**Co-Impact Assessment Criteria for Round 3 Concept Notes**

We expect to use the following criteria to assess concept notes. We anticipate that very few, if any, initiatives will score perfectly in every category; instead, we seek well-rounded initiatives that broadly demonstrate strength across the full range of criteria. Not all criteria are weighted equally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Systems Change Elements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Significance & scale of 5-year results | - Articulates clear outcomes that focus on Co-Impact’s Round 3 target outcomes (not only intermediate outcomes)  
- Projects impact in people’s lives that is significant, meaningful, and on a large scale (disaggregated by women/men)  
- Demonstrates potential to unlock/catalyze even greater change in future (in targeted system and/or similar systems elsewhere) |
| 2. Coherent & credible systems change idea/plan | Articulates a strategic and credible approach/strategy for achieving systems change, including among other considerations,  
- A thoughtful, sophisticated analysis of the root problems to be solved, including gender dimensions  
- Clarity, simplicity, and importance of the core idea at the heart of the initiative  
- A core design that responds to the problem; is technically sound and smart; focuses on a “fulcrum” or part(s) of the system that matters; and maintains a scope of effort that is right-sized and feasible given the context and organization |
| 3. Long-term sustainability of systems change | Makes strong case that systemic change will likely endure/effort will continue after 5 years; key factors include:  
- Incentives of key stakeholders will be aligned with acceptance/furtherance of change  
- Measures will be in place to ensure ongoing systemic adoption of the approach, e.g. policies include the approach  
- There is a credible funding model to cover the projected scale of any ongoing costs after the 5-year grant period  
- Non-financial resources critical to success (e.g. technical expertise, political support) will be available |
| 4. Evidence base | Shows that the initiative’s core approach/model/idea(s) achieves people-centered outcomes; uses a credible approach, e.g.  
- Evidence is from credible third party (ideally both data collection and analysis)  
- Evidence design is rigorous, and includes statistically significant results for the targeted outcome(s)  
- Evidence is from roughly similar context and population (same region, urban/rural, etc.) |
| **Key Design Considerations** | |
| 5. Political economy analysis and response | Demonstrates thoughtfulness in a) analysis of political economy and governance considerations, and b) has presented a compelling approach to respond to it  
- Makes compelling case that prevailing governance/civic conditions enable target system and country/region to achieve results  
- Shows approach is savvy about how to create a winning coalition powerful enough to make and sustain systems change |
| 6. Inclusion/Gender | Demonstrates that gender analysis and gender equity are meaningfully reflected across all aspects of program design (problem analysis, outcomes definitions, pathways to change, measurement, etc.)  
- Gives considerations to particular context-based discrimination such as race, ethnicity, and class  
- Promotes and strengthens women’s representation and leadership |
| 7. Learning and Measurement | Articulates a thoughtful strategy for ongoing learning and adaptation, dealing with uncertainty, and continuous improvement  
- Includes ongoing measurement along the logic chain, and explains how data is used for decision-making and by whom  
- Understands how data can be used to track and attain results by public systems at local and national levels |
| **Organizational Characteristics** | |
| 8. Global South-led | HQ of lead organization and majority of staff is in the Global South, preferably in the targeted countries (or region)  
- The Initiative Leader and at least 50% of the senior leadership is from Global South, preferably from targeted countries/region  
- The anchor organization/initiative has long-term roots in the region: 10+ years of working on the initiative in target countries/region; long-term, substantial working partnerships with local actors; investment in local talent for leadership positions |
| 9. Women-led | The lead organization’s CEO and ideally 50% of senior leadership are women  
- Women represent a significant proportion of the lead organization’s board |
| 10. Track record & readiness of lead organization | Lead organization and key partners are already achieving significant scale in related impact for people and systems  
- Lead organization has track record of managing significant budgets  
- Audited financial statements of lead organization are available within 6 months of end of financial year |
| 11. Partnerships | Lead organization is already working with one or more of the most important partners  
- If the initiative is a partnership, the partnership has a strong history, strategic rationale, clear roles, and accountability structure  
- Government in at least one country has already acted to support or engage with the initiative |