ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title: Data Storytelling and Public Narrative Officer
Organization: Namati
Location: Remote
Stipend: $62,500 in the first year, $65,000 in the second year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date: September 2022

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

For billions of people around the world, the law is broken. It’s an abstraction—or worse, a threat—but not something they can use to exercise their basic rights.

Namati is a legal empowerment organization, advancing social and environmental justice by building a movement of people who know, use, and shape the law. Namati works in partnership with community paralegals — sometimes known as “grassroots organizers” — in six countries. The paralegals demystify law and help justice seekers navigate complex systems to achieve remedies to specific violations; protecting common lands, enforcing environmental law, and securing basic rights to healthcare and citizenship. Drawing on data from these cases and lived experiences of community members, paralegals and community members organize and pursue systemic changes to law, policy, and practice. Read more about Namati’s work here: https://namati.org/.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Namati is committed to equipping the people affected by injustice to shape the rules and systems that affect them. Storytelling plays a critical role in this fight. It helps people understand an issue, allows them to connect it to their own lived experience, inspires people to imagine a better world, and moves them to action. In the cases that Namati paralegals support, we see patterns in abuse that can create a compelling call to action to drive and shape reforms based on grassroots experience.

The Data Storytelling and Public Narrative Officer will partner with Namati teams to leverage data and grassroots experience to develop powerful stories that can help drive these reforms. Key audiences for these stories include the communities directly affected by rights violations and the policymakers who are the targets of advocacy and organizing efforts. The Fellow will support program teams to identify insights from case data and develop ways to communicate to catalyze action - like mobilizing a community to take collective action or informing a decision-maker about where the law is failing. The role contributes to Namati’s strategic priorities by building each program team's ability to (a) draw out strategic insights from data, (b) connect data to organizing and strategic communications for policy change, and (c) support communities to tell their own stories based on data and lived experience.

The Fellow will sit with Namati’s Global Programs team. The Global Programs team collaborates with each of our country teams to refine program strategy, support learning through grassroots experimentation and data, and develop new initiatives that strengthen our core areas of focus. The Global Programs team helps program teams harness data to generate insights and take action with communities, Namati program teams, and policymakers. The Fellow’s supervisor will be Erin Kitchell, Director of Global Programs.

The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Responsibilities and tasks:

- With support from other team members, lead skill building exercises on data literacy, data visualization, and storytelling to help Namati program teams and legal empowerment organizations deepen their ability to communicate data and craft stories for community organizing and policy advocacy.
- Create a core set of practical and accessible guidance and resources for legal empowerment practitioners on storytelling with data, using data for community organizing, and translating learning and data into policy action. Resources will be in a variety of formats (e.g., practitioner notes; webinars; e-learning modules, etc.).
- Partner with Namati country teams on projects to use data for storytelling, helping teams lead these efforts in ways that generate and inform community action, shape public narratives, and influence policymakers. For example, the Fellow could help Namati’s Sierra Leone team explore patterns in data on harmful industrial projects, develop strategies to share data with communities to shape the community’s collective action, and craft compelling narratives that speak to incentives of key policymakers.
- Synthesize learning and best practices about communicating to a range of different audiences, including policymakers and community members.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our FAQ;
- Experience and skills communicating data in powerful and compelling ways, and engaging others to interpret and use data for action;
- Experience developing curriculum and leading training in remote-settings;
- Capacity to build skills of practitioners (e.g., non-profit program managers, organizers, etc.) through coaching or mentorship;
- Familiarity or strong interest in law, governance, human rights, civic participation, and/or organizing and advocacy;
- Embodiment of Namati’s cultural principles, i.e., collaborative and service-oriented, creative, nimble problem solving, commitment to excellence, and accepts and shares feedback willingly.

Preferred:

- Professional or academic experience with one or more of Namati’s thematic areas of focus; land and environmental justice, health rights, or citizenship rights.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/](https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/)
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 28, 2022, 9pm EDT