

Job Description

Posting Title:	Junior Professional Officer Access to Finance
Department/Office:	Operations Division
Duty Station:	London, United Kingdom
Level	P-2 (UN Common System)
Type of contract:	Fixed-term, two years (funded by the government of Italy)
Post Number:	ICO/JPO/1/2026
Estimated Start Date:	
Closing date for application	

About the International Coffee Organization

The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is a knowledge-based international organization.

It was established in 1963 under the aegis of the United Nations following the approval of the first International Coffee Agreement in 1962. The ICO is the only intergovernmental organization for coffee bringing together exporting and importing governments. It currently represents 94% of world coffee production and 64% of world consumption. The mission of the Organization is to strengthen the global coffee sector and promote its sustainable expansion in a market-based environment for the benefit of all actors in the Coffee Global Value Chain (C-GVC). The ICO provides a unique forum for dialogue among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society and all coffee stakeholders in order to tackle the challenges facing the sector through international cooperation and to nurture opportunities.

The Organization collects and compiles independent official statistics on coffee production, trade and consumption, supports the development and funding of technical cooperation projects and public-private partnerships and promotes sustainability and coffee consumption. It helps the coffee sector contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): it aims to increase the resilience of local communities and coffee farmers, in particular smallholders, and enable them to benefit from coffee production and trade, which can in turn aid in the eradication of poverty by providing a living income for families.

The Operations Division

The Operations Division is responsible for day-to-day operations, for the execution of the ICO annual Programme of Activities and for servicing the International Coffee Council and related technical committees. It encompasses four main areas: i) Statistics, including data collection, management, analysis and reporting; ii) Economic Research and Analysis, including the publication of the ICO Coffee Development Report (CDR), the development, fundraising and monitoring of technical cooperation projects, as well as the promotion of coffee consumption; iii) Secretariat, External Relations and Communications, covering relations with ICO Member states and public and private coffee stakeholders, the organization of ICO annual conferences and meetings and external communication to promote the ICO and its activities with Members, coffee stakeholders, development partners and the media; and iv) Sustainability and Partnerships, including the operation of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) and its Technical Workstreams.

Responsibilities

TECHNICAL FOCUS

The Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will carry out ICO tasks related to strategic and operational work on access to finance for stakeholders of the coffee value chain. This can include access to finance by coffee producers and cooperatives, access to finance for research, access to finance for private sector stakeholders. The work will also look into scaling finance and blended finance.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The incumbent will be in the unit of Public Private Cooperation of the Operations Division and will report to the Public Private Coordinator. The JPO will liaise with the economists and sustainability-related staff and, if relevant, inform the Coffee Public-Private Task Force of findings.

The main responsibilities of the JPO will include:

1. Carrying out field and desk research and methodological development on access to finance in the C-GVC and helping to monitor work by the ICO, other organizations and academia on: (a) local access to finance by coffee producers and cooperative; (b) access to finance by private stakeholders (concessional, derisked,...), (c) identifying finance mechanisms in the C-GVC that boost sustainability at scale, (d) monitor the progress of finance for the C-GVC by global funds, incl. the Global Coffee Fund (G7) and lessons learnt, (e) Contributing to the preparation of various written outputs, ToRs, draft background papers, analytical notes, sections of reports and studies, inputs for publications, etc.
2. Supporting the operationalization and monitoring of ICO partnerships with other international organizations/UN, academia, NGOs and coffee public and private sector stakeholders and organizations related to access to finance in the C-GVC.
3. Assisting with the coordination of the CPPTF and ICO Members: governments and private sector companies representatives, as well as with international development partners, civil society organizations and academia related to access to finance and link with the CPPTF Roadmap;
4. Assisting in planning and holding online and in-person meetings of the CPPTF and its Technical Workstreams and of the coffee CEO and Global Leaders Forums held annually alongside sessions of the International Coffee Council; Integrating technical inputs of the CPPTF and Technical Workstreams and external consultants related to access to finance.
5. Assisting in the development and maintenance of ICO IT systems and operations;
6. Performing other related duties and ad-hoc assignments as required.

Level and purpose of contacts

Inside the Organization

Contacts with staff at all levels to provide research inputs and advice on all aspects related to partnerships, sustainability and access to finance, in order to obtain and provide information, enlist cooperation, facilitate mutual understanding, and report on the preparation of ICO publications, events and attendance of external events and information requests..

Outside the Organization

Contacts with a broad range of officials from Member countries, representatives of the private sector, cooperatives, development partners and Banks and other stakeholders to help provide

information and respond to queries, in addition to contacts with participants in conferences, seminars, workshops and similar events.

Skill and Behaviour Requirement	Required Qualifications
Education & Experience	· Advanced university degree or higher in relevant field with a strong focus on economic aspects of value chain and sustainable development · At least two years of professional experience in programmes related to economic development of agricultural value chains
Language(s)	· Excellent command of the English language, oral and written. · Knowledge of at least one of the other official languages of the Organization (Spanish, Portuguese and French) would be an asset.
Specialized Knowledge	· Knowledge of value chains. · Knowledge of financial instruments for agricultural value chains · Strong analytical capacity. · Conceptual and analytical writing skills in English. · Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions related to development cooperation. · Initiative, tact, and ability to work under pressure and to strict deadlines.

Training and learning opportunities	
Training Components	Discussions on training needs will be carried out at the beginning of the assignment to identify areas of development in line with the needs of the ICO and the interest of the candidate. Based on this, a training plan will be developed which will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that needs are met.
Learning	At the end of the two-year assignment, the JPO should have: · Particularly good knowledge of the ICO mandate and policy/diplomatic context and its operations; good understanding of the ICO's scope of work, tools, strategies, and best practices; · General understanding of the coffee global value chain (C-GVC) and the world of commodities; · Technical knowledge in the field of sustainability and partnerships and access to finance at the local level for cooperatives, for governments and private stakeholders of the coffee value chain; · Improved understanding of different types of concessional finance; · Increased or acquired general knowledge of the role and function of intergovernmental organizations, policies, rules, regulations, and procedures.