

Senior Design Consultant, Research and Training Design Terms of Reference

Stocktaking of existing training programmes and research support towards the design and development of a multidisciplinary data literacy programme

Effective dates: March 28, 2016 – May 3, 2016

Data-Pop Alliance is seeking a senior design consultant to undertake a rapid review of existing training and capacity building programmes on data and development. The aim of this rapid review is to provide a comprehensive view of the design, features, modules and modalities of existing “data literacy” training programmes in order to support the design and development of a multidisciplinary data literacy programme.

1. Background and objective of program

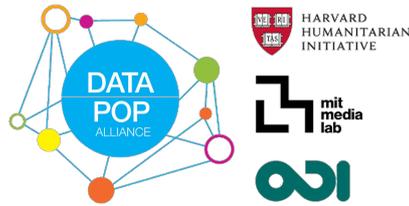
Data-Pop Alliance is a global coalition created in 2014 by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), MIT Media Lab, and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) that brings together researchers, experts, practitioners, and activists to promote a people-centered Big Data revolution through collaborative research, capacity building, and community engagement. Our core members include our three founding institutions—HHI, MIT Media Lab and ODI—as well as the Flowminder Foundation as of February 2016.

A core priority of our work focuses on advancing global “data literacy,” which we have defined in a recent white paper as *“the desire and ability to constructively engage in society through and about data.”*¹ There is a broad recognition that achieving the SDGs that underpin the larger 2015-2030 development agenda adopted by the 70th Assembly of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 requires building institutional and human capacities to measure, monitor, evaluate, and adjust policy outcomes against specific indicators. Data literacy is key to unlocking a “data revolution for development” that can underpin and speed progress towards the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals and economic and political development at large. The current phenomenal explosion of data and analytics offers a historic opportunity to improve decision-making and coordination of policy agendas, as well as monitoring and accountability, at all levels. Now is the right time to invest in strengthening countries’ and citizens’ abilities to produce, analyze, disseminate, and use quality data from both official and other sources.

Improving data literacy will require deepening specific capacity and specialized skills, building bridges between and blending knowledge from different academic disciplines (i.e. data science, statistics, social science, ethics, development studies, etc.), and fostering a culture around data and statistics that incentivizes empowerment and inclusion. Though existing programmes have begun to emerge, the design of these initiatives have largely lacked multi-stakeholder support (involving official statisticians, researchers, journalists and citizens), multi-disciplinary modular design, and regional contextualization.

Through funding from a major philanthropic organization and UN organizations, Data-Pop Alliance aims to develop, rollout and deliver its Data and Development Training Program (“The

¹ A fuller analysis and discussion of the concept of literacy, and more specifically data literacy, can be found in DPA’s September 2015 White Paper “Beyond Data Literacy: Reinventing Community Engagement and Empowerment in the Age of Data.”



Program”), a knowledge and capacity-building training program on Big Data and development dedicated to professionals involved in development work and policymaking in the Global South, through 1) a series of training workshops in Bogotá, Cambridge, Dakar, Kigali, Nairobi and New York; and 2) the development of a knowledge platform featuring an online library of key resources and other pedagogical materials. These training workshops and all supporting materials will be developed and delivered by Data-Pop Alliance, in partnership and with contributions from SciDevNet, Internews, MIT Media Lab and our local implementing partners in Colombia, Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal.

The program focuses on addressing gaps in knowledge and capacity of professionals tasked with making, conveying, discussing and/or implementing decisions that impact societies of the Global South. Importantly, what we propose is not a Data Science course of the kind that can be currently found on online platforms. Though the development of technical skills and concepts will be a feature of such a program—notably, basic data manipulation and visualization tools and techniques, introduction to statistical machine-learning, etc.—the program intends develop our target audience’s understanding and skills across the full spectrum of applications and implications of Big Data for society and their work (including ethical, legal, and institutional).

Participants will include national statistical officers, UN and World Bank staff, university faculty and researchers, journalists, civil society and others.

2. Objective of consultancy

The objectives of this assignment is to 1) conduct a rapid review of existing data literacy and training programmes, with the aim of understanding their design, features, modules and modalities; and 2) support the design and development of a multi-disciplinary data literacy programme.

This would include an assessment of similar training programmes and curriculum development. Suggested dimensions for the rapid assessment include:

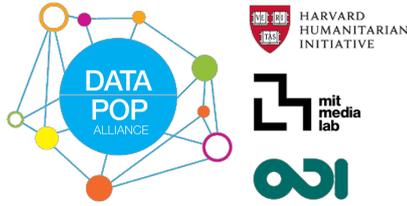
- 1) modality (i.e. online, interactive, static libraries, in-person workshop, etc.);
- 2) thematic/specific focus relevant to the data and development discourse (i.e. data and development; official statistics; data science; open data; SDGs; gender; etc.);
- 3) specific modules included;
- 4) location of training and intended participants;
- 5) outputs (i.e. toolkits, training manuals, syllabi, etc.)

This comprehensive review and analysis will serve as an input towards the strategic design and implementation of the Program’s first workshop at MIT Media Lab this summer.

3. Activities

Activities to meet the objectives of this assignment may include:

- a. Defining criteria and taxonomy for identifying existing training and capacity building programmes relevant to the data and development discourse.
- b. Defining methodology for identifying existing programme modules and outputs (i.e. online search, informer interviews, etc.)
- c. Developing mechanism for information collection.



- d. Preparing and finalizing a database highlighting key dimensions (above) from each example.
- e. Preparing a slide deck and short narrative summary of key findings (a maximum of 4 pages) with program design recommendations.

4. Duration

The consultant will be working during the period of 28 March 2016 to 3 May 2016.

5. Key skills, technical background and experience required:

- Master’s Degree in social sciences or related field. Degree and/or coursework in data science
- Proven and recognized experience in programme development and/or research on data and sustainable development
- Prior experience in conducting capacity building and training programmes (the consultant will provide samples of prior successful work)
- Prior experience and demonstrated results in curriculum development
- Working knowledge and experience in data science, big data and/or open data
- Excellent writing, facilitation, and organizational skills
- Excellent command of the English language
- Deadline driven with a focus on results
- Advanced MS Office skills, specifically in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Adept at the use of office communication tools

6. Working arrangements

The consultant will be working full time during the duration of consultancy and will report to the Data-Pop Alliance Research Manager.

Working space will be provided by Data-Pop Alliance; alternatively the consultant can work from home, if and when this would be suitable for Data-Pop Alliance and the consultant. However, presence in the office may be required for specific deliverables (to be determined).

7. Deliverables and Timeline

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Deliverable #1: Taxonomy and survey collection tool existing data literacy and training programmes	April 8, 2016
Deliverable #2: Preliminary database of existing programmes with example entries	April 15, 2016



Deliverable #3: Final slide deck and short narrative report	April 22, 2016
Deliverable #4: Final database of existing programmes	May 3, 2016

8. Remuneration

The consultant will be contracted with MIT Media Lab and compensation will be based on experience and issued as two payments of full time work at the beginning (50%) and end of the consultancy upon completion the deliverables on time.

9. How to Apply

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a CV and brief cover letter paragraph (via email) to David Sangokoya (dsangokoya@datapopalliance.org) with the subject line "Consultancy for Data and Development Training," by 25 March 2016, 5:00pm EST. Please indicate your ability, availability and rate to undertake the terms of reference above. Applications submitted without a rate will not be considered.