Sheena Bell

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 5th year PhD Candidate in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Focus: education governance and policy in low- and middle-income countries; Ghana.
- Twelve years' UN experience in international education policy and programme development with UNICEF and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics as staff (2010-2019) and independent consultant (2020-present). Focus areas: data, policy and programming for out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out and improving accessibility of research for improved evidence-informed decision-making.
- Proven experience in research, analysis and writing developed through coordination and co-authorship of several UN publications on out-of-school children and education data. Including two background papers/databases for the 2011 and 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Reports.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto, Canada (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)   **2019-Present**
PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy (Candidacy achieved)
Collaborative specialization: Comparative, International Development Education

University of York, UK   **2014**
Master of Public Administration – International Development

McGill University, Canada   **2010**
Master of Arts in Political Science

The University of British Columbia, Canada   **2008**
BA (Hons) in Political Science, Minor French

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Chmielewski, Anna K., and **Sheena Bell**. 2023 (Accepted, forthcoming). "Cross-National Socioeconomic Inequality and Educational Policy." In *Handbook on the Sociology of Education*, edited by M Berends, B Schneider, and S Lamb. Thousand Oaks, Calif: SAGE Publications.

Working papers / Under review
Asim, Minahil, **Sheena Bell**, Michael Boakye-Yiadom, Hope Pius Nudzor, and Karen Mundy. 2023. "Management Practices and Implementation Challenges in District Education Directorates in Ghana." Under Review.

Bell, Sheena, Asim, Minahil, Mundy, Karen, Pius Nuzdor, Hope, Boakye-Yiadom, Michael, & Mensah Adosi, Christopher (June 2023). How do regions, districts and schools respond to the introduction of a delivery approach: Evidence from Ghana. DeliverEd Initiative Working Paper.

Bell, Sheena, Clare Leaver, Zahra Mansoor, Karen Mundy, Dana Qarout, and Martin J. Williams. 2023. "The Role of Delivery Approaches in Education Systems Reform: Evidence from a Multi-Country Study." DeliverEd Initiative Working Paper.

Williams, Martin J., Clare Leaver, Karen Mundy, Zahra Mansoor, Dana Qarout, Minahil Asim, **Sheena Bell**, & and Anna Bilous. (2020). "Delivery Approaches to Improving Policy Implementation: A Conceptual Framework." DeliverEd Working Paper, June.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, with University of Oxford, University of Cape Coast, Ghana   **October 2019 – Aug 2019**
DeliverEd Initiative
Researcher

- Qualitative research focal point for the Ghana project team, studying recent public service reforms in education, called "delivery approaches" which emphasize use of performance data to improve the

implementation of education policy interventions aimed at improving learning outcomes. Project funded by FCDO and the Education Commission.

UNICEF Education Section (New York, USA)   **Jan 2022 - Present**
Consultant   **March-April 2020**
- [Current] Lead consultant responsible for writing and finalizing the revised UIS-UNESCO Global Initiative of Out-of-School Children *Operational Manual,* in coordination with thematic experts from UNESCO, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, ILO, UNICEF and GPE.
- [2020] As part of COVID-19 response, conduct household survey analysis of 19 MICS6 datasets to calculate the share of school-age children with access to devices for learning, by household wealth, location. Co-wrote blog describing data findings.

The World Bank, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)   **Jan 2020 – Sept 2020**
Consultant
- Support 9 member states of the OECS to develop an education data framework to support the strengthening of national Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) for national, regional and international reporting.

UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (Geneva, Switzerland)   **Aug 2015 – Jan 2019; May-June 2019**
Regional Education Specialist
- To improve UNICEF country office programming and technical support to governments in Europe and Central Asia for improved education systems to improve access and learning outcomes, especially for the most marginalized children:
  - Provided in country and remote technical assistance to 23 UNICEF country offices in Europe and Central Asia to improve education data monitoring systems, SDG4 monitoring, dropout prevention programmes and policies for out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out. Countries visited include: Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
  - Regional education in emergencies focal point. Provided technical assistance to UNICEF regional and country programming related to the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe (Germany, Greece, Italy), Syria response (Turkey), and Disaster Risk Reduction (Kyrgyzstan).
  - Developed global and regional resources and peer networks which aimed to identify needs, package and present education research and best practice for use by UNICEF and stakeholders. This included:
    - significant technical inputs and coordinating two education publications: the UIS-UNICEF *Monitoring Education Participation: Monitoring Framework for Out-of-School Children and Children At Risk of Dropping Out* and UNICEF *Improving Education Participation: Policy and practice pointers for enrolling all children and adolescents in school and preventing dropout.*
    - development of thematic briefs (ex. early warning systems for dropout prevention); webinars, knowledge network, as part of the *Regional Improving Education Participation Initiative.*
- As part of Global Network of Education Results and Data Specialists (NERDS), contributed to the development of the UNICEF Regional Education Strategy, focussing on results-based management of regional results including theory of change, regional indicator framework, data monitoring.
- Coordinated and managed expert education consultants, ensuring UNICEF country offices receive timely and effective technical support for their programmes on out-of-school children and dropout prevention.

UNICEF Headquarters, Education Section   **Feb-April 2019**
Secondary Education Specialist (Stretch assignment)

- Drafted the UNICEF global guidance on secondary-age education, outlining a framework and methodology to guide UNICEF country offices in prioritizing and developing programming for secondary-age adolescents. Featured guidance on education system strengthening for adolescents in school, and supporting alternative pathways to learning for adolescents out of school.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (Montreal, Canada)   **Jan. 2010 – June 2015**

Assistant Programme Specialist   **May 2012 – June 2015**

- Project coordinator and co-author of the UIS-UNICEF report *Fixing the Broken Promise of Education For All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children*.
- With UNICEF, co-author the UIS-UNICEF *Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children Operational Manual*, an expanded and revised guidance for countries on the analysis of out-of-school children data and policies.
- With UNICEF Georgia, Romania and Tajikistan Country Offices, coordinated and participated in country-level fieldwork to map and document the national monitoring system (including Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)) for out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out.
- With UNICEF, co-organized four OOSC Initiative regional workshops to train national team (UN and government) participants in statistics and data on out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out: Eastern Caribbean States, Middle East North Africa, South Asia, West and Central Africa.
- Contributed reports, statistical data analysis and figures to UN publications and Initiatives: Global Education First Initiative, the 2012 and 2013 Millennium Development Goals Report, the UIS/GMR factsheets on out-of-school children, and the UIS eAtlas on Out-of-School Children.

Research Assistant / Data Analyst   **Jan. 2010 – Dec. 2011**

- Developed the flagship statistical database used for skills analysis for the 2012 EFA UNESCO Global Monitoring Report (Youth and skills: Putting education to work), using STATA software to produce disaggregated household survey indicators on school attendance, educational attainment, and employment.
- Co-authored background paper on impact of conflict on education for the 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS (role in italics)

UNICEF and UNESCO. 2023. *OOSCI Operational Manual: 2023 Revision.* New York: UNICEF. (*Role: Co-author and publication coordinator*). www.allinschool.org

UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and UNICEF. 2015. "Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children." Montreal: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/fixing-broken-promise-efa-findings-global-initiative-oosc-education-2015-en.pdf. *(Role: Project manager and co-author).*

———. 2015. "Global Out-of-School Children Initiative Operational Manual." New York: UNICEF. http://allinschool.org/guidance/operational-manual/. *(Role: Co-author)*

UNICEF ECA Regional Office. 2016. "Monitoring Education Participation: Framework for Monitoring Children and Adolescents Who Are Out of School or at Risk of Dropping Out." Vol. 1. UNICEF Series on Education Participation and Dropout Prevention. Geneva: UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/monitoring-education-participation. *(Role: Project manager and reviewer).*

———. 2017a. "Improving Education Participation: Policy and Practice Pointers for Enrolling All Children and Adolescents in School and Preventing Dropout." Vol. 2. UNICEF Series on Education Participation and Dropout

Prevention. Geneva: UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/improving-education-participation. *(Role: Project manager and reviewer).*

———. 2017b. "Monitoring Education Participation: Framework for Monitoring Children and Adolescents Who Are Out of School or at Risk of Dropping Out." Brief. Geneva: UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/monitoring-education-participation. *(Role: Project manager and reviewer).*

UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2010. "The Quantitative Impact of Conflict on Education." UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report Background Paper. Montreal: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?catno=191304&set=005B82A6E7_1_329&gp=1&lin=1&ll=1. *(Role: Author).*

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Bell, Sheena. 2023. "An exploratory study of organizational and political factors shaping district support for teaching and learning in Ghana". Presented at the 2023 CIES Annual Conference, Washington.

———. 2023. "Multiple Accountabilities, Management Practices, and the Service Delivery Gap: A Study of District Education Directorates in Ghana". Presented at the 2023 AERA Annual Conference, Chicago.

———. 2022. "How do I run the office without funds?" Understanding how districts plan and implement education policy in Ghana" Presented at the RISE 2022 Conference, June 23 2022.

———. 2019. "Lessons learned: Data and response to out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out." Presented at the GPE webinar on the UNICEF-UIS Out-of-School Children Initiative, Washington, April 2.

———. 2018. "Understanding Data Sources to Measure SDG 4: Using Household Surveys to Monitor SDG 4 Targets." presented at the SDG4 Data Week: Understanding the Monitoring of SDG 4: Targets, Actors, Data and Resources, Geneva, July 9.

———. 2014. "Out-of-School Children and Exclusion from Education: Data Challenges, Methodological Innovations and Policy Responses." presented at the CIES Annual Conference, Toronto.

———. 2011. "The Quantitative Impact of Conflict on Education." presented at the CIES Annual Conference, Montreal.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Graduate studies: SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) PhD; Ontario Graduate Scholarship; CGS Masters.
- Upon BA graduation: Walter D. Young Prize for the best student in Canadian Politics at UBC and the Stanfield prize for outstanding achievement in Political Science.
- Undergraduate: UBC National Entrance Scholarship, Millennium Provincial Scholarship, B.C. Provincial Exam Scholarship, Undergraduate Scholars Program, CMSF Regional Scholarship, UBC Pierre Berthier Education Abroad Scholarship, Dean's List.

OTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING EXPERIENCES

- *Core course of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET).* University of Bern. July 2018.
- *Children's Human Rights – An Interdisciplinary Introduction.* University of Geneva, through Coursera. July 2017.

References available upon request.