



JOB OPENING

BIGRS Regional Lead Africa and Asia (Senior Program Manager)

Global Designing Cities Initiative

Job Title: BIGRS Regional Lead Africa and Asia (Senior Program Manager)

Start Date: Q1 2024

Salary: Compensation based on country of hire and within range of the local nonprofit/NGO industry.

Location: India or Southeast Asia (Remote - work from home)

The Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) is looking for a candidate to fill a new role as Regional Lead - Asia and Africa. GDCI aims to inspire a shift toward safe, sustainable, and healthy cities by reclaiming and transforming streets and sees this role as critical to supporting that mission. Primarily focusing on the work as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS), this position will provide critical oversight and coordination of the work in multiple countries in this important global region. The ideal candidate has program development and project management experience, exceptional personnel management skills, a strong technical understanding of urban design and transportation or city planning, and a strategic leadership approach that leverages their contextual knowledge of the region and/or GDCI programs.

Who we are

The Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) was launched in 2014, with a mission to transform streets around the world. We inspire leaders, inform practitioners, and invite communities to imagine what's possible when we design streets that put people first. We are a team of designers, planners, and urban strategists committed to reimagining streets as places for people, shaping cities that are safe, healthy, accessible, and equitable for everyone. The strategies and best practices in our Global Street Design Guide are the foundation of our work, and they have been applied in cities across the globe, helping to update policies, build local capacity, implement and evaluate projects, and scale up impact.

What you'll do

The Regional Lead - Asia and Africa will manage our work in Asia and Africa as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS). This position will play a key leadership role, reporting to the Director of Programs and coordinating with other senior managers while remotely managing a dynamic team of urban planners, designers, and transportation experts within the region.

You will work closely with staff to oversee and execute our programmatic responsibilities ranging from capacity building to on-the-ground implementation support, adapting global best practices to local contexts resulting in high-quality deliverables with measurable outcomes. You will prioritize programmatic objectives, activities, and budget needs and will represent GDCI in the region. This will require maintaining strong relationships with program partners and the necessity to represent GDCI at conferences, meetings, and other high-level events.

The primary activities for the GDCI Regional Lead - Asia and Africa include:

- **Regional Program Management:** Oversee the development, delivery, and management of GDCI's programmatic work in the Asian and African contexts and develop strategies with the program team to strengthen local relationships and navigate contextual requirements and challenges for each city.
- **Contributions and Oversight of GDCI Technical Expertise:** Provide oversight, support, and guidance to GDCI staff on technical elements of our city and cross-programmatic work.
- **People Management:** Lead, manage, and mentor the BIGRS Asia and Africa teams composed of Program Managers and Associates (7-8) with up to four direct reports, supporting their work plans, budgets, and resource management to achieve program outcomes.
- **GDCI's Senior Leadership Responsibilities:** Externally, convey and amplify GDCI's mission in the region by representing GDCI in events, coordinating communications, and strengthening collaborations with key partners including government stakeholders, advocacy groups, local champions, academicians, practitioners, funders, and other organizations doing work similar to GDCI. As a senior leader within the organization, lead by example in GDCI's values and technical rigor across all activities and ensure staff hold themselves to similar standards.

More specifically, you will do things like:

Regional Program Management

BIGRS: Lead the coordination and oversight of work under the BIGRS program in the Asian and African contexts including scope, schedule, and budgets

- Provide leadership to Program Managers in the development and timely delivery of work plans for the activities being taken up in all cities in the region, including quality consistency and escalation as needed to achieve resolution.
- Build and maintain relationships with funders, program partners, city governments, consultants, and potentially other stakeholders to support the program's growth and development.
- Provide teamwide oversight and identify opportunities to ensure consistency with GDCI standards in coordination with other GDCI teams
- Lead/co-lead the timely development and submission of all funder-related deliverables such as budget updates, reporting and other necessary documentation.
- Support team in administrative functions such as consultant and vendor management for implementations, technical assistance, etc, in tandem with the country managers and operations team.
- Represent GDCI in relevant conferences, meetings either in person or remotely as the external face of GDCI for the region.

Other Programs: Ad-hoc occasional support to other GDCI programs when engaging with cities/countries in the Asia and Africa region.

Contributions and Oversight of GDCI Technical Expertise

- Establish practices for coordination and collaboration with the Director of Design and Research and the Asia and Africa staff for richer knowledge sharing and help grow the team's technical know-how.
- Advise on, support, and contribute to the development of products at GDCI, and apply internal policies and standards of GDCI. These may include:
 - Development of training materials such as online training modules, offline tools, evaluation, and feedback forms.
 - Production of presentations, reports, and vision documents to support programmatic work in the region
 - Publications through technical review, case study contributions, and any other material to ensure regional considerations and applicability.

GDCI's Senior Leadership Responsibilities

- Provide regional insights to the executive leadership team and others related to strategic efforts for systems, programs, and functional areas to achieve GDCI's envisioned growth and development.
- Participate and contribute to org-wide problem-solving, discussion, and strategy as a member of GDCI's senior leadership
- Ensure the Asia and Africa team liaise with other GDCI teams (Admin + Finance, Communications, Design and Research, and other GDCI Programs) for collaboration and coordination opportunities.
- Support hiring activities as needed.

People Management:

- Manage all programmatic BIGRS staff in Asia and Africa.
 - Support staff in developing professionally within the values and norms of GDCI.
 - Support staff in managing their programmatic work plans in a balanced work-life manner.
 - Ensure the interests and priorities of the team are heard and shared with the executive leadership to inform critical decision-making.
- Cultivate a strong team culture based on GDCI values, systems, vision, goals, and expectations.
 - Being a role model for GDCI's stated values and ensuring team members adhere to the same
 - Promote a learning atmosphere and encourage teams to be abreast of the latest developments in the region through governments, private establishments, or other partner and non-partner organizations.
 - Build a healthy environment fostering teamwork between the regional staff and those in others.

For this position, GDCI is looking for a highly collaborative leader with exceptional project management and relationship-building skills. You are passionate about street design, sustainable mobility, and the processes involved in shaping safe, healthy cities.

The **Regional Lead - Asia and Africa** must be willing to accommodate a dynamic schedule that assumes some travel to trainings, site visits, and other important meetings with local officials, program partners, or program funders. Travel may also include conferences and other events relevant to advancing GDCI's work in the BIGRS program. As we are a team based across the globe and given the program funder is based in the United States, there also will likely be phone calls/meetings that are outside of normal work hours (if one is based in the Asia region)

To be successful in this job, you will excel in these areas:

- **Strategic Management of Multiple Projects:** You are collaborative and nimble in approach, able to maneuver between big-picture thinking and details. You identify areas for crossover and capacity building within programs. You hold a team accountable to project deliverables that are of quality and strive for impact and are comfortable managing budgets that match.
- **Adept technical knowledge to support a range of projects:** You can offer technical support to project review and development in a wide diversity of global contexts, covering in detail, topics such as street design, sustainable mobility, public transit systems, transportation engineering and operations, city-wide mobility policies, urban planning, and urban design.
- **Excellent verbal and written communication skills:** You are comfortable communicating with a range of stakeholders, including city officials, funders, contractors, staff, etc. You are proficient in English, both written and verbal. Knowledge of other international languages and contexts is a plus.
- **Alignment with GDCI's Values:** You understand GDCI's vision and mission and work within values such as always striving for positive impact, acting with empathy, a default towards collaboration, and an appreciation for diverse backgrounds and experiences within the workplace.

Baseline Experience

At GDCI, we do not have minimum requirements for education or relevant professional experience. We encourage all candidates with relevant and diverse experiences and professional backgrounds to apply. For this role, relevant professional experience would include program and people management in transportation or government sectors, experience working in road safety, and experience working with global non-profits, NGOs or charities who interact specifically with local governments.

How to Apply

- **Deadline for applications:** Applications accepted on rolling basis—please don't delay! Final deadline is December 1, 2023.
- **Submit applications:** Please submit resumes, cover letters, and applicable supporting documents through our [online portal](#).
- **Work visas:** We encourage international candidates to apply and are willing to support visas.



- **Benefits:** GDCI offers a competitive compensation and benefits package including health coverage, retirement benefits, paid sick leave, vacation and holidays. Salary is based on local markets within the nonprofit/NGO industry and commensurate with experience and skills.

GDCI is a fiscally sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA). We are committed to workplace diversity and inclusion. We are equal opportunity employers and do not discriminate in hiring or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.