



## Rift Valley Institute

### Job Description

### Research Lead - Somali Dialogue Platform

**Title of Post:** Research Lead, Somali Dialogue Platform (“The Platform”)

**Employment type:** Full-time, **Fixed Term** (one year with possibility for extension)

**Location:** Nairobi (with extensive travel to Mogadishu)

**Reporting structure:** This role reports directly to the Team Leader of the Somali Dialogue Platform; and manages the Research Coordinator, research consultants and relationships with partner organizations.

**Salary:** Salary range: \$40,500-\$45,300, depending on experience. Other benefits include 28 days annual paid, health insurance, pension plan, travel allowance, and flexible working hours (subject to negotiation). All programmatic roles are subject to renewal depending on available funding.

### Job overview

The Somali Dialogue Platform is a multi-donor peacebuilding programme designed to provide Somali-led support to political processes in Somalia, with the ultimate goal of transforming the political settlement to be more inclusive, sustainable and peaceful. In collaboration with a range of partners, the Platform works across a range of thematic areas including federalism, power- and resource-sharing, democratisation and sub-national settlements. In all of these it seeks to enable trusted spaces for political actors and the wider citizenry to come together, establish positive relationships and meaningfully discuss solutions to contentious issues. It works directly with Somali political processes, providing a range of facilitative, technical, and logistical support; engages a wider range of civil society and the public in these processes; informs external actors in their engagements; and delivers research and analysis that inform the Platform’s approaches and provide starting points for meaningful dialogue.

The Research Lead is responsible for the development, delivery and promotion of the Platform’s analysis and research work. The Research Lead has overall responsibility for delivery of the programme’s research and analysis components, including coordinating regular political and policy analysis and managing multi-stakeholder social science research projects, to support, shape and inform the programme’s efforts to enable political consensus in Somalia. The Research Lead works closely with the Team Leader, the Research Coordinator and the Platform’s senior staff to design relevant research and analytical activities and products that maximize impact. The Research Leads collaborates with partners and networks of experts to deliver research that will achieve the overall objective of facilitating a stronger political settlement in Somalia.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Lead the development and delivery of the Platform’s research and analysis work (60%)

- Lead the conceptualisation, planning and implementation of the Platform’s research and analysis activities, ensuring the research programme is informed by a high level of analytical, evaluative and

innovative thinking to develop the Platform

- Work closely with the Platform representatives, staff, Somali partners and external actors to ensure the design of research activities and outputs is appropriate.
- Work closely with other Platform senior staff to set overall strategy, planning and approach, and ensure research work is seamlessly integrated with other activities
- Ensure the Platform’s research is based on robust design and methodologies, and is relevant and responsive to the needs of stakeholders in political dialogues.
- Establish and oversee rigorous systems for data collection, management and analysis
- Undertake primary research when appropriate (literature reviews, key informant interviews) and analysis of primary data
- Manage and oversee the production of research outputs and publications, with support from RVI’s publications team, as well as consultant copy-editors and graphic designers
- Support dissemination and uptake strategies for research findings and analytical insights through dissemination in various formats including presentations in donor briefings, policy advisory workshops and engagement events.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with Somali organisations from whom the Platform can commission high-quality research outputs
- Identify and manage consultants that can support the Platform’s research activities.

### **Programme management (40%)**

- Manage the budget for the Platform’s research activities ensuring they are within budget and demonstrate value-for-money, working closely with the Platform Team Leader and Grant and operations Manager
- Line-Manage and support the Research Coordinator and research consultants, managing the changing composition of the research team, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and consultants undertaking research.
- Support and mentor junior researchers working on the Platform
- Ensure Platform research activities are conducted adherence with RVI’s values and ethics

These are the normal duties which the RVI requires from you at the date of your appointment. It may be necessary to alter these duties in accordance with the needs of the job and the organisation. Any changes will be made in consultation with you.

## **Person Specification**

### **Knowledge and Qualifications**

- Minimum of a Masters degree in a relevant field of study
- Excellent and detailed understanding of current and historical political dynamics in Somalia and the region
- Excellent grasp of social science research design and methodology and concepts especially qualitative methods
- Expertise and knowledge in the field of peacebuilding, democratisation, federalism, and state-building.
- Demonstrable commitment to the Platform’s core vision and principles

**Experience**

- A minimum of five-year's experience in leading, designing and implementing social science and political research projects in fragile environments, including conducting field research, commissioning research, managing research teams and the production of research outputs.
- Track-record in developing relationships with other research organisations and supporting partners to deliver effective research products.
- Experience in complex data management processes for large qualitative research projects
- Experience of training and mentoring researchers.
- Track record of delivering policy-relevant research to a range of high-level audiences (UN, government, institutional donors)
- Experience in programme financial management.

**Skills and Abilities** and an ability to write and present highly complex issues and information

- Excellent writing and editing skills in English essential; fluency in Somali is highly desirable.
  - Demonstrable ability to implement advanced and innovative research methodologies and data analysis (including mixed methods),
  - Excellent political analysis skills
  - Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to lead and inspire and teach others
  - Ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and political environment and willing to iterate job role as part of a collaborative process of shaping an innovative peacebuilding programme
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- Cultural sensitivity and experience of working with diverse constituencies

**How to apply**

Applicants must submit a CV, a cover letter explaining their interest in, and suitability for the position, a short writing sample in English and the names of three references, latest by 6 April 2022. We encourage early applications. Only selected, qualified candidates will be contacted for interviews. RVI is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.