

MILLAR CAMERON



Head of Research
Projects
Jacaranda Health

About *Jacaranda Health*

Jacaranda Health is a Kenyan-founded organization that partners with governments to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes through affordable, scalable solutions in public health systems.

Since 2016, Jacaranda has worked with county governments and Ministries of Health to strengthen the quality of care in government hospitals by combining clinical expertise, digital innovation, data science, and health systems support. Its solutions are designed to help mothers seek care at the right time and receive safe, respectful, high-quality care throughout pregnancy and childbirth.

Jacaranda currently partners with 24 county governments in Kenya and is endorsed for scale by national Ministries of Health. The organization is also expanding its work across Africa through partnerships in countries including Ghana, Tanzania and Nigeria with a long-term vision of enabling governments to sustainably lead and finance maternal and newborn health innovations at scale.

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Mission and vision *Jacaranda Health*

Jacaranda Health envisions a world where all mothers experience pregnancy and childbirth safely and with dignity, and all newborns have a safe start in life, achieved through affordable and scalable solutions that strengthen quality maternal and newborn care across public health systems.

For more information, visit [Jacaranda Health](#)



Purpose and role summary

The Head of Research Projects provides strategic leadership for Jacaranda Health's research portfolio, setting the vision, priorities, and standards for evidence generation to ensure research is rigorous, actionable, and aligned with organizational goals. The role oversees the design and delivery of research projects and product development research, manages external partnerships and funder relationships, and leads a high-performing research team.

The position plays a critical role in translating quantitative and qualitative evidence into actionable insights that inform product development, organizational strategy, programme improvement, and government and global health policy. A key capability for the role is the ability to assess whether individual research outputs are answering relevant organizational questions and whether findings are being communicated in a way that enables effective decision-making and action across teams.

The role also requires strong product research fluency, including an understanding of product lifecycles and the ability to design research strategies that support evolving product needs, such as UX research and A/B testing. The successful candidate should be able to work closely with Product and Technology teams as a credible strategic thought partner throughout the product development cycle.

In the first three months, they should:

1. Develop a strong understanding of organizational and departmental goals;
2. Establish effective project management practices to support reliable delivery and strong cross-functional collaboration; and
3. Begin contributing strategic perspectives on future research priorities and follow-on questions beyond the current pipeline of deliverables.

Dimensions of the role

The key responsibilities of the incumbent will include but are not limited to:

Strategic Leadership

- Define and drive Jacaranda's research strategy, ensuring it supports organizational priorities and RD&E division goals.
- Ensure research projects are designed for rigor, relevance, and scalability, aligned with organizational goals and mission.
- Clearly communicate organizational and departmental strategy, helping team members understand priorities and apply them in their day-to-day work.
- Identify research priorities that strengthen programs, support product innovation, and position Jacaranda as a global thought leader.
- Maintain high speed of learning, positioning Jacaranda at the forefront of technical innovation.

Team Leadership & Development

- Coach and mentor team members to deliver consistently high-quality technical outputs, clear and effective communication outputs, and strong collaborative practices.
- Ensure the Research team works in close partnership with other departments, aligning project work with organizational and cross-divisional priorities.
- Foster a collaborative, learning-oriented team culture that values innovation, accountability, and mutual support.
- Build staff capacity through mentorship, training, and professional development.

Technical Oversight and Advice

- Provide strong technical leadership as the team's expert in qualitative and quantitative study design, research methodologies, product and UX research, analysis protocols, and dissemination practices.
- Proposes innovative methodologies to ensure research outputs meet organizational needs.
- Ensure all research outputs, protocols, and priorities meet the highest ethical and quality standards, including thorough documentation and best practices.

Knowledge Generation & Influence

- Oversee production and dissemination of high-quality and strategic knowledge products (reports, manuscripts, briefs, presentations).
- Represent Jacaranda in national and international forums to share evidence and influence policy and practice.
- Ensure research findings are translated into actionable insights for internal teams, governments, and global partners.

Partnerships & Donor Engagement

- Represent the Research team in engagements with donors, research partners, and government stakeholders.
- Ensure research deliverables meet donor expectations and grant requirements.
- Foster strategic academic and implementation partnerships that expand Jacaranda's influence.

Operational & Resource Stewardship

- Manage departmental budgets, resources, and staffing plans effectively.
- Ensure research projects are delivered on time, within budget, and to scope.
- Monitor and mitigate risks to project delivery and research quality.

Resource and risk

Resource scope

- Oversee sizable departmental and donor-funded research budgets and allocates resources across multiple concurrent studies.
- Manages a multi-level research team (Managers, Senior Analysts, Analysts) plus external partners (data firms, academics).
- Collaborate with other departments and HoDs to ensure coordination of strategies.
- Leads national-level research operations across multiple counties and programs, and represents Jacaranda in national and global forums.
- Coordinates and oversees external partners including academic institutions and data collection firms.
- Allocates resources across concurrent research and product development initiatives.

Risk scope

- Responsible for research rigor, data integrity, and ethical compliance (IRB, safeguarding, confidentiality).
- Responsible for ensuring research output meets donor and organizational priorities and expectations.
- Responsible for ensuring research is translated into user-oriented product and program developments.
- Responsible for managing research timelines (with responsibility to both internal teams and external partners, such as donors and government).
- Manages strategic risks to Jacaranda's reputation, funder relationships, and compliance with donor and legal requirements.
- Holds high decision making authority on research priorities and publications, with direct impact on policy influence and organizational strategy.
- Responsible for operational risks affecting project timelines, quality, and partner performance.

Skills and experience

The ideal candidate will possess, but is not limited to:

- Master's degree in public health, Epidemiology, Statistics, Social Sciences, or related field.
- Expertise in understanding and leading departmental strategy.
- Experience leading relationships with donors, government, and academic partners.
- Proficiency in one or more data analysis software (Stata, R, SPSS, SAS, NVivo, Atlas, or similar).
- Technical expertise in research methods, design, and ethical standards.
- Deep understanding of Product (UX/UI) research and Product lifecycles.
- Experience leading research project budgeting and resource management.
- Keen commitment to data and research ethics.

Stakeholder Engagement (Internal and External)

Internal

- All Departments

External

- Partners (e.g. donors, such as BMGF, USAID, analytical partners, and implementing partners)
- Data collection firms (e.g. IPA, IPSOS)
- Government (Ministry of Health, CHMTs, National level stakeholders)
- Academic partners



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Location

Nairobi, Kenya



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How to apply

Please send your CV and contact details to Grace Galaty or Diana Mwai who will contact you to discuss your application in more detail.



Contact: Grace Galaty

Email: grace.galaty@millarcameron.com

Phone: +254 20 5038443



Contact: Diana Mwai

Email: diana.mwai@millarcameron.com

Phone: +254 20 5038442

Due to High Volume

We appreciate all applications; however, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Thank you for your understanding.

Commitment to Diversity

At Millar Cameron, we are committed to supporting our clients in building diverse and inclusive teams. If you're enthusiastic about this role but don't meet every requirement, we still encourage you to apply.



M I L L A R C A M E R O N

Who are Millar Cameron?

Founded in 2007, Millar Cameron is an executive and professional search consultancy that focuses on Africa and other emerging markets.

Our goal is to provide client-centric, tailored executive search, recruitment and strategic advisory. Our international reach paired with local market knowledge enables us to provide our clients outstanding leaders who deliver consistent results, irrespective of geography.

We employ a rigorous research driven search process to identify the best fit for our clients, taking into account both hard and soft skill sets.

Our extensive experience yields a robust approach to market intelligence and a longstanding network of global relationships.

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