

GOAL

Information interview was conducted with Gillian McKay at GOAL (NGO)

Could you describe your role as a global health advisor for GOAL? Technical advisor supporting in-country programmes remotely, helping to write new proposals for funding and decision support on health indicators. In-country I support training, meet with Ministry of Health to check programmes are in line with national strategy and help country programmes be more prepared for emergency situations such as Ebola or displacements.

What does the average day look like in that job role? In-country different to headquarters. In HQ: Typically, 7:30am-9:30am answering emails and plan for the day, skype calls about applying for funding, then modifying guideline documents relating to the NGO global health strategy, skype meetings over struggling programs and interplay between country programs and finish 5-6pm. A lot of work with a short timeframe.

What kind of skills do you consider most relevant in your current job? Juggle a lot of projects and track your time for country programs as they get billed for my support. Managing national health staff remotely with high priority placed on supporting areas of technical growth.

What pieces of advice would you give a current Masters/PhD student when applying for jobs within global health? Started at paid internship level at one country level program to learn the organisation's structure. Typical entry role is the program support officer (PSO) within NGOs. PSO roles are very fast paced, churning out reports and proposals constantly, but will provide excellent learning into the technical and structural systems in the NGO and in the country.

How did you find your entry level position? Through a personal contact and advertised on relief web (<http://reliefweb.int/>). Personal connections are key in the health field.

General Advice; Long-term complex emergencies require high level of commitment, but if you can stick it out in a hard place, you'll have proven your competence and grit and will be a good hire for future roles. Example: 1 year in South Sudan, challenging environment, high turnover, poor security demonstrates applicant's passion for relief work.

Job Hunting Sources: Relief web (<http://reliefweb.int/>), Guardian jobs, devex (<https://www.devex.com/>) (pay wall), Facebook groups for development professionals - all post various levels of jobs. Websites of orgs you are interested in.

Main office in Dublin, Ireland. Website: <https://www.goalglobal.org/>