![3ie logo] International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Policy Window Advanced: summaries of completed evaluations

Evaluation of the Family Social Housing Subsidy Program

3ie member: SINERGIA-DNP, Colombia
Research Team: Econometría Consultores, Fedesarrollo and SEI SA
Expert: Jose Galdo, PhD, School of Public Policy and Department of Economics, Carleton University

Overview of the evaluation

The Family Social Housing Subsidy program is an initiative implemented by the *Ministerio de Vivienda, Ciudad y Territorio* [Ministry of Housing, City and Territory] that includes (1) A cash subsidy to poor households to buy a new house or improve theirs and (2) an in-kind housing subsidy that provides a house to extremely poor households. A Colombian research consortium was contracted to collect a baseline for the beneficiaries and a control group, and to design an impact evaluation to assess the causal effects of the program at the individual and household level. The evaluation framework developed by the consortium proposed a propensity score matching strategy, using before and after information to assess the effect of the program. This strategy entailed a survey of over eight thousand households across 101 municipalities.

Role of the impact evaluation advisor

The advisor's key contribution was to assess the adequacy and feasibility of the proposed evaluation approaches and narrow down the alternative strategies that the local team was considering. The advisor also played an active role throughout different stages of the impact evaluation, providing technical leadership and constructive criticism. During the design stage, he assessed the methodologies proposed for evaluating the program and contributed to the survey design. Specifically, he reviewed the sampling design, data collection requirements, identification strategy, selection of the control group, and statistical models. The advisor also reviewed the baseline questionnaire. Since the baseline survey was conducted post implementation, he helped the team address the retrospective nature of the evaluation and helped them minimize potential recall bias.

During the analysis stage, the advisor reviewed products generated by the research consortium and provided advice on the statistical analysis and software approach. The advisor also provided protocols on how to implement matching techniques and trained the research assistants on statistical analysis.

Interactions with the local team and SINERGIA

The advisor worked with the consortium to write reports, participate in online meetings with *Econometría Consultores* and attend presentations on preliminary results for SINERGIA. As part of the grant, the advisor made two visits to Bogota for around 10 working days. The relationship with the local evaluation team was positive and respectful. The local team valued the advisor's inputs and suggestions, and the advisor complimented the professionalism and expertise of the local team. This positive working relationship enabled all researchers to effectively work together and helped generate consensus on key issues around the impact evaluation.