Letter of Interest – [DECDI] Hybrid Research Assistant

Hassan Sidique Konneh
Freetown, Sierra Leone.
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Human Resource Department
The World Bank Group,
3 & 3A Spur Road,
Wilberforce,
Freetown,
Sierra Leone.

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Research Assistant position with the Development Impact Evaluation (DECDI) unit, as advertised. With a degree in Economics, specializing in Econometrics, and extensive hands-on experience in the full lifecycle of data for impact evaluation, I am confident I possess the skills and background necessary to contribute significantly to your team.

My technical capabilities are a direct match for your requirements. I have advanced proficiency in R, Stata, and Python for complex data processing, econometric analysis, and visualization. My experience at GIZ and Statistics Sierra Leone involved cleaning and analyzing large-scale administrative and survey datasets to produce actionable insights and moreover having worked in an agriculture-centric project focusing on specific agricultural value-chains in Sierra Leone. Crucially, I have deep, practical experience in supporting primary data collection, including programming and deploying surveys using ODK-based platforms like KoboCollect, and using GitHub for version control in a team environment.

My background extends beyond just technical skills. I have a proven track record of managing the entire data pipeline, from designing questionnaires and training field enumerators to performing rigorous quality checks and preparing datasets for analysis. My undergraduate dissertation, which analyzed the impact of government health expenditure on economic growth using econometric techniques like ARDL Bounds Testing, demonstrates my ability to conduct the type of rigorous, policy-relevant research central to DECDI's mission.

Furthermore, my entire professional experience is rooted in Sierra Leone, giving me a deep, nuanced understanding of the operational realities of conducting research in a developing country context. I am fluent in Krio, a key local language, and have successfully designed and delivered data analysis and management training for local field staff and stakeholders, aligning perfectly with the capacity-building component of the role.

I am eager to apply my comprehensive skill set—spanning econometric analysis, full-stack data management, and in-country field experience—to support DECDI's goal of transforming development policy through high-quality evidence. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to discussing my qualifications further.

Sincerely,
Hassan Sidique Konneh