



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Working closely with the nature of the engagement (for the advert and JD)

Job title: Lab Economist, Zambia Evidence Lab (ZEL)

Department/Division: International Growth Centre
Accountable to: Head of Evidence Lab

Job Summary

The International Growth Centre (IGC) works with policymakers in developing countries to promote inclusive and sustainable growth through path breaking research. The IGC combines a set of programme teams across Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East with a network of world-leading researchers, backed by a global hub at the London School of Economics in partnership with the University of Oxford. IGC partner countries currently include Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Jordan, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia. The IGC is majority funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

In an innovative collaboration to improve the use of data for making policy decisions and driving reforms, the Government of Zambia and the IGC, with support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, are seeking to establish the **Zambia Evidence Lab (ZEL)** embedded within the Ministry of Finance and National Planning operated in close partnership with the Zambia Statistics Agency. ZEL, which will provide first-of-its-kind analytical expertise within the Zambian government to produce data-driven policy outputs, is a result of an IGC and Finance Ministry-led government-wide exercise conducted last year that identified that despite a relative abundance of data, very little is used in policymaking due to a lack of capacity and a team dedicated to connecting data with policy. Driven by policymakers' demands and focused on the government's key reform priorities, ZEL will attempt to bridge this gap by using data to produce actionable policy outputs. These outputs will include dashboards, comparative statistics, econometric analyses, and opening space for longer-term research projects.

The Lab Economist(s) will provide the principal in-house analytical capacity to the Lab, working under the supervision of the Head of the Evidence Lab and within the wider IGC Zambia engagement led by the Country Manager. They will be responsible for conducting in-house economic analysis, using large administrative datasets, managing relationships, drafting policy outputs, and actively implementing and shaping the strategy of the Lab and the IGC Zambia program.

Duties and Responsibilities



Research:

- Conducting high-quality in-house economic analysis (including cost-benefit, econometric, policy diagnostic, data illustrations) in response to policy questions identified by government partners.
- Supporting the Data Engineers to develop and maintain data dashboards.
- Working closely with policymakers and government statisticians to link administrative and survey data with policy lifecycle.
- Identifying areas where policy evaluations are feasible and desirable, work with Country Economists to develop research projects including identifying questions, working with PIs, etc.

Policy Impact:

- Managing a range of relationships within and outside the government.
- Drafting and presenting a range of policy outputs including policy briefs, presentations, etc.
- Organising events and workshop that drive impact and visibility of ZEL and IGC's work.

Management:

- Take joint responsibility of the Lab for programme management, including drafting work plans, terms of reference documents, budget management, forecasting and ensuring value for money. Play a key role in facilitating other country programme activities, working in conjunction with IGC Hub counterparts to ensure efficient implementation.
- Facilitate communication between IGC Zambia Country Manager, Lead Academics, IGC Hub colleagues, and Head of Evidence Lab to ensure the integration of the country-relevant policy and the IGC research agenda, in the context of the evolving country situation.
- Contributing actively to the strategy, growth, and sustainability of the Evidence Lab and, by extension, IGC's Zambia program.
- Contributing to the evaluation of the Lab, including recording impact, monitoring that Lab's activities are in line with the overall country strategy and periodically review progress against the overall country strategy.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)



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Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.