Manager of Communications and Program Strategy
Contract: August 31, 2020 - August 30 2021
Location: New York, NY (U.S. - based remote applicants will be considered)
Salary: Starts at $50,000, commensurate with experience

The Access Challenge is a New York-based organization committed to advancing Universal Health Access across Africa, supporting WHO’s and UN’s goal of achieving universal health access by 2030. We partner with political and cultural leaders to build African-centered mass-media campaigns and strategic advocacy programs to influence health policy in Africa. We seek to influence policy to enable a world where the next generation of global citizens, our children, have equal access to the opportunities and services they need to thrive. This access will be universal and will not be dictated by where a child is born, or their economic status. Our dedicated team works strategically alongside leaders and influencers at the country, continental, and international level. By leveraging the power of the media to reach millions with life saving messages, we inspire multi-sectoral action in the fight to reduce child mortality, secure a healthy environment, cultivate global development partnerships, and unlock resources in the public and private sectors. We strive to encourage a culture of collaboration and cooperation within the public health sector.

Job Description: The Manager of Communications and Program Strategy will join a small yet dynamic campaign team that supports the African Union, the Africa CDC, and WHO and the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation to drive Universal Health Coverage policy and behavior change to improve public health access across the African Continent. This position requires the capability to wear multiple hats, ranging from brand differentiation, strategic-media relations and communications, to event management and network engagement. This role will also provide strategic leadership on certain key, high-profile organizational initiatives and events.

This position is based in New York, NY and reports to the Chief Executive Officer of The Access Challenge.

Applicants must be eligible to work in the United States.
Responsibilities:

Leadership

- Manage all TAC Communications Efforts on each of our main programmatic areas (e.g., Global Convenings, Political Advocacy programs, Mass media campaigns, Youth ambassador program, fundraising and donor-facing)

- The Manager of Communications and Event Strategy will help grow TAC as a thought leader and practitioner in public health advocacy across digital platforms (social, government, news, etc) by writing and placing articles, and building relationships with media as needed.

Events

- Event Management and conceptual design: Design, plan, and execute all TAC events throughout the year. These include events at the: UN General Assembly, Africa Union Summits, World Health Assembly, and WHO conferences. These events are usually planned every year. Specific goals may include: Providing thought leadership on key health issues to discuss, Identify key speakers, and communication strategy to ensure that these conferences best support the campaign’s mission.

- Establish and maintain relationships with vendors and venues, and possess general knowledge of what leadership and guests expect to execute high-level events.

- Help the Director of Political Advocacy with developing speaking points in line with communications objectives for event panelists and keynote speakers.

Strategic Communications

- Provide support to in-country partners in conducting media advocacy efforts as part of strategic behavior change campaigns to demand policy change.

- *The Manager of Communications and Event Strategy will provide leadership and advice to communications staff and efforts.* This includes supporting staff in developing and implementing communications strategies — earned, paid, social, and owned media – with local partners, as well as ensuring that approaches across programs are complementary, enhancing the skills of communications staff and partners, and developing measures of success for media advocacy efforts.

- *Communications Support for TAC Visibility and Marketing:* In consultation with the CEO and Director of Political Strategy: the Communications Manager will work with communications interns to translate programmatic success stories into content (such as case studies, blogs, videos,
presentations and social media messaging) across TAC’s communications channels, including its website and social media.

- The Manager of Communications and Event Strategy will expand and maintain the current One by One and TAC website platforms, and train new interns to use the platform efficiently.

- **Provide Communications Support for Specific Programs:** The Manager of Communications and Event Strategy will direct strategic communications efforts on specific programs, such as UHC pilot work in Kenya, immunization awareness, and external events in coordination with the African Union.

**Partner Engagement**

- *The Manager will support celebrity engagement:* in the Mass Media program by providing briefs, media and “how to” toolkits geared towards a general audience.

- Develop new relationships with leading Non-Profit Actors in Africa and engage with current partner communications teams on events, ongoing activity awareness, and to develop new collaborative projects.

- *Working with TAC local and global partners:* the Manager will oversee the development and implementation of communications strategies in partner countries as part of comprehensive advocacy campaigns to promote behavior change at the community, national, and regional level.

**Qualifications:**

- Successful candidates will have at least three years of relevant experience in the fields of strategic communications, programs strategy or Global health.

- Experience in applying media relations, communications, and/or digital media expertise in public health, public policy, and government or nonprofit sectors is preferred

- Knowledge on various different health topic areas (maternal health, WASH, vaccinations, or disability rights), and strategic communications tactics to support behavior change in relation to those health areas.

- Graduate degree in public health and policy, global health, communications, or other relevant field; Bachelor's degree will be considered if accompanied by at least 5 years experience
● Public health or policy experience in Africa a plus

● Communications support for policy change campaigns, preferably on public health issues, and in low- and middle-income countries a plus

● Significant experience designing and implementing integrated communications strategies across a range of platforms including traditional and digital media

● Proven ability to manage, lead and mentor a diverse and global team.

● Excellent writing, editing and verbal communications skills.

● Significant experience working globally, in cross-cultural settings with dispersed teams.

● Additional language skills in Swahili, Arabic, French, or Portugues is a plus, though not required

● Willingness to travel internationally.

The Access Challenge is an equal opportunity employer: All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, religion/creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, sex, age, disability or condition including HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity. People of color, women, and transgender and gender expansive people are encouraged to apply. African citizens are also highly encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY: To apply for this position, please email a cover letter, resume, and salary requirement to: sarah.searfoss@accesschallenge.org. Please reference the position Manager/TAC in the subject line of your email. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.