

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Junior Economist

LOCATION: New Delhi, India or Clermont-Ferrand, France

POSITION TYPE: Full-time office-based, fixed term up to 24 months

About GDN

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](http://www.gdn.int) is a public international organisation that supports high-quality, policy-oriented, social science research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), to promote better lives. Founded in 1999, GDN is headquartered in New Delhi (India), with offices in Clermont-Ferrand (France) and Arlington (USA). Our work spans the Global South.

Background

With the financial support of the Gates Foundation, GDN is implementing a global research programme on the **Economics of Open Transaction Networks (OTN)**. The programme aims to develop economic theories around open transaction networks and their development impacts, and to test them empirically in a number of low- and middle-income countries.

The programme brings together:

- GDN economists and invited senior economists, led by the President of GDN.
- A Scientific Committee of global experts on OTN projects.
- Up to six national research teams implementing comparative empirical projects across countries and sectors.

Position Summary

GDN seeks to recruit a Junior Economist to support the economics work of the OTN programme. The Junior Economist will work closely with the GDN economists, the invited senior economists, the Programme Manager, and the wider programme team. The programme's theory work does not assume that candidates already know the work in OTN. It applies established tools from network economics, platform economics, market design, matching, and applied microeconomics to understand how open, interoperable transaction networks affect adoption, market structure, prices, matching quality, and welfare.

The role strengthens the programme's ability to translate theory into implementable research questions, measurable outcomes, and clean analysis that country research teams can execute.

Key Responsibilities

A. Economic framing and theory development

- a. Contribute to the programme's core economic framing of open and interoperable transaction networks using concepts from network effects, two-sided markets, platform competition, pricing and fees, and matching frictions.
- b. Prepare short model notes, diagrams, and examples that clarify mechanisms and translate them into testable predictions.

B. Literature and research synthesis

- a. Build a focused reading base that connects the programme's questions to relevant theory and empirical work in network and platform economics, digital markets, and digital infrastructure.
- b. Produce concise notes that distil what matters for this programme, including key assumptions, results, and implications for empirics.

C. Empirical preparation and applied analysis

- a. Contribute to early work with administrative datasets or platform logs once data arrangements are in place, including dataset documentation, variable checks, and exploratory analysis.
- b. Produce clear descriptive outputs that help teams understand patterns around major events, changes in rules or incentives, and shifts in participation or outcomes.

D. Portfolio and country project engagement

- a. Contribute economics inputs that help country projects remain coherent with the programme's theory, feasible given context and data, and comparable across settings.
- b. Prepare materials for technical convenings, including the methodology workshop, in a way that connects theory, measurement, and feasible empirical approaches.

Desired Profile

Education and Experience

- Currently enrolled in a PhD in Economics, or recently completed a PhD in Economics.
- Strong training in applied microeconomics, industrial organisation, development economics, or related fields.

- Clear interest in network and platform economics, digital markets, and the economics of digital infrastructure.

Preferred Skills

- Strong quantitative skills and comfort working with data.
- Ability to write clearly and communicate economics ideas through concise notes, tables, and figures.
- Experience with R preferred. Experience with Stata or Python is also valuable.
- Ability to work well in a collaborative, multi-country environment and deliver reliably against timelines

Reporting

The Junior Economist will work closely with the GDN economists and coordinate as needed with the Senior Programme Manager. The President of GDN is the scientific and management lead and signs off on programme outputs.

Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following documents on GDN's [Application Portal](#):

- Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae
- A cover letter detailing your motivation for applying for this position, and addressing the experience requirements detailed above (max 1 pages)
- Contact details of at least three professional references

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis from January 2nd, until the position is filled.

Please specify:

- Earliest date you can join
- Your preferred country of work
- Your salary expectations

Global Development Network is an equal opportunity employer and encourages candidates of all backgrounds and genders to apply. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.