**Intern – Foresight in Economics, Development Finance, and FinTech for Children**

***Terms of Reference***

**Location:** UNICEF NYHQ, New York, United States  
**Duration:** 6 months (15-20 hours per week)  
**Supervision:** Reports to the Foresight and Policy Team, UNICEF Global Office of Research and Foresight

**1. Background**

The Foresight and Policy Team at UNICEF Innocenti monitors, analyses, and produces forward-looking policy analysis on various global issues. The Macroeconomics and Finance portfolio encompasses economic foresight, Official Development Assistance (ODA) trends, debt sustainability, and emerging financial technologies (FinTech) affecting children. Given the increasing complexity of global financial systems, ensuring that economic foresight incorporates **data-driven insights** and child-focused financial policies is critical.

This internship will contribute to building capacity in **economic foresight, financing for development, and the role of financial technologies in child welfare**, leveraging **data analytics** and foresight methodologies.

**2. Objectives of the Internship**

The intern will support **economic foresight research** and **data-driven policy analysis** on:

1. **Economic Trends & Strategic Foresight**
   * Research **global economic trends** related to **ODA, debt sustainability, economic development, and financing for children**.
   * Apply **foresight methodologies** (horizon scanning, scenario planning) to model economic futures.
   * Assist in the preparation of **economic foresight reports** for UNICEF and its partners.
2. **Data-Driven Financial Policy Analysis**
   * Analyze **datasets on financing for development**, global financial flows, and their impact on children.
   * Support the integration of **data science tools (Python, Stata, or econometric software)** in economic modeling.
3. **FinTech and Child-Centered Development Finance**
   * Explore the **impact of financial technologies (FinTech) on child welfare** and youth financial inclusion.
   * Analyze trends in **digital payments, mobile banking, and alternative credit/lending platforms** for vulnerable children.
   * Investigate **risks and benefits of digital financial tools for children**, including data privacy concerns.
4. **Strategic Foresight Knowledge Management**
   * Support the **Foresight CoP platform** by managing **economic foresight resources**.
   * Prepare summaries of key **economic reports and policy papers** for UNICEF stakeholders.
   * Maintain a **database of foresight case studies**, particularly those focused on **economic resilience, financial inclusion, and child well-being**.

**3. Key Responsibilities**

| ***Task*** | ***Description*** |
| --- | --- |
| **Economic Foresight Research** | Conduct research on global economic trends, debt sustainability, ODA, and financing for children. |
| **Data Analytics Support** | Utilize Python, Stata, or econometrics tools for economic modeling and analysis. |
| **FinTech & Digital Economy** | Study emerging financial technologies affecting children and youth financial inclusion. |
| **Knowledge Management** | Curate, summarize, and organize foresight reports and data resources. |
| **Community Engagement** | Assist in organizing webinars, expert discussions, and knowledge-sharing sessions. |

**4. Supervision & Reporting**

* The intern will be supervised by a **Policy Specialist from UNICEF’s Foresight and Policy Team**.
* Bi-weekly check-ins will be scheduled to **review progress and provide guidance**.

**5. Required Qualifications & Skills**

**Essential:**

* Currently enrolled in a **Master’s or advanced undergraduate program** in **Economics, Development Finance, Public Policy, Data Science, or a related field**.
* **Strong data skills**: experience with **Python (preferred), Stata, R, or other econometric software**.
* Knowledge of **development finance, debt sustainability, ODA, and macroeconomic policy**.
* Understanding of **foresight methodologies** or willingness to learn.
* Strong analytical, research, and communication skills.
* Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.

**Desirable:**

* Familiarity with **FinTech applications in development finance**.
* Experience in **data visualization tools (e.g., Tableau, Power BI)**.
* Interest in **financial inclusion, digital payments, and child welfare policy**.
* Previous experience in **economic research, policy analysis, or international development**.

**6. Deliverables & Timeline**

| ***Deliverable*** | ***Estimated Time*** | ***Deadline*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Economic foresight report (trends in ODA & debt) | 4 weeks | Month 2 |
| Data analysis on financing for children | 6 weeks | Month 3 |
| FinTech case study on children & financial inclusion | 6 weeks | Month 4 |
| Database of economic foresight resources | Ongoing | End of Internship |
| Presentation of findings | 2 weeks | Final Month |

**7. Learning Opportunities**

The intern will gain experience in:  
✅ **Economic foresight methodologies** (scenario planning, horizon scanning)  
✅ **Data-driven economic modeling** for development finance  
✅ **Policy analysis** on FinTech, child welfare, and digital economies  
✅ **Knowledge management** and communication strategies

**8. Compensation & Application Process**

Interested candidates should submit:

* + **CV/Resume**
  + **Cover letter** explaining interest and experience
  + **Sample of data analysis or policy writing (if available)**

UNICEF is committed to **diversity and inclusion** and encourages applications from **candidates of all backgrounds**.