Azim Premji Foundation

Manager Programs - Rural Livelihood in Bangalore | Azim Premji Foundation

Bengaluru, Karnataka · full-time · senior level · Competitive · Closes 6 Dec 2026

Application Assist →

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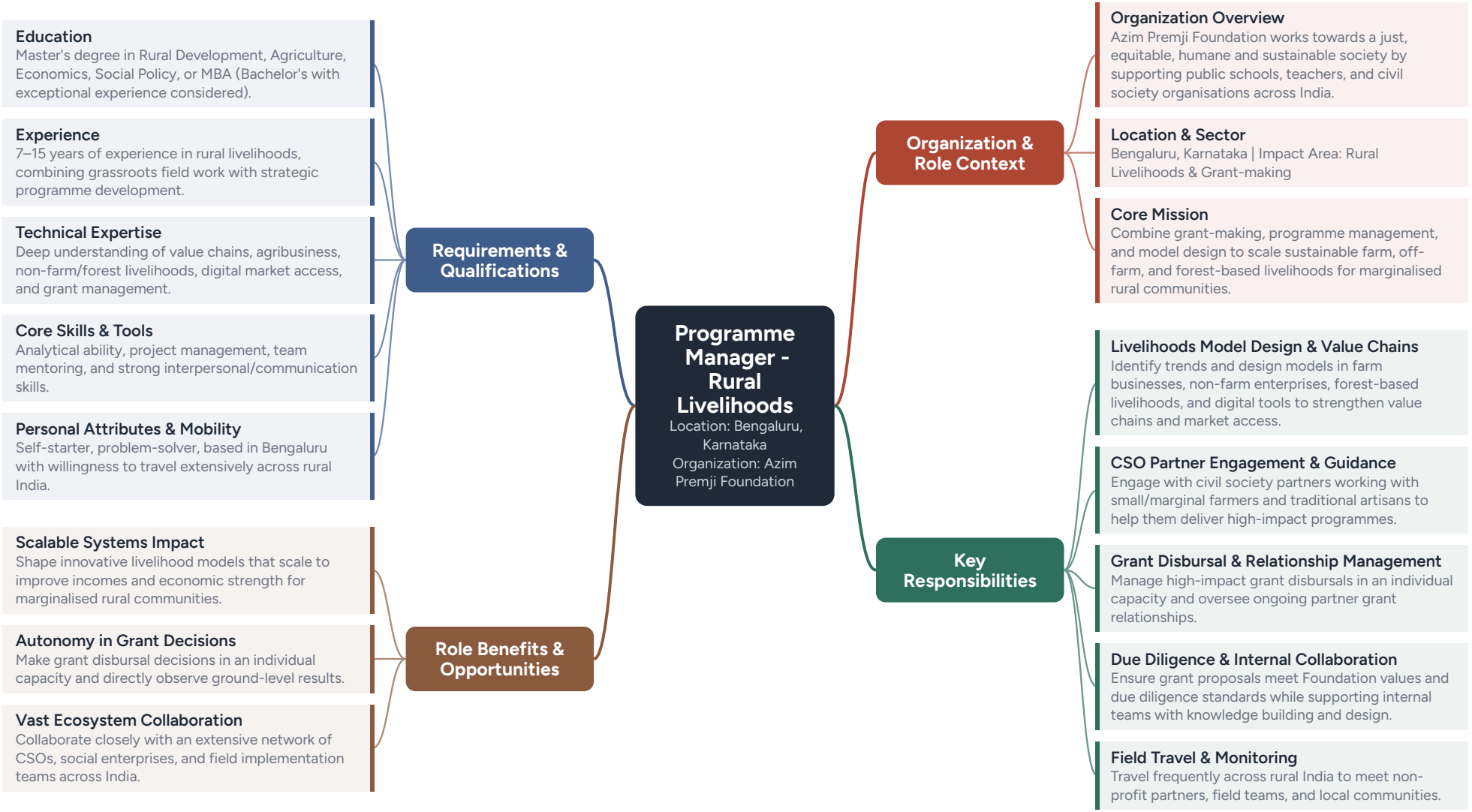

Skills this role needs

Grant management	Rural livelihoods programme design	Value chain development	CSO partnership management	Agribusiness and forest-based livelihoods

Job description

Azim Premji Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation works towards a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. It works closely with public schools and teachers in many states across India. It also supports civil society organisations through grants, reaching communities on issues such as livelihoods, health and the rights of vulnerable groups. Through this work, the Foundation stands behind people on the ground who are building better lives for marginalised communities.

Role

This role brings together grant-making, programme management and the design of new livelihood models that can grow to reach many more people. You will find, assess and support work across farm, off-farm, non-farm and forest-based livelihoods, carried out by civil society organisations, social enterprises and wider partnerships that use markets, local institutions and technology. The goal is steadier incomes and greater economic strength for marginalised rural communities. The role calls for a close understanding of life in rural areas, along with the ability to plan for change across whole systems.

Responsibilities

- Identify new trends, approaches and models in rural livelihoods that can grow, with a focus on more varied incomes, stronger value chains and economic inclusion.
- Guide thinking on farm businesses, non-farm enterprises, forest-based livelihoods and digital tools that help communities reach markets and financial services.
- Engage with civil society organisations working with small and marginal farmers, traditional artisans and other vulnerable communities, and help them deliver strong programmes.
- Manage the disbursal of high-impact grants as an individual grant-maker within the Foundation, and look after ongoing grant relationships.
- Check that grant proposals and programmes match the Foundation's values and due diligence processes.
- Support internal teams with knowledge building, programme design and grant implementation.
- Travel often to meet partners, field teams and communities.

Requirements

- A Master's degree in Rural Development, Agriculture, Economics, Social Policy, Business Administration or a related field, though a Bachelor's degree with exceptional experience may also be considered.
- 7-15 years of experience in rural livelihoods, with a mix of grassroots work and strategic programme development.
- Experience managing large-scale rural livelihoods programmes or partnerships with civil society organisations.
- A strong understanding of value chains, agribusiness, non-farm and forest-based livelihoods, and sustainable development approaches.
- A track record of managing grants, mentoring teams and adding to learning and new ideas within an organisation.
- Strong analytical, project management, communication and people skills, with the drive to take initiative, work on your own and solve problems.
- Willingness to travel widely across rural areas, with the role based in Bengaluru.

Benefits

- Shape livelihood models that can grow to improve incomes for marginalised rural communities.
- Work alongside a wide network of civil society organisations, social enterprises and field teams.
- Make grant decisions in your own capacity and see the results of that support on the ground.

Apply

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About the organisation

Azim Premji Foundation

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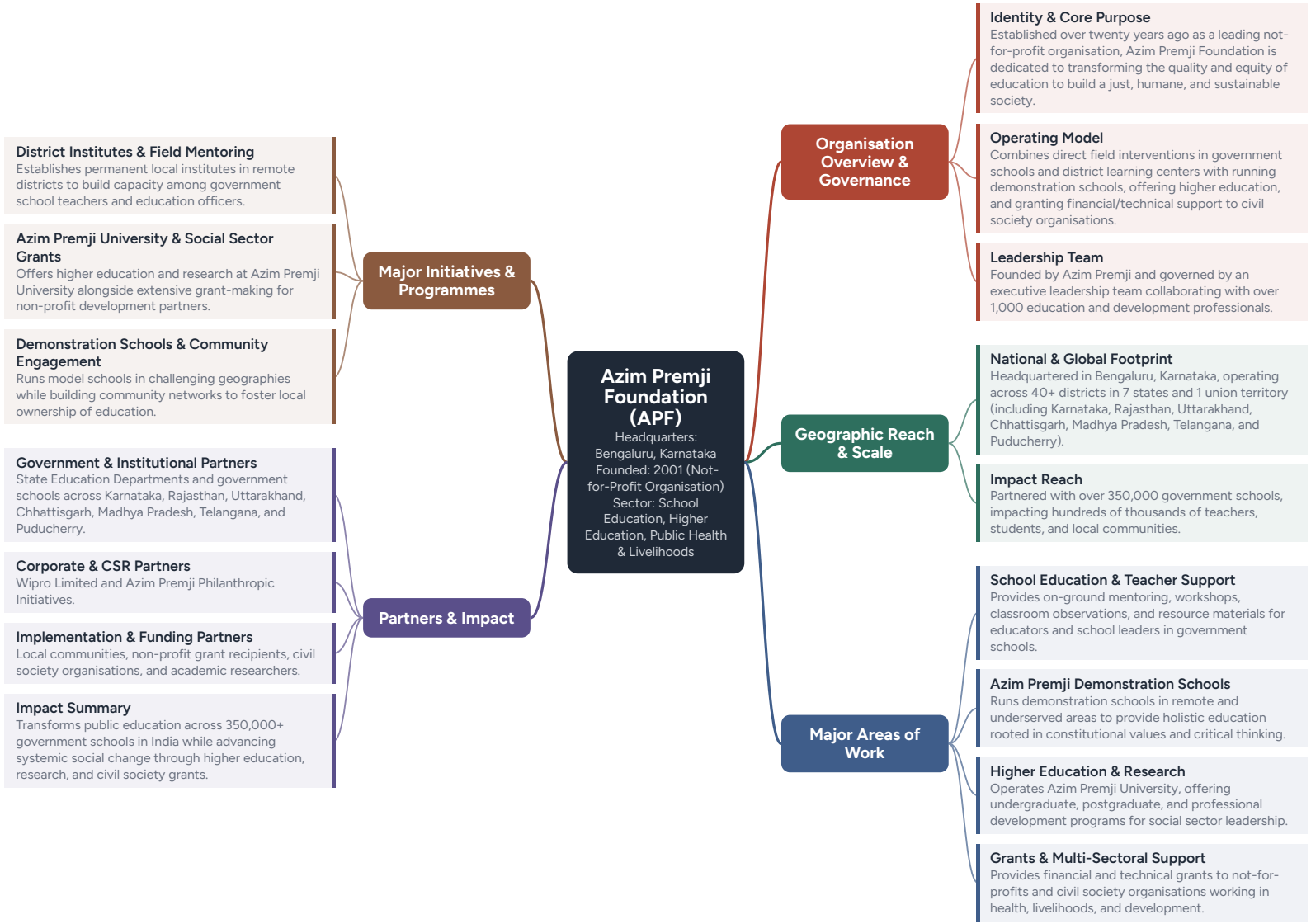

About Azim Premji Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation is one of India's leading not-for-profit organisations, dedicated to transforming the quality and equity of education for all children. Established over twenty years ago, the Foundation believes that education is the cornerstone of a just, humane, and sustainable society. Its vision is to ensure that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to meaningful learning and the chance to reach their full potential.

Youtube Video>

The Foundation works in partnership with government schools and education departments in more than 40 districts across seven states and one union territory, including Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry. With a team of over 1,000 passionate professionals, Azim Premji Foundation reaches more than 3,50,000 schools, making a deep and lasting impact on the lives of children, teachers, and communities.

At the heart of the Foundation's work is a commitment to supporting teachers and school leaders. Field teams collaborate closely with educators through workshops, mentoring, classroom observations, and resource development. The Foundation also runs its own schools, where children experience a nurturing environment rooted in constitutional values, critical thinking, and creativity.

Azim Premji Foundation's approach is hands-on and community-focused. Teams work in some of India's most challenging and remote locations, building relationships with teachers, parents, and local leaders. The aim is to create a culture of learning, reflection, and continuous improvement, where everyone is encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, and grow together. Beyond education, the Foundation supports a range of initiatives in health, livelihoods, grants, and higher education. It provides financial and technical support to other not-for-profits and civil society organisations, helping to broaden the reach and impact of development efforts across the country.

The Foundation is also home to Azim Premji University, which offers high-quality higher education and research opportunities for those committed to social change. Life at Azim Premji Foundation is dynamic, diverse, and purposeful. The organisation values diversity, equity, and inclusion, and fosters a supportive environment where staff are encouraged to learn, reflect, and contribute to the Foundation's mission. Employees benefit from extensive professional development opportunities, a comprehensive benefits package, and a strong sense of community and shared purpose.Know the organisation better

Youtube video >

APF's Stories of Change

Azim Premji Foundation is always looking for passionate, socially committed individuals who want to make a difference. Whether working in education, health, livelihoods, or research, every role at the Foundation offers a unique blend of professional fulfilment and social impact. For those who believe in the power of education and want to help build a more just and equitable India, Azim Premji Foundation is a place where purpose and passion come together.

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