

JOB DESCRIPTION

2 – 3 Senior/Junior Socioeconomic Researchers reporting to Lead Economist

Pursue your interest in economic development and apply your analytical skills to a range of challenging impact assessment and poverty monitoring projects in a young and dynamic organisation working to reduce poverty through market forces.

OVERVIEW

The *Impact and Performance Team* is PI's poverty impact research unit working in support of many projects across the organisation. The team works with other PI's regional programme teams across Vietnam and Lao PDR to;

- 1) develop strong impact monitoring and evaluation programmes to show the ongoing effect of PI's work.
- 2) analyse the potential for market sectors to eradicate poverty, and;

The team produces and disseminates results organisation wide that demonstrates the impact of PI's programme objectives and, in particular, its corporate mission to reduce poverty at scale. The team will continue to form collaborations and strategic partnerships with government research and statistical offices, international research organisations, and researchers to contribute to the building of national capacity in this area. Building on 1) and 2) above, the team also is involved in continually developing PI's methods and approaches to ensure our work is at the forefront of global practice. The team also *monitors PI's overall organisational measures of success*, which are:

- **Scale:** PI's collaborative programmes are designed to achieve large scale impact. Our target is to reduce the poverty gap for the region substantially and move millions of people out of poverty;
- **Income earned by poor people.** PI's programmes will increase demand for the products and labour of the poor. The resulting increases in the real prices of goods and wages will transform poor household living standards.
- **Efficient use of resources.** PI's programme justification, design and performance is based on efficiency measures such as "income and jobs created for the poor per project dollar spent"

We are looking to recruit 2 or 3 Senior/Junior socioeconomic researchers, with varying levels of expertise and experience, one at a more senior level. All applicants must have strong technical skills (especially in quantitative methods) and a commitment to PI's approach to pro-poor market-led development. The senior researcher should also have at least 5 years relevant work experience. You will be working as part of a small team but some cases will be asked to work independently, especially in the case of the senior socioeconomic researcher. For the senior position, you will also have the opportunity to develop your management skills by taking on responsibility for specific activities and leading and mentoring less-experienced team members and partner staff.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Socioeconomic Researchers will be responsible for delivering activities, and coordinating partner activities under the leadership of the Lead Economist. Specific responsibilities of the position will include:

- Undertake poverty and economic development related research and analysis using secondary data in Vietnam, and Lao PDR:
 - Liaise with various government authorities and research organisations to enable access to secondary data resources

- Use such data to develop methods for assessing the potential for specific industries and sectors to create value, employment, and income and the resulting poverty impact for various socioeconomic and social groups
- Support PI's other programme teams and partners to develop skills in the analysis of secondary data
- Support the development of survey instruments, sampling schemes and protocols for the generation of primary data at the household, trader and enterprise levels for use in PI's programmes to both:
 - Assess the ex ante impact of particular sectors on poverty
 - Evaluate the ex post impact of sector development programmes on poverty
- Lead the implementation of field surveys across PI's programmes being responsible for the effective completion of surveys, and data management in partnership with PI's Database Manager
- Undertake analysis and synthesis of this data in support of PI's programmes under the supervision of the Lead Economist
- Participate in the generation of PI reports and outputs and communication of results in public forums.
- Contribute to the planning and design of projects and programmes across PI.
- Contribute to other areas as required for the development of PI's programmes in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia.

The balance of these tasks will be determined by the Lead Economist. Since we are a new organisation, all staff are expected to be flexible about the scope of their work. For example, there may be times when you are asked to take part in work not specifically indicated in your job description.

SUPERVISORY AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Team: Impact and Performance

Supervises: none

Workstation: PI Head Office. Occasional travel to project sites and to PI operational countries (such as Laos and Cambodia) is required. Willingness to work overtime.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

This section outlines the skills and requirements we are looking for. Please read it carefully and ensure your application relates to each of these requirements (giving clear examples).

	Essential	Desirable
Experience/ Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters or doctoral qualification in a relevant field. These include agricultural/ development economics, rural sociology, survey design, statistics and systems modelling. For senior positions, experience with both quantitative and qualitative methods is highly desirable. • At least 3 years' post-graduate experience in a research role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD qualification; • University qualifications obtained from foreign university • Publication record
Skills/ Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong research skills; • Experience in research design, implementation and analysis • Experience in statistical analysis and proficiency in the use of one or more major statistical packages such as SAS, SPSS, and Stata • Ability to work independently and to proactively contribute to the progress of the team • Ability to deliver to deadlines • Excellent communications skills, with the ability to build trusting relationships with a range of partners • Ability to work in international teams • Proficiency in standard office applications (Excel, Powerpoint, word) and ability to write reports with minimal supervision • Fluency in English and either Vietnamese or Lao, both oral and written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in developing monitoring and evaluation systems • Database development, and query development experience using Access or other database software tools •

Personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional commitment to the challenge of eradicating global poverty • Belief in the importance of markets as a leading solution to poverty • Strong commitment to an output and performance-based working style • Strong desire to participate in and contribute to an evolving and entrepreneurial start-up organisation, including accepting and welcoming the personal opportunities and risks that this presents • Willingness to travel and work in the region, occasionally in remote areas. • Strong alignment with the goals, purpose and methods of PI, and the desire to be a key part of an organisation such as PI • Capacity to engage with poor people and to understand the human experience of poverty 	
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Full time, fixed term 12-month contract (subject to three-month probationary period. If this period is successfully completed the post-holder will be confirmed in post), extendable subject to funding.

CLOSING DATE: 22 June 2009

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a CV and cover letter to: recruitment@pi-email.org

The subject line of your email must be: "Socio-Economic Researcher **application**"