

Nick Langa't

Nairobi, Kenya · nicksonlangat95@gmail.com · +254 713 754 946 · www.nicklangat.cc ·
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nick-langat-26081119a/> · <https://github.com/nicksonlangat>

Engineer-turned-leader with hands-on ownership of 7 production backend systems and direct management of a 6-person engineering team. Specialises in building payment infrastructure on Django, DRF, Celery, Redis, and AWS across tipping, donations, and financial services platforms. Brings structure to ambiguous environments: introduced pod organisation, PDLC discipline, and 1-week sprint cadence where no formal process existed. Equally comfortable writing production code and running CEO-level engineering reviews. Focused on building engineering organisations that do not depend on any single person, including myself.

EXPERIENCE

Head of Engineering

Dec 2024 – Present

Shukran | Remote, Germany

- Promoted from Senior Backend Engineer to Head of Engineering; retained hands-on ownership of 7 production backend systems while managing 6 engineers across backend, frontend, mobile, and design
- Restructured a 6-person engineering team into two specialised pods (Product Delivery and Platform Stability), reducing context-switching and establishing clear lines of accountability across 20 active workstreams
- Established weekly 1:1 cadence with all direct reports and introduced a formal PDLC framework and 1-week sprint discipline, reducing delivery cycle time from monthly to weekly
- Built the company's Engineering Handbook from scratch, covering Agile discipline, PDLC, onboarding, code standards, and AI-assisted development guidelines
- Introduced Spec-Driven AI Coding as a team standard: engineers own and review all AI-assisted output, maintaining code quality while increasing individual developer throughput
- Diagnosed and resolved a Stripe manual capture fault causing transaction processing failures, restoring 100% automated payment processing and eliminating revenue leakage

Senior Backend Engineer

Dec 2023 – Dec 2024

Shukran | Remote, Netherlands

- Sole backend engineer across Tipping Core API and Donations Core API; designed, built, and maintained both systems end-to-end on Django, DRF, Celery, and Redis
- Built and deployed automated CI/CD pipelines to production, reducing manual deployment overhead and enabling same-day release cycles
- Integrated third-party payment providers including Stripe and M-Pesa into the Tipping and Donations platforms, handling webhook delivery, idempotency, and reconciliation logic
- Designed Celery-based async task architecture for high-volume tipping and donation processing, handling payment capture, notification dispatch, and ledger writes at scale
- Maintained Docker-based local and staging environments across all backend services, standardising development setup and reducing onboarding friction
- Contributed to the Shukran Finance API and Internal Admin Dashboard API alongside core product delivery responsibilities

Full Stack Software Engineer

Mar 2021 – Dec 2023

REVEALL | Remote, Netherlands

- Designed and maintained scalable backend APIs using Django and Django REST Framework, serving thousands of active users
- Refactored inefficient database queries, dramatically improving API response times by 80% (from 10s to 2s)
- Implemented automated testing frameworks and CI/CD pipelines, enabling faster and safer production deployments
- Led technical architecture discussions and performed comprehensive code reviews in collaboration with product and design teams

- Participated in technical hiring process by conducting interviews and evaluating engineering candidates

Senior Software Engineer

May 2018 – Feb 2021

Busara Center for Behavioural Economics | Remote, Kenya

- Architected and deployed scalable backend systems using Django and PostgreSQL for large-scale behavioral research platforms
- Optimized API endpoints and database queries, reducing response times by 30%
- Containerized services with Docker and automated deployments using CI/CD pipelines
- Configured NGINX load balancing solutions, improving platform availability by 25%
- Integrated third-party analytics tools to support large-scale behavioral data analysis and research workflows
- Mentored junior engineers and established improved internal engineering standards and practices

SKILLS

Programming Python, Golang

Languages:

Backend Frameworks: Django, Django REST Framework, FastAPI, Flask

Databases: PostgreSQL, Redis, MySQL, MongoDB

Cloud & DevOps: AWS, Docker, CI/CD, NGINX

Tools & Technologies: Git, Celery, Mixpanel, Chart.js

Architecture & Design: REST APIs, Microservices, System Design, API Architecture, Performance Optimization, Scalability, Async Processing

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

2012 - 2016

Moi University, Eldoret

2nd Class Upper

PROJECTS

Watchdock — Django, PostgreSQL, Celery, Redis, OpenAI, Next.js, Tailwind, AWS, Docker

Monitoring and observability tool that tracks servers, applications, logs, and websites in real time

<https://watchdock.cc>

Clarity — Golang, PostgreSQL, Git, Next.js, Tailwind, OpenAI, AWS, Docker

AI-powered project management platform for teams with tasks, sprints, standups, docs and real-time chat

<https://useclarity.cc>

Codetail — FastAPI, MongoDB, Next.js, Tailwind, Docker, Github, AWS

Premium coding practice platform with hands-on challenges across Python, Django, FastAPI, and SQL

<https://codetail.cc>

daraja-sdk — Python, Django, FastAPI, Poetry

Typed, async-first Python SDK for M-Pesa (Safaricom Daraja API). STK push, Django signals, FastAPI router included out of the box.

<https://pypi.org/project/daraja-sdk/>

kenyan-counties — Python, Django, FastAPI, Poetry

Lightweight Python package for Kenya's 47 counties, constituencies, and wards. Zero runtime I/O, Pydantic models, FastAPI routes, and Django ORM support.

<https://pypi.org/project/kenyan-counties/>

watchdock-errors — Python, Django, FastAPI, Poetry

Error tracking SDK for the Watchdock platform. Framework integrations for Django and FastAPI, built-in PII scrubbing, and customizable event filtering.

<https://pypi.org/project/watchdock-errors/>

Zanari — Django, PostgreSQL, Celery, Redis, OpenAI, Next.js, Tailwind, AWS, Docker

Modern, visually stunning property and tenant management with M-Pesa rent collection and digital leases

<https://zanari.cc>