

# JPO Story: working as a Programme Analyst with UNDP in Palestine

## Background

After studying conflict resolution for my Master's degree, I obtained a great opportunity to work as UN Volunteer at UNDP Lesotho. I found UNDP's work to be very fascinating as it conducts various approaches to developmental assistance, especially some scopes of work that are rather niche that other international organizations are not implementing but are indeed very important for developmental agenda. It has been my privilege to continue my career in UNDP as a JPO.



*Asaka Ishiguro is a Japanese-sponsored JPO working with UNDP in Palestine.*

## Assignment

Currently, as a Programme Analyst, I am in charge of project implementation oversight, portfolio development, as well as resource mobilization. The schedule of a working day is varied from one to another: I spend some days in the office to cover administrative works, reporting, or internal meetings and updates, while other days are filled with meetings with various partners and donors and conducting site visits. The work is quite exciting and lively. I am also enjoying working with my colleagues, most of whom are local staff and extremely energetic and professional. I receive positive energy from them as well as learning about culture and customs on the ground.

As a JPO, the responsibilities given are quite challenging but meaningful. From this, I have gained much strength and growth. Sometimes I am obliged to make decisions with limited resources and time, where various stakeholders are involved in a project where it is required to find a way to build consensus among them. It is teaching me that there is no single strategy for communicating with partners and teams, as well as that there is no single answer to solve problems: proof that UNDP's work is truly dealing with human beings living on the ground. I believe those lessons and skills to face with such complex issues are the furthest developments I have gained during my assignment.



I believe the experiences gained as a JPO will greatly help advance my career. I am particularly enjoying monitoring the project implementation, from a broader perspective of national-level developmental strategy and outcomes. Based on the JPO experience, I wish to build my career towards strategy formulation and analysis of development in the future. The opportunities that the JPO training budget make possible also complement the gaps that I have found need to be filled in order to perform better in my assignment and advance my career.

*Being a JPO is an excellent opportunity to start a career at the UN; a valuable experience to achieve in life.*

