



An opportunity to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team on a ground-breaking funded research project on waste management, urban informality, and climate change to discover and pilot innovative zero-waste solutions from the informal street markets of Warwick in Durban.

JOB DESCRIPTION

PROJECT TITLE: WARWICK ZERO WASTE: PROJECT ORGANISER

PROJECT PARTNERS: Asiye eTafuleni, groundWORK, Urban Futures Centre

CONTRACTING COMPANY: Asiye eTafuleni

LOCATION: WARWICK JUNCTION, DURBAN

The whole Warwick Junction area is known colloquially to some people as 'the market' although more accurately the area comprises a number of defined formal and less formal markets as well as a high concentration of street trading other essential associated economic activities.

DURATION: ONE YEAR (with potential for a second year)

SALARY:

R 28000 – R 35500 gross per month (commensurate with candidate's experience). The salary package does not provide medical aid, pension benefits etc. Basic conditions of employment apply.

BACKGROUND:

AeT (www.aet.org) was established in 2008 to protect informal workers' rights to inclusion in the city. Our vision is to advance the rights to sustainable livelihood opportunities in public space through inclusive design, research and advocacy.

AeT has partnered with gW (www.groundWORK.org.za) and the UFC (www.ufc.ac.za) for this funded project. The project is funded by an international funder: Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI).

The Warwick Zero Waste Project aims to create a zero-waste to landfill case study for large scale informal markets, that will directly impact on informal workers in the markets of Warwick Junction in Durban (South Africa) and influence informal markets across Africa (and globally).

The major contributors to urbanisation will be Africa and Asia, positioned in the Global South, who are projected to contribute 90% toward this future urban growth and therefore play a major role in the future environmental and social impacts. This exponential growth puts huge amounts of pressure on urban management, particularly waste systems. Further, informal employment in these regions is the predominant form of earning a livelihood, with 85.8% of workers in Africa being informally employed. It's at this intersection of urbanisation, waste management and informality that there is an opportunity to develop innovative zero-waste models which support city systems, improve livelihoods and have a positive impact on climate change.

The project has 5 key objectives:

1. To research, with informal workers, the underlying social, economic and cultural understandings of waste and waste management practices in informal markets, including how these relate to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. To research, with informal workers, zero-waste practices and possibilities in large scale informal urban markets as a catalyst for innovative city modelling that links informality and sustainability across Africa;
3. To co-develop and support, through a pilot study with informal workers, frugal creative solutions to waste management, rather than capital-intensive and high-tech solutions that are unsustainable in resource poor contexts (and arguable even in well-resourced contexts).
4. To challenge dominant global and national narratives that technical innovation is only produced and consumed by those who already hold economic privilege.
5. To connect, strengthen, build knowledge within, and expand, networks of informal workers, activists, government, academia and civil society in Africa, in an effort to boost civic participation in mitigating climate change through changed waste management practices.

The project has been running for one year and funding has now been approved for year two. The focus of year one was on research and project establishment. The priority focus for year two is on co-designing, implementing, monitoring and documenting the pilot(s). The purpose of the pilot(s) is to experiment with, and demonstrate, new ways in which waste can be diverted from landfill, and impact positively livelihoods and / or environments. The intention is to develop this case study to share with markets- across Africa.

AeT will play a lead role in the pilot(s). The education, networking, story-telling and movement building work, led by groundWORK and the UFC will continue.

FOCUS OF THE ROLE:

Each of the three partner organisations has a dedicated person assigned to this project. The focus of the role is to be that dedicated person for AeT. You will work with and be supported by the AeT leadership and facilitation team members, and the gW and UFC teams.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Noting that this is an evolving research project and there may be unanticipated responsibilities, your indicative key responsibilities will be:

- the day-to day planning, and implementation of project activities according to the overall project schedule, and detailed activities schedule developed collaboratively together with the team,
- communication with AeT team on project requirements, feedback etc
- communication with broader project team including updating the team google drive folder when necessary
- general project administration (with assistance from AeT administrator)
- participation in and support of research and analysis activities as applicable,
- stakeholder engagement including project partners, the municipality, funder partners,
- attendance at project steering committee meetings, taking on revolving chair responsibilities,
- attendance at Advisory group meetings with revolving recording responsibilities,
- co-convening and attendance at Warwick reference group meetings,
- participate in UMIF Lifecycle meetings,
- to participate in and lead aspects of the collaborative pilot(s) co-design process
- to continue to build relationships with market traders and their leadership,
- to provide design, documentation and technical support to the pilot co-design process,
- to track and report on project progress in relation to programme and budget, and to propose changes to the project plan if necessary,
- implement monitoring and evaluation tools developed by the project partners, and
- lead writing up of AeT's interim and annual progress reports (narrative and financial) for the team and contribute to the overall reporting to the funders as required
- contribute to movement building as per the project objectives,
- contribute to the activities of the African Waste Management Hub, set up in 2021 as part of this project.

SUPERVISION AND COLLABORATION:

You will be expected to self-manage as far as possible, keeping the internal AeT team members updated via attendance at fortnightly team meetings. Your work will be expected to be of consistently high professional standard. You will report directly to Richard Dobson (AeT Team Lead and project partnership lead), Patric Ndlovu (AeT facilitation lead) and to Jo Lees (AeT's programme co-ordinator); however, your engagement with the team will be more collaborative than hierarchical and over the project duration you will work with most of the AeT team members as the need arises. You will also be indirectly responsible to the overall project team leadership from gW and UFC, however that being said, the project is conceived as a collaboration and the team structure is as flat as is practical.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

ESSENTIAL

- Masters degree in architecture, urban design and/or planning.
- 3-5 years experience with emphasis on project implementation
- A keen interest in urban informality
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English.
- Proficiency in CAD sufficient to prepare drawings and or 3D visual impressions of pilot proposals.
- Proficiency in computer packages especially with MS Office and other related packages.
- Ability to work as part of team across different cultures.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision and take initiative.
- Ability to solve problems and take corrective action.

- High level of integrity and high standards of personal conduct.

DESIRABLE

- Experience in a similar lead/co-ordination role.
- Stakeholder engagement and participation experience.
- Working level communication skills in isiZulu will be highly advantageous.
- Prior knowledge or experience of waste management systems.
- Proficiency in desk-top publishing software packages.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Interested applicants should send a CV and covering letter outlining how their skills and experience match the requirements in the job description criteria to jo@aet.org.za. Please include proof of qualifications and referees for work experience.

Short-listed applicants will have a face-to-face interview with the AeT leadership team.

Applications close on 31 January 2022.