Call for Fellowship applications

The ILO's Social Finance Programme

June 2021
Call for Fellowship applications

The opportunity

The ILO’s Social Finance Programme invites applications from qualified professionals with expertise in insurance, microfinance and development for inclusion in its Fellowship Programme roster and for potential placements in Africa and Asia. The projects are expected to start at the end of 2021, although are contingent on the COVID-19 situation and may be delayed.

The Fellowship Programme

The objective of the programme is to match qualified professionals with organizations working on the frontiers of impact insurance and financial inclusion, bridge skill gaps and create a new generation of professionals with experience serving low-income populations.

Each Fellow will be placed with a host organization for at least a year to support an innovation project. The project could range from the implementation of a risk management product, public-private partnership, digital solution, or distribution partnership. The project will focus on the following themes:

- Designing integrated risk-management solutions for small enterprises and/or low-income households that bundle insurance with other financial and non-financial services to improve consumers’ ability to manage risk and increase their productivity capabilities
- Enhancing public-private partnerships that help achieve public policy objectives aligned to the UN’s SDGs, especially those related to decent work, food security, climate change and universal health coverage

Who should apply?

The ideal candidates for a fellowship should:

- have relevant expertise to contribute to activities related to insurance, financial inclusion and/or public private partnerships;
- be proactive and ready to document learning experiences during the fellowship;
- be interested in working in developing countries on development issues;
- be seriously committed to providing inclusive financial and insurance services and practising in the field on an ongoing basis after the assignment;
- be resourceful and capable of arranging practical necessities related to travel, life and work in a new environment; and
- be ready to work in a developing country for the duration of the fellowship.

Insurance, financial inclusion or development professionals who are keen to apply their skills to promote social justice in emerging markets and who have worked in a technical capacity for at least five years may participate. Candidates with the requisite skills and experience will be included in the roster and considered for the aforementioned fellowship opportunity.

To apply, complete the application form available here. Email the completed application form along with a curriculum vitae and a cover letter to socialfinance@ilo.org by July 25, 2021 23:59 CEST. Please include “Fellowship application” as the subject line of the email. Only submissions that include all three documents will be considered as complete.
The fellowship helped immensely in giving me a taste of what it’s like to be a professional working in microinsurance in a developing country. It enabled me to specialise as a microinsurance actuary, focused on agricultural microinsurance. Taking up the fellowship was perhaps the best decision of my career.

Agrotosh Mokerjee  /  Fellow alumna

About the ILO’s Social Finance Programme and Impact Insurance Facility

The ILO’s Social Finance Programme works with the financial sector to enable it to contribute to the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. In this context, we engage with banks, microfinance institutions, credit unions, insurers, investors and others to test new financial products, approaches and processes.

The Impact Insurance Facility contributes to the Social Finance agenda by collaborating with the insurance industry, governments and partners to realize the potential of insurance for social and economic development.