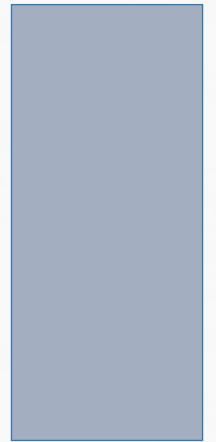


CLOSING THE GAP: PROGRAMMING FOR GLOBAL GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

ALEXIS JUNCAJ



THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

- UNICEF is a United Nations Program that provides support and assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.
- The Gender Section is responsible for helping improve the lives of children and women and giving them a fair chance at a quality life through programming, partnerships and fundraising.

UNICEF AND ITS POLICY FOCUS

- Not just people on the ground in the commercials
- Staff at headquarters develops the policies that make this international organization function relatively seamlessly considering its size and scope
- Gender Action Plan (GAP) is the Gender Section's guiding instrument

MAY 11, 2015

- First day at UNICEF
- Met the Gender Section (GS)
- Conference call with external consultant and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss inputs for the Secretary General's (SG) Report on the Girl Child and the timeline
- Drafted UNICEF's input for the SG Report and submitted
- Jam-packed day!

MAY 12, 2015

- Second day at UNICEF
- Editing of the report was passed from the external consultant to me
- Found out that my supervisor would be leaving for Nigeria on a stretch assignment the next week

THE REST OF THE SUMMER

- The first two days of my AFE set the tone for what the rest of the summer was going to be like
 - Fast-paced
 - Independent writing and analytical work
 - High expectations

RUNNING PROJECT: SG REPORT ON THE GIRL CHILD

- Because my boss was in Africa, the whole coordination of the SG Report on the Girl Child was my responsibility
 - Timeline
 - Correspondence with external consultant editing the report
 - Correspondence with outside agencies to make sure their inputs were being reflected accurately in report
 - Submission of report to each section/division within UNICEF at each point in the timeline
 - Multiple edits throughout the process

PROJECT: JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS

- Responsible for selecting finalists for positions based on CV and writing samples and justifying them to Principal Adviser
- Developed comparison matrices and contracts
- *Note: none of the candidates for internships were, but recently, my supervisor bypassed the options in DHR and asked me for candidates specifically from Bloustein to come and help with the IDGC 😊*

PROJECT: CHILD MARRIAGE

- Monitoring and evaluation of child marriage initiatives within programme countries
- Analyze and report whether funds are being allocated and utilized sufficiently

PROJECT: IDGC

- International Day of the Girl Child: October 12, 2015
- The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030
- GS is responsible for planning of event
 - Document creation
 - Marketing
 - Agenda
 - Research and data/Presentations
 - Coordination of moderators and panelists:

CURRENT PROJECT: UN SWAP

- UN System-wide Action Plan
- In coordination with UN Women, we have just begun the accountability process

DOES UNICEF REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- UNICEF's presence within the realm of public policy, specifically social and economic policy is evident.
- Multilateral organization that functions and is structured like the private sector
- A lot of money and many "stakeholders"
- Bureaucratic processes impeded the organization's ability to make immediate policy changes
- Despite the way the UN works, everyone still has one goal in mind, and that is to bring children's rights to the forefront of public policy

UNICEF AND MY MPP

- My interests in gender equality and human rights combined with the analytical skills I learned my first year at Bloustein
- Public Policy Formation and Quantitative Methods I and II
- Need more quantitative courses

CONCLUSION

- UNICEF was an amazing AFE experience and continues to be
- Showed me how to independently conduct policy research and present it concisely and accurately in any policy environment
- UNICEF as an organization makes a significant impact on the world, but it can always improve

TODAY AND THE FUTURE

- Still working at UNICEF and hope to continue as a paid consultant and convert to staff by the time I graduate!