



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Research Associate

LOCATION: NCR

REPORTS TO: Team Lead

LEVEL/GRADE: Consultant

About ACCESS:

ACCESS Development Services is a national livelihoods promotion organization with a focus on incubating innovations and developing sustainable models for livelihoods promotion of the poor. To this end, ACCESS is structured uniquely to work at all levels of the value chain – implementing programmes on the ground (Tier I), working with Civil Society Organizations, Government Departments, Corporate sector, and Multilateral / Bilateral Agencies (Tier II) as also undertaking national initiatives to influence and support policy initiatives and strengthening the enabling environment (Tier III). ACCESS, with its head office in New Delhi has a pan-India presence having state offices in 9 states and 26 project offices. More at www.accessdev.org

Financial Health Project – i3 Access Community of Practice (COP):

ACCESS is initiating a project that involves setting up of Community of Practice (COP) action platform on Financial Health. The two key deliverables of the programme are as below:

1. Setting measure for tracking financial health using a set of indicators or an index

Measuring and tracking people's financial health primarily entails constructing and implementing country-specific demand-side consumer surveys followed by statistical research for creating a financial health index.

i3 Access COP is establishing an online portal with APIs for building data-sets on financial health with different partners across various markets of the world. This would host FH scorecard in a modular setting with list of data points to be collected across outcomes and weightages that could be adjusted based on different markets and segments.

In the current phase the project would conduct online data collection we would establish partnerships locally (e.g., banks, platforms, etc.) for assisting i3 Access in the whole journey of financial health survey designing, testing, data collection, data analysis, insights reporting, and recommendations for further improvements. This would be developed to inform overarching research objectives and creating data-sets for learnings how different outcomes are relevant for different markets, for example, measuring financial health versus conducting deeper diagnosis, and provide solutions to, the country-specific financial health problems.



The aim of the survey data analysis is straightforward - leverage descriptive analytics for generating weighted¹ financial health insights for different segment for consumers such as by gender, age, income, location (rural/urban), and financial access. An aggregated financial health score can be generated by taking a simple (or weighted) average or summation of the individual question scores. Furthermore, if statistically permitted, like in case of FHN's scoring methodology, the financial health scores of individuals can be aggregated to calculate the financial health of a group of people.

Financial health survey design should also be informed by the previous work done by, inter alia, Financial Health Network (FHN), Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB), Personal Finance Research Centre, University of Bristol (Elaine Kempson). Rhyné (2020) provides significant details on financial health surveys construction and should be thoroughly referred in all our research.

This scorecard would also have an online version which would be available to individuals visiting the COP website and would like to do a self-assessment test on financial health and receive their score.

2. Setting data hub that would serve as an independent tool for understanding relationships of various financial health outcomes and determinants.

The Data Hub will bring together disparate data sources to create a new data asset that provides a holistic understanding of people's financial well-being. By considering public and proprietary datasets, as well as insights from the experiences of individuals and families. Given that no holistic data on financial health exist at the moment, while with the scorecard above we would work on building proprietary data-sets and generate insights. The starting point for the data hub would be to set a data structure which is based on existing data-sets available in public domain from multiple sources including Global Findex 2021, OECD. There will be need to create a secure Postgres database on AWS and populate it with flat files.

The product would include country level data and insights that will provide user a complete understanding of a market stands with respect to relevant macro and micro information on financial health, its drivers and impact, at national and sub-national level, and for different population segments including where possible on time series. In particular this would be setting correlation with between various data points related to financial health outcomes. This may include the following but not limited to same. The person would work with a team of technology experts who would assist with setting the web interface including user design, etc. Some of the data points to consider can be:

- ✓ Map so that it appropriately and accurately presents that the global financial resilience insights in a manner that is easily understandable to the users.
- ✓ Map should also enable visualizing financial resilience indicators for different population segments including male, female, employed, unemployed, youth, older adults, primary and secondary education, poorest 40% and richest 60%, financially included and excluded

¹ Survey weighting will be done ex-post data collection. Refer Findex and Finscope methodology on survey weighting



Insights by Country page - Showcases financial health insights for different population segments including male, female, employed, unemployed, youth, older adults, primary and secondary education, poorest 40% and richest 60%, financially included and excluded. Leverage global index 2021 for generating insights through interactive charts on comparisons for metrics like financial resilience, source of emergency funds borrowing for health or medical purposes, government transfers (financial support). Also showcases below financial health insights from the OECD 2020 financial literacy survey data on various cuts. An advance Analytics page showcases financial health correlations with its drivers and impacts and allowing user to select multiple markets to understand the correlation. This will include data presentation on various metrics for Financial inclusion, Financial behavior and Impact.

Position Responsibilities:

- Implement financial health research and learning agenda, and Strategy
- Set up data partnerships including drafting data-sharing agreements
- Ensure that metadata and resources remain updated. Research new topics for update on the COP platform
- Work on updating the web content on digital hub and interact with the community of practice consistently to drive engagements
- Ensure data quality

Education & Experience:

- Postgraduate degree in Economics/Sustainable Development/Rural Development/Management
- Minimum 2-3 years of experience in domain areas of financial inclusion/microfinance/sustainable finance/sustainable development goals.
- Experience in proposal writing, documentation and use of advanced research tools.
- Experience in data crunching will be an added advantage

Language:

- Strong writing and speaking abilities in English.

Work arrangements:

- The consultants will work on full-time office based and would be based in NCR, India or in specific case remote working would be allowed.
- Consultants are expected to use their own computer/laptop

Duration of the assignment:

- 6 months with possible extension based on performance

Compensation:

- The remuneration for this position is commensurate with industry standards and will be determined based upon experience of the candidate.





ACCESS is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and is committed to providing an environment of fairness, and mutual respect where all applicants have access to equal employment opportunities. ACCESS values diversity and inclusion, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, marital status, age and disability.

Interested candidates should send an up-to-date CV and cover letter addressing the above requirements to nidhigupta@accessdev.org. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The deadline is **February 15, 2023**.

