

BBC WORLD SERVICE

JOB DESCRIPTION - FIELD PRODUCER

Job Title: Field Producer, BBC Africa

Location: Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Grade: Local terms and conditions

Reports to: Regional Deployments Editor, Francophone Africa

Contract: Continuing

The BBC is an international multimedia broadcaster on radio, TV, online and social networks with a weekly global audience of 320 million. As part of an historic multi-million pound expansion of BBC Africa, the BBC World Service is introducing a wide range of new and exciting language and regional content to serve African and global audiences.

We are looking for a talented and experienced field producer with excellent spoken and written English to join the Africa Service and work across all platforms. You need to demonstrate that you are an experienced Journalist with creative ideas for TV, digital and radio and have a desire to report news in a fair and unbiased way.

A career at the BBC offers you an opportunity to tell stories that can change lives. The aim of BBC Africa is to showcase the diverse ideas and aspirations from across the continent.

THE JOB

A Field Producer is expected to organise, gather, process and deliver multimedia content responding promptly to news and other relevant editorial developments.

They will have a thorough understanding of the BBC's distinctive news agenda, and of the background and context of events in the region.

They will need to be able to manage time and handle multiple tasks efficiently, adjusting work priorities as developments dictate.

They will need to be creative in TV and digital storytelling techniques and interested in developments of new formats and as well as new ways of gathering and processing material from the field for multiple platforms.

S/he will be expected to work flexibly as required.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To suggest and research stories or story elements for BBC Africa Service and other BBC services if requested by the editors/line managers; to find contributors and interviewees as well as other sources of material and/or actuality, as appropriate and to the required specification, whilst maintaining

- professional journalistic standards of accuracy, impartiality and fair dealing and adhering to the BBC's Editorial guidelines.
- To offer ideas for items in a range of platforms; to suggest and develop special projects in Africa and to actively contribute to the editorial planning process.
- To go on duty trips to gather information for output with a correspondent and/or a shoot/edit, or individually, as required.
- To work with correspondents from across the BBC, on duty trips and on base, ensuring that they are appropriately supported, both editorially and logistically.
- The ability to report from the field if needed.
- To suggest new broadcasting formats and techniques for BBC output from Africa.
- To stay abreast of latest developments in storytelling. To encourage correspondents and editors to think beyond traditional formats.
- To organise effective coverage from location throughout the region on the basis of editorial priorities and programme requirements.
- To observe and carry out any requirement outlined in the BBC News Safety Policy and, where necessary, to execute documentation required for risk assessment procedures.
- To prepare the prospects for the upcoming day on a daily basis, as well as for upcoming weeks and other planning periods, as required.
- To obtain and confirm incoming information as requested by the line manager, including by active use of social media for newsgathering purposes.
- On his/her own or upon editor/producer task to search news angles, to verify and clarify information, to prepare (also in written form) background material.
- To follow safety requirements and instructions, especially in relation to emergencies; and to report any accidents, dangerous situations or defects in safety arrangements.
- To prepare in good time information necessary to accredit personnel, research contact numbers and seek appropriate guests for interviews and programmes.
- To update the existing and establish new contacts and sources of information. To contribute to and maintain electronic databases of guests of programmes and multimedia projects.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Fluent in English and French, both in written and spoken form, ability to communicate effectively on a high level.
- A full command and up to date knowledge of stories and issues relating to your specific region.
- Experience of work in a similar position in a news environment.
- Wide and up-to-date familiarity with the target area and an in-depth understanding of African history, politics, social issues and culture as well as the changing needs of African audiences. Extensive knowledge of the media situation in the target area and the way it is developing.
- To have basic skills of shooting photo and video, and of gathering journalistic material through other technical means.
- A thorough understanding of the latest developments in digital storytelling.
- Thorough knowledge of current affairs and the broadcast environment in the target area, including familiarity with official structures and procedures pertinent to that environment.
- A sound understanding of the needs, platforms and styles of the BBC.
- Ability to work unsupervised, managing changing priorities in a fast-moving environment, responding promptly and reliably to the requests of your colleagues.
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate proficiently both in written and verbal form with people at all levels.
- Ability to work as part of a team, under pressure and to deadlines.
- Proficiency in IT skills, including Microsoft Office programmes, ENPS, CPS. Practical experience and extensive knowledge of the Internet and an understanding of the potential of new technology is essential. Eagerness to master and use new technologies.
- Familiarity with special equipment including the ability to operate recording, studio, photo and video equipment.
- A comprehensive knowledge of BBC safety procedures in base and on location.

COMPETENCIES

The following competencies (behaviours and characteristics) have been identified as key to success in the job. Successful candidates are expected to demonstrate these competencies.

Editorial Judgement - demonstrates balanced and objective judgement based on a thorough understanding of BBC editorial guidelines, target audience, programme and department objectives. Makes the right editorial decisions, taking account of conflicting views where necessary.

Commitment to the BBC and the BBC Africa strategy – demonstrates an interest and willingness to help the BBC achieve its objectives in the target area.

Creative Thinking - able to transform creative ideas into practical reality. Can look at existing situations and problems in novel ways and come up with creative solutions.

Planning and organisation - able to think ahead in order to establish an efficient and appropriate course of action for self and others. Prioritises and plans activities taking into account all the relevant issues and factors such as deadlines, staffing and resources.

Communication - able to get one's message understood clearly by adopting a range of styles, tools and techniques appropriate to the audience and the nature of the information.

Influencing and persuading - able to present sound and well-reasoned arguments to convince others. Can draw from a range of strategies to persuade people in a way that results in agreement or behaviour change.

Managing relationships and team working - able to build and maintain effective working relationships with a range of people. Works co-operatively with others to be part of a team, as opposed to working separately or competitively.

Resilience - manages personal effectiveness by managing emotions in the face of pressure, setbacks or when dealing with provocative situations. Demonstrates an approach to work that is characterised by commitment, motivation and energy.

Flexibility - adapts and works effectively with a variety of situations, individuals or groups. Able to understand and appreciate different and opposing perspectives on an issue, to adapt an approach as the requirements of a situation change, and to change or easily accept changes in one's own organisation or job requirements.

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