

Japan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



South Sudanese participants study in the City of Peace and learn from Hiroshima's reconstruction story. © UNITAR

What are the bold actions being taken by the Government of Japan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

Enhancing international support for implementing effective capacity building in developing countries is pivotal for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of Japan is increasing efforts to enhance the potential of young professionals in the world's newest country – South Sudan. By supporting the [“UNITAR South Sudan Fellowship Programme”](#) led and initiated by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office in 2015, Japan is not only supporting the stability and growth of the post-conflict

country locally but also helping to advance the SDGs globally. The fellowship, which targets young professionals in the government, civil society organizations, private sector and academic institutions is a six-month-long training programme tailored to respond to the specific needs of South Sudan, focusing on knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for effective project management, youth leadership and social entrepreneurship.

South Sudanese fellows are trained to identify local needs and national priorities, as well as design and implement projects

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Through UNITAR's Fellowship Programme, I learned the meaning of unity and was able to build deep and meaningful relationships with my peers. Having previously been complete strangers, I felt that coming together with other participants from the same country inspired us to work together for the betterment of South Sudan.

Christina Pita Lukudu
2015 South Sudanese Fellow

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I acquired skills on conducting organizational needs assessments, project proposal writing, and leadership. My ability to lead and understand my place in a team has greatly improved, as well as my ability to coordinate, network, and understand other actors in the areas of development.

Marial Luk
2015 South Sudanese Fellow



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An in-country training session, attended by H.E. Kiya Masahiko, Japanese Ambassador to South Sudan. © UNITAR



Building the capacity of South Sudanese to be able to effectively identify and address needs in their organizations and community. © UNITAR

to address them in ways that will help shape their nation's path towards sustainable recovery and development. The programme has thus far completed two annual cycles with 45 graduates, aiming to develop the capacity of each individual fellow to be a leader, able to contribute to organizational change within his/her respective ministry or organization. One Fellow from the 2015 Cycle identified that there was a lack of skilled teachers in a certain state of South Sudan, and developed a project proposal to train 25 per cent of primary school teachers in the state. This project has been successfully funded and is now being implemented.

Why do the above actions matter to the people in South Sudan and beyond?

With two-thirds of South Sudan's population under the age of 30, investing in their potential and providing them with management, leadership and innovation training and skills is critically important. By building capacity around needs assessments, project planning and implementation, and sharing best practices with others, the South Sudanese fellows can be better equipped to promote economic and social development that can lead to peace and security in the country.

Furthermore, the development of entrepreneurial and leadership skills can also reduce the risk of aid dependency for South Sudan. Through the fellowship programme, the participants acquire a strong sense of ownership, a solid identity and a

shared long-term vision of the country for achieving the SDGs.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced?

The fellowship programme supports Goal 4 on quality education (4.4 and 4.7), Goal 5 on gender equality (5.5), Goal 10 on inequality (10.2), Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions (16.6, 16.7 and 16.a), and Goal 17 on partnerships (17.9 and 17.17).



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