

MicroSave

Market-led solutions for financial services

VACANCY – SENIOR QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH SPECIALIST

MicroSave is an international consulting firm specialising in financial inclusion with ten offices in eight countries around the developing world. Our clients include leading financial institutions, mobile money service providers and large international donors. *MicroSave* intends to recruit quantitative specialist to join its consulting team in India or Kenya.

The Specialist will be working on the Agent Network Accelerator Program (ANA), which is the largest research programme in the world looking at digital finance (mobile money and agent banking) from the supply-side. The programme is funded by the Gates Foundation and more recently the United Nations and focuses work on eleven key markets across Africa and Asia.

The research conducted is primarily business analytics for the leading banks and telecoms in the industry. The ANA dataset is the first systematic attempt to derive quantitative benchmarks that help providers navigate the cost and complexity of building and managing a sustainable cash-in/cash-out (CICO) agent network across a broad geography. ANA aims to increase global understanding of how to build and manage successful CICO networks in some of the hardest operating environments in the world.

The ANA project will analyse more than 25 agent networks in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan, (and likely Zambia, Senegal, and Benin as well) two to three times, over a period of 4 years. The research is then disseminated through [The Helix Institute for Digital Finance](#) which facilitates world class training courses based on the research, and conducts follow-up consulting assignments for leading participants around the world.

The expected impact areas of ANA are the following:

- Increase the prevalence of financial access in low income and rural areas so that is profitable for the provider and beneficial for the user.
- Increase the operational efficiency of building and managing large agent networks over challenging geographies.
- Develop universally recognized benchmarks for measuring the success of agent networks.

Job Description:

The senior quantitative specialist will provide support to the ongoing research work for ANA. This will largely include managing approximately 6 datasets (from the field work conducted in the ANA countries), and developing a user-friendly analysis system whereby analysts and other members of the ANA team can utilize the data for country reports. The specialist will be asked to mine the existing datasets to identify any errors, possibly develop tools to fix the errors, and mentor data analysts on data analysis and data verification. Additionally, the specialist will be asked to conduct sophisticated analysis from the existing datasets.

The key responsibilities will include:

Research & Management

- Manage large quantitative datasets and provide substantial analysis;
- Develop a user friendly analysis system to be used by analysts and other members of ANA team;
- Undertake research using primary and secondary source data. This includes but is not limited to: development of research and data analysis plans, surveys, data collection tools, interview protocols, document collection and review, web searches and the collection of economic and social data. This may require travel within India and East Africa;

- Manage all data processing instructions for different datasets;
- Assist in designing research tools, such as surveys questions, verification checklists, etc. that will feed into recommendations for programming;
- Train field officers and analysts in data collection and in understanding and applying research tools and methods;
- Manage a staff of two to three data analysts;
- Develop a field plan and oversee the logistics of the various components of the project;
- Prepare weekly progress reports for the research team;
- The specialist may be asked to work with external consultants on helping develop specific research tools and data analyses.

Data Analysis and Dissemination

- Provide standard sheets of data for analysis by subject matter experts;
- Provide specialist analysis of data including statistical modelling and multivariate regression analysis;
- Ensure all data is properly cleaned and coded;
- Help in the production of final reports, and fact check data and conclusions held within them. This may include in-depth analysis, summary briefs, executive summaries, progress reports, and assessments as assigned;
- Apply standard quality control procedures to assure accuracy of studies and findings;
- Assist in crafting blogs infographics and being proactive about other ways to disseminate knowledge
- Analyse findings and lessons learned and provide strategies for development of information via reports and briefs to stakeholders;
- Ensure that the outputs to be delivered by the team are of the highest quality and up to publishable standards.

Required Experience and Competencies:

- *Experience: Clearly show how you meet the experience required in your application letter.*
- At least seven (7) years' work experience in data analysis and management of large amounts of data using statistical software packages (ideally using SPSS);
- Extremely sound knowledge of data processing best practices, database management techniques, and statistical theory;
- Experience managing staff;
- Experience managing large projects involving data collection and field enumeration;
- Demonstrated record of initiative and problem solving;
- Excellent writing and reporting skills and experience in report writing;
- Research work experience in the financial services sector will be definite advantage, especially in digital finance
- Experience in knowledge dissemination as indicated above

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Qualities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A high quality of written and spoken English ▪ A high degree of self-drive, enthusiasm, flexibility and willingness to learn ▪ Diligence and ability to work with minimal supervision ▪ Strong field orientation and proven interpersonal skills ▪ A strong professional demeanour | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Knowledge and Skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge and skills in use of statistical data analysis software packages (SPSS and excel) ▪ High analytical capability and report writing skills ▪ Knowledge of retail / mass market financial services is desirable ▪ Additional working language besides English and Hindi is an advantage. |
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- *Education*
- A minimum of a Masters level degree (or higher) in Research, Economics, Statistics or related field.

- Other relevant professional qualifications will be an added advantage.

Location: Based in India or Kenya but with **up to 40% travel** within Asia and Africa.

Salary: Salary is negotiable and commensurate with experience and expertise. *State current and salary expectations in your application letter.*

Availability: *State availability (your notice period) in your application letter.*

Deadline: Deadline for applications is November 20, 2014

Correspondence: Applications letters and detailed CV are to be sent by email to humanresources@microsave.net and CCed to Mike@microsave.net marking the subject as **Senior Quantitative Specialist**.

Note: *Applications not meeting minimum requirements will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted*