Seven Steps to a Great Job in Global Health

Laura Wigglesworth
Senior International Recruiter
• Largest Ebola responder among US NGOs
• $250+ million
• 30 year history
• 4500 staff
• 19 countries
What we do

• Emergency medical response
• WASH
• Mental health
• Women & children’s health
• Nutrition
Who we hire

• Physicians
• Surgeons
• Midwives
• Nutritionists
• Epidemiologists
• Logisticians
• Public health specialists
Largest Donors & Actors

• US Government
• The Gates Foundation
• United Nations
• Third Parties
• Other governments
Trends

• Health system strengthening
• Non-communicable diseases
• Food security, water security
• Private sector
• Community health workers
• Behavior change
Seven Steps

1. Articulate accomplishments
2. Identify what you want
3. Get affiliated
Seven Steps

4. Identify your top orgs
5. Build your network
6. Tailor your resume
7. Create your own consulting opportunity
Step 1: Articulate accomplishments

- What are you good at?
- What do you like doing?
- Illustrate strengths & skills
- Give employers something to remember about you
Activity: Identify an accomplishment

- Something you’re proud of
- Wouldn’t have happened without you
- Discuss – how, what it illustrates
Step 2: Identify what you want

- People
- Position
- Place
Activity: Analyze your Past

• List 3 jobs
• Divide each job into 2 columns
• Write down the positive & negative things about each
• Make a summary list of 3-5 positive & negative qualities
Stop & Share

- Are their patterns that I wasn’t aware of?
- Is there a trend? Are my jobs getting better or worse?
- What will I seek?
- What will I avoid?
Step 3: Get Affiliated

- Demonstrate your commitment
- Increase your knowledge of key organizations
- Make you an insider
- Give money, get money
Become an insider

- Join associations, working groups & task forces
- Attend conferences & workshops
- Ask for discounts
- Volunteer strategically
Step 4: Identify your Top Organizations

- Read annual reports & websites
- Know their history, size, funding sources, niche
Step 5: Build your Network

- Do informational interviews
- Prevent depression
- Bring organizations to life
- Make you an insider
- Help you find out about jobs
How to get Informational Interviews

- Start with sincere flattery
- Request face-to-face meeting
- Seek advice
Step 6: Tailor your Resume

- LinkedIn format
- Titles, dates, & accomplishments
- Associations & memberships
- Donations
- Volunteer work
- 2-3 pages
Step 7: Create your own consulting opportunity

• What is one thing you wish you could do right now? I can do that.

• I would like to help you with ______.
Case Study: Mary wants to work in Mali

- **Passion for gender equity** and girls education
- Graduated last May with an MPH from JHU with a focus on nonprofit organizations.
- **Worked for 6 years before grad school** at prestigious PR firms in New York, designing social media campaigns companies like The Gap and Ann Taylor.
- **Frustrated because hasn’t gotten any interviews** for jobs she’s applied for and because the no one seems to care about her JHU degree or Madison Avenue experience.
- **Thinks these things might work against her** because employers might think she doesn’t understand their work or would not be content with limited resources.
Case Study 2: Denise from DRC

- Earned a BS in statistics from University of Kinshasa and spent 2 yrs working in a HIV/AIDS prevention before enrolling at Hopkins
- Focused graduate studies researching effectiveness community based health workers in West Africa, DRC
- Has applied for 11 jobs in DC, interviewed for 3 but no offers.
- Suspects it’s because she’s young and because the jobs involve supervising others
- How can she overcome this perception?
Case Study 3: Simon from Sioux Falls

- Taught high school social studies for 2 years before earning MPH from JHU
- Focused on project management and program effectiveness and health system strengthening
- Frustrated because everyone he meets tells him he should volunteer
- What can Simon do now -- before he gets his degree in May?