

Voices

F R O M T H E F I E L D

David Ajang

Assistant Accountant, JICA South Sudan Office



David Ajang spent many years of his life living in refugee camps after being forced as a schoolboy to flee the civil war in his native South Sudan. “In 1987 I went to Ethiopia as a refugee,” explains Ajang. “There I started school again, but in 1991 fighting broke out and I fled to Kenya.” It was at schools at Kenya’s Kakuma refugee camp that Ajang completed his primary and secondary education.

Ajang returned to his native land in 2005 after a comprehensive peace agreement ended fighting. Back home, he continued his studies, earning a diploma in public administration in 2010. His first experience with JICA was in 2011, when he was working with a German ODA organization. “I was impressed by JICA’s activities in Juba,” he notes, “especially the renovation of the city’s service training center and the campaign for solid waste management.” When Ajang saw an ad seeking an assistant accountant at the JICA South Sudan office, he applied immediately.

In his position, Ajang’s duties include following up on financial transactions at banks, communicating vital information to JICA administrators and project advisors. “My responsibilities mean I am involved with all the JICA projects in South Sudan,” he explains. In 2014 he won the JICA President Award for his diligent work in managing the South Sudan office in the absence of Japanese personnel.

Despite the challenges facing South Sudan, Ajang remains unwavering in his dedication to improving the situation there. Along with his duties at JICA, he is studying toward a business administration degree, focusing on accounting and finance. He hopes to use his financial know-how for a project training junior and senior officials in South Sudan. “We have resources, but managing them is a great challenge for the country.”

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Cover: A Cambodian child
with hands joined
together in prayer.
(Photo: Lonely Planet
Images/Getty Images)
Photo on pages 2-3:
Wounded ex-soldiers in
Rwanda participate in a
JICA technical training and
rehabilitation program.
(Photo: Atsushi Shibuya)



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