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Engaging with
UNV



The Programme for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development (The Primary Course)

Reiwa 5 Japanese Programme Associates
Overseas Assignment

About the programme

"The Programme for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development (The Primary Course)" was established by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) in 2007 to train Japanese professionals in the field of peacebuilding and development. More than 200 Programme Associates, supported by the Programme, were deployed as UN volunteers to UN entities in different countries and regions around the world.

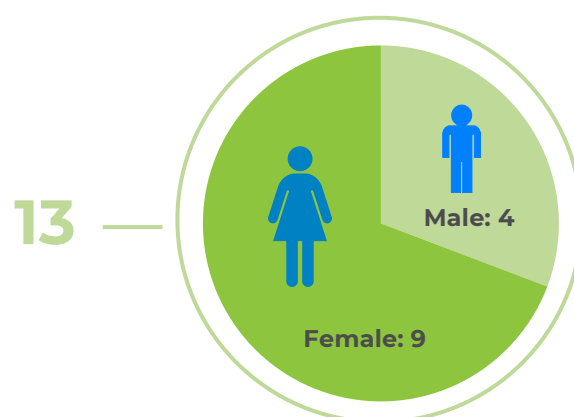
Key areas of competencies and skills

- Innovation
- Commitment to the pursuit of peace
- Focus on sustainable solutions
- Willingness to learn
- Service-oriented professionalism
- Skills that fit the host agency's needs
- Models of change
- Capacity development of local counterparts

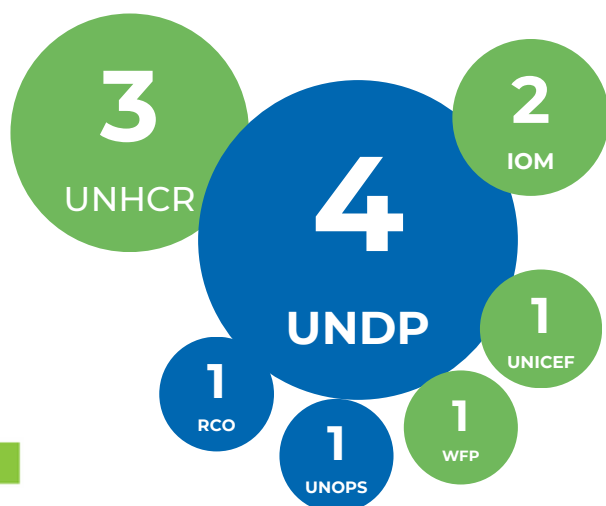
Reiwa 5 Programme Associates

Programme Associates of Reiwa 5 were deployed as UN volunteers in 2024-2025 to a wide range of regions and served in different areas. Their assignments range from providing capacity-building training for refugee organisations in Uganda to building relationships between internally displaced persons and host communities in Georgia. The Associates placed themselves in the midst of some of the most pressing crises in the world, helping to drive development and peacebuilding activities. They have demonstrated the significant difference that volunteering can make to their communities.

Profile



Host Entity



Assignments

- Associate Research Officer
- Project Officer / Project Management Specialist
- Peacebuilding Specialist
- Climate & Resilience Program Officer
- Partnership Analyst
- Health Governance Officer
- Peace and Development Analyst
- Associate Protection Officer
- Peace and Development Analyst
- Associate Community Based Protection Officer
- Project Officer
- MECC Specialist
- Child Protection Associate

Mariko Otake, Associate Protection Officer

UNHCR / Uganda



What was Mariko's role?

Mariko contributed to the protection and solutions for refugees at the UNHCR office in Uganda, enhancing relationships in refugee settlement areas, local governments, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of Uganda, and partner groups. Mariko engaged in arranging weekly protection reports and conducting protection needs assessments. She also facilitated a mapping exercise of refugee-led organizations and local communities to improve their capacities and self-management skills.

What did Mariko achieve?

- Implemented participatory assessments, cooperating with the UNHCR country office and four UNHCR sub-offices, while introducing an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach.
- Organized a three-day training session for 10 refugee-led organizations to improve the participation of the organizations.
- Managed individual protection cases and reported them to partner organizations.

"Mariko is someone of a sound mind who shows up when asked, works hard, and carries herself in a polite, integrity-driven, and respectable manner."

Mariko's supervisor



Pagirinya settlement, conducting focus group discussion to assess the needs and capacities of the community



Agojo settlement, interviewing representatives of a refugee-led organization.

Taiga Katsuki, Health Governance Officer

UNDP / Guinea-Bissau



"He is a diligent and passionate colleague who has strong passion to strengthen the national system."

—Taiga's supervisor

What was Taiga's role?

UNDP Guinea-Bissau strengthens the country's health system, including supporting universal health coverage, anti-corruption in health, and social protection. Taiga's role as a Health Governance Officer was to disseminate the concept of anti-corruption in health, support seasonal malaria chemoprevention as part of universal health coverage (social protection), and conduct research and analysis on macroeconomics and poverty conditions in Guinea-Bissau to design social protection projects.

What did Taiga achieve?

- Organized capacity-building on anti-corruption in health and trained over 200 civil servants in the Ministry of Health.
- Contributed to designing and raising \$1.5 million for a social protection project (micro-insurance & cash transfer).
- Researched and analyzed the macroeconomic context in Guinea-Bissau, including the cashew nut business and its correlation with monetary poverty and its impact on social protection.



Participated in the joint-program ceremony for the completion of the water supply-system with UN-Habitat as the representative of UNDP.



Passing money that the lady has earned and stocked for one year (Ceremony for the Completion of cash transfer project).

Sooyeon Choi, Project Officer (Migration, Business, and Human Rights)

IOM / Thailand



What was Sooyeon's role?

Sooyeon committed herself to supporting labor migration, business and human rights at the IOM office located in Thailand. She facilitated events and meetings collaborating with Japanese companies, government organizations, civil society and other UN organizations. Also, she conducted research on labor migration and business and human rights in the context of Japanese companies.

What did Sooyeon achieve?

- Advocacy of the situation of Myanmar migrants in Thailand for Japanese organizations and civil society organizations by holding a study tour in Samut Sakhon province
- Promotion of a meaningful connection among 57 stakeholders, including Japanese company, Japanese governments, civil society and UN organizations
- Improvement of 42 stakeholders' understanding of human rights risks faced by labor migrants, using an occasion of UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum in Bangkok

***'Quickly adapt to new environments and collaborate effectively by engaging with other units.'** —Sooyeon's supervisor*



Learning Stakeholder Engagement in Thailand – Study Tour to Visit Migrant Worker Community and Civil Society Organization

Nagisa Shiiba, Climate and Resilience Program Officer

WFP / Guinea



What was Nagisa's role?

As the Climate and Resilience Program Officer at the World Food Program (WFP) in Guinea, Nagisa took an important role in supporting smallholder farmers, contributing to WFP's mission of achieving 'Zero Hunger.' While WFP Guinea provided meals to school children to ensure they obtained enough nutrition, Nagisa engaged in strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, helping them sustain agricultural production against climate change, which significantly influences cultivation in Guinea, where a large number of people work in agriculture.

What did Nagisa achieve?

- Liaised between the WFP country office and sub-offices to implement plans supporting smallholder farmers.
- Advanced and promoted the 'Zero Hunger Village' concept, a key initiative of WFP Guinea.
- Established an online tool to promote the connection between smallholder farmer groups and potential buyers, making the market more accessible.

"Nagisa quickly adapt to new environments and collaborate effectively by engaging with other units."

—Nagisa's supervisor

Misato Itakura, Child Protection Associate

UNICEF / India

What was Misato's role?

Misato actively supported several programs such as the Global Program Ending Child Marriage (GPECM), the Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC), and the Adolescent Development and Empowerment (ADE) at UNICEF in Jammu and Kashmir. She improved the Child Protection Innovation Fund, introducing effective assessment methods and involving organizations in participating in the plan. She also established the Investment Case for Adolescent Development and Empowerment (ADE) to advocate for the importance of adolescent programs, cooperating with the Education, Health, and Social Protection teams..

What did Misato achieve?

- Integrated the GPECM Annual Report 2024 and enhanced knowledge-sharing using case studies across six states.
- Established Investment Cases for Adolescent Development and Empowerment (ADE) and mental health support for enlightening the problems and raising funding.
- Strengthened the documentation of GPECM case studies and annual reports, improving advocacy and knowledge-sharing efforts.



"Misato has made a great contribution to the team ever since she joined. Her strong technical knowledge of social issues, consultative nature, teamwork, and inquisitive mind have enabled her to excel in the tasks assigned to her." —Misato's supervisor

Daiki Hayashi, Project Officer / Project Management Specialist

UNDP / Georgia



What was Daiki's role?

As a UN Volunteer, Daiki supported the strengthening of the newly launched UNDP office in Zugdidi, Georgia, by contributing to civil society engagement initiatives, promoting community development, and fostering cross-border confidence-building efforts. He coordinated and facilitated events aimed at empowering socially vulnerable groups, including women, youth, internally displaced people, and persons with disabilities while strengthening their networks to enhance collaboration and resilience.

What did Daiki achieve?

- Established an efficient filing system to improve document accessibility and organization.
- Monitored partner activities to ensure alignment with project goals and timely reporting.
- Facilitated capacity-building workshops and public institutions, empowering vulnerable communities.



In commemoration of the World Youth Day, UNDP Zugdidi office held a chess tournament at Zugdidi Central Library.



In commemoration of the World Cleanup Day, UNDP organized a cleanup activity with 40 youth in the town, cleaning up the beach. Daiki is handing over cleaning kits to the youth.

"Daiki is well-organized, disciplined, and highly professional. His ability to adapt quickly to diverse tasks and deliver high-quality results has made him a reliable and trusted member of the team."

—Daiki's supervisor



Kasumi Ichida, Peace and Development Analyst

DPPA-DCO (UNDP) / Turkey



“Until I started to work as a volunteer, I was thinking there was a huge difference between the volunteer and professional staff. However, I haven’t seen a huge difference between them, and volunteer is also able to take part in various tasks.” —Kasumi

What was Kasumi's role?

Along with supporting regional Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) in the region, Kasumi worked on three key themes:

1. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)
2. Climate, Peace, and Security
3. Promoting conflict sensitivity in Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Cooperation Framework (CF) processes

What did Kasumi achieve?

- Drafted a concept note for a cross-border project integrating climate change and WPS across five countries.
- Strengthened analytical and report-writing skills through mentorship and feedback.
- Ensured neutrality and a broad perspective while drafting analysis and monitoring reports for UN policies.

“I was asked about concern to be ‘volunteer’ by people who are interested in working at the UN, but the UN Volunteer is a great opportunity to develop pragmatic skills and knowledges, and take some responsibility as a team member at the same time.

I would like to suggest to consider volunteer as one of the options for people who don't have an experience within the UN but interested in to contributing for SDGs, the UN, and the world.” —Kasumi