



Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	2019 - 036
Title:	Junior Professional Officer
Grade:	UC
Division/VPU:	GPVDR (Poverty Department - Global Practice)
Duty Location:	Washington, DC
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

- The Poverty and Equity Global Practice (GP) is a family of integratively-oriented and versatile empirical microeconomists with deep expertise in household surveys and poverty measurement, and broad experience in using household and other “micro” data to inform the design and implementation of policies and programs to reduce poverty and enhance shared prosperity. We work with government and external partners, at the country-level and globally, in ensuring that their efforts to eliminate extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity are enhanced by integrative empirically-grounded analyses of household welfare. Internally, we work with country, regional and global teams across all practices to operationalize the twin goals of the WBG—to reduce poverty and enhance shared prosperity—by providing a more robust evidence base and analytics using micro data.
- The country-level work of the poverty global practice typically falls under one or more of the following three streams:
- Laying the foundations for evidence-based policy by strengthening data on household welfare: this is the foundational work, mostly delivered through TA and occasionally through statistical capacity-building investment operations, to support the design and implementation of household surveys, provide advice on best-practice methodologies for estimating household welfare, poverty, and shared prosperity, and build capacity and strengthen country systems for collecting data on and monitoring household welfare.
- Defining the agenda through integrative analysis and dialogue: this stream of work has focused on using the household-level data, wherever available, to undertake integrative analyses to inform the policy dialogue and advance the poverty reduction and shared prosperity agenda and priorities at the regional, national and occasionally sub-national levels.
- Delivering operational solutions: this stream of work focuses on collaborating with internal and external partners to translate the upstream analytics into concrete implementable measures and support the implementation of particular interventions aimed at reducing poverty. This includes supporting the preparation of Systematic Country Diagnostics and Country Partnership Frameworks, as well as the analysis of poverty and social impacts of Bank operations.

- The country level work programs are allocated to six regional units – East and Central Africa, Western and Southern Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa and South Asia – each of which is managed by a Practice Manager.
- The Poverty and Equity GP also has five global programs including Data for Goals (D4G) and four Global Strategy Groups. The global programs lead the World Bank Group’s global agenda. For example, D4G work program leads monitoring of the World Bank Group’s Twin Goals – eradication of extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity – at the global level. A regional Practice Manager manages a global program.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected candidate will be based in Washington, DC, and will support poverty programs in selected countries. He/she will also be expected to contribute to the D4G program.

The selected candidate will be expected to:

- Make methodological and analytical contributions to research on poverty, equity and shared prosperity.
- Analyzing household data to examine the causes and dynamic of poverty.
- Prepare policy memos based on analytical findings and write assigned sections of research reports.
- Assist in the preparation and dissemination of research findings to internal audiences, government and non-government partners, and other international development partners.
- Participate in research on projections of extreme poverty and shared prosperity to estimate these indicators for years when countries did not collect data including current and future years.

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving his/her own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

We are looking for an innovative Junior Professional Officer preferably with research experience in behavioral economics in developing country context.

Minimum Education/Experience:

- Master’s in economics or related subjects and 2 years of relevant work.
- Good understanding of advanced econometric methods, particularly those relevant to household data analysis, and experience in working with household surveys data.
- Excellent knowledge of STATA, R, and Python.

Good understanding of up-to-date machine learning approaches (Lasso, Ridge, Decision trees, Random Forest, Neural Networks, among others) and its application to imputations using a household survey as training data to another household survey

- Excellent writing and communication skills in English.

