

## Africa Data Hub

Job Description

**PRODUCT OWNER WITH UX EXPERIENCE**



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**Full-time or part-time fixed-term contract position:** We are open and flexible but do require at least 3 days a week of your time

**Salary:** We're a nonprofit but we pay a living wage. Salary will depend on your experience and how many days you work

**Location and requirements:** Flexible. We work remotely. You'll need good, dependable broadband and your own computer or laptop. Non-South Africans must have a valid work permit.

**Start date:** To start immediately until end Feb 2023 (with the possibility of extending)

**Note:** Our team includes a mix of genders, parents and non-parents, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds. We believe that teams are strengthened by diverse perspectives, and we welcome candidates of all races, genders, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, ethnicities, and national origins to apply, and welcome those with alternative backgrounds and experiences.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION: AFRICA DATA HUB**

The [Africa Data Hub](#) (ADH) project at its core is a data platform aimed at providing journalists in Sub-Saharan Africa with verified accurate data, tools, resources and training to use data more effectively in their reporting on the COVID-19 crisis and other health issues. One of the key issues that journalists face is the lack of access to trustworthy accurate datasets and the Africa Data Hub serves to fill this gap by making sought-after and nuanced datasets more accessible for use in news stories. In addition to streamlining this data pipeline for journalists, ADH also provides additional capacity-building, training and support directly to newsrooms to bolster their capacities and skills to source, analyse, visualise and incorporate data into meaningful ways for their audiences. We see data-driven health reporting as a key mechanism in equipping citizens and policymakers to make more informed evidence-based decisions. We are a consortium of six organisations (lead by Open Cities Lab) based in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Open Cities Lab (OCL) is looking for a senior Product Owner with UX experience. We expect the product owner to bridge the gap between product strategy and development. We would like the Product Owner to own the process of user-centred design in the broader team; identify the deliverables needed to roll-out and expand the value of the Africa Data Hub website through the design of necessary tools and resources; engage newsrooms, data partners and other users to test and refine the design ideas and analyse insights to drive development of the ADH website and its various products further; and provide ongoing support to the Project Lead to build the Africa Data Hub website out as a critical source of valuable information and tools for African journalists. Journalism and media experience is highly desirable. Data analytical skills are also highly desirable.

**Responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

*Leadership and Product Owner expectations:*

- Understanding the ADH vision and strategy and inputting on additional strategic ideas
- Understanding and identifying the deliverables needed to rollout parts of the strategy related to the ADH website
- Owning & leading the processes needed to implement updates on the ADH site
- Briefing in the necessary team members on expected tasks
- Driving deliverable timelines
- Crisis management when deadlines are at risk
- Acting as the touchpoint for all moving parts of the project
- Strong knowledge of Google Analytics
- Motivating the project team
- Reporting into the project lead on website activity

*UX Design expectations:*

- Defining, exploring, and creating new features/assets for the Africa Data Hub website that align with the ADH brand in ethos and aesthetic
- Conducting needs assessments and in-depth user experience research
- Analysing requirements and insights from partners and designing wireframes, as necessary
- Work with a remote UI designer who will develop your wireframes into a live interface via Webflow
- Evaluating and testing those ideas, including coordinating requisite user testing
- Iterating on, or refining, this work, i.e exploring alternative flows or layouts, based on feedback and other inputs from partners and stakeholders
- Strong knowledge of SEO and website data analytics and implementation of strategies to bolster the ADH website

**Skills required**

- Ability to own the ADH vision and is able to ensure that the vision is realised in the designs
- Ability to drive towards the ADH goals without letting outside forces distract from a quality delivery
- Ability to turn insights from users into user-centred designs
- Ability to translate extensive design processes into smaller, more concrete and manageable tasks that can be accomplished with available resources on the team
- Skills in data analysis and interpreting statistics to support the development of ADH-driven research is a plus
- Strong English copywriting and editing skills
- The ability to work well under pressure in order to meet deadlines often with quick turnaround times
- An eye for detail and the ability to work accurately

- Motivation, commitment and proactiveness
- The ability to work remotely and comfortably in a global, virtual, highly diverse cross-cultural team.
- Strong communication and people skills for articulating ideas to colleagues

### **Are you this person?**

- A Bachelor's degree or higher (preferably in a tech, programming, or data science field) is preferable but not completely necessary if you have sufficient experience
- At least 3-5 years experience as a senior staff member (manager, team leader)
- Do you have 4 to 6 years' relevant work experience or working in a research-related programme or organisation?
- Do you have experience in digital product delivery, and do you understand the basic design and development pipeline?
- Have you worked independently without direct supervision from concept to creation?
- Experience communicating at various levels
- Can you translate user experience research into meaningful findings that can be shared with a broad non-design team?
- Can you brief in other teams, such as development and technical teams, to ensure that your designs are implemented accurately?
- Are you skilled in writing clear, concise, and grammatically correct research outputs?
- Are you interested in new technologies and opportunities to explore new ways of analysing and visualising data?
- Do you work well under pressure, have good time management and have been described by others as a multitasker, great problem solver, creative thinker and excellent communicator? Are you solutions-oriented?

### **COMPANY DESCRIPTION: OPEN CITIES LAB**

Open Cities Lab is first and foremost a civic technology organisation. We believe that technology, used effectively, can increase transparency in government, promote an active citizenry and contribute to achieving a more just society by empowering ordinary citizens to make informed decisions about their lives. Our organisation is made up of researchers, software developers, economists, data scientists and designers who get to constantly expand their knowledge and learn peripheral skills as part of the job. We are all driven by a common purpose as a non-partisan community founded on the belief of equality and inclusion through openness across all aspects of society.

### **APPLICABLE TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Open Cities Lab reserves the right to award this post as soon as a suitable candidate is identified, as well as the right not to award at all or to renegotiate its terms, subject to circumstances and adequacy of submissions.

### **SUBMISSIONS**

Potential candidates meeting the post criteria are invited to apply via this link: <https://survey.harrisonassessments.com/e3jp-r88k-8mws>