

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	Post-doctoral Research Fellow in Development Economics	<b>Grade:</b>	AC2
<b>Department:</b>	Livelihoods and Institutions, NRI	Date of Job Evaluation	
<b>Role reports to:</b>			
<b>Direct Reports</b>			
<b>Indirect Reports:</b>	Head of Livelihoods and Institutions Dept		
<b>Other Key contacts:</b>	Overseas colleagues and partners within collaborative projects, Colleagues in NRI and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine		
This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.			

### **PURPOSE OF ROLE:**

To conduct high quality research using multiple existing complex data sets related to the research project “Causal pathways from violent conflict to violence against children: Evidence from multi-country secondary data” funded by the ESRC under their Secondary Data Initiative.

The Livelihoods and Institutions Department at NRI requires a post-doctoral researcher in development economics to contribute to data-intensive research activities on an empirical research project on violence against children (VAC).

Violence against children is a global challenge. The prevalence of VAC is particularly acute in low-income settings, and more so in regions affected by different forms of violent conflict (VC). The picture emerging from existing evidence suggests different types of violent conflict heighten children’s exposure to violence, which can be emotional, physical, or mental. However, the specific mechanisms by which different types of violent conflict leads to different forms of violence against children are not well understood. Similarly, the awareness about this possible causal link from violent conflict to VAC is also not very well developed.

The research will examine, for the first time, the prevalence, and the mechanisms from VC to VAC, using high quality secondary data available for ten countries, seven in sub-Saharan Africa and three in Latin America. The aim is threefold. First, to perform an in-depth study of the prevalence of different forms of VAC across various VC settings and thereby to postulate a conceptual model identifying risk factors and social norms that create the context for VAC to occur when institutions break down. Second, to test if and how VC impacts on VAC in both the short-term and the long-term (across generations), both

across various forms of VC and various types of VAC. Third, to identify which policy options may break the causal link between VC and VAC by modelling and simulating the additional ‘surplus’ effect of VC on VAC based on the short- and long-term estimates of VC on VAC.

The project team is based at several institutions in the UK and abroad and collaborates closely with the providers of the data on violence against children and on geo-coded armed conflict event data.

The post-doctoral researcher will be based at the Natural Resources Institute (Medway) and be a micro development economist with strong quantitative research skills. The researcher will conduct the data merging, cleaning and curating, jointly conduct the empirical analyses (investigation), visualise the quantitative findings, and contribute to and co-edit draft publications.

This is 100% FTE for a period of nine months with a (flexible) starting date from autumn 2023.

## **KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:**

### **Team Specific:**

- Carry out scientific research to a high standard.
- Clean and merge nationally representative household survey data with conflict event data across multiple countries.
- Contribute to the analysis of the merged data sets.
- Contribute to the drafting of several research papers.
- Maintain effective, high quality and productive working relationships with professional bodies and employers.

### **Generic:**

- Research: To maintain high professional standing within the discipline and to develop further their research skills, disseminated primarily in refereed academic journals.
- Represent the University at project meetings with partners.
- Take part in Faculty activities as required.

### **Managing Self**

- Be able to work effectively as part of a multicultural, multi-site scientific team.
- Be able to work both as part of a team and independently.
- Be able to coordinate with collaborators to perform the data cleaning and merging required.
- Be familiar with key literature and be able to identify literature in areas that are less familiar.
- Work independently to achieve deadlines.
- Regularly communicate progress to identified parties.

**Core Requirements**

- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Information Security;
- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety and Data Protection Legislation;
- Support and promote the university's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible
- Adhere to current legal requirements and best practice relating to digital content and accessibility, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines when creating digital content.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Any other duties commensurate with the post and grade as agreed with the Head of Department and the PVC of the Faculty.

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

- Meet project deadlines, including deadlines for data preparation and analysis, publications, presentations, research group meetings, etc., within agreed timelines and targets.
- Development of and familiarity with relevant literature.
- Publication of research findings in international peer-reviewed journals.
- Work effectively with project partners to produce research outputs.

**KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):**

- Academic colleagues.
- Head of Department.
- NRI administrative and technical staff.
- Project partners.
- Project stakeholders.
- Research community in area of subject specialism.

<b>PERSON SPECIFICATION</b>	
<b>Essential</b> <p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing and analysing large-scale household survey data in developing countries.</li> <li>Conducting geo-spatial analysis.</li> <li>Experience with GitHub for code reviewing.</li> <li>Demonstrated capacity to contribute to high-quality research for publication in top, peer-reviewed journals.</li> <li>Evidence of collaboration and teamwork to deliver quality outputs against strict targets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent econometric/statistical skills.</li> <li>Very advanced use of Stata.</li> <li>Ability to merge secondary data sets using geospatial coordinates.</li> <li>Strong analytical, empirical, and writing skills.</li> <li>Strong ability to work in large, multi-site teams.</li> <li>Fluency in English.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD in Development Economics or a closely related field.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal attributes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are looking for people who can help us deliver the <a href="#">values</a> of the University of Greenwich: Inclusive, Collaborative and Impactful</li> </ul>	<b>Desirable</b> <p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High quality publications.</li> <li>Experience of household survey data collection in developing countries.</li> <li>Experience in analysis of large-scale household survey data on violence against children (e.g., VACS).</li> <li>Experience in working with conflict event data (e.g., UCDP or ACLED).</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to use economic theory in policy relevant ways.</li> <li>Ability to work with low-level supervision.</li> <li>Ability to draft research papers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal attributes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>