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Impact and performance evaluation, policy research, organization capacity-building, finance, local governance, housing and urban development

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International development, impact and performance evaluation, international health, project management

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International development, program evaluation, survey design and management, project management, U.S. tax policy, organizational capacity building

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Marginalized populations, vulnerable youth and people with disabilities, agricultural impact evaluation, large-scale survey management

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Government asset management (land and infrastructure), government decentralization, urban development, public-private partnerships, needs assessment, market and feasibility studies

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Multimodal survey design and management, evaluation design, international data collection

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Development economics, impact evaluation, econometric evaluation techniques, land tenure, property rights, smallholder agriculture

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Economic development, human capital, labor economics, household behavior, program evaluation, survey research

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Fiscal decentralization, municipal financial management, democracy and governance, monitoring and evaluation, local service delivery performance management, planning and budgeting

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International Projects



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International development and financial assistance programs demand a broad range of research and analysis, and state of the art knowledge of innovative approaches 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, performance monitoring, analytic research, and surveys and other data collection methodologies. NORC's projects often include components related to capacity building and technical assistance to counterpart organizations. INPRO's staff includes subject matter experts in agriculture, infrastructure, public and private finance, business climate, government asset management, local service delivery, budgeting, performance management, and think tank mentoring.

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. This technical knowledge is complemented by expertise and experience in project implementation, with an emphasis on providing practical and innovative technical assistance and capacity building to a broad range of local and central government officials and civil society organizations. INPRO has worked in more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America.

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

- Public finance
- Consumer finance
- Microfinance

Government asset management (infrastructure, land)
Health and education
Land administration
Local service delivery
Planning and budgeting
Performance management

Poverty alleviation
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 seven-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.

Indonesia Impact Evaluation of Water Hibah Project. The Water Hibah Project, funded by AUSAid, is an output-based grant program rewarding local governments that invest in their own local water companies - to expand water distribution networks to poor households. A grant is paid for each new water connection, following independent verification that the connection has been functioning for three months. NORC was hired to determine the broader socio-economic impact of the Water Hibah Program on access to water services, particularly for poor and vulnerable groups. This involved developing the research methodology, collecting data through survey administration, and providing analysis. NORC designed a longitudinal analysis of the program's Phase 1 impact, conducted a pilot test for the end-line survey instrument, and delivered a week-long course on impact evaluation to senior-level staff.

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.

Uganda Performance and Impact Evaluation of the School Health and Reading Program (SHRP). NORC is conducting a performance and impact evaluation of USAID's School Health and Reading Program (SHRP) in Uganda which consists of an early grade literacy intervention and an HIV/AIDS intervention to improve HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices amongst primary and secondary school students. For the impact evaluation, NORC is using a mixed-method (combined experimental and quasi-experimental design) design, that employs both a randomized controlled trial of schools in intervention districts, and matching to compare schools in intervention districts with schools in non-intervention districts. The performance evaluation uses both quantitative and qualitative data to collect information on the strengths and weaknesses of program implementation that can be used to improve the design and implementation of SHRP.

Vietnam Land Reform. NORC conducted, for IFC, an impact assessment of Vietnam's 2003 Land Code (whether it achieved the goals established for it and its impact on land markets and business access to land). The work entailed reviewing and assessing land markets and the rules and procedures governing real property transactions; detailed mapping of land allocation procedures and land transactions; survey of 600 system users and 100 market professionals and in-depth interviews with land registration officials in 12 provinces. Based on data analysis, NORC formulated issues to be addressed in system reform; recommended a reform action program; and designed further technical assistance programs for land reform, planning and registration. The results were presented in various business forums and in the National Assembly of Vietnam. Finally, NORC developed a toolkit and best practice manual for provincial governments on implementing administrative reforms in land administration and land development controls.

Other Projects

MCA / Morocco Impact Evaluation of Olive Sector

World Bank Institute / City to City Dialogues in Seven Balkan Countries

Government of Rwanda / Development of Secondary Mortgage Facility in Rwanda

USAID / Georgia New Economic Opportunities

World Bank / Housing Finance in the Palestinian Territories

KfW / Housing Micro-Finance Programme in Kyrgyzstan

US Department of State / Costa Rica Results Based Monitoring in the Juvenile Justice Sector

MCC / Lesotho Impact Evaluation: Water and Health Sector Projects

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

MCA / Philippines Data Quality Review of Compact Projects

MCC / Impact Evaluation Services in Benin and the Republic of Georgia

MCC / Tanzania Mainland Trunk Roads and Zanzibar Rural Roads Projects Impact Evaluation

MiDA / Ghana Feeder Roads Impact Evaluation

EBRD / Mongolia Microfinance Impact Evaluation

IFC / Mortgage Demand in Indonesia

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

IFC / Nigeria Sub-National Investment Climate Improvement

DFID / Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

R4D / 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 / GIS Assessment for Infrastructure Planning in Egypt and Sri Lanka

USAID / Haiti, Financial Sector Knowledge Sharing

State of Qatar / Qatar National Education Data System