

NI grant extension: questions for New Incentives

- We are trying to reconstruct why, in 2017, we under-estimated the amount you needed to support operations during the RCT and in the event of a negative decision on the top-charity status. Our understanding is that, in November 2017, you thought the top-charity decision would be made by April 30th, and you would have two weeks 'buffer' before starting to use exit funds on May 15th.¹ However, (a) the top-charity decision will arrive later than you expected and (b) you now estimate you would need one month 'buffer' (rather than two weeks).
 - Is this right? If not, could you share your reconstruction of what happened?
- You mentioned you would need a 'buffer' month between a negative decision and phase out, to agree on an exit strategy with stakeholders.² We'd like to understand this stage better.
 - If the reconstruction above is right, why have you updated your estimate on the amount of 'buffer' time needed?
 - What activities would you conduct during this month? Which stakeholders would you involve?
 - What are the downsides or costs of not doing this work?
 - Is there any of this work that you could do ahead of a funding decision?
 - Our understanding is that you expect the cost of maintaining operations during that month to be \$253,054 (i.e. the same as the cost of maintaining operations while GiveWell completes the evaluation.)³ Is this right? If not, could you share a budget for this month?

¹ "The November 2017 RCT Grant to New Incentives assumed the following:

RCT Report by 28-Feb-2020

GiveWell Decision by 30-Apr-2020

Field operations through 15-May-2020" [Email thread with Svetha Janumpalli](#)

This is also in line with their timeline in the 2017 grant budget [here](#)

² "we hope to have at least one month of lead time to continue normal operations while we communicate the results and develop an exit strategy with state stakeholders. If we receive a negative decision on July 31, 2020, we would commence phase-out on September 1, 2020." [Email thread with Svetha Janumpalli](#)

"Jul 2020: one month of normal operations to agree on exit strategy" [Email thread with Svetha Janumpalli](#)

³ The budget also presents a scenario in which NI needs funding up until Dec 2020, to account for delays in disbursing top-charity incentive grant. However, we are confident it would take us a maximum of two months to disburse the grant.

"Note that the reason we included the Dec-2020 scenario is to ensure continued operations for the different TopCharity scenarios to account for the possibility of not receiving funds from a Top Charity recommendation until February 2021" [Email thread with Svetha Janumpalli](#)

[November 2017- December 2020 Budget](#), 2019 Grant Request, cell G37

- Your recent budget suggests costs per month are ~25% higher than you expected in 2017.⁴
 - Does this lead to an increase in the total cost of the phase out (i.e. higher than the \$634,660 estimated in 2017)?
 - If so, could you share a new budget for the phase out?
- We're planning to recommend that a grant, assuming we make it, be disbursed to you by May 15. Does that work for you, or would you recommend a different timeline?

⁴ [November 2017- December 2020 Budget](#), 2019 Grant Request, cell H37