



Consortium for
Development
Policy Research

Job Announcement

POSITION: Research Associate

PROJECT: Action Research on Non-Textile and Non-Food Exports

LOCATION: 19 A FCC Scheme, Syed Maratib Ali Road, F.C.C., Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

START DATE: As soon as possible

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT: 12 weeks

EXPERIENCE: Master's in, Economics, Public Policy, Data Analytics or related field with at least 1-2 years of relevant experience

About CDPR

The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) is a leading policy research organization dedicated to generating evidence-based insights on Pakistan's key economic and social challenges. CDPR brings together a network of researchers, practitioners, and experts who work collaboratively to promote data-driven policies aimed at sustainable development. Through rigorous research, policy dialogues, and strategic partnerships, CDPR addresses pressing issues such as poverty reduction, economic growth, education, and health. By bridging the gap between research and public policy, CDPR strives to empower policymakers and stakeholders with actionable knowledge to improve the lives of Pakistan's citizens.

Project Description

Pakistan's export sector is overly dependent on a narrow range of products, primarily textiles and food items, which limits its economic resilience and growth potential in the global market. This lack of diversification leaves the country vulnerable to sector-specific shocks, constrains its ability to capitalize on emerging opportunities in growing markets, and hinders overall trade competitiveness. The challenge lies in identifying viable non-textile and non-food export opportunities, overcoming market entry barriers, and developing the necessary infrastructure and support mechanisms to successfully diversify Pakistan's export portfolio in these regions.

While the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) is committed to diversifying Pakistan's export basket, it faces significant knowledge and capacity gaps in identifying non-traditional export products, assessing the country's readiness to produce and market these goods, and understanding the specific requirements for successful market entry in regions globally. Currently, limited evidence is available to guide MoC and exporters in determining viable non-textile, non-food products with high export potential, understanding the infrastructure needs for scaling production, and pinpointing effective market-entry strategies.

To address these challenges, the project will undertake action-oriented research in partnership with the MoC to jointly address these knowledge gaps. This research will identify viable products, analyze market demand, assess export capacity, and recommend the infrastructure and policy adjustments necessary for successful diversification. By providing targeted evidence and actionable insights, this

research will support the MoC in creating a well-informed, strategic approach to expanding Pakistan's export portfolio in new, high-growth regions.

The team of principal investigators leading this project includes Dr. Farrukh Iqbal (Institute of Business Administration, ex- World Bank) and Ms. Nadia Mukhtar (Lahore University of Management Sciences).

Position

The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) seeks a qualified applicant for the position of Research Associate for the project. The position will perform a diverse range of functions, including research, fieldwork, and stakeholder management.

Job Description and Responsibilities

- Support in conducting Literature Review: Gather and synthesize relevant research and publications related to export development, financing mechanisms, and best practices.
- Conduct field visits and assist in developing minutes of meetings: Take detailed minutes during meetings, ensuring all relevant points and action items are accurately recorded.
- Assist in Transcription: Transcribe recorded meetings and interviews to create accurate records for analysis and reporting.
- Assist in Research Activities: Assist in data collection, analysis, and preparation of reports, ensuring timely and accurate delivery of tasks.
- Provide Administrative Support: Provide logistical support for stakeholder consultations and strategy sessions, including scheduling and coordination of meetings.
- Additional tasks: Support in other project-related tasks as required.
- Regularly meet and coordinate with organizational partners to ensure deadlines are met.

Required Qualifications

- Minimum of a master's degree in economics, Public Policy, Data Analytics or a related discipline from an internationally recognized university.
- 1-2 years of relevant experience in research/programme design and/or evaluation, including the design of focus groups and interviews
- Ability to both work closely in with a team and work independently
- Willingness to travel for fieldwork
- Demonstrated ability to manage various tasks effectively and coordinate between project members
- Comfortable communicating with key stakeholders, including policy actors in the public sector
- Fluent in English and Urdu
- Strong writing skills and proficiency in transcription and document preparation.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a CV, cover letter, transcripts to admin@cdpr.org.pk with the following subject line: “Research Associate – Action Research on Non-Textile and Non-Food Exports”.

Only successful candidates will be contacted regarding further steps in the application process.

Deadline for submission of applications: Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.