



**Outline of the Global Peace-builders  
Development Project**

**“GURUGURU Project” by Tomeikan High School Students**

# About Terra Renaissance

Terra Renaissance is a Japanese-based NGO dedicated to world peace. Founded in 2001, we focus on landmines, small arms, and child soldiers. For more than 20 years we have supported more than 174,000 vulnerable people worldwide (UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status).

In 2021 we launched the Global Peace-builders Development Project with Tomeikan High School in Saga, Japan — connecting Japanese students with former child soldiers in Uganda through year-long PBL (Project-Based Learning) and study tours.



# Background: Why This Project?

Northern Uganda was devastated by the LRA: Lord's Resistance Army, which abducted more than 30,000 children and forced them to become child soldiers. Even after the conflict subsided, thousands of former child soldiers struggle to rebuild their lives.

Meanwhile, fewer than 20% of Japanese high school students feel a strong sense of responsibility to society. Most view global conflicts as distant issues.

Terra Renaissance saw these two problems could be solved together: by bringing Japanese youth face-to-face with former child soldiers, both sides gain something transformative.

## The project emphasizes:

- Deep personal connections across cultures
- Practical skill-building: design, agriculture, problem-solving
- Creative expression as a bridge between Japan and Uganda



# Project Summary



## OVERALL GOAL:

We transform the 'apathy' of Japanese youth into the 'agency' to shape society, and the 'isolation' of former child soldiers into the 'independence' to thrive within society.

## PROJECT GOAL:

Through a year-long, curriculum-integrated PBL program, Japanese high school students engage in the co-creation of tangible solutions—using design and other practical tools—to support the social reintegration of former child soldiers in Uganda. By directly addressing these global challenges, students transform their perception of social issues from "distant problems" into personal responsibilities, cultivating the agency to proactively lead social change.

**BUDGET:** FY 2025/2026 — JPY 10,000,000 (approx. USD 65,000) total for this project

**PERIOD:** April 2021 – Present (ongoing Scaling phase)

**AREA:** Gulu District, Uganda (Smile House) + Cambodia + Thailand + Saga Prefecture, Japan (Tomeikan High School)

**BENEFICIARY (2026):** 7 students enrolled; 5 on Uganda study tour (Feb 16–26, 2026)  
Partner: Former child soldiers at Smile House, Gulu

**BENEFICIARY (2027):** 100 students, 10 University students (Japan), 20 University students (Taiwan — program expansion)

# Activities in Uganda: Design as a Tool for Peacebuilding in 2026

## Signboard Design and Agriculture support



Before the trip, students visited a local inclusive design studio to learn how diverse artists connect with society through professional design. In Uganda, they co-created shop signs and agricultural tools with former child soldiers, transforming design into a practical instrument for economic independence and social reintegration.

## Live Painting Exchange



Japanese and Ugandan teams each painted a canvas expressing hopes for peace. The artworks were exchanged as gifts. "We are not strangers helping strangers. We are family."

— Participant, Tomeikan High School