



Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	2018-034
Title:	Junior Professional Officer
Grade:	UC
Division/VPU:	Poverty (GPVDR/GGEVP)
Duty Location:	Washington, D.C.
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group (WBG) is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for development solutions. In fiscal year 2014, the WBG committed \$65.6 billion in loans, grants, equity investments and guarantees to its members and private businesses, of which \$22.2 billion was concessional finance to its poorest members. It is governed by 188 member countries and delivers services out of 120 offices with nearly 15,000 staff located globally.

The World Bank Group (WBG) twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity reflect a new global landscape: one in which developing countries have an unprecedented opportunity to end extreme poverty within a generation. The Poverty Global Practice plays a central role in the achievement of this goal.

THE POVERTY GLOBAL PRACTICE

We are 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 technical assistance 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 and at times,

development policy operations, 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.

SWIFT (Survey of Well-being via Instant, Frequent Tracking) is a rapid poverty assessment tool, designed to produce accurate household expenditure and poverty data in a very timely, cost-effective and user-friendly manner. It has been used to improve availability of official poverty statistics and monitoring welfare impact of projects. SWIFT surveys have been adopted across a range of topics including health, energy, agriculture, finance, disaster risk management, and environment.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will support SWIFT projects, monitor the quality of technical inputs and improving delivery. Like all members of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice, he/she will also be expected to contribute to the global knowledge base of the practice. In particular, the JPO will be expected to:

- Oversee and ensure the quality of SWIFT projects, guiding consultants on modeling and analysis of SWIFT projects, training, mentoring and supervising the work of others where required.
- Conduct modeling, questionnaire design, and analysis for SWIFT projects. Tasks include:
 - Clean data and construct variables for model estimation.
 - Build consumption models to predict levels of expenditure, poverty and inequality statistics.
 - Develop program codes and logs in Stata and any other software packages used to fully document the data preparation, model estimation, and data analysis procedures.
 - Convert questionnaire into Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) format.
- Contribute to the research and development of the SWIFT program by providing and gathering expertise, contributing to publications and reports both within the Poverty GP and with other units.
- Present the SWIFT methodology to clients and colleagues through learning events.

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

- Master's degree in Economics, Economic Policy or equivalent, PhD desirable but not required.
- At least 2 years of relevant professional experience, or equivalent combination of study and experience.
- Excellent quantitative and analytical background with experience in microeconometrics and statistical modeling - designing, implementing household surveys & performing complex econometric analysis.
- Knowledge of program languages like STATA, R and Python, plus knowledge of machine learning and big data is highly desirable.
- Experience as a practitioner in developing and/or transition countries is desirable.
- Superb interpersonal skills; ability to collaborate effectively with multi-disciplinary teams, and to listen and integrate ideas from varied sources, governments, NGOs and donors, while being diplomatic and sensitive to cultural, political and gender issues.
- Strong organizational, research, and oral presentation skills.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

- Additional language skills in World Bank official languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish) desirable.
- Willingness to travel to developing countries and interact with people of different backgrounds a must.