TERMS OF REFERENCE – DIGITAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT (SOMALI SPEAKER)

- **Organisation:** Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)
- **Contract type:** Consultancy
- **Reporting to:** Manager, Strong Cities Network
- **Location:** United Kingdom
- **Preferred Start Date:** July 2020
- **Length of Contract:** 20 days
- **Remuneration:** Competitive

About ISD

ISD is a global counter-extremism organisation dedicated to powering solutions to extremism and polarisation. For over 10 years, we have responded to the rising challenge of extremist movements and the ideologies that underpin them, delivering cutting-edge programmes built from world-leading expertise in communications and technology, grassroots networks, knowledge and research, and policy advice.

As a non-profit organisation with teams in London, Beirut, Toronto and Washington D.C., ISD enjoys strategic partnerships with the world's leading technology companies and supports more than a dozen prominent governments and institutions in stemming the rise of violent extremism and hate.

About PROACT – Community Based Interventions in Kenya

PROACT is a multi-phased prevention programme in Kwale, Nakuru and Isiolo counties of Kenya that is empowering, enabling and equipping county officials, national government stakeholders and civil society organizations with the tools and know-how to collaboratively stem hate, polarization and extremism in the communities. PROACT is driven by global best practice, but rooted in the diverse environments of communities across the Kenyan landscape. It draws heavily from the worldwide Strong Cities Network (SCN) 'local prevention network' models to ensure community-based interventions are multi-faceted and rooted in human rights-based frameworks.

PROACT seeks to support and strengthen existing structures and strategies notably County Action Plans (CAPs) to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism especially its County Engagement Forums (CEFs) so as to build capacities and capabilities to develop community designed, developed and delivered interventions. The programme is focusing on delivering evidence-based activities, while strengthening inter-county cooperation and learning.

Project context

The PROACT programme is analysing online extremist narratives, tactics and networks intended for East African audiences. ISD has been mapping out the digital landscape of al-Shabaab, ISIS and al-Qaeda in Somali, Swahili and Arabic languages and requires a Somali speaker to support this work. The online assessment relies heavily on OSINT to produce a landscape analysis report on the state of online extremism and recruitment. The online assessment will be used in conjunction with more substantial community-based research and capacity building efforts to support local actors in understanding the extremism landscape and its enabling narratives, content and extremism speech.

This mapping and analysis of extremist content in the digital space in Kenya is designed to inform a comprehensive programme of work taking place under the PROACT programme, which will include the identification of key extremist narratives, platforms and geo-location. ISD will use the analysis to

advise government (including county governments) and other stakeholders regarding the online extremist landscape in the country and possible policy and programming options.

Scope of work and deliverables

ISD is seeking to contract a digital research assistant to support the ISD team in translating and analysing extremist content and networks of influencers. The online extremism landscape analysis will be used for policy influencing and preventive programming.

A successful candidate will need to produce, in priority order, the below key deliverables across a 1 - month project timeframe, completed by the end of August 2020. It is anticipated that the consultant will be able to produce all of the deliverables outlined below within no more than 20 days' work over the period July 2020 to August 2020.

The consultant will report to the programme manager and will be required to work directly with the HQ-based team in London, meetings are expected to take place virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

1. Translate into English the scrapped online Facebook data that is originally in Somali (priority), Swahili and or Arabic languages.
2. From the translation, identify the thematic and geographic scope of the scrapped online data in partnership with ISD researchers.
3. Support in the analysis of the translated data into concise analytical report.

Consultant specification

We seek an experienced, proactive and dedicated consultant to work with the ISD team to ensure our ambitious plans are achieved. The successful candidate will be a collaborative and solutions-focused professional with the ability to work to tight deadlines and produce outputs to a high quality. We welcome applications from consultants who meet the following criteria:

	Essential	**Desirable**
Knowledge, training and qualifications	• Knowledge of prominent social media platforms and news websites in Kenya and/or East Africa • A good understanding of extremist groups in Kenya and/or East Africa	• Knowledge of Kenya online extremist-related discourses • Knowledge of extremist groups narratives and online recruitment tactics in Kenya and/or East Africa
Experience	• Conducting Somali-English translations of complex texts • Working with teams with diverse backgrounds in multiple locations	• Producing policy focused research reports for Kenya and/or East Africa
Skills	• Excellent oral and written Somali and English • 1-3 years of digital research experience (both quantitative and qualitative)	• Working knowledge of Swahili • Working knowledge of Arabic • Ability to conduct OSINT investigative research

How to submit applications

All applications must be submitted via email to vacancies@isdglobal.org by **17:00 UK time on July 10th.**

All applications should include:
- CV
- Cover letter, including how the applicant fulfills the listed criteria and will meet the deliverables, as well as the expected daily rate
- Names and contact details for two referees

ISD reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted and to request additional information from all applicants as necessary to evaluate applications. Please note that applications will be considered on a rolling basis and ISD reserves the right to appoint before the end of the advertisement.