THE HRD PROGRAMME

The Programme for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development (HRD Programme) is a joint partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center as the current implementing partner and UNV. It was established in 2007, is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and phase 9 was deployed in 2016–17.

The HRD Programme aims to advance the reach and impact of volunteerism through the strategic deployment of skilled individuals to UN agencies engaged in peacebuilding and development. Working alongside national counterparts, UN Volunteers with the HRD

“UN Volunteers contribute to sustainable development and often gain transformational experience when on assignment, learning about other cultures and learning about themselves. I appreciate the UN Volunteers serving through the HRD Programme, and Japan for its contribution in upholding the value of volunteerism and giving young professionals such unique opportunities as UN Volunteers.

Olivier Adam, Executive Coordinator, UNV
The relationship between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan post-communism has been characterized by unresolved border-related issues that threaten to undermine the development of both countries. Through UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s participation in the joint project known as ‘Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development’, Mariko contributed to social cohesion in the region through her training of trainers in Russian language teaching and theatre for development – small-scale yet powerful examples of the UNV programme’s ability to achieve sustainable development.

The UN Peacebuilding Fund supports this flagship project on cross-border cooperation. UNICEF leads Russian language and theatre for development programmes in schools. Results include:

- A total of 9,802 people reached (8,155 adolescents/youth, 1,493 community residents, 70 security providers, 62 teachers and 22 community leaders)

Promoting volunteerism is a key aspect of the sustainable contribution that these volunteers make around the world. They provide a model for how volunteerism can propel individuals and communities from being the passive recipients of assistance to becoming the drivers of their own peace, reconciliation and development processes.

The successful implementation of the HRD Programme hinges upon the joint collaboration of many colleagues through UNV headquarters, our Tokyo Liaison Office and UNV Field Units.

PHASE 9, 2016–17

In 2016–17, the HRD Programme deployed UN Volunteers to a wide range of geographical and thematic contexts. From engendering social cohesion and ethnic tolerance on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border to facilitating family tracing and reunification in the EU migrant crisis, HRD Programme volunteers put themselves front and centre of the world’s most pressing crises, driving peacebuilding efforts from the ground up and demonstrating the profound transformation that volunteerism can effect upon local communities.

MEET MARIKO, UNICEF/KYRGYZSTAN

What is a UN Volunteer’s added value?

- Innovation
- Commitment to the pursuit of peace and development
- 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

NUMBER OF HRD VOLUNTEERS FOR PHASE 9 SERVING IN 12 COUNTRIES

UN Volunteers

8

6

unicef
The large-scale irregular movements of populations in Eastern Sudan expose many vulnerable people, particularly adolescents travelling alone, to the potential dangers of exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking. Eiji, a lawyer specializing in child law, was deployed to UNICEF Sudan as a child protection officer to assist and monitor the implementation of vocational training to adolescents in order to reduce their vulnerability through acquiring the skills – and seed funding – to operate their own businesses. Results include:

- 500 vulnerable adolescents vocationally trained and provided with reintegration kits
- Five ‘one-stop shops’ for justice and social welfare established in two states, including child-friendly spaces
- Training manual on justice for children developed, and 15 trainers trained in its use

**MEET EIJI, UNICEF/SUDAN**

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**OVERVIEW OF TYPE OF HRD ASSIGNMENTS**

- Peacebuilding Officer
- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Specialist
- Programme Officer (Justice for Children)
- Programme Policy Officer (Livelihoods)
- Programme Specialist (Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Dev.)
- Programme Officer (Regional Governance and Peacebuilding)
- Programme Specialist (Local Governance & Economic Dev.)
- Associate Field Officer
- Associate Programme Officer
- Associate Protection Officer
- Programme Specialist
- Support Officer for Emergency Preparedness & Response/Field Operations
- Project Officer
The World Food Programme is supporting the Government of Pakistan to halve the food-insecure population by 2025. One of WFP’s most important interventions in addressing food insecurity in the country is known as the ‘Food Assistance for Assets’ livelihoods project (FFA). Atsuko’s role as a UN Volunteer was to support the FFA project, providing much-needed planning, implementation, resource allocation, training, monitoring and reporting functions.

Results include:
- Social cohesion strengthened as a by-product of ‘Food Assistance for Assets’ livelihoods project

// Atsuko held high the flag of volunteerism by utilizing whatever time she could spare, even her annual leave, for the betterment of vulnerable communities.
Atsuko’s supervisor

I was an international UN Volunteer from Japan serving with UNHCR in Serbia. I worked as Associate Field Officer in a team that responds to the refugee and migrant situation in the country. As part of my assignment, I visited reception and transit centres where most refugees and asylum seekers are housed. I was responsible for ensuring asylum seekers’ basic social service needs were met and human rights respected. At times, we could not do much but simply listen to people’s fears and concerns – nevertheless I feel proud that I was able to help. A brief interaction can positively impact someone’s life.

I am always amazed when I see children in such difficult circumstances smile. Their optimism is heart-warming. I still think of a little girl who was living in a make-shift tent in the transit zone between Serbia and Hungary. She had nothing to do to pass her time. She would come and talk to me, hold my hand, walk with me as I visited each of the tents. She would take my sunglasses and my clipboard, and pretend to be me, taking notes and interviewing her friends. One day she told me, ‘Go to Hungary tomorrow’. She meant that it was time she and her family could leave the transit zone and go to Hungary. Her innocence, her strength and her hope inspires me to date. I was very sad because I knew that I would not be seeing her again but at the same time so happy that our work as UN Volunteers, no matter how small, makes a difference to so many affected by war.

For further information, please visit www.unv.org or contact the UNV Field Unit in your country or the responsible UNV Regional Office. The UNV Annual Reports highlight UNV’s collaboration with UNV funding partners.