



In collaboration with Wellcome



Role Description

Regional Working Group Lead, Africa

Role Title

Working Group Lead, *Lancet* Countdown Africa

Background

The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change is an independent, international, multidisciplinary research collaboration. It brings together over 300 researchers from across the world, to track the health impacts of climate change, and evolving health opportunities of climate action, through more than 50 scientific indicators.

The *Lancet* Countdown was established in 2016, and has grown to include six regional centres, gaining international recognition and relevance to become a global authority on climate change and health.

The *Lancet* Countdown in Africa Centre is the latest of those regional centres. It was established with the purpose to bring together a team of local researchers to develop an in-depth assessment of the links between health and climate change in Africa, following the approach of the *Lancet* Countdown. The Centre is led by local researchers, coordinating the research activities in Africa, and engaging in national and regional policy processes.

As the centre is established, the *Lancet* Countdown in Africa is looking for five academic experts to act as Regional Working Group (WG) Leaders, leading the academic development of the collaboration across the collaboration's five core themes:

- WG1: Health Hazards, Exposures, and Vulnerabilities
- WG2: Adaptation, Planning, and Resilience for Health
- WG3: Mitigation Actions and Health Co-Benefits
- WG4: Economics and Finance
- WG5: Public and Political Engagement in Health and Climate Change

In order to ensure the diversity of perspectives across Africa are represented in the Regional Centre's objectives and activities, the *Lancet* Countdown will seek regional diversity within its Regional Working Group Leaders. Regional Working Group Leaders for Africa will be invited to provide leadership for the sub-region of the African continent where they work in, or which they feel they can represent.



Purpose of Working Group Leaders

Regional Working Group Leaders are crucial to delivering the academic vision of the *Lancet* Countdown. They:

i. Oversee the operational delivery of the academic Working Group activities and outputs for respective *Lancet* Countdown Regional Centres through:

- Coordinating the academic Working Group's input into the annual Regional Indicator Report
- Identifying opportunities for indicator improvement and additional research by the Regional Working Group to supplement the Regional Indicator Report
- Vetting proposals for new indicators or indicator updates for the Regional Indicator Report.
- Appointing, providing leadership and managerial oversight (both academic and pastoral) for any Regional Working Group Fellow.

ii. Contribute towards the strategic governance of the respective Working Group across the *Lancet* Countdown collaboration, including:

- Representing regional Working Group authors in the cross-collaboration Working Group Steering Groups.
- Sharing perspectives from the Regional Working Group which they lead, to ensure that these are incorporated into the *Lancet* Countdown's overarching academic strategy.
- Representing the research interests and policy priorities for a specified sub-region of the African continent across Lancet Countdown Africa activities and objective setting.

Experience and Personal Qualities

Regional Working Group Leaders:

- i. Are established and well-recognised academic researchers, affiliated with a regional academic institution.
- ii. Are regional experts in the domain of the Working Group, with a track record of publishing high-impact papers on climate change and health, particularly within the Region and Working Group domain which they represent.
- iii. Have a track record of securing funding related to the thematic domain.
- iv. Have experience contributing to other international research collaborations, particularly within leadership positions.
- v. Have a well-established regional network of collaborators, and demonstrable influence in sub-regional academic and policy priorities for climate change/health.

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- vi. Have demonstrable experience acting a spokesperson for their own research, or for that of a research collaboration, in particular experience communicating scientific findings to media or at high-level policy events.
 - vii. Are fluent in English, as well as one other commonly-spoken language within the Region. Any additional language skills will be beneficial to the role.

Role Description

i. Guide the Regional Working Group's academic activities and outputs:

- Identify regional researchers who can contribute to deliver the academic work of the Working Group, especially the development of indicators, and establish the network of researchers for the Working Group which they lead
- Coordinate the Working Group, including by coordinating and chairing meetings, and identifying contributing researchers.
- Steer the development and timely delivery of the Working Group section for the annual Regional Indicator Reports.
- Actively promote, guide, and support the update and enhancement of the Working Group indicators for the annual Regional Indicator Report .
- Review proposals for new or updated indicators and collaborate with the Regional Director for their assessment and incorporation into the report.
- Actively engage with collaborating regional authors, supporting their pursuit of scientific excellence, and promoting the coordinated development of primary research papers as part of the work of the *Lancet* Countdown.
- Appoint and provide leadership for a Regional Working Group Research Fellow.
- Provide managerial oversight (both academic and pastoral support) to the Regional Working Group Research Fellow, if a Working Group Research Fellow has been appointed.

ii. Represent authors of the Regional Working Group within the *Lancet* Countdown Governance:

- Represent authors of the Regional Working Group on the cross-centre Working Group Steering Group, and exchanging with the respective Working Group Leaders of other Regional Centres.
- Participate in the recruitment and appointment of relevant regional Working Group Fellows.
- Provide input, when requested, into the recruitment of Working Group authors and Leaders in other *Lancet* Countdown regions, acting as a subject-matter expert.

iii. Support the development of the *Lancet* Countdown, including through supporting policy and communications activities:

- Contribute to promoting the work of the *Lancet* Countdown, including by representing the *Lancet* Countdown at relevant conferences or on committees
- Act as spokesperson for the *Lancet* Countdown, engaging with media and policy briefings and events.
- Act as ambassadors for the *Lancet* Countdown, helping build its reputation and promoting its work as a regional scientific leader.
- Actively promote and improve the representation and diversity of cultural and regional backgrounds in the *Lancet* Countdown's academic community.

Commitment

This role would suit somebody who is committed to building a programme of research over several years within a relevant domain and region for one of the *Lancet* Countdown Working Groups. Depending on the level of engagement with the broad range of opportunities available through the *Lancet* Countdown, fulfilling the core tasks of this role will require up to 20% time commitment, which would be remunerated.

Financial support

The selected Working Group Leaders will receive financial support through their institutions, to cover up to 20% their time. They will also receive financial support for the hiring of a part-time or full-time research fellow.

Appointment Process

If you are interested in applying for this role, please submit the following documents to info@lancetcountdown.org by **23:30 GMT 19th December 2025**:

- An academic CV
- A cover letter of no-more than 500 words, describing your commitment to this role, and outlining how your previous experience would help you to lead a Working Group
- A letter of support from your Academic Institution

Where applicable, all applications submitted will be reviewed anonymously by existing members of the *Lancet* Countdown who are not in contention for the position, who will be provided with a common matrix for scoring applications. Only the highest-scoring applications will be shortlisted for interview.

Interviews will be conducted by a Selection Committee composed of:

- The Director of the Regional Centre
- The Global Working Group Chair or Co-Chair
- The Executive Director of the *Lancet* Countdown
- One other Regional Expert representative, selected by the Regional Director



Following interviews, the Selection Committee will appoint the candidate of their choice, taking both application and interview performance into account.