Request for expressions of interest

April 2017
About insight2impact

Insight2impact | i2i is a resource centre that aims to catalyse the provision and use of data by private and public sector actors to improve financial inclusion through evidence-based, data-driven policies and client-centric product design.

i2i works with policymakers, regulators, market developers and financial service providers, to optimise the impact of their work in financial inclusion through the use of data.

i2i is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation.

For more information please visit our website at www.i2ifacility.org.

The i2i’s measurement work

Financial inclusion is complex and multi-dimensional. i2i’s measurement work must address this complexity and reflect the most salient aspects, and seeks to thoroughly inform stakeholders about the real issues in the financial inclusion market with a view to informing action to address these issues. i2i has developed measurement frameworks and indicators that can shape financial inclusion policies and programmes. We are in the process of further developing our usage frameworks to directly address the outcome of use of financial services, in conjunction with policymakers, market developers and financial service providers. Our usage measurement framework seeks to:

- Measure the actual usage of financial services, i.e. moving beyond measuring uptake of accounts.
- Measure the proximate outcomes related to usage of financial services.
- Determine the functional and non-functional drivers of usage of financial devices.

About this project

i2i is in the process of developing new measurement frameworks aimed at measuring the use of financial services beyond the uptake indicators which are currently reported as headline indicators by the financial inclusion community. This will directly inform policymakers and financial service providers as to the issues in the financial inclusion market.

As an essential part in this development, i2i is partnering with a service provider and credit bureau in Zimbabwe to conduct a study aimed at testing the new frameworks and determining the drivers of specific usage dimensions in Zimbabwe. Focusing on the use of credit, the research will seek to further develop and refine the approaches to measuring credit uptake and use by consumers and small businesses. In this context, the work also seeks to determine the key drivers of uptake and of the usage profile of credit, using both bureau data as well as survey data to be collected on the credit market in Zimbabwe.

Services and expertise required

To implement this project, i2i requires the services of experienced researchers to provide technical support and co-author documentation as part of the i2i library of publications on financial inclusion measurement, as well as potentially publishing the results in credible information sources. To be successful, researchers need to demonstrate a track record of conducting advanced financial inclusion or credit risk-related research and publishing in credible academic journals. Specific tasks, expertise and experience required will include:
Mandatory:

1. Conducting rigorous statistical analysis on the survey and bureau data, determining and documenting the effects of various factors on the uptake and usage of credit products.

2. Conducting rigorous statistical analysis on both survey and bureau data to determine the underlying drivers of various credit repayment behaviours.

Ideal but not compulsory:

3. Developing construct measures which accurately measure proximate outcomes related to the use of financial services. Such outcomes may include the ability to manage day-to-day expenses (liquidity), ability to manage shocks (resilience) and ability to meet life goals. This requires deep knowledge of financial inclusion as well as well-developed statistical capacity especially on multivariate statistical techniques such as factor analysis, principal component analysis, multiple correspondence analysis and structural equation modelling.

4. Exploring possible causal relationships between the usage of financial services and proximate outcomes (as above) and other impact measures such poverty, increase in productive capacity, etc. To be successful, researchers will need substantial understanding of financial inclusion as well as knowledge of quasi-experimental statistical methods for attribution analysis.

5. The researchers may be expected to participate in the design of data collection tools, as well as the design and drafting of manuscripts for internal and general publication

Researchers will not be expected to have all the expertise above. A combination of 1 and 2 plus 3 or 4 alone will be accepted.

Approach

The i2i facility will be responsible for creating the necessary relationships and sourcing the data required to carry out the study in Zimbabwe. In addition, the facility will also provide initial research on related topics to guide further research required to complete the study. The selected researchers will work closely with the i2i researchers to co-author the necessary papers.

Timing

The data collection phase of the project is likely to be conducted in June 2017 and further analysis and research should be done from July to August 2017. Researchers may be requested to travel to Harare to access some of the data. Interested researchers can send us their expression of interest on the contact details overleaf by 22 May 2017.
How to find us
Get involved. Contact us.

Roelof Goosen
T: +27 (0)21 913 9510
E: roelof@i2ifacility.org

Richard Chamboko
T: +27 (0)21 913 9510
E: richard@i2ifacility.org

i2ifacility.org
@i2ifacility
/insight2impact
/in2impact
/i2ifacility