing finance/mortgage lending, think tank mentoring, business climate, land registration, and poverty alleviation.

Founded in 1941, NORC at the University of Chicago has annual revenues of about USD 150 million, employs approximately 600 full-time staff, and works internationally in more than 30 countries around the world. Its international clients include U.S. and foreign government agencies, international organizations, and foundations. NORC is headquartered in downtown Chicago with additional offices on the University of Chicago's campus, the D.C. Metro area, Atlanta, Boston, and San Francisco. NORC's affiliation with the University of Chicago supports strong collaboration with University faculty and graduate student researchers. NORC also enjoys robust relationships with faculty at many other outstanding U.S. universities.

The INPRO team continues to build on NORC's legacy of international research and data collection. NORC was instrumental in the founding of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) in 1946, and was one of the four original partners in the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) which now boasts 48 member countries. Today, INPRO performs large-scale and complex quantitative surveys, including household and enterprise surveys in multiple languages. INPRO also employs the latest appropriate technology, such as mobile devices, and offers clients the ability to collect biomeasures. The team is skilled in qualitative data collection, including focus groups, as well as the integration of secondary and administrative data with primary data.

NORC is one of several contractors selected by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to conduct rigorous evidence-based evaluations of MCC programs. For this work, INPRO is using experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation designs that employ randomization or matching techniques to construct control and comparison groups; the goal is to measure and attribute the causal impact of these programs. INPRO also conducts performance evaluations and designs monitoring and evaluation systems that provide valuable feedback to clients and project managers. The foundation of INPRO's work in these areas incorporates both quantitative and qualitative approaches, from economic modeling to content analysis.

Areas of Expertise:

- Agriculture
- Democracy and governance
- Finance
 - Consumer finance
 - Microfinance
- Health
- Land management and administration
- Poverty alleviation
- Roads and infrastructure
- Think tanks

Major Capabilities:

- Impact evaluation
- Performance evaluation
- Program monitoring
- Statistical design and analysis
- Study design and survey methodology
- Survey data collection
- Policy analysis and recommendations
- Technical assistance



Sample Projects

Design and Implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Competitive African Cotton for Pro-Poor Growth (COMPACI) Program. NORC designed and is implementing the evaluation of COMPACI, a project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the German Ministry of Development Cooperation. This six-country program aims to increase household incomes of small-scale cotton farmers using sustainable growing methods. For the impact evaluation, NORC is collecting household data that will permit before-and-after comparisons and estimation of COMPACI's impact. NORC is using primary, secondary, quantitative, and qualitative data from multiple sources to track COMPACI's progress and performance.

Impact Evaluation of MCA Morocco's Olive Sector Activity. NORC is conducting impact and performance evaluations for MCA-Morocco by collecting baseline and follow-up survey data from three related samples—olive farmers, farmer associations, and olive processing plants—and collecting qualitative data from key stakeholders implementing the intervention. The intervention consists of 1) providing training and technical assistance to olive farmers and farmer associations in Moroccan rural rain-fed olive culture zones and 2) providing business development, safety training, quality assurance, and environmental technical assistance to olive processing plants. NORC's evaluations are designed to capture the net effect of the intervention on farmers' agricultural revenue. They include randomly assigning olive plantations to treatment and control groups, developing a comparison group of olive plantations, collecting data at baseline with three yearly follow-up surveys—including a panel sample among the farmer population—and collecting qualitative data.

Impact Evaluation of Rural Development and Transportation Projects in Honduras. NORC designed and implemented impact evaluations of two MCA Honduras projects—the Farmer Training and Development Assistance Activity (FTDA) and the Transportation Project. NORC used rigorous methodologies to estimate the causal relationship between project interventions and economic and social impacts. Evaluations used model-based quasi-experimental designs to assess the impact of the interventions on household income and employment, agricultural production and secondary effects related to education and health. Data collection for both evaluations consisted of two large-scale longitudinal household surveys, traffic counts, and origin-destination surveys.

State of the Cities Baseline Survey in Kenya. As part of the World Bank's Kenya Urban Program, NORC is conducting a baseline study to produce reliable estimates of key demographic and economic indicators, and of infrastructure access for 15 Kenyan cities. This survey includes collecting data using tablet PCs from a representative sample of 14,600 households in slum and non-slum areas. Using both descriptive and model-based analyses, the study will estimate, among other things, the proportion of households living below the poverty line and with access to infrastructure services (piped water, electricity, and toilet facilities). Study findings are intended to support stakeholders in designing interventions that promote good governance and improve service delivery.

Bank of Spain Survey of Household Finances/la Encuesta Financiera de las Familias (EFF). The EFF survey, which employs a computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI), collects data on investment and financial decisions of more than 6,000 Spanish households. EFF is the sole source of disaggregated data of its kind in Spain and forms an important source of data for research and public policy. In 2011, NORC administered the second consecutive round of this triennial survey. EFF is similar to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances which has been conducted by NORC since 1993.

USAID/Kenya "Yes Youth Can!" (YYC) Impact Evaluation. YYC is the largest USAID youth program in the world and is aimed at empowering Kenyan youth to increase their economic opportunities, create self-reliant organizations, improve their voice in local, regional and national policy dialogue, and expand their access to essential services that are more youth-friendly. NORC is conducting the YYC baseline assessment, which involves developing the evaluation methodology, directing survey administration, and conducting analysis of the baseline data.

Other Projects

Development of Secondary Mortgage Facility in Rwanda

Georgia New Economic Opportunities

Housing Finance in the Palestinian Territories

Housing Micro-Finance Programme in Kyrgyzstan

MCC Lesotho Impact Evaluation: Water and Health Sector Projects

MCA Burkina Faso Agricultural Data Collection in the Sourou Valley and Comoe Basin

MCC Impact Evaluation Services in Benin

MCC Impact Evaluation Services in the Republic of Georgia

MiDA-Ghana Feeder Roads Impact Evaluation

Mongolia Microfinance Impact Evaluation

Mortgage Demand in Indonesia

Namibia Community-Based Rangeland and Livestock Management (CBRLM) Surveys

Namibia Conservancy Support and Indigenous Natural Products (CS/INP) Surveys

Nigeria Financial Crisis Survey

Nigeria Sub-National Investment Climate Improvement

Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

Transparency and Accountability Project Phase III (TAP 2 & 3)

World Bank Baseline Survey for Impact Evaluation of Mi Primer Empleo Youth Employment Program, Honduras

World Bank Infrastructure Improvement Evaluations in Egypt and Sri Lanka

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