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.

	Category	Considerations
Core Systems Change Elements	1. Significance & scale of 5-year results	• Articulates clear outcomes that focus on Co-Impact's Round 3 target <u>ultimate</u> 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