

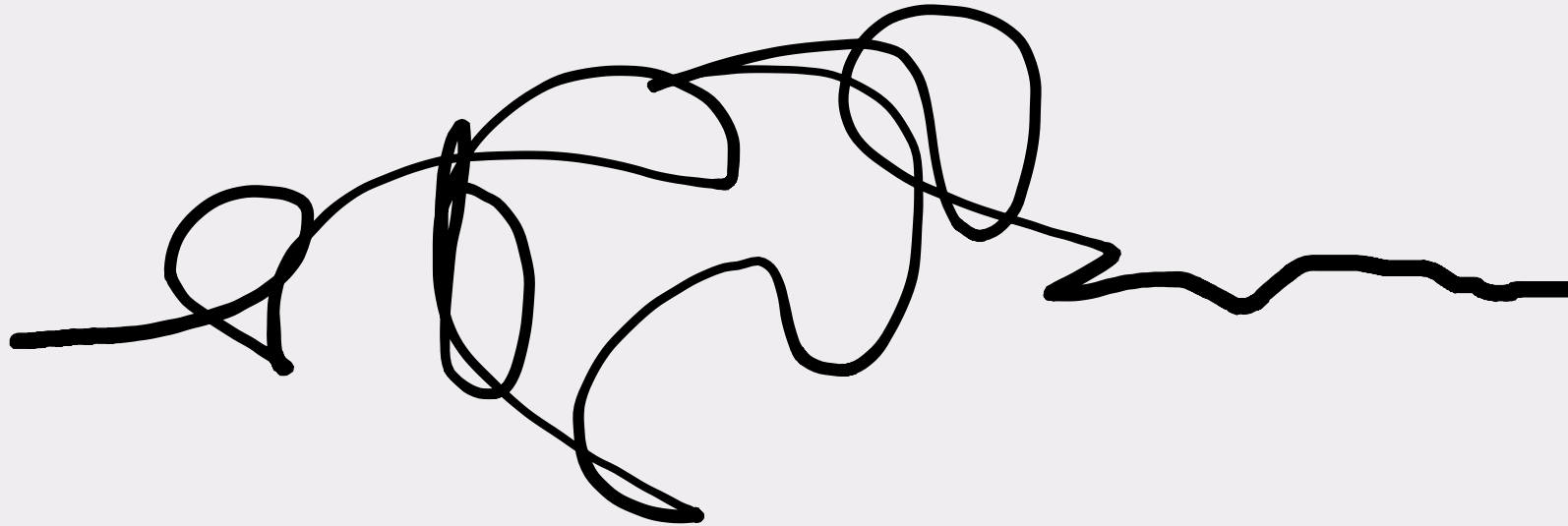
# *Career Pathways in Global Health*

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# Best Advice



**“Career path” suggests a clear direction. In global health, it’s more like a squiggle.**

# Best Advice



**Be flexible.  
Follow what you enjoy.**



# Best Advice



**Employ an 80/20 principle.**

# How did I get here?

- 10 years old- My father and I read a NY Times article about Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Later that year, I wrote a short essay asserting that in 10 years I would be studying medicine at Johns Hopkins University.





# Snapshot of My Career

- 2006-2010
  - Undergraduate Degree (JHU): Public Health and Anthropology
- 2011-2013
  - US Peace Corps Volunteer: Nicaragua, Maternal and Child Health
- 2013-2015
  - Graduate Degree (JHU): Health Education and Health Communication
- 2015-Present
  - Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP)



# What worked

- Undergraduate Degree: Public Health and Anthropology, 2006-2010
  - A solid foundation in core public health areas (Epi, Biostats, Health Policy, etc)
  - Access to graduate level coursework
  - Practical experience in global health (Multiple service trips to Tanzania, India, and Honduras)
  - Expanded my appreciation for research





# What worked

- Peace Corps Volunteer: Nicaragua, Maternal and Child Health, 2011-2013
  - Practical experience working with ministry of health, NGO, and private organizations
  - Improving my language skills (Spanish)
  - Managing work-life balance
  - Learned to manage disappointment, uncertainty, and a range of political situations





# What worked

- Graduate Degree: Health Education and Health Communication, 2013-2015
  - A solid foundation on social and behavior change theories and key global health players
  - My global health practicum provided a direct link to my current workplace
  - Piqued my interest in understanding entire projects (technical, admin, management, operations, etc.)





# What do I do?



What I thought I be doing



What my friends think I do



What my parents think I do



# What I do actually

- Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) works to inspire and empower people around the world to make healthy choices for themselves and their families, from using condoms to sleeping under bed nets to visiting a doctor when they are sick.
- As a Program Officer, I provide technical support for several large-scale health projects in Africa and Asia.
- My current projects are based in Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Philippines. Each country has a different mix of priority health issues, project timelines. Each field team presents different backstopping needs which determine the type of support I provide.
- Wake up every day and connect with incredible communities across the globe in order to help make the world a healthier place.





# What I actually do



7a

BIKE TO WORK

8a

ZOOM CALLS w/ FIELD TEAMS

9a

10a

✓ MAKE DAILY TO-DO LIST

11a

✉ CHECK EMAIL

12p

LUNCH?

ATTEND WEBINAR

1p

📄 REVIEW REPORT

2p

📄 REVIEW BUDGETS

3p

📄 DEVELOP CONCEPT NOTE

4p

5p

BIKE HOME

6p



# What I actually do

- **Program Management**
- **Provide technical support** on specific topics, including social and behavior change, integrated health (projects that cover more than one health area), digital health, gender, and specific health topics
- **Problem-solve**- First-line of contact for my teams. When they have a question, challenge, or need they reach out to me for support or to link to a resource.
- **Design** tools, materials, and mechanism that helps to address public health issues
- **Manage partner relationships** (other implementing partners, government partners, donors, etc.)
- **Travel 30-40% of the year** to provide in-country support to field programs, attend conferences, participate or facilitate trainings, etc.





# What I actually do

- **Apply New Approaches**

- Led Human-Centered Design (HCD) activities to improve maternal-child health outcomes in Northern Nigeria and reduce unintended pregnancy in the Philippines.

- **Support Government Initiatives**

- Provided technical support to improve school health initiatives across Ethiopia.

- **Share Best Practices Across Field teams**

- Led development of several digital health initiatives for community health workers in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia
- Developed a community mobilization toolkit for Pakistani community volunteers

- **Strengthen Internal Knowledge Management**

- Led center-wide internal review of community mobilization approaches (resulting in an internal database).

- **Generate Evidence for Future Programs**

- Provided technical assistance on a systematic review of integrated health programs.





# Things to Remember

- *Work/life balance will be something you constantly revisit.*
- *Funding levels for global health can change quickly.*
- *The global health community is smaller than you think.*
- *Stay hydrated!*





# Questions?

- Ask Away
- Send me a note
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindsey-leslie/>
- CCP is hiring!
  - CCP.JHU.EDU

