

## **Job description – Digitalization and Research Work with the SME Finance Forum**

### **1. Background:**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, fosters sustainable economic growth in developing countries by financing private sector investment, mobilizing capital in the international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments.

The SME Finance Forum works to expand access to finance for small and medium businesses. The Forum operates a global membership network of +200 members that brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of SMEs.

The SME Finance Forum was established by the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI)<sup>1</sup> in 2012 as a knowledge center for data, research and best practice in promoting SME finance. As an implementing partner for the GPFI, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) was tasked with managing the initiative.

IFC and the SME Finance Forum are working with the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) on a project to identify the supply of digital finance to SMEs. The project will analyze the growing role of digitalization in supporting the access to financial services of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) during the crisis caused by the outbreak of Covid-19. The purpose of the report is threefold: (i) shedding light on whether digital financing innovations have been critical to vulnerable firms in coping with the emergency and assessing its untapped potential in the post-COVID landscape; (ii) discussing risks and benefits related to a wider use of digital financing tools and channels; (iii) paving the way for a more inclusive financial system.

The team is looking to recruit an experienced research analyst to support the SME Finance Forum and the Country Economics and Strategy department within IFC which will be leading the project. The intern is expected to start in January 2021 and work until June or July 2021. This is a part time position.

### **2. Scope of work**

The intern will support the project leader with several tasks including but not limited to:

- Conducting research of the literature, websites, practices, recent publications, and databases on the economic impact and policy responses to SME financing due to COVID-19 and the public and private initiatives for the supply of digital financial services;
- Developing a literature review of the various sources that are obtained.
- Analyzing data to understand trends, gaps, segments, interventions undertaken by the public and private sector; summarizing data into enhanced graphs, tables, heat maps, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul.

- Developing templates and surveys that can be distributed among G20 member countries to obtain additional data and information on the COVID-19 response and the breath of actors in the digital ecosystem
- Developing summary boxes, graphs, tables for the report that will be developed with the information gathered and analyzed.

The intern will report to Martin Hommes, Economist and Financial Sector Specialist in the Country Economics and Strategy department.

### **3. Selection criteria**

The qualified candidate should possess or demonstrate:

- Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in economics, finance, business administration, public policy and/or international development. Candidates who are pursuing their graduate degree and want to use the experience as a University credit may also be considered.
- A minimum of 3 years of experience working in research-oriented projects and undertaking various analytical work
- Experience working in the financial services industry, with financial technology companies, multilateral development institutions or has direct experience working in the financial inclusion space is a plus.
- Strong research, data analytics and quantitative skills as well as critical thinking and analytical skills are a must;
- Experience performing quantitative analysis, managing databases, and developing literature reviews
- Ability to analyze data, identify gaps and opportunities, and trouble shoot problems
- Skilled in Microsoft Office programs and data visualization (e.g. Tableau) packages.
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly, articulate issues, and recommend solutions
- Natural team player with demonstrated ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural and multidisciplinary team environment, in a fast-changing environment
- Detail and results oriented individual with the ability to organize and prioritize work effectively to produce high quality deliverables even under short deadlines; ability to multi-task and perform responsibilities with limited supervision
- Good attitude; proactive, self-motivated, committed and accountable; fast learner with desire to grow