



Senior Policy & Engagement Advisor

Bristol, UK

About Development Initiatives

Development Initiatives applies the power of data and evidence to build sustainable solutions.

Our mission is to work closely with partners to ensure data-driven evidence and analysis are used effectively in policy and practice to end poverty, reduce inequality and increase resilience.

While data alone cannot bring about a better world, it is vital to achieving it. Data has the power to unlock insight, shine a light on progress and empower people to increase accountability.

We focus on three core areas to maximise our impact and achieve our mission:

- Strengthen data ecosystems and improve data quality by helping others to collect, share and manage data and use data responsibly and effectively
- Increase use of high-quality, actionable and data-driven analysis that can be used in policy and practice
- Create a culture of data use by growing people's skills, expertise and confidence in data.

And we support partners to:

- Better respond to people's needs through improved quality and use of data and evidence in policymaking
- Improve the quantity, quality and coherence of public finance and private investment
- Challenge systemic and structural barriers to equity and support the reform of existing systems.

We work at global, national and local levels, through a global hub connected to a growing network of regional hubs and partners. In the last five years alone our work has covered 78 countries and we currently have staff based in Kenya, Uganda, the US and the UK.

Senior Policy & Engagement Advisor

Role content and purpose

The Senior Policy & Engagement Advisor will join Development Initiatives' Global Humanitarian Assistance programme, working across DI's portfolio of projects, with a particular focus on financing to improve policy and practice for people affected by crises.

Our work on crisis response provides clear and objective evidence on crisis-related financing and programming. We focus on the humanitarian system, and how humanitarian actors, programmes and financing intersect with other areas of international development to meet the immediate and longer term needs of people experiencing crisis. We examine and engage on issues relating to the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus, wider crisis financing and climate finance. We engage internationally with decision-makers and responders at all levels, from global leaders to local civil society, to ensure that no one is left behind.

The successful candidate will play a central role in producing and promoting our policy work. Working with the Crisis and Humanitarian Lead, the postholder will lead on specific policy areas and be responsible for developing and driving DI's humanitarian engagement strategy. You will deepen and broaden DI's engagement with stakeholders, represent DI externally, and gather and share data and analysis to catalyse their use for change. The successful candidate will also play a leading role in identifying, developing and delivering projects on emerging crisis financing issues, as well as contributing to flagship publications such as the [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report](#).

This role will involve line and budget management responsibilities. The postholder will work in the [Engagement and Partnerships Team](#) and report to the Head of Engagement. They will work closely with the [Research and Analysis Team](#) and Crisis and Humanitarian Lead.

Contractual details

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|-------------|--|
| Start date: | As soon as possible, depending on notice period |
| Length: | Fixed term, 12 months |
| Location: | DI's Bristol office at First Floor Centre, The Quorum, Bond Street South, Bristol, BS1 3AE, UK. We are experimenting with a blended approach to home and office working and so are flexible on your location, provided that you are based within the UK and can visit our offices in Bristol on a regular basis. |
| Salary: | £35,000–£43,000 per annum, depending on experience |
| Hours: | 35 hours a week |
| Probation: | 3 months |
| Leave: | 25 days pro rata, plus all bank/public holidays |

Duties and responsibilities

Technical duties

- Build and manage relationships with key external stakeholders in crisis-related financing and response (including public officials at donor agencies, regional bodies, governments, and representatives of multilateral agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs)), identifying opportunities to influence change in policy and behaviour.
- Identify and lead the development of policy-relevant research, analysis and outreach on emerging crisis financing issues, including the conceptualisation of projects.
- Represent DI at high-level forums.
- Develop and deliver presentations to a senior audience.
- Work with and support DI staff and partners working in-country to identify key issues of policy change, develop engagement and influencing strategies, and frame research and analysis.
- Write robust content for DI publications, both independently and collaboratively with other DI staff and/or consultants.
- Work closely with colleagues, across and between teams to develop and deliver effective engagement content – including writing briefings, reports, factsheets and blogs.
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of our impact.
- Undertake consultancy work and/or manage others to deliver consultancy projects as required.

Strategic scope

- Develop and work with others to lead DI's policy engagement and research on specific thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, with a particular focus on populations in crisis and humanitarian response.
- Lead the development and implementation of DI's engagement strategy on crisis financing with the Crisis and Humanitarian Lead.
- Input into organisational strategic documents and application of strategy.

General responsibilities

- Be aware of and take personal responsibility for any health and safety issues and obligations.
- Uphold all aspects of company policies and procedures and legal requirements in relation to personal conduct.
- Maintain personal professional development and personal development plans.
- Be willing and committed to take on new work as and when required and to be proactive.

No job description or role profile can encompass all tasks and duties that may be required, and we will expect the postholder to carry out other duties and tasks from time to time that are broadly consistent with those in this document, including team management and leadership duties.

Person specification

Experience

Essential

- At least five years' experience in development, humanitarian or international relations policy development, engagement and research/analysis.
- Strong engagement and networking experience, with a wide range of contacts and proven experience of managing relations with/influencing a range of stakeholder groups, including governments, multilateral organisations, regional organisations, civil society organisations (CSOs), politicians, the media and the private sector.

Desirable

- At least two years' post-qualification experience working in humanitarian contexts.
- Demonstrable experience of conceptualising and delivering high-quality, policy-relevant research and analysis, including working with data, to develop clear and accessible written materials.
- Experience of managing staff and leading a team.
- Experience of working in a matrix or project-based environment and delivering consultancy work for international clients.
- Experience of working in development contexts or with governments, regional bodies and international institutions.

Skills and abilities

Essential

- Excellent engagement, influencing and relationship skills with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Excellent communication skills, including experience of working effectively across cultures and with diverse audiences, both verbally and in writing including strong presentation and public speaking.
- Ability to work effectively, both independently and in a team, under pressure and deliver on time with attention to detail and accuracy.
- Good people-management and decision-making skills; the ability to develop others, imparting knowledge and experience in an accessible and clear manner.
- Ability to identify and drive new ideas and strategies to shape policy debates and influence key decision-makers.
- Excellent organisational and project management skills.
- Ability to present complex issues clearly to a wide audience.
- Analytical and research skills demonstrating the ability to work with data to develop clear and accessible written products and presentations.
- Willing to undertake international travel.

Desirable

- Foreign language skills (French in particular).

Education

- Educated to degree, preferably postgraduate degree level (or an equivalent academic qualification), in a relevant discipline.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of the operational structures and priorities of a range of key policy actors, including multilateral agencies and inter-agency groups, DAC and non-DAC donors, regional actors, developing country governments, think tanks and NGOs.
- Proven understanding and experience of the humanitarian system and crisis contexts, with an understanding of the evolving crisis financing landscape and relevant actors in this field a distinct advantage.

Application details

Your CV (no more than two pages) and covering letter, which should detail your skills and evidence of experience and how it relates to the job description, should be uploaded onto our [online application portal](#). Your letter should also include your salary expectations, notice period/available start date and where you saw the job advert.

Early applications are highly encouraged; we will be reviewing submissions as they arrive, and interviews will be held periodically. As we are recruiting on a rolling basis, we reserve the right to end recruitment without notice.

Other

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

We have a duty to prevent illegal working by checking potential employees' documents, before employing them, to ensure they have the right to work in the country in which this post is based.

Development Initiatives is an equal opportunities employer and in line with our policies, we aim to ensure that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

We find it helpful for all applicants to complete our Diversity Monitoring Form found on our website at: <http://devinit.org/working-with-us/vacancies/>

Working together

People are our greatest asset. It's a well-used saying, but at DI it really is true.

We acknowledge that we work in an environment where the pace is often fast, and we need our people to be able to respond swiftly and creatively to new situations and demands, so it makes sense that the better our employees are, the more effective we will be. For this reason, we work hard to create an environment that meets everyone's needs.

In line with our values (people-centred, purpose-driven and transparent), we aim for a culture of honesty and openness and want to attract and retain talented people who share our vision. We also like to offer individuals the space to use their talents in an innovative working environment with colleagues who are passionate about our vision. We also offer:

UK

- Informal work environment (e.g. casual dress)
- Pension scheme with 5% employer contribution
- Flexible working arrangements (e.g. homeworking, flexitime)
- Healthcare scheme with employee assistance programme
- Paid study leave and financial support
- Paid professional membership fees
- A free gym within the office building
- Childcare vouchers
- Enhanced holiday entitlement, plus all bank and public holidays and discretionary paid time off at Christmas
- Up to five days' paid volunteering leave (addressing poverty/helping vulnerable people).

Development Initiatives (DI) is a global organisation harnessing the power of data and evidence to end poverty, reduce inequality and increase resilience.

We deliver trusted and actionable insights for decision-makers and partners based on what available data can tell us. We increase data use by growing people's skills, expertise and confidence in data and showing how data can drive better outcomes. And we improve what data is available by helping others to collect, share, manage and use data responsibly and effectively.

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To find out more about our work visit:
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Development Initiatives is the trading name of Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 06368740, and DI International Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 5802543. Registered Office: First Floor Centre, The Quorum, Bond Street South, Bristol, BS1 3AE, UK.

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