



Senior Development Finance Advisor

Bristol, UK

About Development Initiatives

Development Initiatives applies the power of data and evidence to build sustainable solutions.

Our mission is to work closely with partners to ensure data-driven evidence and analysis are used effectively in policy and practice to end poverty, reduce inequality and increase resilience.

While data alone cannot bring about a better world, it is vital to achieving it. Data has the power to unlock insight, shine a light on progress and empower people to increase accountability.

We focus on three core areas to maximise our impact and achieve our mission:

- Strengthen data ecosystems and improve data quality by helping others to collect, share and manage data and use data responsibly and effectively
- Increase use of high-quality, actionable and data-driven analysis that can be used in policy and practice
- Create a culture of data use by growing people's skills, expertise and confidence in data.

And we support partners to:

- Better respond to people's needs through improved quality and use of data and evidence in policymaking
- Improve the quantity, quality and coherence of public finance and private investment
- Challenge systemic and structural barriers to equity and support the reform of existing systems.

We work at global, national and local levels, through a global hub connected to a growing network of regional hubs and partners. In the last five years alone our work has covered 78 countries and we currently have staff based in Kenya, Uganda, the US and the UK.

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Role content and purpose

We believe that by 2030 it is possible to bring about an end to extreme poverty. Yet current global and national investments are not reducing poverty fast enough to meet the agreed Sustainable Development Goals – other resources need to be better harnessed for poverty reduction. In addition to mobilising such investments we need to ensure they are targeted to the people and places most in need.

There are many different resources that have a role to play: national and international; public and private; and a range of investment flows supporting developmental, environmental and security public goods. There is currently only a partial understanding of what resources (financial and otherwise) are available, where they are available, how they are allocated, what resources are most effective and who they are benefiting. DI is committed to building and communicating this data and evidence base – at local, national, and international levels – to ensure investments work more effectively, together and to their comparative strengths, to benefit people living in poverty and vulnerable contexts.

DI is also thinking beyond aid: what do future financing models, which will respond to the needs of tomorrow's world, look like and how can they be developed to transition from other financial streams which may have reached their potential?

We are seeking a senior leader with strong experience of, and expertise in, the field of development finance. The successful candidate will have in-depth knowledge of financing in national and international contexts, and a passion to propose how wider resources and their associated actors, institutions and instruments can contribute to poverty reduction within an evolving global development finance architecture.

As part of our Research and Analysis team, this post will provide senior analytical and engagement input for our development finance portfolio of work. The postholder will provide vision and coherence throughout the next phase of this well-regarded, innovative theme. They will work across projects and geographies to inspire new thinking, undertake cutting-edge work and ensure the quality and integrity of DI's analysis.

They will be a positive, 'can-do' person who is ready to pursue new opportunities, forge innovative agendas and drive them through to delivery. Drawing on in-depth subject knowledge and applying excellent writing skills, they will demonstrate rigour, robustness, and first-rate qualitative and quantitative research abilities. They will be confident working with data and passionate about improving the availability and quality of data to improve decision-making.

Working closely with the Development Finance Lead, Head of Engagement and country and regional teams, they will represent DI externally as required and demonstrate a clear understanding of the changing external environment to ensure that DI's work adapts, and remains unique and relevant.

[You can read more about our research and analysis team here.](#)

Contractual details

Start date:	As soon as possible, depending on notice period
Length:	Permanent
Location:	DI's Bristol office at First Floor Centre, The Quorum, Bond Street South, Bristol, BS1 3AE, UK
Salary:	£35,000–£40,000 per annum, depending on experience
Hours:	35 hours a week
Probation:	3 months
Leave:	25 days pro rata, plus all bank/public holidays

Duties and responsibilities

- Produce top-quality research for a range of audiences, from in-depth reports to compelling blogs and factsheets, and develop new and innovative ways to present DI's work
- Work closely with the Development Finance Lead to represent DI's work externally at a senior level to decision-makers, partners, and other stakeholders
- Work closely with colleagues to develop and deliver effective content – including writing briefings, reports, factsheets, and blogs
- Provide compelling and accessible syntheses of extensive research studies to demonstrate what works where, in which sector and why in order to drive policy-level decisions and financing and support the eradication of poverty and increase the resilience of people
- Manage relationships with key external stakeholders including governments, multilateral agencies, and civil society
- Work closely with engagement and communications colleagues to ensure all work is responsive to our target stakeholders' needs
- Scope and maintain new partnerships and opportunities within area of content expertise in line with DI's objectives

Management duties

- Manage contractor relationships (setting terms of reference, managing quality).
- There is potential for the role to involve some line management responsibilities.

General responsibilities

- Be aware of and take personal responsibility for any health and safety issues and obligations
- Uphold all aspects of company policies and procedures and legal requirements in relation to personal conduct
- Maintain personal professional development and personal development plans
- Be willing and committed to take on new work as and when required and to be proactive

No job description or role profile can encompass all tasks and duties that may be required, and we will expect the postholder to carry out other duties and tasks from time to time that are broadly consistent with those in this document.

Person specification

Experience and qualifications

Essential

- Postgraduate qualification in a relevant field (such as politics, economics, or international relations) or equivalent work experience
- Experience of working in the international development sector
- Experience of engagement or advocacy in a relevant policy area
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Desirable

- Experience of working in government, parliament or for a relevant international organisation
- Fluency in a second UN language is highly desirable .

Knowledge

Essential

- First-rate written and analytical skills, evidenced in published work, with the ability to interpret complex information and data and proven ability to draw out succinct and accessible narrative from data through clear and accessible presentation and products
- Understanding of the global international development policy landscape and policy debates, including knowledge of key global institutions and policy processes (World Bank, UN, OECD)
- Engagement and networking experience in the development sector, with a wide range of contacts and proven experience of managing relations/influencing a range of stakeholder groups, including governments, multilateral organisations, regional organisations, CSOs, politicians, the media, and the private sector
- Rigorous research skills in both qualitative and quantitative methods, with a strong track record of publications for policy audiences.

Desirable

- Experience of working in a matrix or project-based environment and delivering consultancy work for international clients
- Experience of working in development contexts or with governments, regional bodies, and international institutions
- Existing relationships with key players in UK government or other major donor governments

- Strong understanding of the types, instruments, actors, policy processes and political landscape within international development finance and ability to work within and beyond the development sector
- Good data skills, with a critical understanding of sources of relevant data and a technical ability to analyse data.

Skills and abilities

Essential

- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills and an ability to build strong and lasting relationships with stakeholders
- Able to work under pressure and manage a varied and often challenging workload, and deliver on time with attention to detail and accuracy
- Able to work effectively independently as well as in a team environment
- Rigorous and conscientious, with a track record in ensuring a high level of accuracy and quality of outputs
- Excellent organisational and project management skills
- Excellent communication skills, including experience of working effectively across cultures and with diverse audiences, both verbally and in writing.

Personal attributes

Essential

- Flexible and willing to travel for up to six weeks of the year
- A proactive, committed and willing self-starter with lots of initiative who can work independently with minimal support
- Willing to take on new work as and when required, and to step up and get hands-on when needed
- Excellent listener who can positively engage in dialogue with colleagues and others, and share and receive and feedback
- Confidence to speak and present to audiences at a range of internal and external forums
- Investigative by nature and persistent in obtaining and validating new information.

Application details

Your CV (no more than two pages) and covering letter, which should detail your skills and evidence of experience and how it relates to the job description, should be uploaded onto our online application portal. Your letter should also include your salary expectations, notice period/available start date and where you saw the job advert.

- Closing date: 25 June 2021
- First interviews: From July onwards

Other

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

We have a duty to prevent illegal working by checking potential employees' documents, before employing them, to ensure they have the right to work in the country in which this post is based.

Development Initiatives is an equal opportunities employer, and in line with our policies, we aim to ensure that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

We find it helpful for all applicants to complete our Diversity Monitoring Form, found on our website at: <http://devinit.org/working-with-us/vacancies/>

Working together

“People are our greatest asset” – it’s a well-used saying, but at Development Initiatives, it really is true.

We acknowledge that we work in an environment where the pace is often fast, and we need our people to be able to respond swiftly and creatively to new situations and demands, so it makes sense that the better our employees are, the more effective we will be. For this reason, we work hard to create an environment that meets everyone’s needs.

In line with our values (people-centred, purpose-driven and transparent), we aim for a culture of honesty and openness and want to attract and retain talented people who share our vision. We also like to offer individuals the space to use their talents in an innovative working environment with colleagues who are passionate about our vision.

UK

- Informal work environment (e.g. casual dress)
- Pension scheme with 5% employer contribution
- Flexible working arrangements (e.g. homeworking, flexitime)
- Healthcare scheme with employee assistance programme
- Paid study leave and financial support
- Paid professional membership fees
- Buy/sell holiday scheme
- Cycle to work scheme
- Childcare vouchers
- Enhanced holiday entitlement, plus all bank and public holidays and discretionary paid time off at Christmas
- Up to five days’ paid volunteering leave (addressing poverty/helping vulnerable people).

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Contact
Connie Fitzgerald
Human Resources Officer
Connie.Fitzgerald@devinit.org

To find out more about our work visit:

www.devinit.org

Twitter: @devinitorg

Email: info@devinit.org

Development Initiatives is the trading name of Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 06368740, and DI International Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 5802543. Registered Office: First Floor Centre, The Quorum, Bond Street South, Bristol, BS1 3AE, UK.

GLOBAL HUB

Development Initiatives
First Floor Centre, The Quorum
Bond Street South
Bristol
BS1 3AE, UK
+44 (0) 1179 272 505

EAST AFRICA HUB

Development Initiatives
Shelter Afrique Building
4th Floor, Mamlaka Road
Nairobi, Kenya
PO Box 102802-00101
+254 (0) 20 272 5346

AMERICAS HUB

Development Initiatives
1100 13th Street, NW
Suite 800, Washington DC
20005, US