

# Empirical Development Economics

Understanding why so many people across the world are so poor is one of the central intellectual challenges of our time. This book provides the tools and data that will enable students, researchers and professionals to address that issue.

*Empirical Development Economics* has been designed as a hands-on teaching tool to investigate the causes of poverty. The book begins by introducing the quantitative approach to development economics. All topics are presented through data that addresses some important policy issue. Part One focuses on the basics of understanding the role of education, technology and institutions in determining why incomes differ so much across individuals and countries. In Part Two the focus is on techniques to address a number of topics in development which include how firms invest, how households decide how much to spend on their children's education, whether microcredit helps the poor, whether food aid works, who gets private schooling and whether property rights enhance investment.

A distinctive feature of the book is its presentation of a range of approaches to studying development questions. Development economics has undergone a major change in focus over the last decade with the rise of experimental methods to address development issues; this book shows how these methods relate to more traditional ones.

**Måns Söderbom** is Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

**Francis Teal** is Research Associate, CSAE, University of Oxford, UK and Managing Editor, *Oxford Economic Papers*.

**Markus Eberhardt** is Assistant Professor in Economics, School of Economics, University of Nottingham, UK.

**Simon Quinn** is Associate Professor in Economics and Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, University of Oxford, UK.

**Andrew Zeitlin** is Assistant Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.