

Section 8 – Comments, Suggestions and Feedback

8.1 Positive and/or negative comments, other suggestions and feedback:

“!!! Thank you to all of you!!! Great Job..... Good to know that we can count on your support :-). “

“A recommendation for next year's survey is to include a section on Fraud and Ethics and Cultural Sensitivities.”

“As indicated in the survey, I highly appreciate and satisfy with the dedicate service provided to me by JPOSC. Thanks a lot!”

“As indicated before, I can't answer most questions since I started my assignment one week ago. Therefore I could only fully answer the questions on the recruitment process. Generally speaking, so far I am really happy with the JPO programme and satisfied with the quality of services provided by the JPO Service Centre.”

“At this stage, 1 month into assignment it is difficult to give enough feedback.”

“Becoming a JPO has been a great opportunity for me. I am thoroughly enjoying it. My work is challenging, the team is good and I know I am lucky in both supervisor and JPOSC focal point. I do however feel that ToRs and preparation for arrival of JPOs should be done more thoroughly by JPOSC with the Country Office and with the Unit team with whom the JPO will be working. “

“Being a JPO is a very good opportunity and experience, but I do believe that we could do more and make better use of the resources put into this system if things were better prepared from the country office. I know that many JPOs (and not only JPOs) have similar experiences in this regard and we are told about it before we go out. But it is mainly an issue of management and instead of thinking that this is just the way it is, it would be a better use of resources to actually try to address it. “

“Concerning the question of harassment, I think there should be separate questions, one for personally experienced and one for witnessed, for several reasons.”

“I am glad to have this opportunity of working at Africa as a UNDP staff member but most of my work hours are spent for activities different from project management and development. For example, the ICT system here is very weak and the response of each command at my PC sometimes comes back only after a few minutes. Also, sometimes the PC even gets down. This situation is very stressful and discouraging my positive way of thinking (to some extent). But still, I think this opportunity is very valuable and I am very happy to overcome various situations that prevent me from concentrating on my job. “

“I am so new as a JPO that I have difficulties to provide further comments. I am very happy so far with my assignment but disappointed with Geneva on their position with the use of DTTA and work related field visits. “

“I am very pleased with JPO scheme and the support received so far.”

"I appreciate the work and life experience I am gaining in Fiji. I have grown and learned lots as well as achieved much. I hope that the JPO system would continue to evolve to give such experience to all JPOs. "

"I do think the JPO programme gives you the opportunity to know about the UN system. My first weeks in my duty station have been very interesting, since I have got the opportunity to learn through the LMS and directly from my supervisor (DRR) and RR, as well as from other colleagues, specially from the national, that have been working at the CO for a long time. I am very happy to live this experience and I hope that can make me a potential UNDP staff in the near future. I would like to thanks all the team of the JPOSC for the great job they have done prior to my departure to Equatorial Guinea, especially many thanks to my focal point, Mrs. Els Ravyse."

"I find the services provided by the JPOSC as very useful, timely and a great support to us JPOs. Keep up the good work and thank you!"

"I have heard from many other JPOs that the introduction was inexistent which makes it a difficult start for many JPOs. A handover time between JPOs would be optimal. The administrative issues that need to be handled locally are rather disastrous. I don't know how to improve this but I spend too much time trying to sort admin stuff out. "

"I have just completed my first month and a half in this assignment. Therefore, my answers, especially those regarding my supervision and duties, can change in a few months (that is my hope). However, some first impressions tend to be right and until now the Resident Representative and my program officer don't seem to take my assignment seriously."

"I have some problems with the post adjustments. I know it is probably not related to the JPO position but I cannot understand how can it be a so small difference between a very expensive US city and a country of Latin America: the post adjustment give a small difference in money but leaving here means spending not less than 1300USD for a room in an apartment with 4-5 people, without any possibility to use the rental subsidy, that starts at 1400..the only option for somebody that does not have other sources is to live in a hostels, but at 30yrs it is a bit difficult. I do not have really big needs in my life but the house is a big problem in our case and the rental subsidy does not help to spend less, just to stay in a better place. Maybe JPOSC should start a new policy helping in finding a place where to stay, maybe through some agreements with local institutions. It's just an idea Maybe JPOSC could support the JPOs at the beginning in planning better the activities with the supervisor. many of us are at their first experience in such big organization and have difficult to make clear to their supervisor that the 2years projects are also for learning, and this is a problem, for example, at HQ level About the JPO net maybe we could use some "subgroups" considering our assignment and field of interest. I receive everyday mails that are really not related to my position and about subjects I do not know anything about. I can just ignore them, but maybe we could divide us in groups for specific issues."

"I really appreciate the prompt, friendly and accurate services I have received from all the JPOSC staff I have been in contact with, especially having seen how much more complicated basic admin issues might be to deal with at least for some JPOs not being administered under the JPOSC. "

"I would like to suggest that the JPOSC continues sensibilisation on explaining the role of a JPO amongst UN colleagues. Too often the word "JPO" is used as a job title

or the word "junior" is used to justify giving us uninteresting work irrespective of our previous professional experiences and responsibilities."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at the JPO Service Centre for their excellent work and invaluable support - we JPOs are very lucky to have you! A special and big thank you goes to Lorrae Davey, who is my focal point. "

"It is a great idea to have a JPOSC, if only also all the admin issues and worries of JPOs could be taken care of by it instead of having to consult several agencies with often contradicting answers. Would it be possible to encourage creation of small JPO-networks also at country level, the same way as UNVs are linked with each other? This could also reduce the burden of JPOSC since we could share information with each other and would not have to always ask the information from JPOSC. And it would be fun to meet other JPOs. One could of course do it on own initiative, but with this workload there is no time to socialize... Maybe ask in each country if one JPO would volunteer and call all JPOs together and then see if the JPOs feel that such a forum (either meetings, e-mail list etc.) would be useful."

"It is too soon for a answer to this question -I have only a month as a JPO."

"Just a comment for the late people as me. It is useful to have a reminder and more useful to have the link toward the survey in the reminder email."

"Keep up the good work! I still feel happy and privileged to have been chosen for this unique program, even having lived through the toughest year of my life."

"My overall experience as a JPO so far has been good."

"Reassignment to other countries would be made easier. If someone is not happy for personal reasons (and it is really motivated), the donor should also be convinced to take the necessary steps because it is a win-win for both. Personally I will not stay in my current duty station for the whole three years but on this I do not get enough support from the donor although reassignment has already been done before (clear guidelines and policy might be required)."

"So far I'm having a quite negative experience, mainly due to my supervisor. I'm still optimistic and I am confident that my situation will improve when a new supervisor arrives..."

"Thank youuuuuuuuuuu so much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! :-) For everything -- the great opportunity that undertaking this JPO has meant for me both at the professional and personal level and for all the support from the JPOSC throughout!"

"Thanks a lot for your good work! I also appreciated that you communicated whenever the centre was not in a position to maintain service standards (e.g. 3 days response, etc.) as well as changes in the responsibility of associates..."

"Thanks for the great support!"

"Very happy with the support I have received from JPOSC."