

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Duration:	Permanent
Salary:	Circa £65,000 per annum
Job Level:	2
Hours:	35 hours per week. Other flexible arrangements will be considered.
Disclosure Level:	Basic. This role involves no direct with children.
Reports to:	Director of Advocacy
Location:	Working from home and at 1 Westfield Avenue, London E20 1HZ

At the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK), we pull together to achieve the best possible results for children in danger around the world. We believe in an inclusive workplace and in the power of fulfilled colleagues who share the same values and goals, enjoy their work and are motivated to do their utmost for children.

Our work is guided by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which recognise the universality of children's rights.

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Advocacy department sits in the organisation's Advocacy, Programmes and Safeguarding Directorate. It exists to champion children's rights and influence those with power to create change for children, around the world and in the UK. We present decision-makers with a compelling case for change based on evidence and UNICEF's work around the world, and through exceptional public affairs and public campaigning. We work closely with colleagues in the communications division to mobilise our high-profile supporters and the organisation's voice in the media to increase the reach and impact of our advocacy work. We champion and amplify the voices and participation of young people and work to ensure the full incorporation of the UN Convention of the Right of the Child (UNCRC) in all UK nations.

ABOUT THE ROLE

This role strategically leads and manages the International Policy and Advocacy team, ensuring that UNICEF UK has clear and robust policy positions and advocacy strategies on core issues such as development finance, health, education, nutrition, and climate change, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The role also works directly with colleagues in UNICEF HQ and with partner organisations. The role represents the organisation externally, including managing building and maintaining relationships with key external stakeholders in UK Government departments (such as FCDO), in the media and with partners and coalitions. The role also has grant and budgetary management responsibilities.

What we will expect you to achieve

- Develop a coherent and strategic policy agenda that is grounded in the UNCRC and brings together a comprehensive international policy and advocacy portfolio across UNICEF's global advocacy priorities.
- Effectively manages the international policy and advocacy team, supporting them to deliver effective advocacy strategies that successful influence key decision makers.
- Build and manage key external relationships with policy experts, influencers, and decision makers to ensure UNICEF UK can maximise its impact and influence for children and is seen by key stakeholders as a credible 'go-to' organisation on international children's rights.

- Along with the other members of the Advocacy Leadership Team, lead the development of highly impactful influencing strategies, building collaboration across the advocacy department and wider organisation towards common objectives.
- Work effectively across the organisation to ensure that international policy and evidence is actively informing, supporting and underpinning cross-organisational planning and integrated campaigns.
- Be one of UNICEF UK's leading external advocates.
- Demonstrate and model a commitment to our shared values, behaviours and inclusive practices (known as [Our Shared Commitment](#)) in all aspects of your work.

BEHAVIOURS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

This section contains the essential behaviours, experience, knowledge and skills needed in order to be effective and successful in this role. All criteria in this section are essential.

Effective behaviours

Supporter driven and mission aligned

- Is committed to children and their rights and motivated to work towards creating a better world for every child.

Analytical

- Understands in depth, a wide range of policy issues that affect children internationally. Questions assumptions and seeks further insights to inform decision-making.

Collaboration

- Constructively works with and influences colleagues across different teams to develop cross-organisational campaign plans that are based on sound policy analysis. Values diversity, respecting and drawing on colleagues' different perspectives, skills, experiences and knowledge.

Communication

- Conveys complex ideas to multiple audiences in a coherent and compelling way. Anticipates and responds to the needs of diverse audiences, adapting style, language and content to deliver maximum clarity and gain support.

Leadership

- Positive, encouraging, open and supportive management style that motivates the team and wider department. Creates and encourages cross-organisational collaboration and acts as a role model. Translates strategic direction into medium- and long-term plans.

Relevant experience

- Substantial experience of working in a senior role on international policy, with relevance to children's rights and international development.
- Demonstrable experience of leading and managing a high performing team including annual planning, managing performance, and supporting and motivating individuals to deliver to the highest standards.
- Lobbying and influencing the UK Government on child rights issues, with the ability to think and act strategically.
- Experience of designing and delivering effective and successful advocacy strategies that have delivered change in policy and/or practice.
- External representation and external relationship management, including with senior stakeholders.

Specific knowledge and skills

- Detailed understanding of core international policy issues, processes, frameworks and decision-making structures and fora.
- A robust understanding of the UK Government's role in ensuring children's rights are upheld and protected around the world.
- Strong communications skills, both written and verbal. Can anticipate and respond to the needs of diverse audiences, adapting style, language, and content to deliver maximum clarity, gain support and influence effectively.
- Development of policy positions, and the delivering or commissioning of research and evidence for the purposes of informing policy making and influencing. Values diversity,

respecting and drawing on colleagues' different perspectives, skills, experiences and knowledge.

- Positive, encouraging, open and supportive management style that motivates the team and wider department.