Research Associate, Financial Inclusion Deepening in Papua New Guinea

Summary

IPA Philippines started in 2003 and is one of IPA's first country offices. In the Philippines, IPA has strong partnerships and diverse projects in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, academic institutions, and other partners.

IPA Philippines is looking to hire a Research Associate to work with the financial inclusion policy-making body in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to advance data-driven programming and financial deepening in PNG. While the position is based in Manila, the Philippines, frequent travel to PNG is required. The position holder will manage a needs assessment study that aims to uncover the primary barriers to the usage of financial services and products in PNG. The project will contribute to evidence-based recommendations to support our partner in identifying and implementing the most effective strategies for deepening financial inclusion in PNG. The position holder will be responsible for the overall leadership and direction of the project on-ground, and have the opportunities to be involved in IPA's project development in PNG.

Responsibilities

- Actively liaise and communicate with the implementation partner and survey firm in PNG, IPA Philippines, IPA Financial Inclusion Program (FIP), and Principal Investigators (PIs) to ensure smooth project delivery.
- Design survey instruments, qualitative interview guides, and data collection strategies, in collaboration with PIs, FIP and partners.
- Program survey instruments in SurveyCTO, following programming best practices.
- Prepare training materials and collaborate with the survey firm in conducting enumerator training and piloting instruments.
- Monitor fieldwork progress in close coordination with the survey firm.
- Accompany the field teams during quantitative and qualitative data collection activities, to ensure compliance with research protocols and troubleshoot challenges. Expect to spend at least 50% of time in the study sites during data collection periods.
- Conduct data quality checks on a daily basis, communicate data quality issues with the survey firm, and make sure necessary actions are taken by the survey firm to address these issues on a timely manner.
- Clean data on an ongoing basis. Conduct data analysis and produce dissemination materials such as presentations, final reports, and evidence briefs.
- Regularly communicate project updates to the Research Manager.
• In collaboration with IPA-FIP, organize and facilitate workshops with financial service providers and other partners to design and prototype interventions for deepening financial inclusion.
• Provide support to IPA-FIP on literature review as needed.

**Qualifications**

**Required**

- Bachelor’s degree in economics, public policy, social science, or a related field
- 2-5 years of relevant work experience, including experience in economics research, impact evaluations, financial inclusion, and international development - Advanced Stata competency
- Experience with quantitative AND qualitative data collection and analysis
- Experience managing field data collection - Strong professional writing skills
- Strong client-facing and presentation skills - Fluency in English
- Self-starter, entrepreneurial mindset, versatility, and ability to learn at a fast pace
- Passion for making data-driven decisions a reality in the international development sector

**Preferred**

- Master’s degree in economics, public policy, social science, or a related field
- Experience living and working in PNG and/or the Philippines
- Knowledge in a randomized controlled trial
- Experience in conducting research in the financial inclusion sector

**Application Instructions**

Apply now

**About IPA**

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world’s poor. In recent decades, trillions of dollars have been spent on programs designed to reduce global poverty, but clear evidence on which programs succeed is rare. When evidence does exist, decision-makers often do not know about it. IPA exists to bring together leading researchers and these decision-makers to ensure that the evidence we create leads to a
tangible impact on the world. Since its founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct over 830 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

**IPA’s Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)**

As an organization, IPA is dedicated to improving the lives of the world’s most vulnerable populations through evidence and policy. We also recognize how important it is for our staff to reflect the diversity of the places where we work and the communities we work with. As such, IPA is committed to hiring from a diverse pool of candidates, from a range of backgrounds, beliefs, experiences, and perspectives. We know that this makes our work stronger and more responsive to the challenges faced by those we work with and for and we encourage people from historically underrepresented groups to apply. Click here to learn more about IPA’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Innovations for Poverty Action is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other protected class. IPA will endeavor to make a reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a disability unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of our business. If you believe you require such assistance to complete this form or to participate in an interview, please contact us at jobs@poverty-action.org or via phone at 1-202-386-6200. The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of the work to be performed by the specified position. The statements are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible duties, tasks, and responsibilities. Management reserves the right to amend and change responsibilities to meet organizational needs as necessary. Please note that IPA will never request any form of payment from an applicant. Applicants are encouraged to confirm the information listed above with IPA prior to releasing any extensive personal information to the organization. Please direct questions to jobs@poverty-action.org.

**Please note that only qualified applicants will be contacted by the hiring manager.**

**Location**

Philippines